

# The Current

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## FINDING HOPE FOR HAITI UM-ST. LOUIS HOSTS FUNDRAISING CONCERT

BY MATTHEW B. POPOSKY

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The nation of Haiti has struggled for survival since its independence was claimed in 1803, but the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit the country on January 12 brought the country to its knees. "At least 52 aftershocks have hit Haiti, all measuring 4.5 or greater," Jean-Germain Gros, associate professor of political science and public policy, said. "[The earthquake] killed hundreds of thousands, and left over 1 million without shelter." Since, the American Red Cross has called for donations to support rescue and relief efforts in Haiti, and the students and organizations at the University of Missouri-St. Louis have rallied together to raise money and collect donations in order to aid those left with nothing in our neighboring nation.

"Finding Hope for Haiti," UM-St. Louis' benefit concert for the country, took place Thursday in the Millennium Student Center's Pilot House. Refreshments were served, and three bands were present to provide music and their own insight into the situation in Haiti throughout the evening. Professor Gros, who is from Haiti, gave a speech concerning the history of the country, the present conditions and the severe need for aid there.

Students present had strong feelings concerning the rescue and relief efforts currently being conducted. "Quite a few students either had a personal reason to help Haiti or thought it was a good idea, and thought this would be a great way to raise funds and awareness," Brittany Holmes, graduate, higher education, said.

"I found out about it from a fellow member of Inter Varsity here on campus," Eboni Sampa, freshman, accounting, said. "Many members are present, and I invited my mom because it sounded like a great project to support." Her mother, Charleese Sampa, Lieutenant Commander

in the United States Navy, will be aiding the relief efforts in Haiti as of this week. "The relief efforts are formed mostly of civilian organizations," Sampa said when asked for her feelings on the efforts made by the American Red Cross, and regarding the benefit concert. "The military helps, but what you guys are doing here is very important. Be it medicine, food, or funds, whatever can be given will help get Haiti back on its feet in a timely fashion."

Students from many organizations on campus helped organize the concert, including the Office of Student Life, the Student Government Association, and members of the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Each of the artists had their own opinions regarding the efforts put forth. "I have a lot of friends in the military in Haiti," Jaclyn Pierce said. "Anything we can do to support their efforts is great."

"Hopefully this will make people live life in the moment and share more love around the world," Monties Gillespie, leader of Soul Era, said.

"Haiti's gonna need a lot of love: not just today or tomorrow, but for years to come," Raspa Johnson of Massive Hi-Fi, said.

"Everyone's presence here tonight shows that they care, and for such a good cause," Gros said. "For me, it's good to see some idealism in the new generation. People in my generation feel it's generally in short supply, so it's nice to see students working so hard."

The money raised at "Finding Hope for Haiti" will be donated to the American Red Cross' Haiti Relief and Development fund.

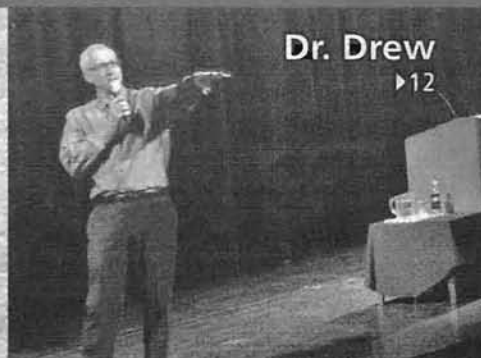
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# Tuition freeze leaves colleges in the cold

## SGA approved fee increases not approved by Forsee

► **ANDY PHIPPS & JESSICA KIEL**

Despite several colleges on campus needing new equipment, materials and advisors, student fees will not be increased to pay for it. The Student Government Association approved all four of the proposed student fee increases at their last meeting, but the assembly learned Friday that none of the fees were approved by the administration.

After taking the time to research the validity of the fees, listen to three consecutive deans appeal for their votes and debate the increases for several hours, the assembly's recommendation could not be approved by the chancellor and provost, even if they had wanted to approve it.

This is because the offer from Governor Nixon, which assures 95 percent of funding to all of Missouri's public universities, came with the stipulation that any institution benefiting from the deal could not raise tuition.

Before SGA voted to increase the fees by an overwhelming majority, the Council of Public Higher Education had debated whether or not the addition of new student fees would be blocked by the freeze. However, no decision was made until UM-System President Gary Forsee, who has been working closely with the governor on the deal, decided that academic fee increases should be blocked.

UM-St. Louis chancellor Tom George, who is a member of the council, explained why Forsee came to that conclusion.

"[Forsee said], you know, there is a

certain amount of trust between us and the governor, and rather than try and second guess what the governor thought he meant, we're just going to hold it flat. He said to hold tuition and fees flat, so we're going to do it," George said.

While some fees unrelated to academia, such as residence hall fees, will be increased to make up for the \$2.5 million cut UM-St. Louis will face because of the freeze, George said all educational fees would stay flat. Because the governor's proposal has not yet been passed as a part of the state budget by the Missouri legislature, it was also important not to make any fee increases that could be construed as tuition increases.

George did, however, speak out in favor of the proposed fees.

"[The proposals were] all good stuff; this isn't stuffing somebody's pocketbook with extra money," George said. "It's all for delivering better programs to the students."

George also said that he believed that taking the proposed fees to the students for their input, regardless of the outcome, was the right thing to do.

SGA President GraceMarie Ritter, despite being frustrated when the fees were not approved, agreed that bringing the fees to a vote in the assembly was important.

"Where it gets confusing is [that] a lot of it had to do with interpretation," Ritter said. "So they were taking the chance, to my knowledge, that they were going to be able to put fees through, because once they found out if we weren't, it already would have been too late to start the process."

Therefore, the SGA assembly could not have known whether or not their efforts would be wasted before they took the time to debate and vote on the fees. Additionally, UM-St. Louis Provost Glen Cope said that the same chain of events might take place next year.

"We are probably going to do it again this spring in anticipation of next year, and that may also be futile because we don't know what agreements will be next year," Cope said.

The idea behind this echoes Chancellor George's idea that students should be involved regardless of the outcome.

"We still think it's better to talk about it with the students because if the students had said, 'No, we don't want these fees,' then that would have made a difference in our thinking and we would have been able to understand where they were coming from," Cope said.

Ritter said that the discussion of the fees by the students in SGA was one of the most active and informed she had witnessed by the assembly.

"The fact that they actually put the work into it, and we debated and debated and debated, was great," Ritter said.

Nevertheless, it is the colleges that proposed the fee increases (nursing, fine arts and communications and arts and sciences) that will be most disappointed by the denied fee increases.

Overall, the tuition freeze may guarantee Missouri colleges a steady level of funding, but the inability to increase academic student fees—for this year at least—will leave some colleges and departments at UM-St. Louis out in the cold.

# Approval of same sex benefits resolution

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
*Technology & Business Editor*

Last Friday, the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Initiative council voted unanimously to back a resolution calling for same-sex partner benefits at UM-St. Louis and the UM System, a resolution previously passed by the University of

Missouri-St. Louis student senate.

Currently, faculty at UM-St. Louis and other UM System schools are unable to obtain health care benefits, as a heterosexual couple can.

"As a result of this inequity, University of Missouri faculty and staff job applicants have declined job offers and employees have left their positions with

the university and taken positions with other employers that offer such domestic partner health insurance coverage for themselves and their families," reads the original resolution, which was written by Dr. Mark Pope and Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez.

See RESOLUTION, page 3

**WEATHER**

|                |                 |                |                  |                |                |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| MON. <b>28</b> | TUES. <b>32</b> | WED. <b>33</b> | THURS. <b>37</b> | FRI. <b>34</b> | SAT. <b>33</b> | SUN. <b>35</b> |
| <b>22</b>      | <b>20</b>       | <b>21</b>      | <b>24</b>        | <b>30</b>      | <b>26</b>      | <b>25</b>      |

# UM System scholarships deadline

## Applications for tuition settlement scholarships

► **PATRICK W. CANOY**  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri Tuition Settlement Scholarships application deadline is today, Feb. 15, 2010.

The scholarships are only available to qualified students, their spouses or their children, and must be submitted through the online application on the University of Missouri System Web site.

For a student to be qualified, he or she must have attended a UM campus for undergraduate courses for at least one semester between the 1995 spring semester and the 2001 fall semester. A student also must have been between the ages of 16 and 22 on the first day of class for one of the semesters within this time period.

Anyone applying for the scholarship must provide written documentation proving that they are a qualifying student, or either a spouse or child of a qualifying student.

"The scholarships can be used each academic year," Carol Banks, financial aid coordinator at University of

Missouri-St. Louis, said. "But you have to reapply for it each year."

The scholarships have been made available as part of the legal settlement that came in the wake of a lawsuit against the university over a state statute that did not allow universities to charge tuition to Missouri residents enrolled in undergraduate programs.

"The plaintiffs in the lawsuit claimed that state statutes, as they existed at that time, did not allow the University of Missouri to charge tuition to undergraduate Missouri residents," Nilufer Joseph, director of financial services at University of Missouri-Columbia, said. "Basically, the lawsuit states that this statute was being violated."

The amount awarded to qualifying students for the 2010-2011 academic school year is \$550. The total cannot exceed that number and any unused amount of the scholarship cannot be used for another semester. The scholarship can be combined with other scholarships, and in such a case, the tuition settle-

ment scholarship will be used first and other scholarships will take over any amount left afterwards.

The legal settlement only allows the scholarship to be used once each academic year, and that can be for a summer, fall or spring semester. The scholarship cannot be used for various living expenses a student may have, like other scholarships allow.

"It can only be used for educational fees, so it can't be used for any other fees that a student may have," Joseph said.

The scholarships have been available since 2006 and the number of people who receive the award is decreasing each year. However, this will most likely change once some of the qualifying students' children reach college age.

In the 2006-2007 academic year 1,891 students were awarded the scholarship. The following year saw 1,334 awards given out to students. Last year, that number was down to 723 students, with the majority of awards given to students at UM-Columbia each year.

### RESOLUTION, from page 2

In a presentation to the diversity committee, both cited that this discrepancy at UM-St. Louis sets it apart from comparable universities. It also seems to go against the the UM System human resources policy manual.

The manual states, "all university compensation and benefit programs are to be administered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, [and] sexual orientation."

Following the passage of the resolution, the measure will be taken to Gary Forsee, UM System president, and Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources.

After their consideration, the measure will be taken to the board of curators,

who will make the decision whether to follow through and pave the way for same sex partner benefits within the UM System.

This may take some time, but those who want it seem willing to wait.

"It took us over 20 years to get protections for sexual orientation—just basic protections. I'm hoping, I would personally like to see this happen in the next year or two," Tang-Martinez said.

"And I think that there are times when institutions of higher education have taken ... leadership roles in changing the social assumptions."

"We're always hopeful, but realistically, there's so many factors that it depends

on that in terms of saying when it could happen, we don't have a clue," Pope said on the fate of the resolution becoming policy. In fact, the wait may be longer because the Missouri legislature may reject the resolution.

"I think it's very possible, but it's the right thing to do, both in terms of equal treatment for all faculty and staff at the university as well as just in terms of human rights," Tang-Martinez said of possible problems with the legislature.

In the end, some on the diversity council argue that the matter goes beyond politics and protocol and comes down to ensuring essential human rights.

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# Statshot

## UNDERCURRENT by Sofi Seck

More snow is in the forecast for this week.

What are you looking forward to in the spring?



"I'm most looking forward to Spring Break, away from the stress of classes."

**Nici McCrary**  
Junior  
Secondary Ed.



"Better weather and playing soccer outside."

**Zaid Heyari**  
Junior  
Biochem/Biotech



"I can't wait to go cliff jumping and skydiving again."

**Tyler Crocker**  
Senior  
Secondary Ed.



"I love school but I can't wait to go to the beach with IBC."

**Xavier Robinson**  
Sophomore  
Biology

## VERBATIM

"It's an animal instinct as a human and as an animal. Outside there's paparazzi everywhere – what am I supposed to do?"  
-Ke\$ha  
on peeing in a sink



"I might just be way too boring to ever be a really great actress."  
-Jessica Biel

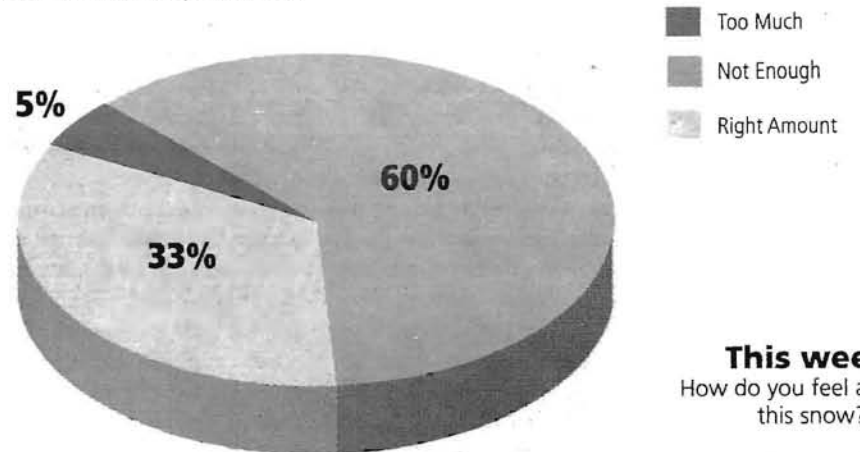
"My rump is swollen with pride."  
-Anne Hathaway  
on getting Harvard's Woman of the Year



"It's always important to keep a connection with fans no matter what I'm wearing. I don't want to paint a picture of something they can't afford."  
-Lady Gaga  
on her wardrobe

## POLL

Do you think President Obama is spending enough time dealing with Economic problems?



**This week:**  
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# Sports

## Softball prepares for new season

*Women hoping to duplicate 2009 success*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The 2009 women's softball season turned out to be one of the greatest ever in University of Missouri-St. Louis' history.

