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THE FUTURE OF FOOD AT UMSL

BY ANDY PHIPPS

Tyler Noland, international business, junior, talks about the idea of having food service later in the day, on weekends, and longer hours during the summer for students taking classes at the Food Forum on Thursday.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Beginning last week, UM-St. Louis student services began hosting food service forums with students and faculty. The forums were meant to gauge the opinions of those who utilize and rely on campus dining, as well as find out what they think could make it better.

Attendees at the forums were asked three main questions about food services and catering on campus at The Nosh, Provincial House, Oak Cafe and catering by Chartwells. They were asked what they would make food services on campus look like, what they thought about the current offerings and what could be done to improve them.

The questions covered topics like the price, consistency, availability and quality of the food. The forums were also held at carefully chosen times and locations in an attempt to gain the responses of the UM-St. Louis populace.

"I felt like [students] were excited to be asked. I felt like they had some really good feedback for things they would like to see ... A lot of it was about wanting to have more choices and looking at more recognizable franchises," Miriam Huffman, director of Student Life, said.

Despite the planning, there has been sparse

attendance at the forums held to date. Huffman, who has presided over three of the forums, said that the best attendance she had seen was 12-15 students on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the MSC.

At the 5:30 p.m. forum held that night in the museum room at Provincial House, three students attended out of the group of students who were having their dinner in the cafeteria right down the hall.

"No one cares. Honestly, I told them and they're like, 'Oh, I'll eat my food and be OK,'" Ralph Jenkins, sophomore, accounting and international business, said.

Jenkins' responses to the three questions were close to what Huffman had heard from other students at the forums. He said that more variety was needed, the hours were inconvenient and prices were high.

In terms of variety, the suggestion that available items be rotated more often was a common theme among the three attendees.

"It seems like whatever venue we go to, it's generally the same food every day, especially over on South Campus," Dan Rosner, senior, accounting and SGA Comptroller, said.

See **FUTURE**, page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Men's Basketball

►5

The Wolfman

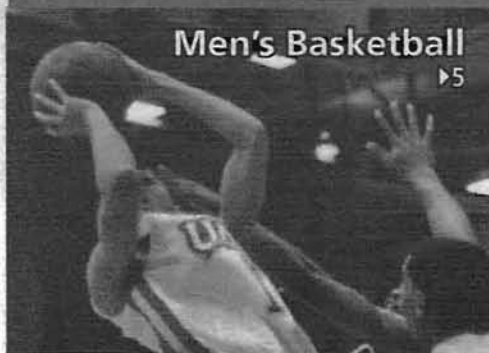
►8

Study Abroad

►12

Housing Guide

►B1



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So, what does creativity actually mean?

Korean research says emotional intelligence is worthless

▶ **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

The world's businesses are changing: as multiple organizations offer the same goods, the focus of success shifts from service to creativity. According to this year's University of Missouri-St. Louis seminar series, emotional intelligence and leader-member exchange are leading this change in the business world.

Emotional intelligence is "the ability to process emotion-laden information competently, ... to use it to guide cognitive activities like problem solving, and to focus energy on required behaviors," Kyootai Lee, associate professor of science and technology at the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Tech-

nology, said.

Lee described leader-member exchange as "the quality of relationships or exchanges between supervisors and subordinates." That is, an employee's creativity is judged by how skilled he or she is at interpreting and predicting emotional responses and by the quality of his or her relationship with supervisors.

Lee presented a seminar Friday concerning both attributes. Although Lee's recent research was conducted in Korea, he graduated with a Ph.D. in business administration from UM-St. Louis.

"Creativity is one of the most important innovations in business recently," Lee said. Firms spend millions on creativity training. Creativity

plays a critical role in enhancing the competitive advantage of organizations."

The results of Lee's research into emotional intelligence showed that it may not have a direct influence on creativity in an organizational setting, whereas leader-member exchange quality has clear impacts on creativity.

The perceived quality of an employee's creativity is heavily dependent upon the relationships formed between supervisors and subordinates—positive relationships often lead to better opinions between individuals.

"[Lee] has some very interesting ideas, [but] I think he needs to define them more. He needs to figure out what creativity actually means," Bonnie Bachman, professor

of business and information technology at Missouri S&T, said.

Other professors in attendance had similar comments throughout the seminar.

Also questioned was whether perceived creativity should take precedence over personal creativity.

The general consensus among the professors seemed to be that although Lee's research is intriguing, it needs refining and requires more data in order to justify its broad statements

"Professor Lee's research was conducted through interviews with employees and supervisors of two corporations in Korea. This seems a bit narrow considering his broad statements," Bachman said.

FUTURE, from page 1

In addition to the lack of variety, the appearance of the food was a sign of its quality.

"Say you go into ProHo at like, 7:00, right before they close. The food there is pretty much the same food that's been sitting there. So you can tell that it's old ... You can tell that if it's like spaghetti or something, the sauce is

darker and a lot thicker than if it was fresh," Karyssa Paris, freshman, nursing, said.

All three attendees also had meal plans. They complained about their inability to use their declining balance more than two times a week on North Campus. On Mondays and Thursdays, between 11:00 and 2:00 p.m.,

students with meal plans can buy food on North Campus and it will not affect their balance.

"I think they hope that their feedback is really not just heard, but that something happens from it, or there is a visible change, I think, from what they see," Huffman said.

The input from students and faculty that have attended the forums will be passed along to Chartwells as recommendations from student services

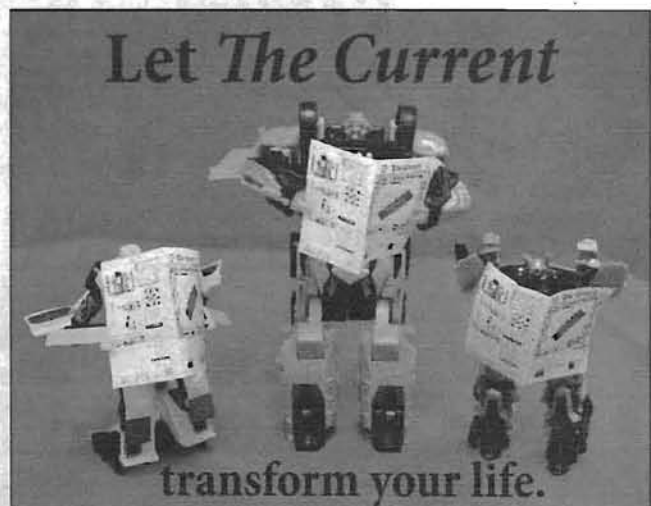
The final food services forum will be held tonight in the Pilot House on the first floor of the MSC at 5:30 P.M.

CORRECTIONS

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

On page 10 of the Feb. 8, 2010 issue, the photo of Troubadour Dali was incorrectly attributed to Riki Tanaka. The photo was courtesy of Matt Guempel.

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



WEATHER

MON. 28	TUES. 32	WED. 33	THURS. 37	FRI. 34	SAT. 33	SUN. 35
22	20	21	24	30	26	25



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

On the MSC Bridge, eye glasses can be dropped off in the donation box to help Haiti and other third world countries.

Students give the gift of sight

Pre-optometry student club collects glasses

▶ **ASHLEY ATKINS**
Staff Writer

Located in the lobby of the Optometry College or on a table on the MSC Bridge of the University of Missouri-St. Louis for the past two weeks are drop boxes set up by the Pre-Optometry Club.

With the help of organizations such as Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Help Humanity and National Optometric Student Association, the club has set up a drive to collect glasses for Haiti and other third world countries.

The president of the Pre-Optometry Club, Cortney Luehrmann, sophomore, pre-optometry, said that this was the first year the club had done their fundraiser on the main campus as well as South Campus.

"As a club, we want to make the university aware of the need for donated glasses for developing countries," Luehrmann said.

In the past, the fundraiser was held by various optometry students who volunteered with SVOSH, the student side of VOSH.

Although the drop boxes

asked for eyeglasses for Haiti, some students were confused by them.

"I saw and read the box and knew that they were collecting glasses, I just did not know where it was going," Zach Martin, junior, liberal studies, said.

"I was a little confused about the drive because when I think of donations, I do not think of eyeglasses."

According to Luehrmann, Haiti has had a lack of optometric care before and after the earthquake. VOSH would like to improve that by providing Haitians with corrective vision.

"Right now, the VOSH organization is working in Haiti to make sure they have optometric care, but they will also go to other developing nations where they need optometric care," Luehrmann said. Luehrmann also mentioned how some fourth year optometric students have recently traveled with the group to Haiti because VOSH was one of its first responders after the devastating earthquake.

Luehrmann stressed the importance of delivering glasses to the disaster torn

country, and mentioned what the group will be looking for when collecting the eyewear.

"We are collecting the frames and the lenses, the lenses are the most important of the donated glasses because they have the prescription," Luehrmann said. "I just want to do my part in helping people get what they need to see."

This drive is not just confined to the UM-St. Louis campus. Pre-optometry student clubs from universities such as Saint Louis University, Maryville, Missouri Baptist and others have collection boxes for the same cause.

Yet at the end of the fundraiser all of the collected glasses come to the same place—UM-St. Louis, where SVOSH identifies the prescription, tags the glasses and then ships them off to developing countries.

Although the drive has now come to a close, there is still opportunity to contribute, according to optometrist Barbara Brown, manager of student and special services in the college of optometry.

"We never turn down glasses for third world countries," Brown said.

College Republicans discuss economy

▶ **SAMUEL ABRAHA**
Staff Writer

This semester, the University of Missouri St. Louis College Republicans are hoping to reignite Republican support and encourage political participation on campus. They plan to do this by using the economy to relate to students who have found themselves in financial worries. Their plan was put into action last Thursday, February 11, as

a part of their speaker series.

The student organization held the event in the JC Penney building auditorium with guest speaker Amity Schlaes. The main topic of discussion was the economy, with insights from Schlaes who is the New York Times bestselling author of "The Forgotten Man: A History of the Great Depression." Schlaes is also an economist from Washington D.C. and a senior fellow at the Council on Relations.

In her presentation, Schlaes compared the depression of the 1930s with today by looking at historical lessons learned and how it correlates to the current economic crisis. Schlaes explained that during the 1930s experimentation was used by the government to counter the economic crisis.

"What I have found in researching the period is experimentation can be counterproductive," Schlaes said.

She also spoke out against the recent government bailouts of certain institutions and warned against government intervention in the economy.

In her book, Schlaes argues from a free market perspective

and criticizes Herbert Hoover and the Smoot-Hawley Tariff for their role in worsening the depression through government intervention.

"The college student is the forgotten man because the taxes that we are going to have in the future are not going to be paid by people over fifty, but in their twenties," Schlaes said. "The budget crises that were having now are just a prelude to more budget crisis."

Leo May, vice president of the College Republicans, also explained the importance of today's leaders being cautious with decisions on the economy. May explained in order to have an economy that supports the lifestyles people

want to live having access to critical jobs and keeping them will be vital.

"The important economic decisions we make now will greatly affect the generations after us," May said. Overall, Schlaes does not put all the blame for the economic woes in the U.S. on the Democratic Party, but believes both parties are responsible.

"Neither party acknowledged how much what it was promising cost," Schlaes said.

She also explained that excessive spending by the government will lead to a greater crisis if not properly controlled. "There should be an honest assessment of what

the government can actually pay," she said.

Organizer of the event and treasurer of the College Republicans, Laura Norjeares, took a similar non-partisan approach. Her goal is not only to promote the club, but to simply encourage UM-St. Louis students to become more politically involved. "I'm hoping to get more students involved in politics, even if they're not Republicans," Norjeares said.

It seems that, Democrat, Republican or Independent, all Americans can be affected by a poor economy, and the College Republicans hope that everyone will get involved in politics to help do something about it.

Statshot

Black History Month is a remembrance of the history of great African Americans. Who do you think of when you think of Black History Month?



Emanuel Grimes
Junior
Sociology

"I think of Martin Luther King [Jr.], Malcom X, Harriet Tubman, and all the strong African Americans that made freedom possible and enabled me to be where I'm at now."



Ian Lewis
Freshman
Nursing

"I am glad everyone is now judged by their merits, not their color."



Ashley Minor
Senior
Psychology

"I think of Martin Luthor King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and George Washington Carver, Sigourmer Truth, Ben Carson, and Ruby Bridges."

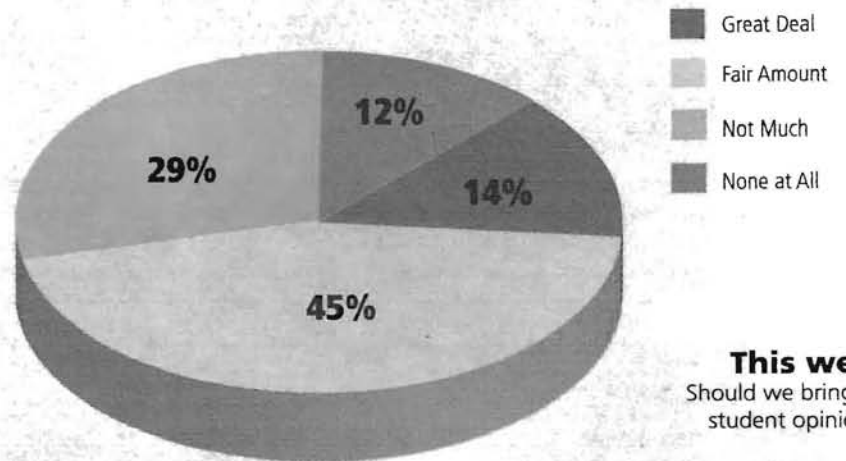


Megan Brussman
Senior
Business Administration

"I think of Martin Luther King [Jr.] because he was really inspirational and I enjoyed listening to him speak about what he was so passionate about."

POLL

How much of the Olympics do you intend to watch?



- Great Deal
- Fair Amount
- Not Much
- None at All

This week:
Should we bring back the student opinion poll?

Answer at
www.thecurrent-online.com

Results taken from Gallup, Inc.



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VERBATIM

"I go out and have a drink every once in a while. Ooh, I know that's controversial, isn't it? I sometimes go on a vacation, too."
-Leonardo DiCaprio



"I'll tell you what was difficult - screaming underwater."
-Benicio Del Toro on *The Wolfman*

"I think a lot of romantic comedies show people super in love, with happy endings, and they don't depict real life."
-Jessica Alba



"What do you think will be the miracle this year? Snow?"
-Stephen Colbert on *the Olympics*

Sports

Losing streak over

Men's Basketball ends with wins

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

At long last, the streak is over.

It had been more than a month since the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team won a game. The official count had gotten to 40 very long days and nights since the last time the Tritons were victorious on game day.

But last Thursday at the Mark Twain Building, in what proved to be the most important game of the regular season, UM-St. Louis ended the second-longest losing streak in program history with an impressive 55-39 win over Missouri S&T.

"We sure had some opportunities to [not let the streak go so long]," Chris Pilz, head basketball coach, said. "We lost [a bunch] of tight ballgames. The Bellarmine game got away from us, and so did the Quincy game. Other than that, I felt like we were capable of winning all those other games."

The Tritons certainly picked the right day to put a stop to the streak. Thursday's game against S&T had significant playoff implications. Both teams had already clinched their spot in this weekend's GLVC Tournament.

But who, when and where the teams might play in the tournament had yet to be decided.

At stake on Thursday was the chance to secure third place in the GLVC West Division, which would mean the chance to play the fourth place team in the GLVC North in the first round of the tournament. Whichever team advanced would then play the GLVC East Division winner, Kentucky Wesleyan, in the second round.

Privately, Pilz and the Tritons believe they match up very well with Wesleyan, and should the teams meet in the GLVC second round, UM-St. Louis gives itself a great chance at pulling an upset against the 27-3 Panthers.

But before that game, the Tritons would have to win their first round game. And before it can play that

game, UM-St. Louis needed to settle who it would play against in that game. That meant winning Thursday against S&T.

And the Tritons certainly did not disappoint, as Jeremy Brown, senior, physical education, scored a game-high 25 points and grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds to lead UM-St. Louis to the win. Point guard Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, contributed 13 points, six rebounds, and five assists to the winning effort as well.

S&T held a small lead in the early going, but it was midway through the first half that UM-St. Louis grabbed control of the game. The key stretch was when Brown and Beasley combined to score all 13 UM-St. Louis points during a 13-2 run that turned a 10-7 deficit into a 20-12 lead. The home team went on to increase its lead to 10 points by halftime.

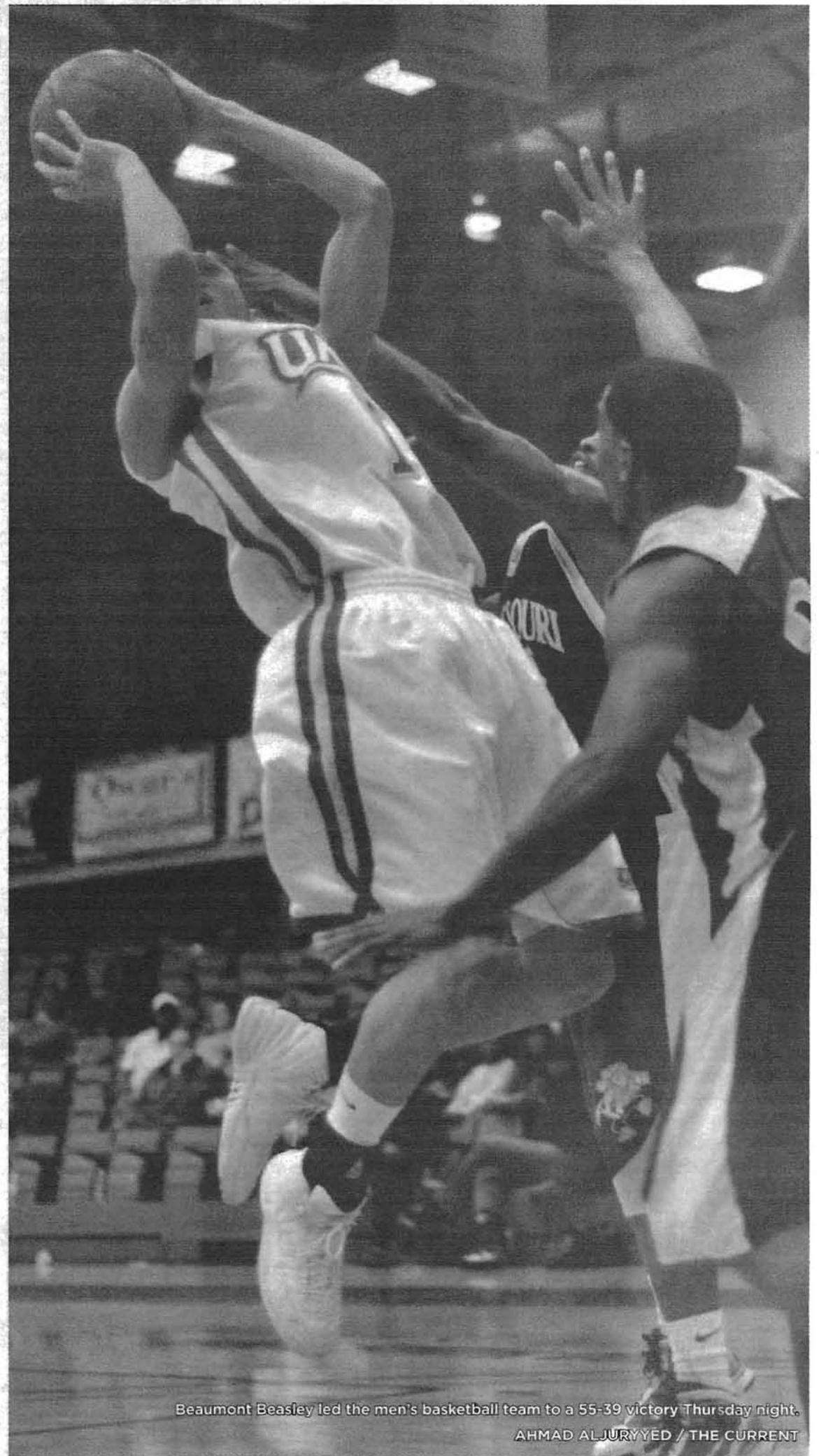
Early in the second half, Brown hit a three-pointer and Beasley converted a three-point play on consecutive UM-St. Louis possessions to put the Tritons up by 13 points.