The Tritons won 36 games last year (the second most in program history), finished the year with the best record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (earning the team its first GLVC regular season championship), earned themselves a bid to the NCAA Regionals for the first time in 20 years, had two players named first-team all-conference, had one player named to several All-American teams, and the coach was named conference Coach of the Year.

It was an incredible year for UM-St. Louis women's softball.

But that was last year. The 2010 women's softball season will bring a whole new set of challenges for the defending champion Tritons, and will be decided by a team with many returning players, but a different kind of team make-up and chemistry.

Last year's Triton softball team really had one unquestioned leader: starting pitcher

Allyson DeFosset. DeFosset had an all-time great season, earning the GLVC Pitcher of the Year and NCAA All-American awards after posting a 22-6 record with six saves, 298 strikeouts and a 0.74 ERA.

This year, UM-St. Louis will look to a couple of returning arms, a top transfer and a standout high school player to replace DeFosset's production from the pitching circle.

The returning Triton hurlers will be juniors Crystal Koehler and Amanda Seib. Koehler pitched in 25 games last season, making 17 starts with a 6-7 record and a 3.64 ERA. Seib appeared in 12 games, mostly in relief duty, but had a 3-1 record and a 3.50 ERA.

Sophomore Stephanie Benson, a prep star at Parkway West High, who also played one season at Benedictine College in Kansas, will also get a shot at pitching some innings for the Tritons this year.

But the most intriguing piece of the 2010 Tritons pitching puzzle might be the signing of Metro East high school star Leslie Davis.

Davis had a stellar career

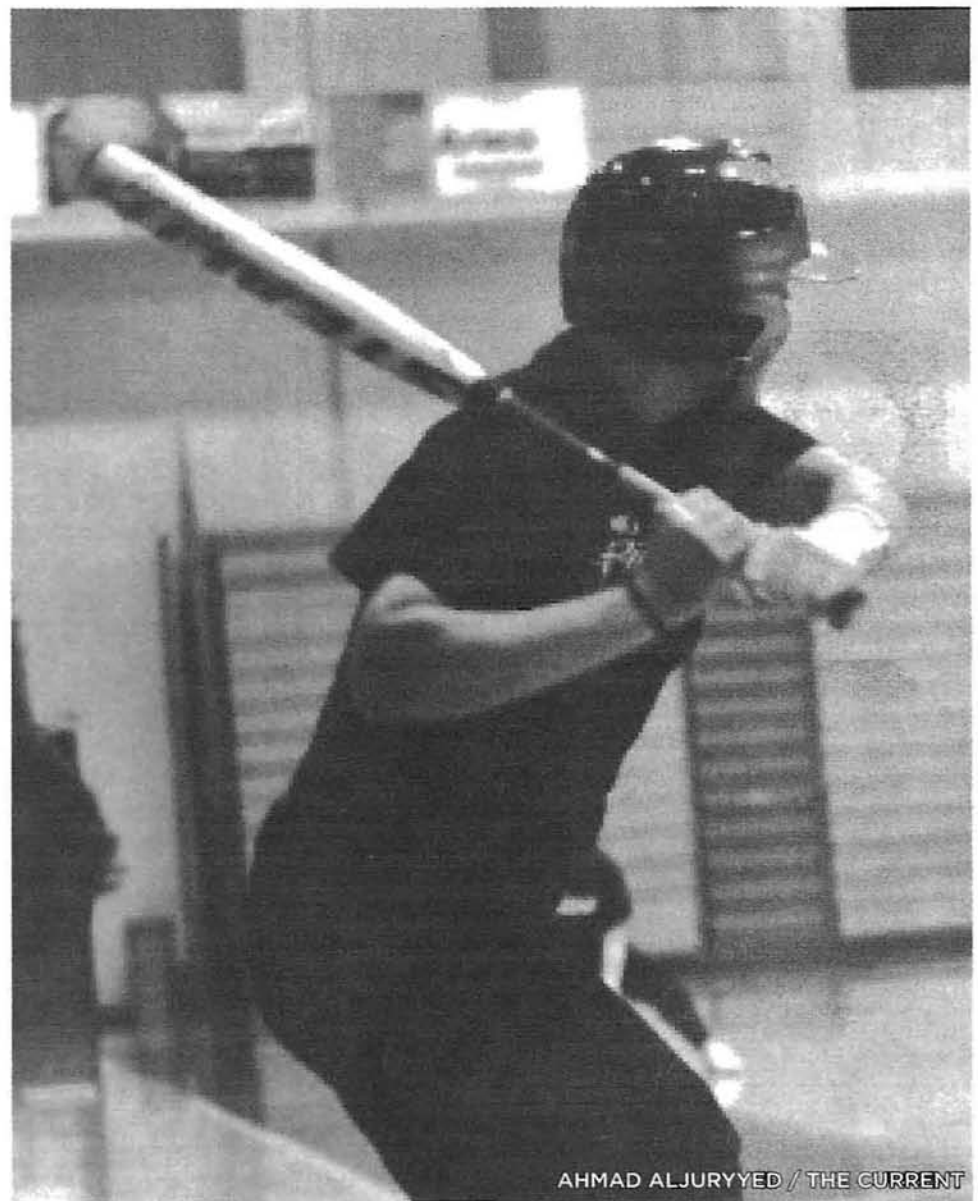
at Piasa Southwestern High in Brighton, Ill., where she was a four-year starter and made the all-conference team and different all-state teams all four years. She had a 101-15 record for the Piasa Birds, and led her team to the state tournament Final Four three times. She owns every school pitching record at Piasa Southwestern, and even set the school record for home runs hit as a batter.

Davis is a terrific player who might be the key component in a long run of winning for UM-St. Louis women's softball.

Offensively, the Tritons will also have to find a way to replace their top hitter from last year, then-senior Kelly Essner, who led the team in hits, home runs and RBIs.

A couple of players expected to provide some offensive punch this season are senior catcher Katie Bartlett, who hit a team-leading .339 in 26 games last season, and junior first baseman/designated hitter Carolyn Oquendo, who hit .295 with three home runs and 19 RBIs in 2009.

Players expected to see more action this year, and hopefully increase their pro-



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

duction, include seniors Sara Estopare, Meghan Bauer, Megan Brussman, and Carly Maddock; juniors Karey Kruse, Brooke Meyer, and JaCee Ellis; and sophomores Heather Arras and Callis Dennis.

Rounding out the Triton roster this year are junior in-

fielder Courtney Ostendorf, a juco transfer from Three Rivers Community College, and high school signees Haleigh Jenkins, an infielder from Bethalto, Ill., and Paris Burger, an outfielder from Benton, Mo.

UM-St. Louis will begin its season this weekend, play-

ing in the Fort Hays State Crossover Tournament in Kansas.

The Tritons home opener is next month on Tuesday, Mar. 16, when the team will host a doubleheader at the UM-St. Louis Softball Field against Truman State. First pitch that day is 3 p.m.

## Triton Men's baseball looking to rebound after rough '09 season

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

Ask anyone involved with the UM-St. Louis men's baseball program and they will probably tell you the 2009 season wasn't a lot of fun.

The Tritons finished the year with a 14-32 record and in last place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division.

It was a rough year at the

plate, on the mound and in the field for the Tritons. UM-St. Louis could not even get relief at home last season, as the brand spankin' new baseball stadium built on South Campus last year was never ready for use, forcing the team to play all of its "home" games at other locations.

But the calendar turn to 2010 has brought a whole new spirit and excitement to

the UM-St. Louis baseball program.

This year's Triton squad is no longer that very young 2009 team that sometimes couldn't get out of its own way. The 2010 Tritons are now a veteran group with 21 upperclassmen listed among the 29-man roster that should compete very well in the tough GLVC this season.

Back to lead UM-St. Lou-

is on the diamond this year is a strong group of seniors, which includes catcher Dean Streed and infielders Erik Walk and Kenny Ford. All three hit over .300 last year and are expected to make the same kind of contribution this year.

Other players who often appeared in the lineup last year and will likely do the same again this season are se-

nior infielders Mike Hoosen and Ryne Moleski, senior outfielder Matt Macke, and outfielder Manny Flores.

One area where the Tritons remain a fairly youthful group is on the pitching staff, where lefty starter Gurdine Acklin is the team's only returning senior pitcher. Acklin led the team in starts, strikeouts and batting average against last year, but was not

often rewarded for his efforts and finished the year with a 2-4 record.

UM-St. Louis thought it would have two senior starting pitchers this season, but that idea went out the window this winter when righthander Justin Rogers was lost for the year with an elbow injury that required surgery.

See **BASEBALL**, page 7

## Women's Basketball suffer losses

*Triton's miss chance to clinch playoff spot*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

Heading into last week's action, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team found itself on the verge of a historical accomplishment.

The Triton women, who began the season by winning just one of their first eight games, needed just one more win to earn the program's first postseason berth since 2006.

That would also be the first trip to the postseason for head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor, who took over the program in 2007, and for graduating seniors Kristi White, Montrice Coggins, Alisa Ndorongo, Lindsey Ransome and Lacey Shalenko.

Everything seemed set up for a truly exciting week for the Tritons.

But somebody forgot to tell this week's opponents, Rockhurst and Drury, who ruined all the fun by defeating the Tritons in games played last Thursday and Saturday.

The Rockhurst loss was especially disappointing. UM-St. Louis had beaten Rockhurst pretty soundly four straight times, including once already this season—a 71-51 pounding at the Mark Twain Building on Jan. 30.

But last Thursday at Rockhurst's Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse, the Tritons just didn't have it. Especially in the first half, which may have been the team's single worst half of play all season.

UM-St. Louis missed its

first 11 shots of the game, scoring on only five free throws for the first 12 minutes of the game, and trailed by as much as 16 points before eventually trailing 31-19 at the halftime horn.

In that first half, the Tritons made just five-of-25 shots and missed all seven of their three-point attempts.

It was just an ugly first half.

Unfortunately, the second half wasn't much better, as the Tritons only briefly cut their deficit to less than double digits before Rockhurst went on another scoring binge to go up by 16 with five minutes left in the game.

The final score on Thursday was 69-48.

Saturday's game against Drury, however, featured a much better effort by the Tritons, especially at the start.

It was less than a minute into the game before UM-St. Louis made its first shot from the field.

It was only a couple minutes later when the Tritons hit their first three-pointer. And it was only a short while after that when the team grabbed its first lead of any sort the entire weekend.

Just those few improvements meant Saturday's first half was infinitely better than what happened on Thursday. Even still, Drury led 44-39 at the break.

The second half began with Drury quickly pushing its lead to 49-39 before UM-St. Louis sophomore Hailee Deckard made a layup and fellow sophomore

KeAmber Vaughn made two free throws to make the score 49-43.

Unfortunately, that six-point deficit was as close as the Tritons would get, as four Drury players scored in double-figures to lead the Panthers to a 94-82 victory.

Sophomore Caitlyn Moody led the Tritons in scoring with 18 points, while teammates Kelcy Hulbert and the aforementioned White added 16 points and 15 points, respectively.

The two losses last week dropped UM-St. Louis' overall record to 10-15 on the season, with two final home games left in the regular season.

That means the Tritons will have the chance to clinch their playoff spot with a win this weekend on their home court.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, UM-St. Louis will host rival Missouri S&T at the Mark Twain Building at 5:30 p.m. That game will have significant playoff implications.

Not only could the Tritons clinch a playoff spot with a win, but the winner of that contest will also likely finish second in the GLVC West, earning themselves a better draw in the playoffs.

The loser will finish third, and would likely have to face 24-1 and nationally-ranked UIndy in a potential second round playoff game.

UM-St. Louis' regular season finale will be Saturday, Feb. 20, when the Tritons will host rival Maryville University at 1 p.m.

## Tritons to finish in GLVC polls

► **SAMUEL ABRAHA**  
Staff Writer

The 2010 Tritons baseball and softball teams are looking to increase team rankings in their respective divisions with top notch season play and to clinch a berth in their respective NCAA Division II National Tournaments.

In the 2010 men's baseball preseason poll for the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division, the University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team was picked to finish in sixth place with 31 votes. Missouri S&T was one place ahead with 32 points.

Southern Indiana, which has placed first in the GLVC West Division in both of the past two seasons, was unanimously selected to repeat in 2010. The Screamin' Eagles earned 79 total points and

12 first place votes.

Drury was selected to finish second in the West Division with 61 total points and received the final first place vote. The Panthers pushed away Rockhurst for second place in the poll.

The Hawks received 58 total points. Quincy was fourth with 48 total points and was followed by Missouri S&T, UM-St. Louis and Maryville (13).

Bellarmine was selected third in the East Division poll with 51 total points, just ahead of Saint Joseph's 49 total points. Lewis (33), Kentucky Wesleyan (22) and UW-Parkside (15) rounded out the poll.

The 2010 season marks the first with the GLVC's newest addition Maryville, bringing the number of baseball-playing institutions in the league to 14. The Saints will not be eligible for

the GLVC Tournament this year.

The 2010 GLVC Men's Baseball Tournament will be held at GCS ballpark in Sauget, Ill., with the winner of the event earning the GLVC championship title and an automatic berth to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

UM-St. Louis opens its 2010 season at home on Tuesday, Feb. 16, hosting Harris-Stowe. First pitch that day is at 2:30 p.m.

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team will return 13 letter winners, including four starters, from last year's GLVC Regular Season Championship team.

The Tritons finished the year with a 36-19 record and advanced to the NCAA Regionals for the first time since 1989.

See POLLS, page 7



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**IN THEATERS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26.**

# Men's basketball lose two more

▶ **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

That is what happened on the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team's recent four-game road trip against four of the top teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The Tritons lost all four games and have now lost 10 games in a row—the second-longest losing streak in program history.

This week, UM-St. Louis fell victim to GLVC West Division rivals Rockhurst and Drury after suffering two lopsided losses to Southern Indiana, which was ranked No. 2 in last week's national Division II men's basketball poll, and to Kentucky Wesleyan, which was ranked No. 8 last week.