From there, S&T never got closer than nine points. And when Brown put down a reverse dunk on a fast-break, then moments later caught an alley-oop from Adam Fear, senior, accounting, the Tritons went up by 20 and the outcome was virtually decided.

Last Saturday, UM-St. Louis continued its winning ways by knocking off crosstown rival Maryville 61-57.

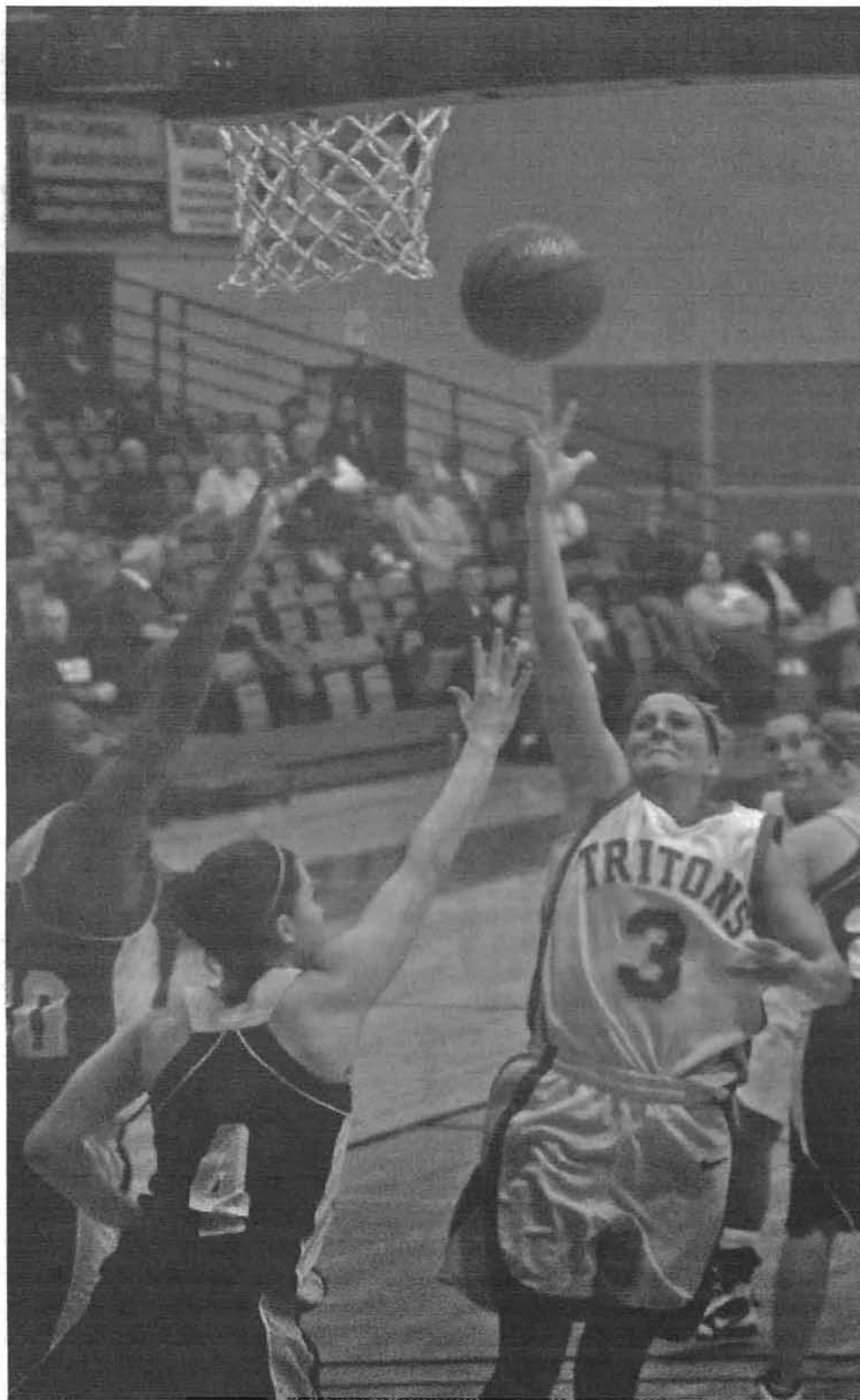
That day, it was Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, who had the big game. The 6-foot-7-inch center from Webster Groves had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Triton charge.

This weekend, the Tritons will face Wisconsin-Parkside in the first round of the GLVC Tournament. That game will be played on Saturday, Feb. 27, in Owensboro, Ky., with the winner advancing to face Kentucky Wesleyan the following day for the right to advance to next weekend's GLVC Final Four, which will be played in Springfield, Ill., on March 6 and 7.



Beaumont Beasley led the men's basketball team to a 55-39 victory Thursday night.

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Lindsey Ransome, senior, attempts to score against Missouri S&T on Thursday night. UM-SL Tritons lost 69-56 against Missouri S&T in Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Tritons head to playoffs

Women's basketball prepare for victory

► ANTHONY PADGETT
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's basketball team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis returned home last week after a four-game road trip in which they lost all four games.

Entering Thursday's home game, the Tritons had a conference record of 6-10 and an overall record of 10-15. For the last few road games, the team needed a win to clinch their first playoff berth since the 2005-2006 season. On Thursday evening, the Tritons hosted Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Missouri S&T, which entered the match with a 7-9 conference record and a 13-12 overall record.

UM-St. Louis would trail early before tying the game at 12 after Kelly Carter, junior, elementary education, made a layup and a free throw. But Missouri S&T would reclaim the lead 41-25 going into halftime.

With 2:42 left in the game, the Tritons rallied back after trailing by as much as 18 to make the score 58-52. But the Tritons would lose by the score of 69-56.

The real killer for the Tritons the majority of the game was converting possessions into points. UM-St. Louis finished the game going 22-59 (37.3 percent) in field goals while Missouri S&T went 27-51 (54.2 percent) in field goals.

Hailee Deckard, sopho-

more, secondary education, led the Tritons in rebounds with 10 on defense, and points with 13. It was the first double-double of Deckard's career.

In spite of losing, the Tritons clinched their first playoff berth in four years when Rockhurst lost to Drury later that same night, eliminating themselves from playoff consideration.

UM-St. Louis is seeded third in the West division, but before heading to the playoffs, the team had one more regular season game at home on Saturday afternoon against Maryville. The teams had faced off three times before this season, with the Tritons winning all three.

But Maryville beat UM-St. Louis earlier in the season at its own court by the score of 81-72. Saturday was also Senior Day, honoring the five seniors on the squad: Lindsey Ransome, communications; Lacy Shalenko, business management; Kristi White, accounting; Montrice Coggins, management; and Alisa Ndorongo, communications. It was an important game for the Tritons, who wanted to end the season with a win giving the team momentum going into the playoffs.

The Maryville Saints would jump ahead to an early 9-3 lead just a few minutes into the game and would extend it to 31-19 with 7:12 left in the first half. But just as the Tritons had done all season, they battled back.

With seven seconds left in the first half, KeAmber Vaughn, sophomore, nursing, scored a layup, drew a foul, and scored a free throw, giving the Tritons a 39-37 lead.

However, Maryville would convert a quick layup, tying the game at 39 going into halftime.

Ransome opened the second half with a three-pointer, which gave UM-St. Louis the lead at 42-39, and they never looked back, winning 85-77. The bench for UM-St. Louis scored 53 points in the win.

Following the game, head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor said, "Every win is a big win, especially at this point in the season. We needed it to help us build momentum for the conference tournament."

UM-St. Louis' Carter led all scorers with 21 points, and afterward said, "It was real big win to end the year on and carry it over to the tournament. It was a great way to send our seniors out."

With the final game of the regular season on the books, the Tritons can focus on the GLVC playoffs.

The playoffs mean a fresh start for every team due to the single game elimination tournament.

On Saturday, the Tritons will travel to Indianapolis to face North Division No. 4 seed St. Joseph's. The winner will go on to play No. 1 seed Indianapolis in the quarterfinals on Sunday.

The wait continues: Triton baseball home opener postponed, again

► ANTHONY PADGETT
Asst. Sports Editor

The term "home field advantage" is used often in sports. Teams generally have a better record at home than on the road. This is due to their comfort level and familiarity

with the field and the not always guaranteed addition of a large noticeable home crowd encouraging success. When a team is denied all of these advantages due to not having a home field to either practice or play their record suffers.

The Triton baseball team was scheduled to play their season opener, as well as the inaugural game of their new field, last Tuesday afternoon but due to the weather it was postponed.

The game will most likely

be made up in April by playing a doubleheader against Harris-Stowe. Fans wanting to see the team play their first home game in six years will get their chance, if the weather permits, on March 10 when the Tritons will host

Missouri Western at 2 p.m.

The baseball team at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has not played a true home field game since the 2004 season. This has forced the team to practice indoors, which does not compare to

an actual outdoor field where real game situations can be replicated.

Head baseball coach, Jim Brady, is entering his 25th season this year.

See **BASEBALL**, page 7

Softball off to a 3-1 start

Triton's win 3 of 4 in Tennessee

▶ **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The snow that blanketed the Midwest two weekends ago didn't only ruin plans here in St. Louis, it caused some havoc in virtually every state in the union. This was especially true in Fort Hays, Kan., where the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team was planning to open its season last Friday through Sunday.

Unfortunately, nearly six inches of snow fell on Fort Hays two Sundays ago, meaning there would be no softball played in that area last weekend.

The last-minute cancellation of their season opener meant UM-St. Louis had to scramble to find someone and somewhere else to play last weekend.

Fortunately, the Tritons were able to find an event to play in: a three-team showcase in Jackson, Tenn., where UM-St. Louis would play two games each against William Woods University of Fulton, Mo., and the host school Union University.

The weekend in Tennessee wasn't exactly the extravaganza the Tritons were hoping to open their season with in Kansas, but it still proved a successful trip, as UM-St. Louis won three of four games over the Owls and Bulldogs.

The official season opener was the Friday game against Union. The Tritons trailed 3-0 after five innings, but got two runs in the sixth, then tied the game on a dramatic leadoff home run by catcher

Katie Bartlett, senior, biology.

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs got three straight hits in the bottom of the seventh off Crystal Koehler, junior, international business, to win the game 4-3.

The second on Friday pit the Tritons against William Woods. And it did not take long for UM-St. Louis to jump on the Owls.

The Tritons scored four runs in the first inning, three runs in the second and two more in the third before eventually winning in mercy-rule fashion 9-0.

Designated player Carolyn Oquendo, junior, undecided, had three hits, an RBI, and scored two runs for the Tritons. Teammates Carly Maddock, junior, communications, and the aforementioned Bartlett had two hits apiece. Left fielder Karey Kruse, junior, special education, contributed three RBIs to the Tritons shutout win.

On Saturday, UM-St. Louis opened with Union again. This time, the Tritons did not wait to get their bats going. They scored twice in the second inning to take an early lead, then after falling behind 3-2, the Tritons scored three times in the fifth inning to grab the lead for good.

Second baseman Heather Arras, sophomore, undecided, got the inning going with a booming home run to tie the score. Then with two outs and two runners on, Bartlett came through again, blasting a two-run double to put the Tritons up 5-3.

UM-St. Louis added a run

in the fifth inning, then held on for a 6-5 win.

The final game of the weekend was a 15-5 blowout win for the Tritons. UM-St. Louis used a 12-run fourth inning to turn a 4-3 deficit into a 15-4 laugh. Several Tritons had big days at the plate, including Bartlett, who had three hits; Kruse and Arras, who each had two hits; and Oquendo, who had three RBIs, as did teammate Brooke Meyer, junior, business administration.

What might prove more significant than the big-time hitting the Tritons did over the weekend was the sensational collegiate debut of pitcher Leslie Davis, freshman, undecided.

Davis was a standout high school player at Piasa Southwestern High in Brighton, Ill., who absolutely lived up to her billing in her first two starts.

Against William Woods on Friday, Davis got the complete game win by shutting out the Owls on just six hits with one strikeout.

Then on Saturday against Union, Davis pitched four and a third innings, and allowed just three earned runs on five hits and struck out two.

The Tritons will return to action this weekend when they will travel to Arkadelphia, Ark., to play in the Henderson State Hot Springs Classic.

Weather permitting, UM-St. Louis' first home game will be Tuesday, March 16, when the Tritons will host a doubleheader against Truman State.

BASEBALL, from page 5

Brady's career record is an impressive 650-465-5, making Brady the most successful head coach in school history with more wins than any other coach in any other sport.

During Brady's tenure, he has only had five losing seasons out of the 19 seasons he has been the head coach. Since winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference in 2003, the team has posted an overall record of 106-136.

"When you do not have a place to practice or play it is going to limit your ability to be able to progress and get better," Brady said.

"If you take away your home field it definitely creates a disadvantage because you can't practice a lot of things that needs to be done and that limits you."

For the past two years the team has had a combined total of six outdoor practices. The brand new baseball field was completed last year but due to water drainage problems the opening was postponed until this season.

During the last few seasons, UM-St. Louis was forced to play all their home games at either Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville or Saint Louis University, making home field advantage null and void for the Tritons.

"There is a reason why our record is not as good as it has been," Brady said. "We haven't had the facilities to progress and make ourselves better."

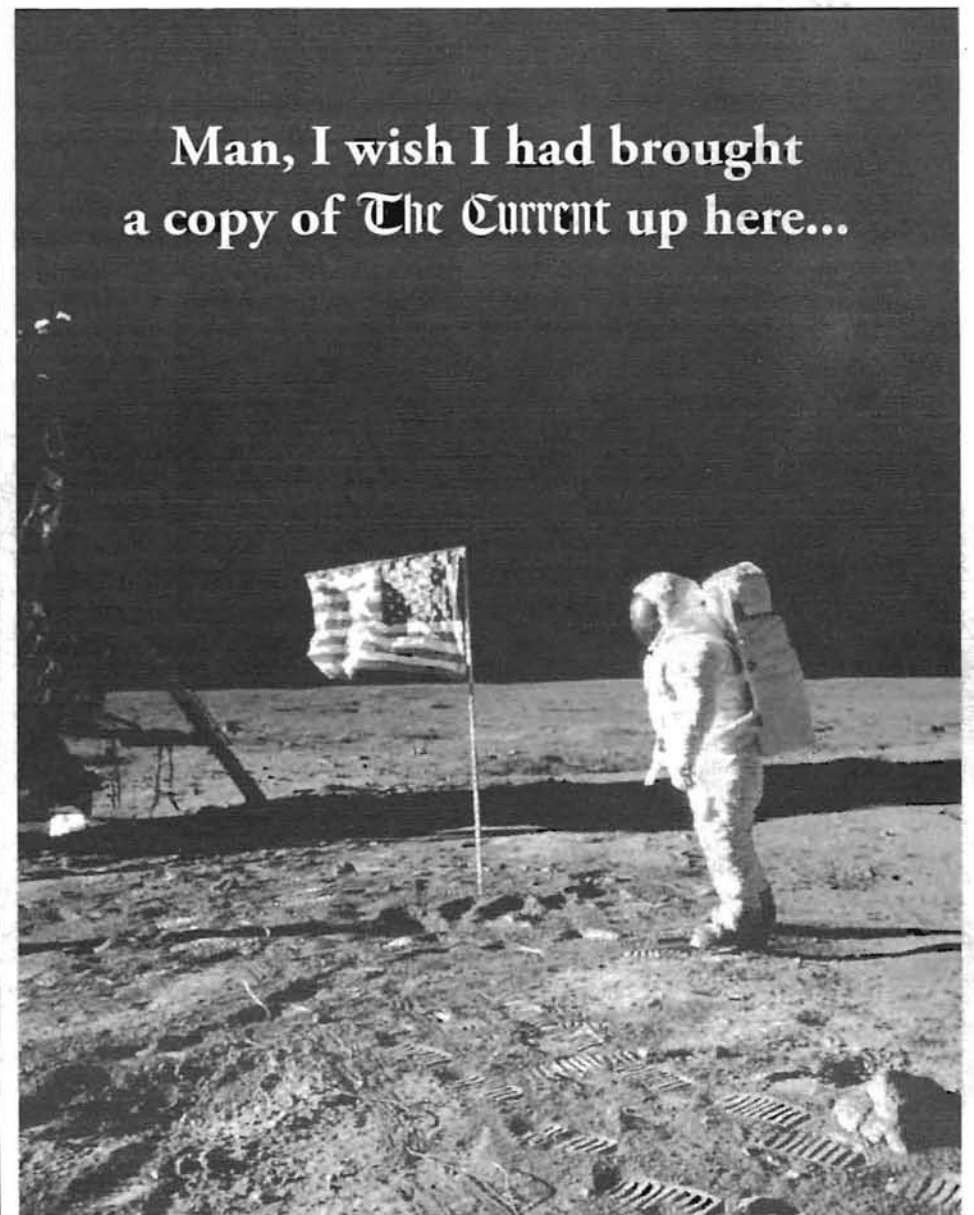
Baseball has had a long and prominent history here at UM-St. Louis since

the program was added in 1968. Out of all the sports programs at UM-St. Louis, baseball has the most players awarded All-American Honors with 30, and All-Conference Honors with 98. Baseball has the second most NCAA tournament appearances with 13.

Finally, UM-St. Louis athletics has won a total of five conference championships in different sports, with two of those championships coming from baseball (1984 and 2003).

The current team is looking to return the program to its former glory. Several key factors in the Tritons favor are pointing towards a resurgent season for the team. A brand new field will allow the team to finally have a home field advantage.

Man, I wish I had brought
a copy of *The Current* up here...



Real men advertise in *The Current*.

The Wolfman



COURTESY / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Emily Blunt as Gwen Conliffe hides from an unimaginable creature in the 'The Wolfman.' Rated R for bloody, horror violence and gore.