The Tritons played Rockhurst on Thursday and fell behind by as many as 14 points early in the second half before rallying to get within five points after a layup by junior Eddie White with just over 10 minutes left.

Rockhurst then went on a 9-2 run to push its lead back to 12 points with seven minutes left in the game. But once again, UM-St. Louis rallied.

Sophomore center Zach Redel and sophomore point guard Beaumont Beasley made back-to-back layups to eventually cut the Triton deficit to five points again with

just over a minute left in the game.

The Tritons then got the defensive stop they wanted and had a chance to cut into Rockhurst's lead even more. But a controversial play, in which Redel was called for an offensive foul and the UM-St. Louis bench was called for a technical foul, effectively ended any real chance at a last minute comeback.

Rockhurst made a series of free throws in the game's final minute and won the game 68-60.

On Saturday, UM-St. Louis traveled to Springfield, Mo., to take on Drury in the final game at that school's Weiser Gymnasium. A capacity crowd of 2,000-plus packed the arena, hoping the home team would close down the old building in style.

But it was the Tritons who controlled play throughout the first half, leading by as many five points for most of the first 20 minutes, until a Drury layup in the final 20 seconds cut UM-St. Louis' halftime lead to 27-25.

The second half was a fierce see-saw battle. UM-St. Louis led 30-25 early in the second half after Beasley hit one of six three-pointers he would hit in the game.

A while later, Drury grabbed its biggest lead at 38-32. But that lead was short-lived, as Beasley and teammate Sam Buxton hit back-to-back threes to tie

the game.

UM-St. Louis grabbed its final lead when senior Jeremy Brown hit a three-pointer with 59 seconds left to put the Tritons up 57-55. But Drury's Chase Elliott, who led all scorers with 22 points, converted a three-point play jumper and free throw on the Panthers' next possession to put his team back in the lead for good.

The Tritons managed to get four more possessions in the final minute, but each one ended with a turnover and UM-St. Louis lost 63-57.

It is hard to believe that the same team that began the season with a school-record six straight wins is now in the midst of the second-longest losing streak in school history.

The Tritons hope to end that streak this weekend, when they will host their final two regular season games of the season.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, UM-St. Louis will host Missouri S&T at the Mark Twain Building in a critical GLVC contest that will likely determine final seeding in next week's GLVC Tournament.

Then on Saturday, Feb. 20, the Tritons will close the regular season by hosting cross-town rival Maryville at the Mark Twain Building.

Tipoff for Thursday's game is 7:30 p.m., while Saturday's contest will begin at 3 p.m.

BASEBALL, from page 5

The absence of Rogers means there might be many more starting pitcher innings available for a trio of returning hurlers, led by juniors Brandon Fear and Kevin Sullivan and sophomore fireballer Austin Schuler.

Fear and Schuler each had one win last year, while Sullivan picked up two wins in relief in '09.

Another reason for the renewed excitement in the UM-St. Louis baseball program is the talent infusion brought by a whopping 10 college transfers from successful programs all over the country.

Those new players include infielder Zach Hulbert, in-

fielder Andrew Keating, outfielder/pitcher Matt Horton, catcher John Tierney, pitcher Zach Sturdefant, pitcher Andrew Peterson, pitcher/outfielder Kurt Driemeyer, infielder Angel Recci, pitcher/outfielder Kenny Bechaud and infielder Brian McCulloch.

The Tritons also brought in five high school signees that are expected to contribute this season. Those players are third baseman Drew Standefer, first baseman Todd Bullington, utility player Phil Kilgas, outfielder Michael Macke and pitcher/outfielder Tyler Tucker.

UM-St. Louis also has two redshirt players from last

season that will play this season in sophomore outfield: Anthony Bony and senior catcher Robby Winkler.

The Tritons will open their season this Tuesday, Feb. 16, with a home game against Harris-Stowe at the new, finally-ready-for-play UM-St. Louis Baseball Field on South Campus. First pitch that day is at 2:30 p.m.

Then over the weekend, UM-St. Louis will play a four-game series at Arkansas-Monticello. After that, the team's next home game will be Wednesday, Mar. 10, when the Tritons will host Missouri Western.

POLLS, from page 6

The 2010 women's softball team was picked to finish fifth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference preseason poll. The Tritons, who had the best record in the conference last year, earned 144 points and received one first place vote.

Indianapolis, which advanced to the 2009 NCAA Division II World Series, was the unanimous favorite to take the 2010 crown in a

vote of the league's 15 head coaches. The Greyhounds collected 196 votes and 14 of the 15 first place votes.

The 2010 season marks the first with the league expanded to 15 teams. Illinois-Springfield and Maryville enter the conference schedule for the first time, though neither will be eligible for the GLVC Tournament.

The GLVC Women's Softball Tournament will be

held May 7-9 at the EastSide Centre in East Peoria, Ill.

UM-St. Louis opens its 2010 season Feb. 19-21 at the Fort Hays State Cross-over Tournament in Fort Hays, Kan.

The Tritons' home opener is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 16, when the team will host a doubleheader against Truman State at the UMSL Softball Field at 3 p.m.

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SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

Members of the cast from 'The Color Purple' sang and danced at the beginning of the show last Thursday.

## Musical is for fans of the book, not the movie

The 11-time Tony Award-winning adaptation of Alice Walker's 1982 novel "The Color Purple" opened last week in St. Louis, running February 4-7 at the Fox Theater.

The production starred Kenita R. Miller as "Celie" and Angela Robinson as "Shug Avery," who tore the house down with their spine tingling vocal performances.

The musical is directed by Gary Griffin, with music by Grammy Award winners Stephen Bray, Brenda Russell, and Allee Willis, along with choreography by Donald Byrd.

The production, which is produced by Oprah Winfrey and Quincy Jones, plays more closely to the book and does not skirt around contro-

versial issues that the 1985 Steven Spielberg directed film version did.

"The Color Purple" tells the dynamic story of Celie (Miller), a timid, oppressed, young girl who, by the age of 14, bore two of her father's children.

She's especially close to her sister Nettie (La Toya London), but unfortunate circumstances caused by both her father Pa (David Aron Damane), and her husband Mister (Rufus Bonds, Jr.), ultimately tear them apart.

As a girl who knows nothing but abuse and pain, Celie has a hard time standing up for herself.

But with the help of her husband's sultry singer mistress Shug Avery (Robinson), Celie discovers her independence, and eventually is reunited with her sister Nettie and her long lost children. Other notable cast members included "Harpo" (Stu James) and "Sophia" (Felicia P. Fields) who played the son of Mister and his wife, respectfully.

There are many touching moments in the production, including when Celie

learns acceptance and how to love through the growing relationship between her and Shug.

There are also many laughs, coming mostly from audacious, demanding Sophia's clever one-liners, the most memorable being her sassy performance of "Hell No."

Other notable performances included "Our Prayer" sung by Celie and Nettie, "Shug Avery Comin' to Town" sung by the entire cast, and a heart-wrenching rendition of "What About Love?" sung by Shug and Celie.

The set was staged immaculately and depicted the decade-changing time periods remarkably.

The set was beautifully decorated with African textile when Celie daydreamed about her sister and children living in Africa.

The costumes stayed true to the changing eras as well, skipping from the day walking suits women wore in the early 1900s to the flapper-style dresses and bob hair cuts that were prominent in the '20s and '30s.

The choreography stayed lively and vibrant but never overwhelmed or took away from the seriousness of the plot.

The most exciting dance sequence took place during Act II, when Celie imagined life with Nettie in Africa.

The dancers jumped, leaped and skipped all over the set conveying the traditional dances of the Olinka tribe.

Through dance, they were also able to show the difficulties faced within the tribe, including war, and the painful rituals of female genital cutting.

"The Color Purple" takes you on a whirlwind journey through time. This is a family drama with lessons of hope, love, acceptance and fortitude at the end of every scene.

As the plot builds, Celie's insurgence inspires and her strength triumphs. Each cast member gave soul stirring performances, but special recognition goes to Miller, whose performance stole the show despite playing a role that started out as such a feeble woman. **A**—*Sequita Bean*

# A&E

## Monads triumph at Koken's 'Naughti Gras'

On Friday, February 5, the Koken Art Factory hosted its third annual "Naughti Gras," an art exhibit showcasing a variety of erotic art by local artists inspired by the Mardi Gras holiday. In between burlesque acts, alongside multimedia exposing the gruesome and beautiful sides of sex, and in front of playboys in top hats and Victorians in corsets, the Monads played a great show.

The Monads have an unusual lineup that features a standup bass, guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin and accordion thrown in sporadically for good measure. Even with this intrinsic eccentricity, they seemed a little bit out of place. Art exhibits are events that demand a great deal of respect from their attendees, and the Monads play an unapologetic brand of loud and fast punk folk. Their songs would make more sense during a bar fight than as atmosphere for schmoozing through a gallery, even one catering to the primal instincts of humanity.

Fortunately, this had little-to-no-affect on the infectious energy that the Monads channel. For two sets, the Monads stomped and yelped life into the event and took advantage of the aspects of "Naughti Gras" that could complement them. Hoola-hoopers and pole-dancers added sex appeal to the stage, and the dubious backdrop banner "Superfest" became a security blanket, finding its way into multiple chants from the boisterous quartet and the crowd.

Guitarist/vocalist Pat Eagan is a dervish, a man possessed, hammering at his guitar while reclaiming traditional delta blues and bluegrass with punk impassioned vocals. Bassist Jenna Schroeder and fiddler Matt Shivelbine are maniacally stoic reminders of the band's parentage.

See NAUGHTI GRAS, page 9

## Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

**The Wolfman.** Benicio Del Toro stars in this rollicking good "tail" about a man who goes "howling" mad every time the moon comes out. Sounds like a "paw-ty" to me!

**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.*

**Valentine's Day.** This year's romantic epic starring everyone revolves around the interlocking blah blahs of nine young blah blahs who all struggle with the joys and blah blahs of young love. Blah. **F**—*Chris Stewart.*



## Arianna String Quartet captures Beethoven beautifully at Noon Series

The members of the Arianna String Quartet, University of Missouri-St. Louis' artists-in-residence, are internationally renowned for their musicianship. They will be playing the entirety of Beethoven's opus 18 at the Touhill on February 20. The quartet took part in the Monday Noon Series at the JC Penney building last week, providing an intimate glimpse of the coming show and into the revolutionary composer's intricacies.

John McGrosso, an associate professor of violin at UM-St. Louis, plays first violin for the quartet. His impressive credentials are only surpassed by his passion for music and music theory. "Beethoven redefined what the quartet could do. He scared other composers for the next 100 years," McGrosso said before demonstrating the second and fourth meters' prominence in Beethoven's work, a subtle and important melodic feature that challenged tradition at the time and helps provide dramatic tone in his pieces.

The quartet continued in this vein for an hour, explaining often overlooked aspects of Beethoven's music and about string quartets in general while interspersing portions of quartets. They played selected movements from several of the six quartets in the Opus 18, and the entirety of the second.

Their engagement with the music was truly astounding.

"We think of this as the individual against society," McGrosso, speaking of the first movement of No. 4, said. "Usually you'll see the first violin create a melody on top, or even against the other violins' more orchestral accompaniment. If you think of the social happenings of the 18th century, it isn't difficult to make the connection." The tension the famous C minor piece inherently creates was accentuated by these players' almost mathematical precision and rigorous commitment.

The quartet played the second movement of No. 4 immediately afterward, demonstrating their range as musicians. The first movement's brooding and intense mood was captured perfectly, and due to the expertise of the Arianna String Quartet, the tenuous playfulness of its adjunct was too.

See ARIANNA, page 23

NAUGHTI GRAS, from page 8



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

The St. Louis erotic art show, Naughti Gras, is held at Koken Art Factory on Friday and Saturday night. The event has multiple showcases including belly dancing and bands.

Jason Matthews is a wild card, tenuously strapped into sanity while ripping at his banjo with tribal delirium. Appropriately, they all stand on the front-line of the stage together, and each plays an integral part in the preservation and advancement of roots, rhythm and rock.

They are almost never sentimental and that might be cause for complaint. The Monads songs rarely achieve personal lucidity or universal ingenuity. However, getting caught up in the songwriting is not really the point of a Monads show. They are candid and shameless purveyors of fun, not beacons of enlightenment. Eagan sang all

of one song that was below break-neck pace, and it was excellent. Maybe they will be moving in that direction more but for now a crowded speed-folk version of Roger Allan Wade's "If You're Gonna Be Dumb, You'd Better Be Tough" is quintessential Monads and good on them for it.

"Naughti Gras" has been around for three years and has gotten bigger every year. It is a celebration of sex and, as such, a bit controversial at times. One woman sold chopsticks and served sushi off of her birthday suit, burlesque troupes stripped down and entertained, photographs were as graphic as possible, and a

"naughti market" sold a variety of sex-related items. It is all in good fun but nevertheless awkward. Matthews remarked that "You can look, you just can't touch," and that seemed accurate. No doubt "Naughti Gras" will continue to be a distinctly local attraction and continue to grow in notoriety.

The Monads are a staple to St. Louis music. Stepping into the variety show of "Naughti Gras" and managing to maintain their composure and captivate in spite of a distracting polemic is one way they have managed to diversify 'black and bluegrass' over the course of their existence. **A-** —Joe Schaffner

## Sentimentality served at Jim Brickman concert

You have heard Jim Brickman's music whether or not you recognize his name. In fact, even if you have never heard Jim Brickman's music, you have heard his music.

This claim holds water because Brickman specializes in the kind of hyper-emotive textbook adult contemporary music that plays, as he wisely knows to joke about during performances, in airport bathrooms. It is music that plays on the most familiar shortcut tearjerker themes and the most basic minor-major one-two punch combinations meant to find the quickest route to a vulnerable listener's heart. Much of it is instrumental and the songs are as likely to contain the words "beautiful" "timeless" or "forever" as they are anything else. So why does Brickman have more adult contemporary hits charter over the past two decades than any other artist in history? Because he has found his niche, he knows his audience, he delivers the goods and, dammit, he seems like a plain old nice guy.

Brickman brought his "Beautiful World" tour through our humble town Saturday night playing the Touhill Performing Arts Center's florid, spacious and, on this particular night, packed, Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The most cursory glance around the audience revealed that adult contemporary is still reaching the same demographics as ever: middle aged, middle-class couples will still shell out \$40 plus gas to haul east for a romantic night of life-affirming piano music. Though there was more than

piano as Brickman soon brought a couple of friends onstage: electric violinist Tracy Silverman and singer Anne Cochran. Silverman is an eccentric looking sort who raised a laugh by stomping on a few of his pedals and jamming Deep Purple riffs on his electric violin. Cochran, for her part, is a Midwestern rose who one might peg for a former beauty queen. Her voice is as practiced, safe, and radio-friendly as Brickman's piano playing—a match made in Hallmark heaven.

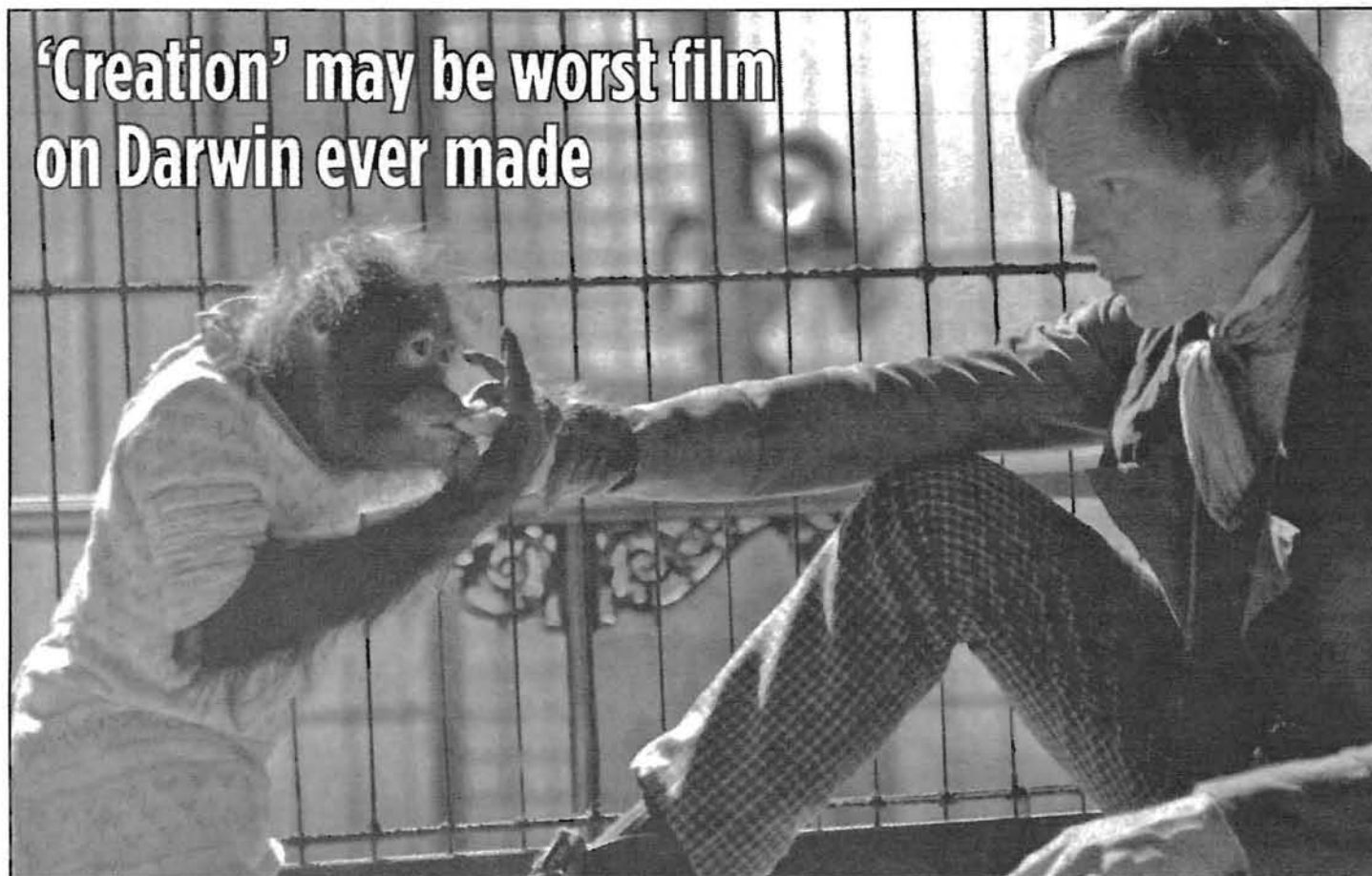
It is easy to heavy-hand Brickman and company in print. The truth is that they are a professional and often moving act. The evening was good-natured, the banter between performers corny but not painfully so, and just self-deprecating enough (as when Brickman did an impression of a song of his being used behind a sappy Olympics "life story" segment) as to disarm the audience. Once one gets past the use of phrases like "follow your dreams" in the choruses of Brickman and Cochran's duets, it is not hard to sink in to Brickman's uncannily kind, idealized and romantic view of the world.

And it did not hurt that Silverman did a solo spot, multi-looped remix violin instrumentalized version of "Here Comes The Sun" about halfway through the show.

Brickman, no doubt, was backstage admiring the evening view out of his window, thinking about a childhood Christmas in his snug Cleveland home of youth and humming the beginnings of his next hit.

**B** —Chris Stewart

## 'Creation' may be worst film on Darwin ever made



COURTESY / ICON FILMS

Paul Bettany plays Charles Darwin in 'Creation,' rated PG-13 for some intense thematic material.

Last October, PBS aired an excellent two-hour drama "Darwin's Darkest Hour" about the crisis that led to Charles Darwin's publication of "On the Origin of Species." This Nova production included dialog drawn from Darwin's letters, often verbatim and presented as clear and historically accurate a picture of the issues Darwin struggled with before deciding to publish. It was a first-rate drama, with polished production values and fine acting, albeit by a largely unknown cast.

So expectations were high for a similarly-themed new drama "Creation," now playing at Plaza Frontenac Cinema, starring Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connelly. It promised to cover the same historic ground but despite the big name actors, this completely muddled, historically suspect version is a wholly inferior film compared to the PBS one.

In fact, this film is such a wandering mess, it is nearly unwatchable and often inaccurate. English naturalist Charles Darwin

(Paul Bettany) is being urged by his friend Joseph Hooker (Benedict Cumberbatch), and famous figures such as Thomas Huxley (Toby Jones), to publish his ground-breaking theory on the evolution of species. However, Huxley's eagerness to challenge religious leaders on the literal interpretation of the Bible is off-putting to the reclusive Darwin, at least in part because of opposition from his religious wife Emma (Connelly).

In this cinematic drama, what is most on Darwin's mind is not publication but the death of his daughter Annie (Martha West). Darwin, plagued by poor health, is haunted by feelings of guilt that he may have played a role in her death since he and his wife are first cousins.

His feelings of loss of a favorite daughter are complicated by his anger at the local pastor Reverend Innes (Jeremy Northam) about his treatment of Annie and an estrangement from his wife after the child's death.

This melodrama is the real

focus of the film, spooling out through a number of confusing flashbacks and dream sequences, along with emotional scenes with his estranged (or not) wife. The film also throws in some confusing and inconsistent musings on religion.

Darwin's work is mentioned only obliquely and in a wholly uninformative manner, with some gruesome time-lapse footage of decaying bugs and birds and several shots of dead pigeons. Any information about natural selection or Darwin's theories is missing.

The letter from Alfred Wallace, who reached the same conclusions about species evolving and prompted Darwin to finally act, is mentioned in passing with little sense of its import.

This mess of a film is clearly not the fault of the cast, who seem suited to their roles and tried their best with the confusing, wandering script. Likewise, sets, costumes and production values are all first-rate, even though the film is not.

No, the problem lies with the disorganized script and poor direction.

The script seems unsure what it really wants to say, only that it wants to be as emotional as possible while saying it.

The religious discussion is so confusing it cannot even be summarized. The director represents Darwin's work by alternating charming scenes of Darwin exploring nature with his children with the bizarre time-lapse sequences, which tell the viewer absolutely nothing.

Last year was the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and this film could have contributed to the international celebration. As is, "Creation" is only a missed opportunity and a completely disappointing mess of a film as well.

If Charles Darwin and his work as a subject piques your interest, you should buy a DVD copy of "Darwin's Darkest Hour" from the PBS website. But "Creation" is not worth your time or money. **F**—Cate Marquis

## SWEET JAMS

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

### 1 'We are the World' Hope For Haiti

Kanye West and Barbara Streisand were in the same room. Can you imagine the lunch-table chatter?

Kanye West referring to himself in the third person and Barbara Streisand stress-eating all the pie. This week's best song.



### 2 'Imma Be' Black-Eyed Peas

A few years ago the Black Eyed Peas appeared on the scene with "Where is the Love?" A pro-social tune about the shallowness pervasive in today's society. And now this? "Imma be brilliant with my millions. Imma be ya bank, I be loaning out semen." Ouch.



### 3 'Hey, Soul Sister' Train

Apparently the way for a mediocre pop band to reinvent themselves and find their way to the charts is to make their music even smoother and more hyper-produced. It's just a shame that nobody got that news to Hanson in time.



### 4 'Need You Now' Lady Antebellum

They used to only let you call yourself a country singer if you had been arrested at least three times, drank yourself to a stupor every night and had a deeply turbulent relationship with life and love. These guys look like a damn Macy's ad.



### 5 'Tik Tok' Ke\$ha

They say that before you freeze to death the last thing that you feel is warmth. A soothing warm numbness. A sweet sultry numbing warmth. A wonderful peaceful all-consuming warmth. A heavenly numbing warmth that wipes away all memory of earthly strife.



What do you think about 'Creation'? Let us know at [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

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# Features



## GOOD TIMES WITH DR. DREW

### *Touhill becomes platform for sex talk*

Dr. Drew interacts with the audience at the Touhill on Wednesday. JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

► **ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Staff Writer

The young took over the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall Wednesday night when talk of Loveline's Dr. Drew Pinsky's appearance was made known throughout campus. Orchestra seating filled a half an hour before the show while student groups had reserved seating. The volume of the crowd rose to an obnoxious high, all peering up at an empty stage with a podium and a pitcher of water. Was it pandemonium that encouraged the crowd, or was it pure sexual curiosity?

False cheers were projected when a tech walked out onto the stage to adjust the microphone. "I have seen 'Sex with Mom and Dad' and 'Celebrity Rehab.' I like what he has to say. I love Dr. Drew," Lauren Kenney, sophomore, psychology, said.

"I am just here for the entertainment," Saron Clark, freshman, elementary education, said. As an empty spotlight appeared center stage the crowd grew silent only to fill the room

with applause when Dr. Drew appeared.

Dr. Drew opened the show telling the story of his conflict with the weather in order to get to the performance. "I am exhausted. My powers of concentration are maxed out so forgive me," Pinsky said. He then proceeded to tell the audience of how he purposely framed the show to relate to the college student. "I really want to craft the conversation to what you want to hear," Pinsky said. He went on to say that the subjects he would be talking about were not discussed in the '80s, a time when the news of herpes was starting to stir. This made him realize that it was important for him to talk about stuff such as condom use on his radio program. "I did not want it to be as self-promoting," Pinsky said. He saw his controversial discussions as community service.

To get the discussion started, Dr. Drew asked the audience members if they could identify the subject of male and female phone conversations. "I never met a guy that called his friends talking about how he did the 10 steps in Cosmo,"

he joked. He believes that both sexes spend most phone calls discussing male adequacy. The crowd burst into laughter. He struck a nerve. But, the discussion on hookups is what really got the crowd going. Some of the female audience responded positively to this. Dr. Drew responded honestly stating that in reality someone does become attached, unless one is dealing with a sex addict.

The rest of the night was filled with back-to-back conversations until Dr. Drew hit a serious note on the dangers of addiction. The discussion encouraged audience members to speak on their own trials of living with or around addiction.

"Audience members appreciated this type of open atmosphere. "It was educational and seeing him in person made it realistic," said Cassi Bohl, sophomore, education. "There were a lot of areas where it compared with my own life," Tyler Meinecke, senior, political science, said. Overall, the students and guests of the University of Missouri-St. Louis seemed to have a great time on a night full of a few laughs and education.

FACULTY PROFILE

# Dr. Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi

## French art historian discusses vintage, and dignity

▶ JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

Dr. Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi is chair of the department of Art and Art History. She has penned several books and has been involved in many projects including co-curating an exhibit on the Bruce and Barbara Feldacker Collection in Gallery Visio.

*The Current:* What got you interested in French art?

Dr. Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi: I have studied France and the French language since I was in junior high school. My mother was very fond of things that were French which is why I have a French spelled first name ... and she used to give me French comic books for birthday and Christmas presents, and it was something we had a lot of fun with together. When I went to college trying to decide what I was interested in, French seemed like more fun than the other subjects.

*TC:* You've penned two books and co-authored one; any plans to write a new one?

JMZ: Yes, in fact I'm writing one right now. It's a study of British tableware that was made for the American market during the twentieth century, and these are patterned dishes that were very widely manufactured and distributed. They tell a great story about American culture in the twentieth century because these plates were designed to be sold to American consumers ... so you see an evolution of patterns from 1900 all the way up

through the middle of the twentieth century, and how different styles change.

*TC:* Outside of working, what sort of things do you like to do?

JMZ: I love antiques. I like to collect vintage watches, which is a little unusual, but I have some interesting pieces from my family. I've learned that old watches are something that people tend to throw away. They don't think it's valuable, and usually they're not, but they are very interesting because how they reflect historical periods, and how men and women wanted to be fashionable.

*TC:* If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?