Remake lacks the bite of Lon Chaney original

Actor Benicio Del Toro is a big fan of the classic horror movie "The Wolfman," starring Lon Chaney Jr., so much so that he produced and stars in this lavish re-make. But despite its spare-no-expense budget, the new "The Wolfman" lacks the heart, and therefore the impact, of the original.

This is clearly Del Toro's vanity project, and while he certainly has the right look for the part, the actor/producer would have been better off doing a straight remake of Lon Chaney's scary, tragic original. The original's effects might look cheesy today, but the dramatic tension of Chaney's good-man-turned-tormented-soul made a far more compelling film. Del Toro's "The Wolfman" just throws out a series of tantalizing ideas before settling on

something very straightforward as it rushes towards its real goal: a spectacular battle of the werewolves.

"The Wolfman" certainly has all the other elements needed, including a top cast, eerie photography, creepy, confining Victorian settings and polished visual effects, but it lacks a decent script. Anthony Hopkins is at his unsettling best as Lawrence Talbot's (Del Toro) cold, eccentric father Sir John, from whom Lawrence has long been estranged.

Lawrence, a successful actor living in the U.S., returns home after he hears that his only brother is missing and feared dead.

He arrives to find those fears confirmed and his brother's grieving fiance Gwen (Emily Blunt).

There are also rumors of a monster loose on the landscape, a camp of gypsies including an old fortune-teller played by Geraldine Chaplin, an inspector from Scotland Yard played by Hugo Weaving, and the obligatory nervous townsfolk. Talbot senior lives in a decaying manor house, and is ever the superior, eccentric British lord, alone with his faithful, well-armed Sikh servant Singh (Art Malik).

Having piled up all those Gothic stereotypes, the movie does surprisingly little in the way of dramatic arc and story, and instead invents even more bizarreness that does nothing to create human drama.

The movie has plenty of special effects, and the chases, battles and other visual effects sequences are very good. Del Toro's transformation into the Wolfman is well done, though his appearance is less wolf-like and much more like the original Lon Chaney werewolf. Still, scenes of the Wolfman racing over London rooftops or through half-lit forests are striking. The big show is the battle of the werewolves scene near the end, which brings all the visual effects magic into play. If only there were more human connection to motivate these action scenes, but that is what is most missing in this film.

This is an accomplished cast but there is little magic between any of them. Hopkins is wonderfully scary as the menacing Sir John but the tension, or any conflicted feelings, between him and Del Toro as his estranged son are absent.

Likewise, there is no romantic chemistry between

Del Toro and Blunt to convince the viewer that they are really drawn to each other.

Hugo Weaving can arch his eyebrow all he wants, but if the other actors do not connect, it has little impact. All the emotional, dramatic elements are minimized to make room for battles and effects.

Despite all the effects and costumes, this modern re-imagining falls flat. **C** —*Cate Marquis*



A&E

'Percy Jackson' differs from book, but still entertains

"Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief" is a movie based on a book inspired by Greek myth, written by Texas native, Rick Riordan.

"The Lightning" was originally released in 2005 as the first of a five-book set and quickly made the New York Times best seller list. The movie shows a seemingly average young teenage boy Percy Jackson (Logan Lerman), as he goes on a great quest across America to save his mother after discovering his father is a Greek god. Along to accompany him on his quest is daughter of Athena Annabeth Chase (Alexandra Daddario), and Grover Underwood (Brandon T. Jackson). Grover, who is half-human and half-goat, is Percy's best friend. Actors Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean, Catherine Keener, Rosario Dawson and Uma Thurman also have leading roles in the film. The director, Chris Columbus, has directed movies such as "Home Alone 2: Lost in

New York," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

The movie starts off fast, with very little time for talking after Percy is attacked on a field trip by a demon who suspected him to be the "lightning thief." While trying to escape the Minotaur, his mother is kidnapped and banished to Hades. After the attack, he arrives in Camp Half-Blood, a secretive training ground for demigods, where he learns about his destiny and what is to come.

While at Camp Half-Blood, Percy decides to sneak out and set out on a quest to rescue his mother from Hades. Along the quest to save his mother, Percy encounters several obstacles, giving him an opportunity to sharpen his magical skills.

The action in this movie was amazing. For a film based on a children's book, it harbored some very cool action scenes.

See PERCY, page 9

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

Shutter Island. Martin "Jehova" Scorsese has once again crafted a handsome, brilliant, eerie, intense, affecting excuse for him to film some attractive young Italian guy for three hours. **A** —*Chris Stewart.*

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.*

Valentine's Day. A veritable "Who's who" of Hollywood hotties all chiding in at set times to give their little opinion of love, life and loneliness. And what is the result? Shallow, dumb, heartless entertainment. **F** —*Chris Stewart.*

Good music, good stories in McGee Band concert at Touhill

The McGee Band and Professor David Wilson entertained an audience with tales and music with an Irish flair in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center on February 13. This entertainment consisted of a variety of Irish, Scottish and Quebecois music. Professor David Wilson, sometimes accompanying the band on a flute, told stories of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, for whom the band is named.

This was a fine performance, one with toe-tapping music and interesting facts. McGee had a truly amazing life.

Wilson read the passages with feeling and emotion, one felt as though they were actually there. McGee was a visionary who had enemies and setbacks, he did not let anything stop him, and he

kept going right up until his murder at age 40. The respect for this man and his ways was heard as Professor Wilson read; it seemed that he wanted the audience to understand just how great a man McGee was, and thanks to his reading it seems they did.

The McGee band played with such feeling and passion. One could tell that they loved the music they play and playing with each other. Most of the songs would start with just one instrument, like the flute, then the accordion would join in or perhaps the piano. There was also a fiddle and a native Irish instrument called a bodhran which is a type of drum.

It was very easy to become engaged in the music, for the musicians themselves had to continuously tap their feet,

bop their heads and move their shoulders. It was a night filled with applause and music that was worthy of it. Several of the compositions played by the band were written by two of the band members, but there were also two native Irish songs that were performed.

Though only one of the songs had actual lyrics, the songs the band played were definitely written with as much emotion as if they had lyrics. The pride and respect could be heard and felt with every stroke of the bow or pump of the accordion. It was a pleasant evening that the participants will talk of for a while to come thanks to the McGee Band and Professor David Wilson's toe-tapping, emotion evoking music and touching, thought-provoking stories. **A**—*Amanda Roach*

PERCY, from page 8



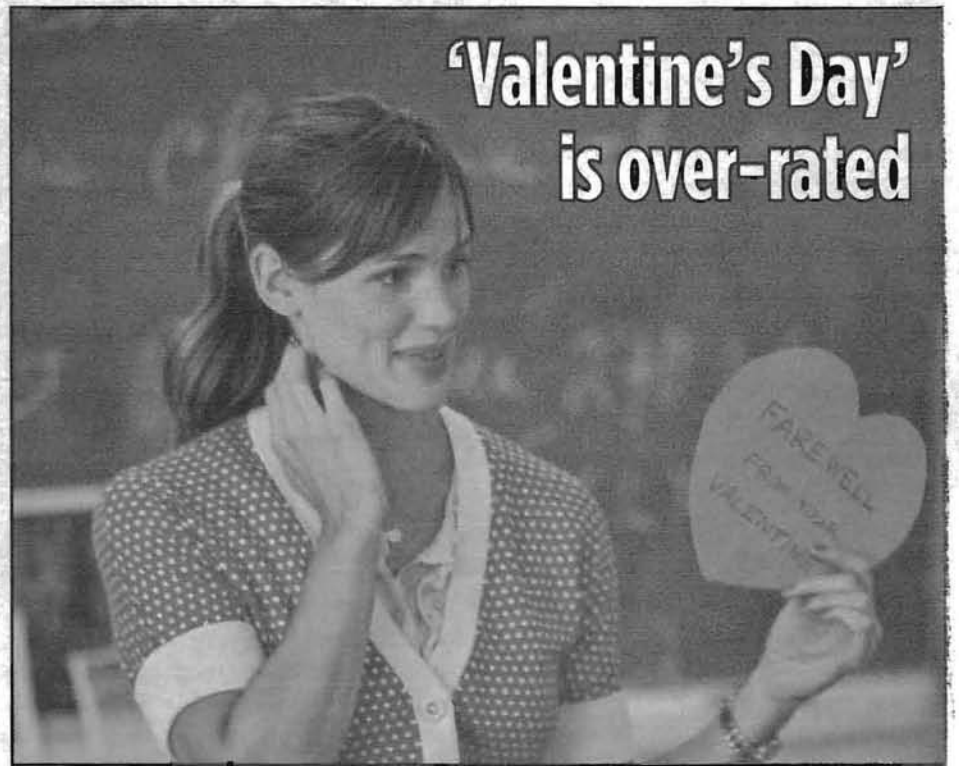
COURTESY / FOX

Brandon T. Jackson, stand up comedian and former cast member of MTV'S "Wild 'N Out with Nick Cannon" delivered a outstanding comedic performance as a young newcomer.

One aspect of the movie that might not go over well with longstanding fans of the series is the difference between the book and the film. Anyone expecting the movie to match the book might be disappointed in this 119-minute movie version. Several of the characters are missing, and a lot of the dialogue was left out of the movie. Also, most importantly, the entire story was told from a different perspective. But the graphics brought the movie to life and did very good justice to the book.

Overall the movie gets a B but it had everything you need in a movie: action, romance, comedy, adventure and graphics. Whether you have been a long-time fan or are just picking up, you will be amazed by this movie. **B**—*Ted Thornton*

'Valentine's Day' is over-rated



COURTESY / WARNER BROTHERS

Take the theme of love, spice it up with Valentine's Day specifics, and add in 20 or so big-name actors and you get the movie "Valentine's Day," which premiered in theaters on Friday, February 12.