JMZ: I would live in Paris, France if I had lots of money, but I don't. As trite as it may sound, I love St. Louis. I am not a native, I was born and raised outside of Washington D.C., but I love this city for everything it has to offer—from neighborhoods, to interesting people, where you went to high school, and ethnic diversity that has just gone crazy since I moved here. I lived near the South Grand area, and just the cultural richness is wonderful to experience. I live in South St. Louis and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

*TC:* What inspired you to get involved in your latest project featuring the works of Bruce and Barbara Feldacker?

JMZ: This was a very interesting project that came to me completely unexpectedly because Bruce is a professional legal mediator, and I am a member of the Campus Media-



MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

tion Service, and we met through a common professional organization. I learned by accident that he is actually a collector of art. I had the opportunity to see his art collection, and it was wonderful. It was so inspiring, because this gentleman has the ability to find works of art that may be cheerful, they may be sad, they may be moving, or depressing even—

depending upon what the subject is—but they all are able to honor the spirit of work as something honorable. The work place may be a big factory or a little room where women are sewing ... or the work itself is honorable and the workers have dignity. The works in the Feldacker collection celebrate dignity.

# The Runway

## Fashion designer found dead in his London apartment



Sequita Bean

The fashion world was shocked last Thursday morning to hear that 40-year-old English designer Alexander McQueen had passed away. Several news outlets are reporting that McQueen apparently committed suicide by hanging, but none of those reports have been confirmed.

This news comes just before the designer was to show his latest fall collection at Paris Fashion Week in March. It has been said that

he was distressed over the upcoming three-year anniversary of the suicidal death of his friend (the woman who discovered him in 1994), famous fashion editor Isabella Blow, and the recent death of his mother, who passed away just nine days prior.

McQueen sold 51% of his famed label to the Gucci Group in 2001 and then served as their creative director. The Times Online recently reported that Gucci will soon abandon

the label under the belief that it is not profitable enough to go on without him.

McQueen started his fashion career on London's famous Seville Row. In 1996 he was named head designer at French couture house, Givenchy. He was particularly known for his "shock tactics" and his avant-garde runway looks.

The word legend is thrown around in fashion a lot, but I have no qualms about using the term to describe Alexander McQueen. If you have never seen a McQueen show, look one up on YouTube. The experience will blow you away. Not only did he present fashion, but he presented in an art form that was eloquent, raw and dauntless. He was never afraid to push the envelope and never sacrificed his vision for the sake of fashion.

His creativity did not stay within his clothing designs. Everything from extreme hair that stood one-to-two feet on top of his models' heads, to gothic-styled make-up, to an ampu-

tee model with custom designed legs were all things he pulled out of his demiurgeous hat.

Alexander McQueen wasn't just a designer, he was a creator. He was known amiably as "L'enfant terrible" for his idiosyncratic themed runway shows. His "bumster" pants, which he presented during fall 1996 Paris Fashion Week, started the infamous low-rise jean trend.

Fashion Week will not be the same without the unprecedented visionary that is Lee Alexander McQueen. More recently, McQueen collaborated with the Haus of Gaga to design all the pieces featured in Lady GaGa's couture-heavy music video for "Bad Romance."

"I'm dead, hopefully this house will still be going. On a spaceship," McQueen was quoted as saying in the latest issue of LOVE Magazine.

Lee Alexander McQueen, you will be truly missed.



## Steps for Safety

### Basic safety tips for better protection

PHOTOS BY JENIFFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

▶ JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

As much as we would like to pretend it is not, the world can be a scary place. Every time the news flashes on the television, there is a murder, rape, robbery or all of the above.

In an effort to prevent attacks on campus, the University of Missouri-St. Louis hosted a basic self-defense workshop last Thursday night. Other workshops will be available on the February 18 and 25. To keep safety in the minds of students and faculty, here are some basic tips should a situation arrive for protection.

#### 1) *Safety Stance:*

The safety stance provides the base step for general self-defense. Stand with a straight posture with legs spread so the body is balanced. Balance is very important for protection in general. Place hands together with dominant hand at belly button. Using this technique emits confidence. A person is more likely to get attacked if they do not show confidence. "Your body has to say 'I can take care of myself, leave me alone'" Gary Clark, UM-St. Louis police officer, said.

2) *"A short arm is a strong arm":* The more body given to an attacker, the more likely a victim will be hurt. As a visual, extend an arm fully and have a friend push down via that hand. Then, re-try the same, but have a friend use the upper arm to push down. It is much harder to force down the upper arm.

#### 3) *Fire!:*

When someone yells suddenly out of nowhere, we are startled. Making a single clear, crisp exclamation would have the same effect on an attacker. Yell things such as "No!" or "Fire!" as a method of distraction. Plus, it allows others to hear you.

#### 4) *Checking:*

Ever heard the phrase "Keeping in check?" The "check technique" does this. Keeping in safety stance, keep hands close to side. If someone gets too close, extend arms with palms open and push the attacker's chest. Immediately step away and revert to safety stance again.

#### 5) *Redirecting:*

If the assailant lunges, chances are they will be unbalanced. Redirection is what it sounds like—it redirects the attacker. Step to the side when being leaped at, and send the aggressor to a more vulnerable position. For example, if the attacker becomes unbalanced and is falling toward the ground, press down on his/her shoulder to help the attacker get to the ground faster.

#### 6) *Defensive Stance:*

Similar to the safety stance, the defensive stance is more obvious that one is being attacked. The dominant leg is put forward, the recessive back, with arms up near face for protection.

#### 7) *The weakest link:*

The pinky finger is the weakest finger. It cannot hold as well as the other fingers, so when pulled or turned, it weakens a person's hold. This comes in handy if a person grabs or chokes another.

#### 8) *"Fluid Shockwave":*

The body's nerves are quite sensitive. Make a fist, thumb outside of fist, and hit the radial nerve, the spot on the inside of the forearm. After striking with force an assailant can no longer make a fist.

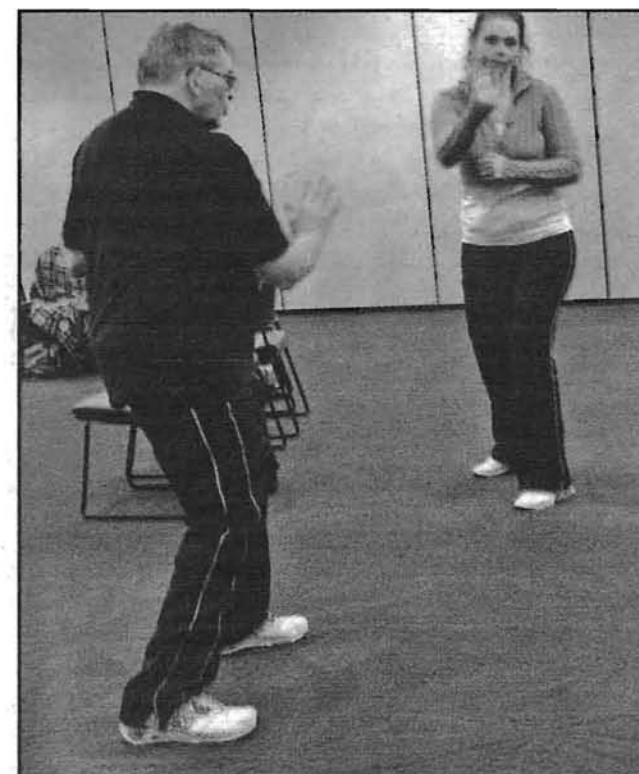
Self-defense is needed among men and women. Just a small



Students learned how to keep their hands in front of their face before kicking (left) and how to check the attacker (above).

portion of time could save a life.

"I think every woman needs to have safety skills," Kris Chisolm, senior, biology, said. "I mean, walking around this campus, especially at night. It's definitely important, especially with the way events have been happening on campus." As other precautions, carry a small flashlight and whistle. Do not make yourself a target, and try to travel with a friend.



Student being taught how to redirect the attacker in Thursday's self defense workshop.

# Business/Tech

## HISTORY ON DISPLAY *Old computers find a home*



Computers of all ages take up the back wall of the technology exhibit "Grace's Place," which is dedicated to Grace Hopper, an early pioneer in computing and noted for being the most well known programmer.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

► **JANACA SHERER**  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has plenty of exhibits to keep students busy. But hidden on the second floor of the Computer Center Building is one that is not your typical art show.

"Grace's Place," named after Admiral Grace Hopper, who did outstanding work to help create the modern day computer, is filled with hundreds of old pieces that some might consider junk. But Vicki Sauter, professor of information science and the curator of Grace's Place, considers every piece a work of art. "The reason we all look at art is to see where things ... have come from, and to see why things are the way they are," Sauter said.

When it comes to history, Sauter

has it all. Candlestick telephones, computers from all ages, ancient copy machines, modems, typewriters, mice, voicemail machines that cover an entire table and cell phones the size of a brick are all on display.

"The sociology of watching people respond to them is fascinating. A lot of people my age say, 'I remember those tubes,' and 'I did one of those wiring boards in class,'" Sauter said. Every archaic part is on display with the purpose of helping young and old understand where we came from, where we are and where we are going.

For six years now, Grace's Place has been educating students on what makes their computers tick. Vacuum tubes, mainframes, circuit boards and everything that hooks them together are also

on display and waiting to be gawked at. "The original thought was that students don't take apart their computers any more. Kids just don't have a feel for what it means. So we were going to have a couple of cases with things taken apart, so kids could see what they were. It just kind of got out of control," Sauter said.

Which is more than true. Computer monitors large and small line one side from floor to ceiling, copiers are jammed in the corner and all of the cases are filled to the brim with floppy disks and toy computers. But there is more that is not out on display. Exhibits are rotated in to try and get everything out where visitors can view it.

See **Display** page 16

## New e-mail system

*Windows Live brings students savings and convenience*

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Business/Technology Editor

Technological upgrades in enterprise are often a costly venture for any organization. But the new e-mail system being employed at University of Missouri-St. Louis and other system campuses has a very small price tag:

It is free.

In a move to meet student and faculty

requests and needs while saving money and server space, the new Windows Live e-mail system being rolled out on campus this semester provides users with a more modern and powerful e-mail experience while also providing new tools, like live chat and online storage for files.

Students will also be able to keep their old e-mail account after they graduate.

"You get to a situation in computing

where technologies change, and we've had several complaints over the years ... And you have to look around, you have to look at the budget, you have to look at how the markets have changed," Mary Fowler, director of user services in UM-St. Louis' Information Technology Services, said.

See **E-MAIL** page 16

## Internet scammers: Capitalizing on Haiti's popularity

► **EDWARD THORNTON**  
Staff Writer

In the Internet age of technology, malicious spammers and computer hackers have replaced masked criminals and purse-snatchers. Cyber thieves can strike any time and everyone is considered a target.

In the wake of the tragedy that fell upon the people of Haiti, cyber thieves set up sham Web domains and sent out seemingly official e-mails to people, soliciting donations for relief efforts. Thousands of dollars did not reach the starving Haitian children, but instead went into the pockets of cyberbandits.

Kenneth L. Voss, director of computing services at University of Missouri-St. Louis, sent out a mass e-mail to all students and faculty, warning them about Haitian Internet fraud. "The sites that were the scams themselves were coming up in the top 10 on Google when you searched Haiti. At that time, we felt a need to notify students and staff," Voss said. The first suspicious e-mails spotted were sent from a site pretending to be the British Red Cross and asked people to wire the money through a Western Union money transfer. The e-mail contained many grammatical and spelling errors and the British Red Cross said it was an unfortunately well-put-together fraud. Their e-mails may offer services that "help people locate ones who may be disaster victims, or may be phishing scams that are set up to look like legitimate Haiti relief organizations," Voss said. "Never send your account name or password in

an e-mail to anyone; no legitimate business including a university will ever ask to give you account information via e-mail."

Recently, Facebook, Twitter and MySpace accounts have all been created by persons claiming to be victims of the earthquake and asking for donations.

UM-St. Louis students are doing as much as they can to protect friends and family. "As far as my family and friends go, I just try and give them more information and let them know they need to do research themselves," Phillip Patton, sophomore, said.

No one is completely safe from Internet scams like this one, but to protect your wallet, here are a few simple rules to follow on the Internet:

1. Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails. If you do not recognize the sender, then it is most likely a spam e-mail.

2. Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.

3. Always make sure you verify the legitimacy of the nonprofit organizations by utilizing the various Internet-based resources that confirm the group's existence.

4. Never give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions. Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

# Fight over digital rights management: *Amazon and MacMillan*

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**  
Staff Writer

Until recently, Amazon.com had been able to set prices for e-books unchecked. Typically, that price was \$9.99 for bestsellers. However, MacMillan Publishers Ltd threatened this tidy cost when the company decided that they wanted to change the pricing of their publications. For a week, neither side gave in, and the “buy button” for MacMillan’s books was ineffectual on Amazon.com. On Feb. 5 around 6 p.m., Amazon gave in. All of MacMillan’s books are available on Amazon.com again, with a \$4 bump to match \$14.99 hardcover prices.

Amazon issued this statement: “We have expressed our strong disagreement and the seriousness of our disagreement by temporarily ceasing the sale of all MacMillan titles. We want you to know that ultimately, however, we will have to capitulate and accept MacMillan’s terms because MacMillan has a monopoly over their own titles, and we will want to offer them to you even at prices we believe are needlessly high for e-books.” This pricing model is the equivalent of mending

a broken leg with a Band-Aid. “Here’s MacMillan, historically a very large powerful publishing house, confronting a new reality: that it can’t even set the price of its own books, that Amazon has hijacked that major decision point and tried to usurp from MacMillan the right to charge \$9.99 a book rather than \$29 a book,” Thomas McPhail, professor of media studies, said. “Then, of course, Amazon is doing this because it’s fighting off Wal-Mart and others that also are offering discounted electronic books. Other companies will certainly find themselves in the same predicament.”

According to Apple Insider, two other publishers (Hachette Book Group and Harper Collins) are now publicly on board with MacMillan’s agency model. However, though this model sets e-book prices higher, retailers like Amazon get a 30 percent cut of sales, and a multitude of other companies, including Penguin, still have not committed to it. The problem is that while retailers make more money and the publishing houses manage to set prices how they’d like, consumers are forced to monitor their e-book buying habits closely.

See **RIGHTS** page 21

## DISPLAY, from page 15

Grace’s Place has been promised more space in the new Business Building. Until then, typewriters remain locked to their shelves and adding machines are trusted not run off during their time in the exhibit.


All objects are donated to the exhibit by staff, alumni and friends of the university. Along with Sauter, the donor list includes IBM, United Postal Service and CitiMortgage. But the exhibit is always looking for

more.

“It turns out that when you tell people that you’ll take their old computers off their hands, a lot of people come out of the woodwork with old computers and old computer parts,” Sauter said.

Grace’s Place is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 314-516-6267.



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- Annual GYN Exams
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- STD testing & treatment
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— with confidence.*

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## E-MAIL, from page 15

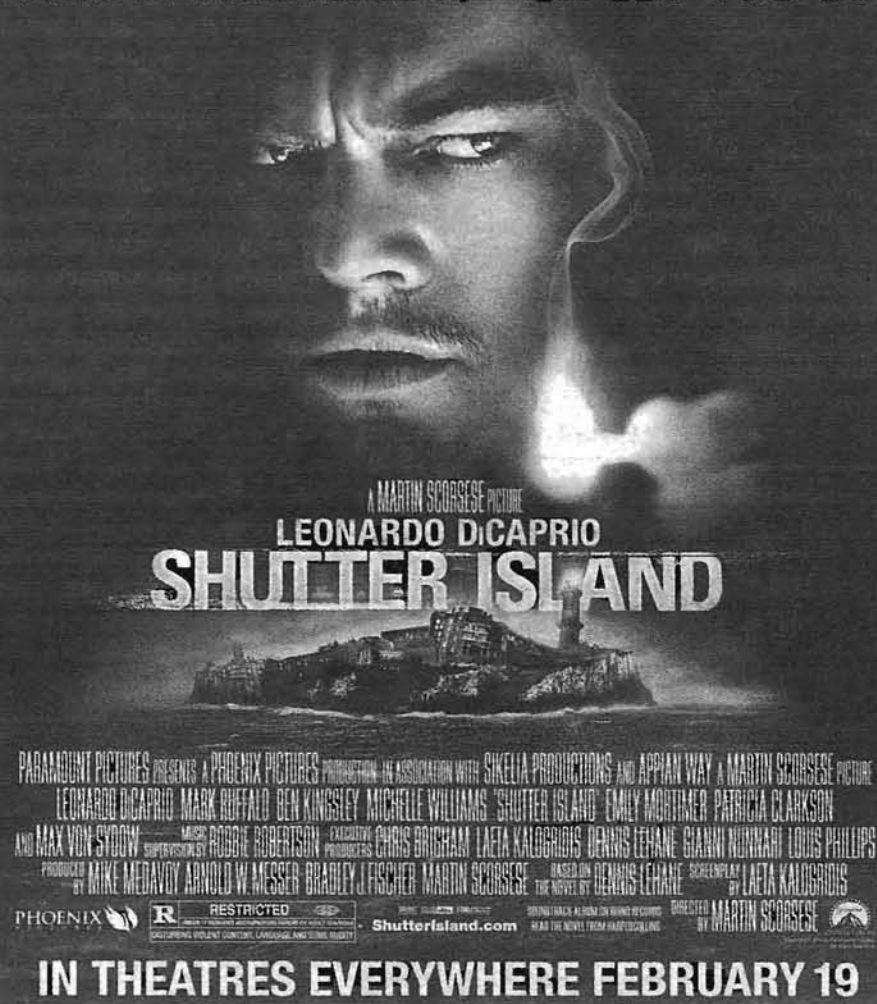
Following a nearly three-year-long search for a solution, a committee with representatives from all UM system campuses decided to take the offer from Microsoft and implement their Windows Live e-mail system on the UM system campuses. The result for users is an increased amount of storage—up to 10 gigabytes, compared to the 50 megabytes (1,000 megabytes=1 gigabyte) previously given for mail. Users can also utilize 25 gigabytes of on-line storage through the SkyDrive feature in their account. Files saved to the SkyDrive can be accessed on any computer connected to the Internet and can be shared through e-mail. In addition, the new service also works well with mobile devices (particularly smartphones), allowing students to stay connected off campus.

But, according to Fowler, perhaps the biggest selling point for the new system is that it preserves the global address book feature of the old system. This address book allowed users to search for any person in the UM system and to obtain their contact information. “The whole mail strategy is based on these addresses, so you can get to anybody at the University of Missouri,” Fowler said. Some minor bugs have been found in the system, the biggest being that users moving from the old e-mail system to the new one have been unable to move their files over to the new

account. However, ITS is planning to make the move final by March 29. “It’s pretty well received. With a lot of people, it has been pretty positive feedback,” Fowler said. The free hosting from Microsoft replaces the old exchange software, which the university was paying roughly \$30,000 a year to license from the same company, Fowler said. Microsoft will make its income through the ads that will appear in the user’s e-mail once they are no longer a student. The service also moves the storage of student and faculty data off campus and into what information technology professionals have come to call “the cloud.” This is shorthand for cloud computing, a system in which data is stored in vast remote servers, sent there by users via the Internet. However, the reliability of cloud computing, in particular that of Microsoft’s, was drawn into question following an incident last year in which T-Mobile cellular users lost their contact information due to a glitch in Microsoft’s cloud server.

Overall, Fowler finds the reliability to be a non-issue, as there is a written agreement with Microsoft guaranteeing zero data loss. “We have never had a data loss,” Fowler said of the new service. “I am confident ... that we are OK there, that I feel personally that the risk is maybe less than living by the airport.”

## THIS PLACE WILL NEVER LET YOU GO



A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE  
**LEONARDO DICAPRIO**  
**SHUTTER ISLAND**

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A PHOENIX PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH SKELETA PRODUCTIONS AND APPIAN WAY A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE  
LEONARDO DICAPRIO MARK RUFFALO BEN KINGSLEY MITCHELL WILLIAMS "SHUTTER ISLAND" EMILY MORTIMER PATRICIA CLARKSON  
AND MAX VON SYDOW MUSIC BY ROBBIE ROBERTSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS BRIGHAM LAETA KALOGRIOS DENNIS LEHANE GIANNI NUNNARI LOUIS PHILLIPS  
PRODUCED BY MIKE MEDAVY ARNOLD W. MESSER BRADLEY J. FISCHER MARTIN SCORSESE BASED ON THE NOVEL BY DENNIS LEHANE SCREENPLAY BY LAETA KALOGRIOS  
PHOENIX **R** RESTRICTED [ShutterIsland.com](http://ShutterIsland.com) HAD THE NOVEL FROM HARVARD  
DIRECTED BY MARTIN SCORSESE

**IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 19**



# HOTWIRE

► **ANDY PHIPPS**  
Science/Health Editor

## MOTOROLA ANNOUNCES IT WILL SPLIT UP IN 2011



Telecommunications giant Motorola announced this week that it will split its company into two independent corporations during the first quarter of 2011, while its cellular handset production and set-top box division will be spun off into another publically traded company. Its cellular phone division alone is valued at \$1 billion.

According to Motorola, the split will enable more focus on the products that the company currently produces, such as semiconductors. The spin-off of its cellular phone division, along with the set-top boxes used by cable companies to deliver television and movies, is seen as a move to compete with smartphones being built by RIM, Apple and Palm, while providing the ability to focus on creating solutions to stream video content to cell phones.

## GOOGLE PLANS TO TEST ULTRA HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE



The latest technology out of Google's labs is a scheme in which the Internet-age technological giant plans to roll out its own high-speed Internet service provider, providing subscribers with a one gigabit per second Internet speed. Google stresses that the service is in the experimental stage and is asking people to nominate their neighborhoods as part of the initial test group. The test is set to begin by the end of this year.

The service will be initially tested in 50,000 households, though plans were announced to expand the test group to 500,000 if things go well. The company's move to provide Internet connections to consumers could be seen as Google fighting against bandwidth restrictions threatened by a lack of network neutrality, against which it has vocally spoken out.

## NEW CREDIT CARD RESTRICTIONS GO INTO EFFECT THIS MONTH



Restrictions on credit cards, which are part of a bill that President Obama signed into law last year, will go into effect later this month. Among the restrictions is a change of the age at which a person can apply for and receive a credit card: up to 21 years of age from 18 years. Also, people with debit cards issued through banks will be able to choose whether their card will be shut off when they run out of funds or if they will be charged overdraft fees.

While the move to provide options on overdraft fees to debit card users is a basic consumer protection move, the credit card reforms are aimed at reducing the amount of debt racked up by teenagers who do not understand the implications of being provided with a line of credit. Under the new law, persons under the age of 21 who want to get a credit card will have to co-sign the application with a parent or guardian and provide proof that they have an independent source of income to pay for any charges they might make with the card.

## CHINA'S CENTRAL BANK MOVES TO STOP RAMPANT ECONOMIC GROWTH



In the face of the global economic slowdown, China's economy continued to grow and even speed up at times. However, the Chinese are acting to slow down this tremendous growth. Last week, for the second time this year, China's

central bank reduced the ability for banks to lend money by setting higher limits on the amount of money each of these banks must keep deposited in the central bank.

The move is part of a push by China to trigger a planned slowdown of their economy. This triggered fears in the West that the lending cutbacks would cause further financial woes, and caused a dip in most markets on the day of the announcement. Despite the cutbacks in lending, the Chinese economy is expected to grow 10 to 12 percent this year.

# WHAT ARE THE CHINESE SAYING?

# SIUC... 在全美的高等教育 研究机构中位居前5%\*

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\*An Investigative Research Report on Some Prestigious Universities Abroad

Volume B. Edited by Office of the State Council Academic Degrees Committee, Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China. July, 2008, p. 771



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# Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:  
 Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Anna Marie Curran • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel  
 Anthony Padgett • Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal

## Mizzou's circus act

As Benton Stadler continues to crumble before our eyes, this past week the president of the Missouri Students Association, Tim Noce, suggested that the University of Missouri campus in Columbia should buy a live tiger as a mascot. The tiger would cost approximately \$2 million.

To put it bluntly, the suggestion is not only gratuitous and laughable—it is also insulting. In the midst of an economic recession that has resulted in increased unemployment rates, cutbacks and bankrupt businesses, Missouri governor Jay Nixon has agreed to decreased funding cuts for public universities in exchange for a tuition freeze.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has implemented a hiring freeze as well, and recently turned down some student fee increases that would have provided the funding to improve some UM-St. Louis courses that badly need updated equipment. Even *The Current* has gone without fixing their fax machine. And Mizzou? They want a tiger.

For the Missouri Students Association to even consider purchasing a tiger for Mizzou is pretentious and erroneous. It's like watering one's lawn in front of a child dying of dehydration.

One of the reasons this absurd suggestion is being made is to supposedly increase school spirit. This is ridiculous because not only does Mizzou football bring out more school spirit than it does yellow and black face paint, to parade an endangered animal around the field would say nothing more than "we have alumni who have cash to throw on extravagancies, not education."

Indeed, it is reported that the live mascot would be financed through private donations. Good thing too, considering Nixon's tuition freeze applies to the Golden Child of the UM System, too. And although it is good that no school money would be spent if it were come to pass, what happens when



ILLUSTRATION: PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT

the private donors decide to stop funding the extravagance? Does Mizzou just ship the tiger back to the zoo? Set it free in the wilderness of Columbia? Maybe the school could get a rent-to-own tiger?

In all seriousness however, we wonder if Mr. Noce considered the ethical ramifications of owning a wild, endangered animal. How, on a clear conscience, could the school give the tiger a happy life if it is being used for the gratuitous entertainment of screaming college sports fans? It is arrogant and selfish

to keep an animal contained for the novelty of having it at school events, especially for the purpose of increasing students' spirit.

We could also ruminate on the never-ending list of "Ways to Better Spend Millions of Dollars," but that is almost too easy. If anything, the Missouri Students Association should think about raising money for a tiger conservancy fund to keep their mascot from becoming extinct. It would mean more to the namesake than keeping one as a live trophy piece.

## Pot this is not

Pop quiz: what synthetic substance has been floating around St. Louis, is gaining popularity, and can reportedly be three times more powerful than marijuana?

If you said "K2," then pat yourself on the back. Not only can K2 be more potent than pot, it is also legal—for now, at least.

K2 has come to the attention of Missouri lawmakers, who are considering making the "herbal incense" product illegal.

According to an article in the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch, one of the reasons lawmakers are considering a bill to outlaw the drug is because "easy access to the drug, which is sold in smoke shops and on the Internet, means that even children can purchase and use it legally."

This is an admirable goal, because as it stands, the product is unregulated: there's no age limit to purchase K2 like there is with alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco products.

Thankfully, lawmakers will be going one step further and will ban the drug outright. While this may anger some people

who smoke K2 instead of marijuana, it is the right decision.

Though K2 has been touted as a legal alternative to marijuana, in reality, it is anything but.

Indeed, the Missouri Highway Patrol crime lab in Jefferson City "tested K2 samples...[and] one of the samples tested positive for synthetic cannabinoids JWH-018 and JWH-073," according to the same Post-Dispatch article.

The problem with K2 being used as a marijuana alternative is that while marijuana is illegal because of its known effects on the human body, the synthetic cannabinoids in K2 are even more potent—and even more dangerous.

The researcher who helped create the synthetic cannabinoids in the 1990s, John W. Huffman, said in an e-mail to the Post-Dispatch that "the effects on humans have never been studied." Research on laboratory mice suggests that the synthetic cannabinoids in K2 are at least three times more powerful than THC.

Huffman also warned that synthetic cannabinoids "should absolutely not be used as a recreational drug." If a warning from the creator of the stuff inside K2 is not enough, the provenance of K2 is unclear as well.

Area stores that sell it get their supplies from individuals

who refuse to reveal where they get it. The foil packets that contain K2 are labeled not for consumption. The contents of the packet are just "herbs"—but what kind?