This may sound like an instant success at the box office, if for no other reason than because couples around the country will go to swoon over each other while comparing their own relationships to those shown on screen, but to anybody who goes to the movies for quality rather than quantity, however, this sounds like a disaster waiting to happen.

The main problems of this film rise from its haphazard pacing and small appeal to most viewers. "Valentine's Day," while stocked full of love and misadventures, is certainly a target-audience film. Unless viewers happen to feel like seeing a mushy film or romantic comedy, the film holds little appeal. While theaters were presumably packed, the reception was not complimentary overall.

"Valentine's Day" puts together a montage of relationships, weaving quickly from one to another in a rather episodic fashion. As stated in its obvious title, the film takes place on everybody's favorite holiday to love (or hate, depending on your relationship status). The film drops viewers into sunny California and, partially, in a plane on its way to said locale. Ashton Kutcher, as a flower shop owner on his busiest day of the year, serves a sort of touchstone for the various stories but he has his own romance tale too. Other stars include Jessica Alba, Topher Grace, Julia Roberts, Bradley Cooper, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway and several other recognizable names in the star-filled cast.

The film's attempts to rush from one relationship to another seem rather hectic from time to time, often causing viewers to turn to a neighbor to ask what they just missed

despite having stared at the screen the entire time. In addition, its overuse of character archetypes is sure to upset many a critical viewer, and maybe even some more casual theater-goers.

That being said, the film has its pleasing moments. If the viewer can manage to juggle the spider's web of emotions and plot twists throughout the movie, they will find that the film actually does a decent job of portraying many of the stereotypes attributed to couples the world round on Valentine's Day. The couples range from teens struggling with the stress of a first sexual encounter, to admitting sexual preferences, to dealing with the faults of a long-time partner, all the way to a child experiencing his first crush. Whether you have ever experienced any of these, or simply watched your friends make fools of themselves while experiencing them, this film is easily related to.

In addition, the film does have its share of witty one-liners and comical plot twists. These will not be ruined in this article but it is fair to say viewers who enjoy romantic comedies will not be disappointed by this film's blend of comedy and heavily foreshadowed plot devices.

To sum things up, "Valentine's Day" will likely succeed with its target audience. If viewers are madly in love or trying to impress somebody by showing their sensitive sides, this may be just the film. However, anybody not fitting into one of the aforementioned categories is likely to find this film a waste of their money. Moviegoers might want to save their money for a film more likely to make a statement that is life-changing, rather than hoping to save a reputation by planning a last minute trip to the theater because someone forgot to plan a Valentine's date. **C**

—*Matthew B. Poposky*



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Badfish tribute show puts forth no originality

Badfish is a tribute band, which is a band that performs to pay homage to a particular artist or group. The most famous examples of tribute usage are Elvis impersonators. Badfish is a Sublime impersonator and tribute duties are fulfilled by playing Sublime songs with a rigorous attention to their nuances. Badfish played for an hour and a half at Pop's in Saugert, Ill. on Feb. 19.

Sublime enjoyed immense popularity during the 1990s, particularly after their No. 1 hit "What I Got" was released in '96. Sublime was a very good performing band and had many Grateful Dead songs memorized, some perfected. Punk performances, the Wailers of Jamaica as well as a variety of hip-hopsters like KRS-1 influenced Sublime's music. Bradley Nowell, the lead singer and brainchild of Sublime, died in 1996 of heart failure during a heroin overdose and Sublime was disbanded.

Badfish is loyal to Sublime—the people that go to their shows are loyal to Sublime. Nowell died at a tragically young age, before Sublime's popularity really took off, and many people believe that going to tribute concerts like the Badfish act is the best way to experience what a Sublime concert would

have been like. The music is almost undeniably good, which goes a long way to enjoying the memories that Sublime has created.

In many ways, Badfish is exactly like Sublime. They sing the words. They play the chords. They keep the rhythm.

But Badfish is not Sublime. They are imitation Sublime, with worse vocals and infinitely less ingenuity. Badfish is not really punk, West Coast, rhythmic, or reggae because they are a tribute band. Badfish is very good at paying tribute, so much so that on Friday hundreds of people paid \$18 to see Badfish and ignore the sense of complacency that goes along with revisiting a band through an external vessel. Badfish probably kept the money though, because contributing money is not part of being a tribute band.

The members of Badfish also comprise the punk/ska whirlwind Scotty Don't, which played a set before Badfish. The two acts are apparently incapable of commingling. If a Scotty Don't song turned up during the Sublime tribute set, for example, someone would probably be shot for heresy. Between sets, the singer changed his shirt to complete his transformation.

The shows are fun so long as 1990s nostal-

gia is fun, which for many people, it is not. Tie-dye is not pretty either, but many people in the crowd wear it. Also, since the show was at Pop's, many men thought taking their shirt off would add extra funk to the hot, sweaty, beer puke mess in the middle of the room. They were right, in a way.

The people wearing tie-dye were okay though, and most of the crowd was too. Most people at Badfish shows remember Sublime fondly in one way or another. Sublime created wonderful music, and Bradley Nowell wrote beautiful songs.

The audience at Badfish shows remember Sublime so fondly that they sing Sublime songs during the tribute performance. It makes for an odd quasi-religious experience—a building of 500 people and a band singing songs written by a dead man. Granted, Badfish is better at singing Sublime songs than most people, including the crowd, but one has to wonder whether the wholly contrived show is Badfish's fault or the over-enthusiasm with which their fans remember an unfortunate past, the price they are willing to pay to relive it, and their eagerness to say, "the king has died, long live the king." **F**—Joe Schaffner

SWEET JAMS

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

1 'Imme Be'
Black Eyed Peas



Vapid, insouciant, arrogant, obnoxious, repetative, uninspired, crass, cheap, silly, over-produced, lacking redeeming social content, sense of song structure or pop sensibility. Number one for a while now. Go figure.

2 'Hope for Haiti'
We are The World



What Haiti needs, clearly, is a song to boost their morale. Maybe if they just abandoned all of their stress they could enjoy life for once instead of focussing on the daily struggles that so often block us from seeing life's true beauty.

3 'Need You Now'
Lady Antebellum



A moving, romantic ballad about that special love that exists between a man and a woman every time they are both drunk, lonely, and near a telephone. Truly a pop-country ballad for the rest of us.

4 'Hey, Soul Sister'
Train



There's only so much that can be said for this predictable paint-by-numbers "hit" from Train. Personally, I don't feel like saying it so I suggest that you check one of those "websites" on the "internet" that I've been hearing so much about lately.

5 'Tik Tok'
Ke\$ha



Thousands of years from now as archaeological teams unearth the remnants of our culture they will no doubt make ghastly assumptions about our entertainment based on crap like this. Thank God this will be balanced out by the fine films of the Wayans Brothers.

Dancing Queens and Kings shine in 'Mamma Mia!'

"Mamma Mia," playing at the Fox Theater Feb. 16-20, could rival any Broadway play in energy, heart and toe-tapping catchiness. Perhaps most surprising about the show's recent appearance on the St. Louis stage was how eye-wateringly funny it was. Beginning and ending with laughs, the entire cast was not afraid to be silly on stage, using physical comedy to their advantage and seeming to enjoy every minute of it. Seeing the cast have so much fun on stage was infectious and the entire house smiled.

In fact, the two actresses that coaxed the most laughter out of the audience were the standout performances of the show, and they played supporting roles. From the moment the two friends Rosie (Kittra Wynn Coomer) and Tanya (Rachel Tyler) showed up on the Greek island to greet Donna Sheridan (Michelle Dawson), they stole the stage. More energetic than the show's 20-something engaged couple, the duo's attitude and chemistry were enthralling.

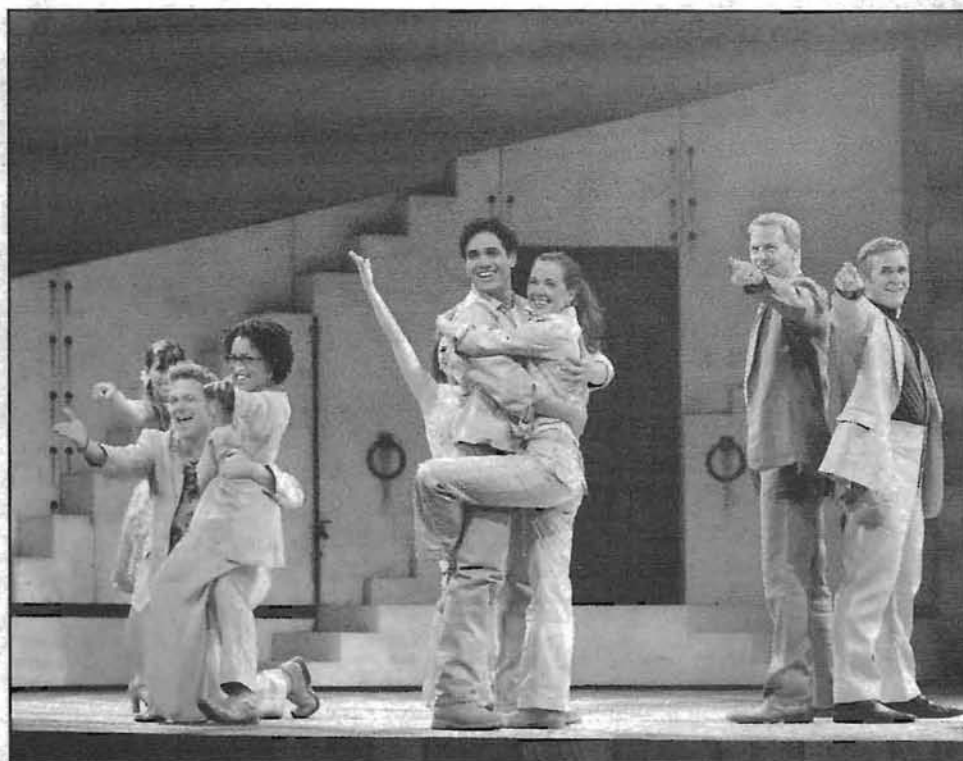
Disappointingly, Dawson was not as appealing as her two kooky best friends. When she sang the show's namesake "Mamma Mia," her voice could not keep up with the swelling instrumentals or the Greek chorus of backup singers. Her soft voice went well with slower songs such as "The Winner Takes it All" or "Our Last Summer," and her rendition of

"Slipping through my Fingers," a song about losing a child to adulthood, was bittersweet and heartwarming. However, her voice was not cut out for the more upbeat Abba tunes, keeping those songs from being the standout numbers they are intended to be.

Despite Dawson's voice, her performance as Sophie's (Liana Hunt) independent mother was convincing. Hunt herself was adorable as the idealistic fiancée, and the audience certainly rooted for her when she was hiding her "dads" from her mother when they first arrive on the isle.

Those who have seen the play before, or the movie version of "Mamma Mia," know that the premise of the show revolves around Sophie inviting three men to her wedding in Greece, any of whom could be her father. The men have not seen her mother for 20 years and have since grown into middle-age, returning to the island with careers and even ex-wives. They are Sam Carmichael (John Sanders), the straight-laced architect; Bill Austin (Matthew Ashford), the boisterous world-traveler; and Harry Bright (Vincent Corazza), the rich Brit, formally known as "Harry Head-Banger." With such dynamic personalities, the three dads are a riot when they interact, and once they all believe themselves to be Sophie's father, hilarity ensues.

Thematically, "Mamma Mia" explores the



COURTESY / CAROL ROSEGG

Sophie (Liana Hunt) finds herself embroiled in a hilarious musical search for her true father.

meaning of the word "family." By the end of the play, the entire tiny island seems to be one big family, and no one even cares who Sophie's biological father is. The musical is definitely worth seeing by those who enjoy musical theater or the band Abba, but also for those who like to laugh at silly dancing by men in flip-

pers, or those who cannot help crying at weddings. Anyone who liked the movie "Mamma Mia" will love the play at the Fox, as the play is funnier, more exciting, and certainly better sung than the screen adaptation. Nothing rivals live theater, especially at the Fabulous Fox. **B+** —*Jessica Keil*

Former 'Tonight Show' bandleader Marsalis brings jazz quartet to Touhill

Last semester, the Touhill Performing Arts Center hosted perhaps the only living jazz great when 78-year-old Sonny Rollins took the stage with his saxophone and claimed the night for Jazzistan. On Friday the same stage was home to another jazz group and any idea of a generational gap was shattered as 18-year-old Justin Faulkner eased into the drummer's chair and watched his band leader, Branford Marsalis, for the cue to begin.

Marsalis falls squarely in between Rollins and Faulkner. At a youthful age 49, he has accomplished much, even as a member of an accomplished musical family that includes his brother Wynton. Those who are not blown over by his various accolades—Grammy nominations and collaborations with jazz masters like Rollins and Miles Davis—may recognize Marsalis as Jay Leno's musical director on the "Tonight Show" for two years in the 1990s before Kevin Eubanks took over the position.

At the Touhill, in the magisterial Anheuser-Busch main-stage auditorium, Marsalis made small talk about football and poked gentle fun at the young Faulkner's informal attire as the band prepared to play. Once they began, however, the hypno-chaotic grip of jazz took hold of the night and Joey Calerazzo (piano), Eric Revis (bass), Faulkner and Marsalis grabbed hold and never let go during this "Valentine's Day" show.

Faulkner was the evening's revelation. The drummer in a jazz quartet is the wild heart and the unchained soul of the show and, barring minute-or-two mellow patches, must make sweet jazzy love to his instrument throughout the entire performance, usually at a rat-a-tat pace. Even when the volume is subdued, the tempo tends to snap on. One can only imagine the apprehension with which as respected and professional of an outfit as Marsalis' quartet must have approached the prospect of replacing their longstanding drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts (his leaving was the first change in Marsalis' group in a decade) with a teen protege. Still, Faulkner was a whirlwind of set beat peppered with scatter-shot improvisations and a couple of ovation-inducing solo spots. His ability to shine in such a manner and yet allow the songs' main focus—their melodies—have full life is a testament to Marsalis' fevered band-mastery.

Thelonious Monk and other jazz greats were drawn upon and reinterpreted fairly faithfully as the evening progressed, and one down-tempo composition in particular (unnamed by the band) was luscious in its heart-rendering, bittersweet refrain (perhaps the only "Valentine-y" moment of the evening).

Still the real treats were Marsalis' own compositions, one of which he described having begun in the early '90s and left unfinished for some 15 years until recently working with his quartet to polish and complete. That number encapsulated the jazz-core ebb and flow of the evening: open a song with an upbeat, quick-fire theme, build it to a boiling pitch, cut each player loose for a couple of minutes in the spotlight, wander far from the beaten path and approach a near delirium before somehow winding back to the familiar opening refrain. **B** —*Chris Stewart*

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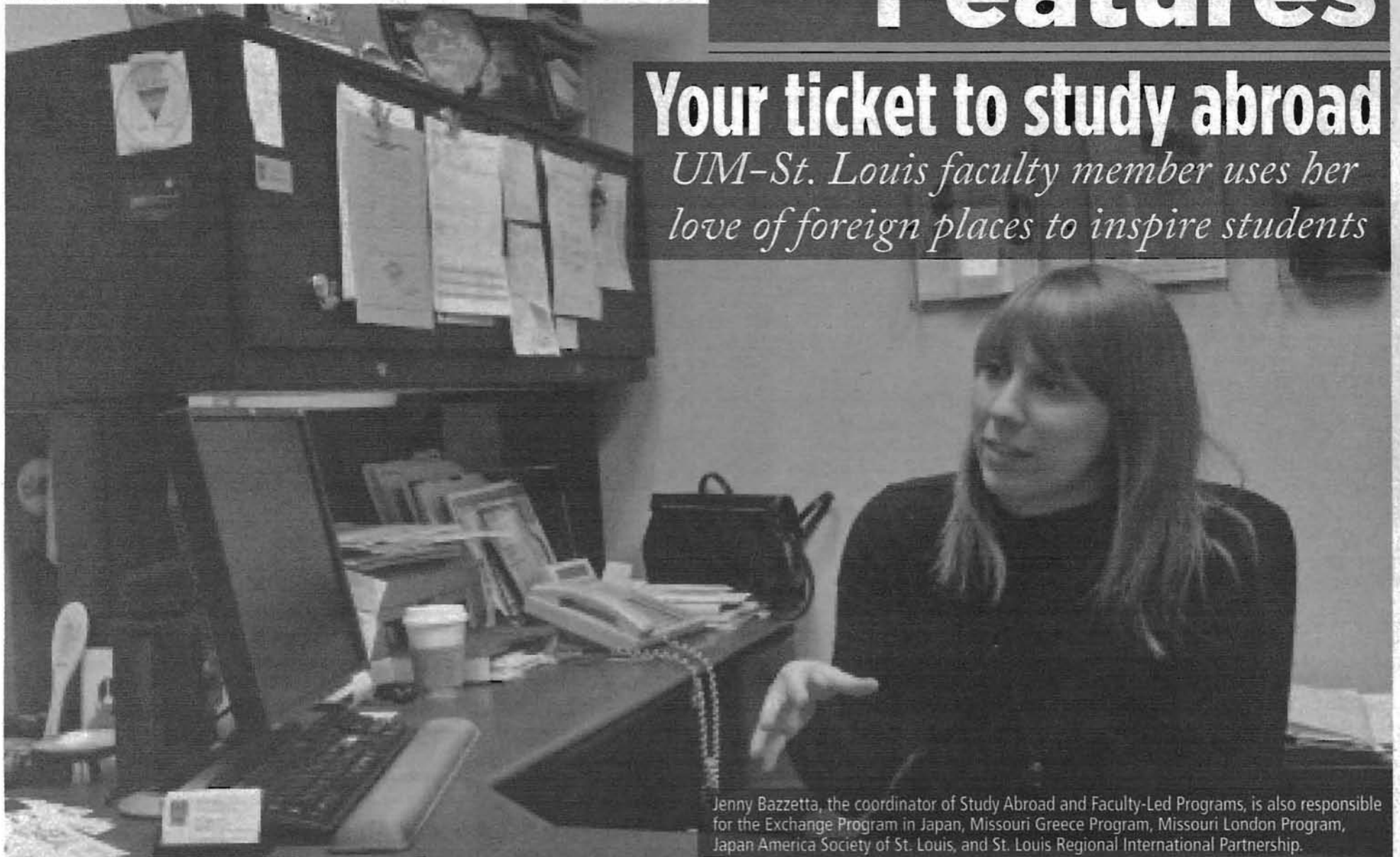


FACULTY PROFILE

Features

Your ticket to study abroad

UM-St. Louis faculty member uses her love of foreign places to inspire students



Jenny Bazzetta, the coordinator of Study Abroad and Faculty-Led Programs, is also responsible for the Exchange Program in Japan, Missouri Greece Program, Missouri London Program, Japan America Society of St. Louis, and St. Louis Regional International Partnership.

RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

► SEQUITA BEAN

Features Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis' study abroad coordinator Jenny Bazzetta loves all things foreign, especially Japanese language and culture. She spent several years living and traveling abroad, and loves sharing her experiences with students.

The Current: How did you become interested in learning about different cultures?