K2 may offer a quick, powerful high, but there have been no studies done on its effects on humans.

All the synthetic really offers are too many questions and not enough answers.

The debate on the legalization of marijuana goes on across the United States, with more and more states recognizing the legal use of marijuana for medical reasons.

However, no matter the position or side taken on the marijuana debate, K2 needs to be recognized by all for the dangerous drug that it is—before there is a serious incident that irrefutably proves it.

It is a good decision to outlaw it and keep it off shelves and the streets; even if only until comprehensive studies can be done on it to determine how potent it is.

If the drug turns out not to be as dangerous as it seems, hopefully it can be integrated into the controlled substances industry.

And if it is indeed as dangerous as it seems, hopefully a potential tragedy will have been averted.

# No better than Uganda

Send me to jail for seven years.

Please, I deserve it. In fact, I insist.

You see, I've done a terrible, terrible thing. I happen to know several gay women and men—and I haven't reported them to the authorities. I haven't turned in my friends for their horrendous crime of being homosexual.

But wait, being a homosexual isn't a crime in the United States. That's correct—but it is in Uganda.

According to current Ugandan law, the "crime" of homosexuality merits a sentence of life in prison. That alone is bad enough, but if Uganda President Yoweri Museveni gets his way, things will go from bad to downright atrocious.

Museveni's "Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009" is getting a lot of talk around the world, and none of it good: according to news Web site rawstory.com, the proposed law would "condemn HIV positive gay men and 'repeat offenders' to death," as well as "jail for three years anyone who knows a gay man but refuses to report them to authorities".

Of course, there's also my crime: "anyone who defends in public the rights of gays and lesbians would be subjected to a seven year prison term."

Seems a tad obsessive, right? For Americans, it shouldn't. Most states already treat gay women and men as second-class citizens, forbidding them to marry, forbidding them equal rights and protections, forbidding them to visit a sick partner in the hospital, and forbidding them to adopt children together.

Oh yeah, and on top of that, our military encourages its gay soldiers to stay in the closet for their own sake.

Yes, the Uganda bill is monstrous. Yes, it is a terrible thing. Indeed, I have to commend President Obama for denouncing it at the National Prayer Breakfast, despite the fact that the organizers behind the NPB have ties to the creators of the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

But who are we to point the finger and say "this is wrong" when in our county, homosexuals don't enjoy the same rights as heterosexuals?

The thing is, there is no good reason for anyone to be against gay marriage, much less gay rights.

Quickly, let's go down the list: "The Bible says it's wrong." Sure, but the Bible also says you can sell your daughter into slavery and can't eat lobster or shrimp. Nice selective reading there champ. Next?

"It fractures traditional family values." Of course it does. Those good old traditional family values, what with their nearly 45% national divorce rate and everything. This has been disproved time and time again.

"Gay parents raise gay children." Except that they don't. If that were the case, then every heterosexual parent with a gay child must be in the closet. Again, this has been disproved time and time again.

These tired old arguments have been floating around forever and they all amount to so much verbal trash. There is not a single valid argument to be anti-gay. Every excuse can be shot down and attributed to



Andrew Seal

hatred, bigotry or fear.

At the very core of the matter, people who are anti-gay are people who are afraid of what they do not know or understand.

Some bigots think that homosexuality is not normal, despite the fact that there are a great many examples of both homosexuality and heterosexuality in nature. Normal is not something immutable—it's fluid and it changes with time.

For too long, bigoted and fearful politicians have been dictating that gay people are second-class citizens. America in particular has a history of injustice toward certain groups. Over time, nearly every racial and sexual group has been discriminated against. Also over time, we have gotten over those fears and short sidedness and become one nation once more.

The time for rethinking of gay rights is at hand, and once gays in America have the same rights as heterosexuals, we can be a shining beacon for tolerance in the world at large.

Hopefully, that will help the world shun ignorant bigots like Yoweri Museveni and all those who follow after him.

*Andrew Seal is Opinions Editor for The Current.*

# Easy access sleaze

It is no secret that monogamy is becoming rarer as the years go on. As society becomes more open-minded, flexible and carefree, it becomes easier to be tempted by things we do not have.

It was once scandalous for a woman to show her back or shoulders in films. Now, people gripe if there was not a sex scene.

Girls as young as eight are encouraged to wear booty shorts and shirts that are supposed to be dresses. Maybe these are in the list of reasons why cheating in a relationship has become expected in a majority of people's lives. It is shocking and saddening when more than one friend of mine has shrugged off cheating partners, passing it off as "it happens to everyone at least once."

As ridiculous as the idea and actions of cheating, it is even more ridiculous that we have a website especially designed to assist and support an unethical behavior. For the sake of not encouraging use of this site, Adulterous Anonymous will take place of the actual name.

Adulterous Anonymous is a dating site that opened in 2001.

It now has over 2.5 million users. Meaning, over 2.5 million people have found it necessary to cheat on their significant other via this "secret" service.

In the past, religion had a large part in the smaller statistic of unfaithfulness. When we were married in the past, the idea was to have one, and only one, partner for the rest of our lives. Marriage was sacred.

When divorces or affairs were brought to the attention of the public, the people were shunned, mortified and ashamed of their actions. The persons' actions were punished in one way or the other.

Nowadays, divorce and re-marriage is so common, it is not surprising to see how people take monogamy so

lightly.

It is so common people actually expect to be cheated on at least once.

Being unfaithful has almost become so natural, several people do not think about the consequences of their actions.

People who cheat achieve some benefit in some way. Their current relationships may not have a great sex life, or maybe they are not receiving an emotional satisfaction. Sometimes, it is just the adrenaline rush people receive, knowing they are doing something they should not.

In other words, people are thinking of themselves.

The cheaters, outside of their own reputation, are hurting others.

The most obvious person they are hurting are the ones they were in the relationship with originally.

When someone is cheated on, a lot of emotional damage is caused.

The victims wonder what they did wrong, why they are not good enough for their partners, and will also have a strong possibility of developing trust issues for any relationship they have or will have.

Physical harm could come in if unprotected sex comes into play and an STD is contracted.

If the couple has children, children also suffer emotional damage.

Also, the men and women being cheated with may not know the persons prior attachments and could very much be hurt themselves from the deceit.

Having an actual resource to turn to that makes cheating as easy as ordering a pizza is insane.

In addition, religion seems to be becoming sparser as the years go by in comparison. Maybe since the idea of hell is diminishing in peoples' minds, morals are too.

The site makes its money off of credits.



Jen O'Hara

For x amount of credits, the user gets to message another member, or have a specific amount of time to instant message others. Without a doubt, the creator of Adulterous Anonymous is reaping in the rewards just fine, but it is curious what it does for the conscience.

People are free to do whatever they wish short of murder, but assisting people in hurting others is definitely not among ideal ethics, even if the creator is not personally participating in his own endeavors.

If there is something wrong in a relationship, there are many things worth trying outside of cheating. First and foremost, communication is key, so talk to your partner about what is lacking in the relationship.

If talking fails, then attempt seeing a counselor together.

Sometimes, two people are simply not meant to be together, no matter how much they like to be.

If cheating is a "solution" for someone, then perhaps the two should not be together in the first place. Perhaps if one is so desperate to be with another person, they should think outside of their own self-interests, do the other person a favor, and break things off before they become even more hurt.

Overall, steer clear of affairs and just be happy with one person in your life. Even further, steer clear of the one-click-away affair.

*Jen O'Hara is a staff writer for The Current.*

## Gay rights? Infidelity?

What do you think?

THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

## SCIENCE MATTERS

## What color is your dinosaur?

Once, all dinosaurs were drab it seemed, but now, new research points to the color of dinosaurs.

It is all about the bird-dinosaur connection.

Last month an article in the journal "Science" about newly-discovered fossils that offer strong proof of the birds-are-dinosaurs theory. The second one, appearing online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, took a novel model-based approach to study how bird flight evolved. The third, appearing online in Nature, is perhaps the most fun—a discovery of color and patterns in these feathered creatures, something most paleontologists never expected to know.

The report on feather color was published by Michael Benton of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and his team. Some dinosaurs may have had feathers. Benton's team found fossilized melanosomes, organelles contain melanin, type of pigment found in feathers, fur and skin, in the fossils of both feathered dinosaurs and early birds. The lucky break is that the shape of the organelles differs depending on the color conferred, so the fossil evidence tells us the color, and even patterns, of feathers.

They found two types: oblong eumelanosomes contain eumelanin, which adds black or gray coloring, and rounder pheomelanosomes, which contain pheomelanin, which adds reddish-brown coloring. Areas without melanosomes were likely white.

The nearly 125-million-year old feathered dinosaur *Sinosauropteryx* had feather-like bristles on its head, tail and back, with pheomelanosomes with reddish-brown stripes covering the tail. *Confuciusornis*, a bird from roughly the same time in the Cretaceous, was

found to have both types of melanosomes.

In addition, Benton and colleagues will be examining other fossils for the microscopic color-producing organelles. It is likely other researchers will be doing the same.

The research also strengthens the argument that these bristle-like structures on dinosaurs were feathers. Since flight came later, why feathers developed, for insulation, social signaling or camouflage, still is not clear.

The fossil *Archaeopteryx*, the earliest known flying bird, was the first link between birds and dinosaurs. The majority view of paleontologists is that birds evolved from dinosaurs about 150 million years ago. It is thought that birds evolved from a group of bird-footed dinosaurs, the theropods, a group that includes *Velociraptors* and *Tyrannosaurus rex*. But a minority held that birds and dinosaurs evolved side by side, and the lack of fossil evidence just had not made things clear.

The new find, from western China's Uighur Autonomous region and named *Haplocheirus sollers*, seems to dispel that doubt. It is one of a group of feathered creatures called *Alvarezsaurs*, which had been believed to be early flightless birds. The 10-foot long, nearly-complete fossil has a long beak, three-toed feet and the bird-like keel shaped chest. It was uncovered by a team lead by Jonah N. Choiniere, of George Washington University.

*Alvarezsaurs* were originally found in South America, but this new find is much older. It lived 160 million years ago, in the Jurassic period, 63 million years older than the first *Alvarezsaurs* discovered and about 15 million years older than *Ar-*



Cate Marquis

*chaeopteryx*. The new find reveals that the *Alvarezsaurs* were in fact dinosaurs, not birds, no matter how bird-like they seemed. Although clearly related to birds, this group of theropods may not be their direct ancestor.

Last, is the third publication, a new way of exploring how feathered flight might have evolved. The two competing theories are that birds were tree-dwellers that evolved flight by gliding down from trees or that they were two-legged ground-runners that evolved by getting a longer running jump.

One group of researchers took a different approach to study this, building a model based on a *Microraptor*, a four-winged, bird-like dinosaur. David Alexander, a specialist in biomechanics at University of Kansas, and Lawrence, someone with extensive knowledge of flying model airplanes, joined a team of paleontologists from that university and researchers at Northeastern University in Shenyang, China.

They built a model skeleton, covered it with a clay body and added pheasant feathers. Their results indicated *Microraptor* could easily have glided from branch to branch. Doubtless, we will soon see more studies detailing with the colors of our feathered friends, the dinosaurs and how their descendants learned to fly.

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

## THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

## Ethics proposals 189 years late

Last week, I wrote about scumbags in politics and wondered whether their presence was some fault of our own.

The real answer is that we put our trust in these people because we were trained to. They are no worse than the rest of us, and then again, they are also just as bad as the rest of us.

Anyway, while writing about scum last week, I forgot to mention a grand example in Missouri.

His name is Rod Jetton, and he was the firebrand republican speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. He left office last year because of term limits and has since had a shadow hanging over him.

This is because, as speaker, he enjoyed limitless perks from lobbyists, including hunting trips, free meals and tons of gifts which he stored in a converted fireproof vault that was his secret office in the capital.

Jetton also ran a consulting business while he was speaker and he used it to elicit bribes from fellow lawmakers so that he wouldn't kill their proposals when they got to the Missouri house.

This merited him an investigation by the FBI, though he only began to face the music when he left office. That is when the G-Men hit him hard and also when he was

charged with assault by his mistress following what he described as "rough sex."

Today, Jetton is estranged from his wife. He lives with his daughter and is penniless. When he applied for a job as an appliance salesman, he was turned down. According to last week's Post-Dispatch, he had an application to be a garbage man he had yet to fill out.

According to that article, our state government is only just now taking up the issue of changing the laws that would keep an individual like Jetton from doing such a thing ever again.

Why now?

You see, this type of scandal—publicly admitted "rough sex" and corresponding assault charges excluded—is as old as dirt.

Yes, this type of greed goes on all the time in this state. It is not just Rod Jetton that does it. It is the union representatives, the politically connected lawyers and local party chairmen that move the money around under the radar, illegally.

Being active in politics long enough to know, there is no campaign that is entirely run on clean money or any candidate that is as good as they are advertised.

I have known people who gather and move money around—and how they do it—and have also seen the



Andy Phipps

candidates kiss babies at an event and then scream at their wives when they are drunk after it.

The problem is that politics is not a serious business, it is a game. We would like to think about it as being serious, but it is a game played by the kids that got picked on at recess. They are now half-wits in cheap suits with bad teeth and worse breath that have power.

Even worse to think about is the fact that we are the only people able to stop them, and yet, we are too passive to even try. And as long as this is the case, then we get what we ask for, and that it is what we deserve.

In the meantime, we will be led by a pack of whoremongers and thieves. So, get used to it and quit acting shocked when they turn out to be what we fear and know they might be.

*Andy Phipps is Science/Health Editor and a columnist 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 thecurrentads@umsl.edu, or call (314) 516-5316.

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**RIGHTS**, from page 16

Though MacMillan won this round, publishers are facing a larger, nearly irreconcilable dilemma in the switch from digital to print. "The issue is Google trying to digitize the Anglo-Saxon book cannon and running into complaints from copyright holders. France, Germany, even the U.S. Department of Justice is concerned that Google is becoming the elephant in the room and there won't be room for anyone else while they define the rules of access," McPhail said. "Currently, companies that are involved heavily in print are trying to get in the Web business and find out how they can put a meter on the Web to get some revenue."

People who buy Kindles, iPads and other e-readers become true believers of the technology. The ability to carry 500 books in a lightweight and portable format is simply too attractive, and though e-readers are less tactile, the pros seem to vastly outweigh the cons. Years from now, the MacMillan versus Amazon debate may be looked at as the butterfly that caused a tornado where direct-to-publish Amazon and Google programs thrive.

The UM-St. Louis bookstore sells all e-textbooks that are on the market. Gloria Schultz, director of auxiliary services, said, "This semester, more than ever students are buying e-books."

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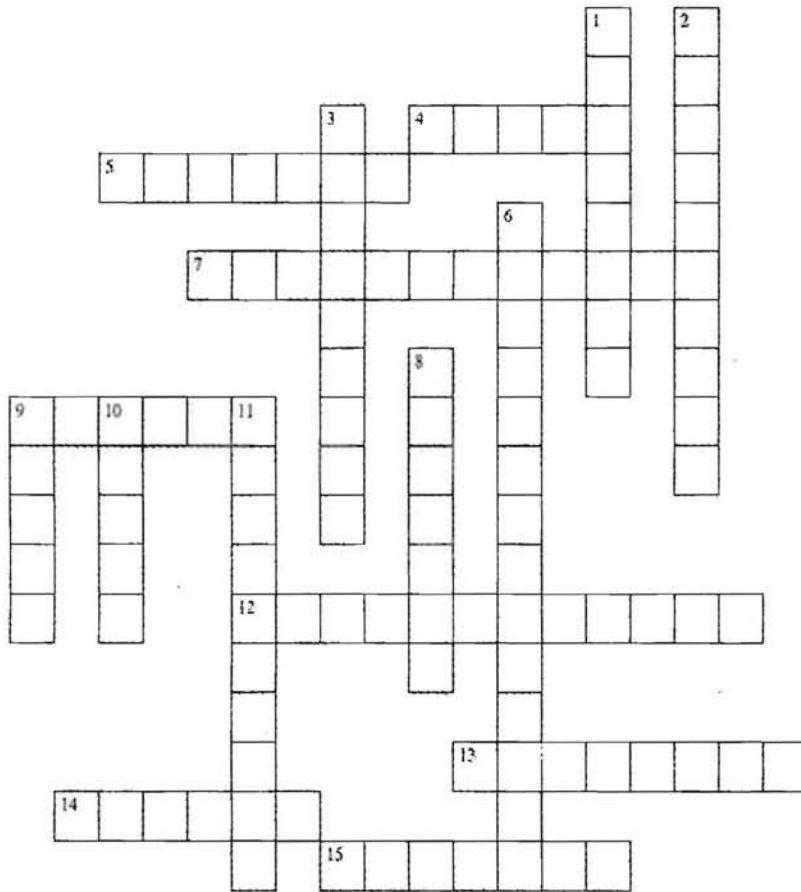
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# Puzzles

## CURRENT CROSSWORD

### Vancouver Olympics



#### ACROSS

4. American snowboarder who literally bit it during the half pipe a few weeks ago.
5. St. Louis Blues player on the U.S. Olympic team.
7. The Nordic combined event combines ski jumping with this type of skiing.
9. Another St. Louis Blues player on the U.S. Olympic team.
12. Country with the most medals as of Sunday Night.
13. Involves skiing and shooting.
14. Skiing event that includes the giant slalom and super-G.
15. Involves stones and sweeping.

#### DOWN

1. Like the luge, but forwards.
2. Games that are held right after the Olympics.
3. The third Olympic sliding sport with skeleton and luge.
6. Georgian athlete who died while training for the luge.
8. First American to win gold this Olympics.
9. Ohno tied this speed skater for most medals for an American in the winter Olympics.
10. The U.S. Women's hockey team whooped this country's team 12-1.
11. Sport in which you'll see a flying V.

## CURRENT HOROSCOPES

### ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

If you're waiting for the right moment to make an important decision, this is it. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to make your choice, so this week it's time to step up.

### TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You may have been spending a lot of time with a new group of friends at the expense of old ones. Now is a good time to fix that. Apologize if you need to, and make some plans.

### GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

A friend or acquaintance who asks a favor of you this week probably isn't being as honest as they could. Find out what the real situation is before making any decisions.

### CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Keep careful watch on how you spend your money. Unplanned purchases could potentially be very hard on your wallet, but if you're cautious about what you buy, you'll be just fine.

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

Don't overreact to an acquaintance's confrontational attitude this week. Instead try to figure out what's causing this conflict, then be willing to compromise if that will solve the problem.

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

An idea you've been mulling over seems to require immediate action, but look before you leap. The extra pressure might not be something you need right now.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You're not usually very impulsive, but this week may bring a lapse in your usual caution. Following your instincts could lead you to some very interesting opportunities.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Don't be afraid to cut down on work if you feel you've bitten off more than you can chew. Having less in your schedule means more time and energy to devote to what's really important to you.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

A friend may offer some unwanted advice this week, but even if it irritates you, you should listen anyway. They may have something helpful to tell you, so be gracious and attentive.

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

Feeling more emotional than usual this week may make concentrating difficult. Take time out to vent to a friend and ask for their help in simplifying your schedule.

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

Upset friends or family members coming to you for help this week really just need a sympathetic ear and a little bit of very practical advice. Use your common sense to help find a solution.

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

Problems facing you at the beginning of the week may seem small at first, but if you don't deal with them quickly and thoroughly they'll build up with surprising speed.

## GOT A GREAT IDEA FOR A CROSSWORD?

LET US KNOW AT THECURRENTTIPS@UMSL.EDU

## CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★  
(Easy)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating:  
Very hard

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

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

## 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: Y = I)

"Y BKNJ Y'H RCAFDA JCX AWO ICQACYK VOCEEP  
ZDXAYRYOL YK AWWNJYKU HO NRR C REYUWA RNV  
JWYIW Y JCX CEVOCLP XOCAOL."

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



\*NOTE: IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS SCENE, GO WATCH STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE, FOOL!

**RANDOM MINDS** BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



**ARIANNA**, from page 9

The third movement of No. 4 allowed the quartet to express their knowledge of Beethoven's precursors. "The last movement is a nod towards Hadyn, and incorporates gypsy or folk themes," McGrosso said. "The fact that it is in C minor is an interesting twist. Beethoven really sweated over the notes he put down. These quartets allowed him to establish himself among musicians."

No. 1, an exceptionally difficult piece even for experienced musicians, was performed with no hitches in the quartets' harmonization. Of course, a great deal of thought and practice has gone into making it sound right. "The rests are not restful at all," McGrosso said of Beethoven's ability to write music that heightened tension through silence, a well-known but often misinterpreted quality. Fortunately, in the capable hands of the Arianna String Quartet, it does not suffer.

They are tight, but not impervious to the passion Beethoven's music invokes. "Getting ready to play Beethoven is a little like boarding a wild animal that you don't know," Kurt Baldwin, cellist, said.

Tickets for the February 20 performance at Touhill are on sale for \$42, and they are well worth it. According to Touhill's website, wine and cheese will be provided as well as hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dessert. The Arianna String Quartet will also be available for a pre-concert discussion. **B-**—*Joe Schaffner*

## CAN YOU DRAW THIS WELL?

(or better?)

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# What's Current

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

## Monday, Feb. 15

**The Labyrinth: An Art Historical Perspective** Bridget Sandhoff, assistant teaching professor in the UMSL Department of Art & Art History, briefly examines the history of the labyrinth in antiquity and the Middle Ages. Sandhoff teaches primarily ancient and medieval art history, and her area of expertise is the ancient cultures of Italy. Located in 222 J. C. Penney Conference Center from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more info contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

**Executive Fellows Mentoring Project with Dick Navarro** The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three to five students. Business and organizational leaders serving as executive fellows at the UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium provide support and guidance in transitioning from college to careers. Located in 427 SSB from 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM. For more information contact Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

## Tuesday, Feb. 16

**Resume Reviews in the Nosh** Need a marketable resume for your internship/job search, graduate school, or the Spring Internship & Job Fair on February 26th? Visit Career Services in the Nosh! Stop by any time between 11 & 1 for a resume review. For more info contact Career Services at 314-516-5111.

**St. Louis Rotary Club Ethics Panel** A panel of business and organizational leaders, all members of the St. Louis Rotary Club, serve as panelists discussing ethics to students and faculty. Tom Teasdale, executive fellow and St. Louis Rotary Club member, organizes this program each semester and serves as the moderator. Located in the JC Penney Summit Lounge from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM. For more information contact Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

## Wednesday, Feb. 17

**Make the Most of Your Learning Style** Find out how you learn and process information best. We'll help you understand more about how our brains work makes us more engaged, more confident and higher achieving learners. Located in 225 MSC from 12:20 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.

**Ash Wednesday Mass** Join the Catholic Newman Center community for Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:20pm on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center, Century Room C. All students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends are invited to attend and begin their Lenten season with us! For more information contact Liz Detwiler at 314-385-3455.

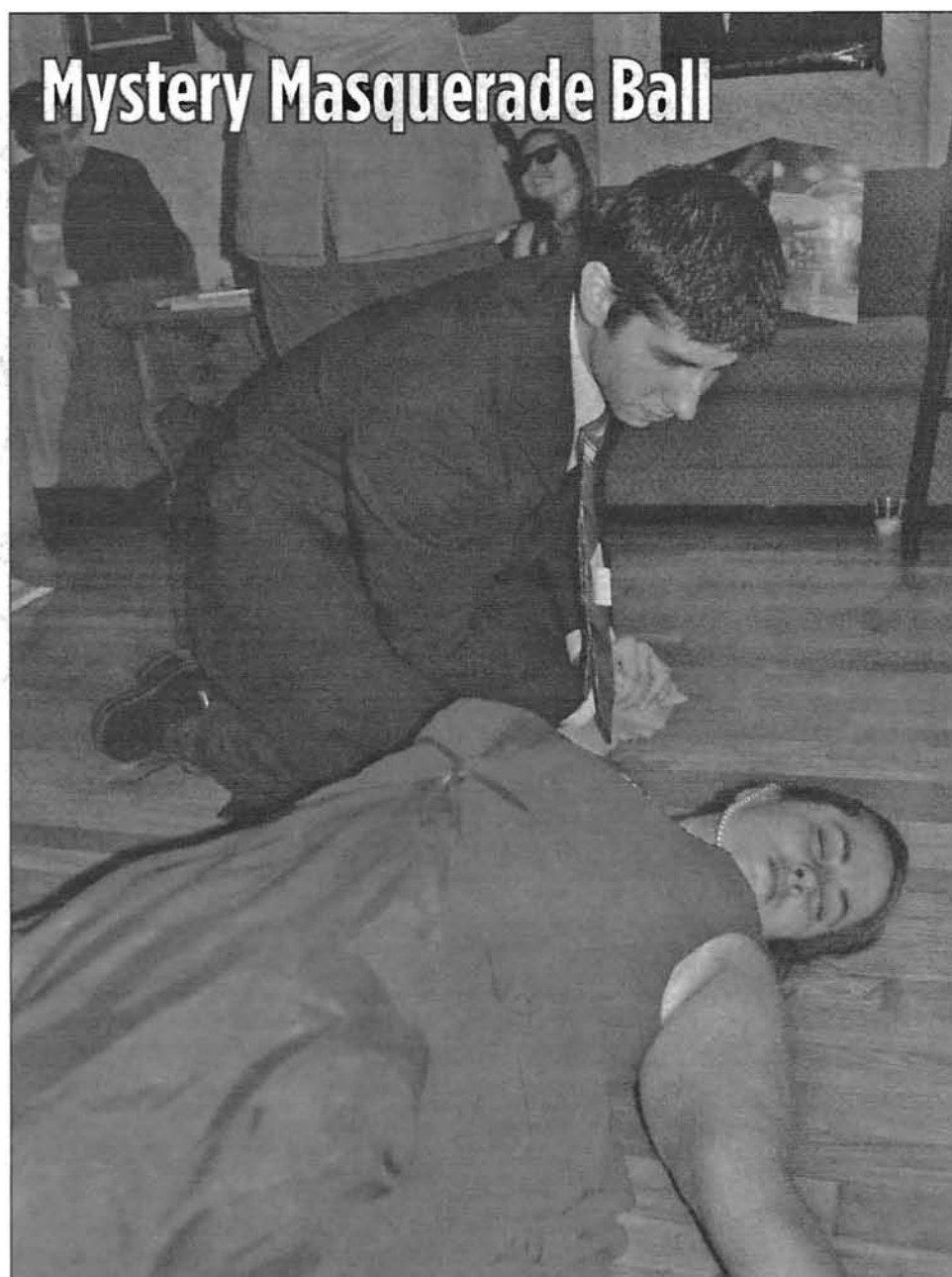
**Soul Talk** Join us for a friendly, informal discussion on Life, God, and the Bible. Located in the MSC Nosh at 11:30. For more information call Tim at 314-732-6234.

## Thursday, Feb. 18

**Home Basketball Games** Come root for your Tritons at two home basketball games: women at 5:30pm, men at 7:30pm versus Missouri S & T. Located in the Mark Twain Gymnasium from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact Rick Gyllenborg at 516-7016.

## Friday, Feb. 19

**Conversations: Planning & Designing Online Learning** Informal discussions designed to introduce colleagues to the essential ingredients for developing effective blended or fully online courses. Second hour devoted to developing own materials. Located in 449 Social Science Building from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For more info contact Cheryl Bielema at 516-4508.



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Nick Bono or "Hunter Starr" holds the hand of the "murdered" actress "Angel Wood," at the Catholic Newman Center's Mystery Masquerade Ball Friday. Throughout the night students, who were assigned characters, investigated the pretend murder.



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,  
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*

For more events, check online at  
[thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)