Jenny Bazzetta: It wasn't until I took Japanese at the university [that I knew] I wanted to live abroad and study abroad. In my junior year, I studied at Waseda University in Tokyo and absolutely loved it. For me, it was a life changing experience, and I knew I wouldn't want to have it any other way.

TC: What was living in Japan like?

JB: It felt like for the first couple of weeks that everything was so beautiful [and] daz-

zling. I was so impressed with the city. Tokyo is kind of like this juxtaposition of old and new tradition, and so contemporary in terms of fashion and pop culture. It's such an interesting place to be.

TC: How did you end up at UM-St. Louis?

JB: I knew Beth Eckelkamp, who teaches Japanese language here. She was my husband's Japanese teacher and I'd known her through that connection. I contacted her, and I said, "You know, I'd really like to teach Japanese at UMSL," and that's when she told me that they were looking for someone.

So I started teaching Japanese, and then East Asian courses, and about a year and a half later I found out about this position, which is the perfect fit for me. It's everything that I love and want to do. Working with the students, I still have that connection, which is really what makes this job so much fun.

TC: Do you miss teaching?

JB: There are aspects of teaching that I miss—particularly the daily interaction I had with a small group of students who were very interested in all that is Japan-related, their excitement when learning something new about Japanese culture and history, watching them overcome their struggles with the language and their realization that they have come so far by the end of the semester.

Fortunately, I advise all students who participate in our exchange programs in Japan, have a close connection with many of the students who are taking Japanese, and work with the Japan America Society of St. Louis to put on Japan-related events on campus. So I am still very involved in all Japan-related things on campus, which is great!

TC: What are some countries that you haven't been to that you'd like to visit?

JB: I would love to go to Turkey. I have a friend who was teaching English with my husband in Tokyo, and he moved to Istanbul, and we're hoping that we can maybe take a

trip there.

TC: What is the best thing about being a study abroad coordinator?

JB: I think the best thing is working with students and seeing their transformation. I hear from students [who have traveled abroad] that it revitalizes their view of life, and their education and what they want to do. It gives them focus and drive. So, just seeing that transformation makes the job fun.

TC: What do you want to do next?

JB: For me, of course, I'd love to continue to travel, and I really enjoy working with students.

On the side, both my husband and I translate, and possibly publishing some of our things would be fun. This is more of a hobby for me, but I'm an avid jewelry maker so possibly starting a side business in that regard would be fun.

Celebrating Black History *UMSL celebrates former chancellor*

▶ JANACA SCHERER
Staff Writer

University of Missouri-St. Louis has seen its fair share of famous faces, but perhaps one of our most famous is that of Marguerite Ross Barnett. After serving UM-St. Louis for four years as chancellor, she went on to become the first black woman to lead a major American university at the University of Houston.

"I'm proud and humbled to be following in her footsteps," Thomas F. George, current UM-St. Louis chancellor, said. "Dr. Barnett was a uniquely talented individual who was taken from us much too early, but her legend lives on."

At all the universities Barnett served, she was well known for her fund-raising abilities and her ideas of merging higher education institutions and the cities they were located in. She believed that universities in urban areas played a leading role in economic growth.

Barnett did several amazing things while in her position of chancellor. "Under her leadership, UMSL experienced a 300% increase in private scholarships," George said. "But perhaps what Dr. Barnett is best remembered for is her then-innovative

view that metropolitan universities should connect community and campus resources to address regional needs."

During her time at UM-St. Louis, Barnett also believed in harnessing the power of primary and secondary school through her ideas in the Partnerships for Progress program.

"I'm proud and humbled to be following in her footsteps."

— Thomas F. George

"These programs set about raising the mathematics and science literacy among students and enhance the academic skill set of teachers," George said.

Dr. Barnett never saw her color as something that set her apart. During interviews, when asked about her opinions on

being the first black woman to lead a university, she would look at her assistant and ask, "Well, how does it feel to be the first red-haired associate vice president of the university?"

Barnett grew up in Buffalo, N. Y. and graduated from Antioch College in 1964. She earned her master's in science and a doctoral degree in political science at the University of Chicago. She taught at several universities, including Princeton University, Howard University and Columbia University.

Before her time at UMSL, she was the vice chancellor of the City University of New York. Barnett served as the chancellor of UM-St. Louis from 1986 until 1990 when she left to become the president of University of Houston for almost two years.

During her time at University of Houston, Barnett raised more than \$150 million towards the school. She also established programs to assist students from poor high schools in their transitions into the college and even on to good jobs.

Towards the end of her service at the University of Houston, Barnett went into the hospital. Complications due to hypoglycemia and metastatic cancer claimed her life at age 49 in February of 1992.

UMSL nurses hold drive to help hurting nation *Haiti receives water relief*

▶ JANACA SCHERER
Staff Writer

The images from the tragic earthquake that struck Haiti and the reports of death and disparity on the news have had their impact on people of varying social economic backgrounds. Since the disaster, many people have done their part to help in different ways. Giving money is just one way people have been helping, but there are many other ways to make a difference. On February 15, the Black

Student Nurses Association held a bottled-water drive to help the people of Haiti.

The BSNA is a student organization at the University of Missouri-St. Louis that serves as a support group for African-American nursing students and also stresses the importance of taking responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life. Tamar Hogzes, president of BSNA, expressed deep concern

for the people of Haiti. "We came up with the idea of the water drive because as nurses we know the importance of having clean, drinkable water. So many other organizations were taking monetary donations, and we didn't want to get caught up in collecting money and making sure it gets into the right hands," Hogzes said.

Even before the earthquake, water quality in Haiti has been below average. In 2007, a research team composed of personnel from Miami University and a non-profit Haitian health organization analyzed samples from sources that provide water for Haitian households. They provided an estimate of the safety and quality of the water for drinking.

During this time of testing, nearly all samples recorded (about 97%) had measurable quantities of enterococci, Escherichia coli and other bacteria indicating poor water quality. Since the disaster, several major water tanks have been destroyed, making situations worse. Nearly every water source in Haiti has become contaminated with human waste because of

the absence of a sewage sanitation system.

Haiti currently has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the western hemisphere due to water sanitation, water-borne gastrointestinal diseases being the cause of death.

The BSNA hopes to raise Haiti awareness to UM-St. Louis students about the need of clean drinking water for the people of Haiti. The bottles of water collected will be donated to the American Red Cross to help with the relief effort. "We know we won't get enough water to supply everyone, but we plan to collect enough to make a significant difference on those who are affected," Hogzes said.

The kick-off for this event was held at the open house for the BSNA located on the South Campus. There will be drop boxes located around the campus where UM-St. Louis students, staff and the community can donate bottles of water.

For more information on the water drive, or to find out how you can donate, please call the BSNA office at 314-516-7513.

Extra! Extra! Extra!
-read all about it at-
www.thecurrent-online.com

The Runway

Let the kids be kids



Sequita Bean



*NOT ACTUAL SIZE

COURTESY OF OSHKOSH

As a child playing in my mother's clothes when she was not around, I used to long for the day to be able to wear grown-up clothes such as high heels, diamonds, pearls, long dangly earrings, rings and beautiful dresses. Back then most kids just wore what their parents bought and picked out for them (unflattering OshKosh B'Gosh anyone?), and the goal for little girls was to look like little girls, almost doll-like. These days kids are a bit more fashion forward, and they get a little more liberty when it comes to what they wear. Of course the latest kid fashions and trends reflect that.

Letting children dress themselves gives them the freedom to express themselves, and it is a good idea, but lately the choices that children have are becoming more adult like. Little girls can now dress like mommy with their own pair of heels and dangly earrings. My four-year-old nieces love wearing their 1 1/2 inch heels, knee-high boots and jewelry—sparkly lip gloss included.

As a child who cried and begged for shoes other than penny loafers and Stride-Rites, there is not one memory of ever being allowed to even wear a nail polish color other than pink or clear. Back then kids clothing styles were limited, but the items available for purchase for little girls today were definitely not around 20 years ago.

Platform wedges and skinny jeans have become the norm on the playground,

which are hardly the most practical play clothes. There is a distressed denim mini skirt available for little girls, and a six-tier baby doll halter with almost the entire back out at Old Navy.

A sweetheart neckline is supposed to tastefully accentuate the bust line on a woman, and there is an "Easter" dress for little girls at Macy's with a sweetheart neckline. There is a "So many boys, so little time" graphic tee-shirt is available as small as a size 2T. That is implying way too much for a child who cannot even read nor comprehend what it says or what it means.

Kids used to wear goofy shirts with teddy bears on them, not shirts that read "Diva."

Why are adults dressing their children in miniskirts, halter tops and bikinis and telling them they look adorable? How did this become acceptable children's attire? The obvious sad thing is that there has to be a market for these clothes, otherwise the stores would not stock it. The parents who are feeding into these styles should want their children to remain children.

Dressing like miniature adults prematurely sexualizes them and is totally unnecessary. When they are adults, with a job and buying their own clothes, it will be up to them to dress how they want. Maturity and peer pressure will eventually force them to grow up faster than they should anyway—let's not rush it along.

Science/Health

Do you believe in global warming?

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

Whether you take interest in the topic of global warming or not, you have likely heard discussion. Your family, friends and colleagues are likely split between those who believe it is occurring and those who call the theory a farce. Furthermore, of those who claim global warming is occurring, there is a split regarding whether it is man-made or not.

"The most serious and urgent challenge today for society is to slow and then reverse the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activities," Deborah Clark, research professor and adjunct professor of biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said.

One of the most recent trends in this debate revolves around the recent surge of wintry weather in the United States. As winter set in for 2010, snow storms occurred across the country. In St. Louis alone, no fewer than three heavy snowfalls have occurred in the past week. So, with all this freezing weather, how can anybody claim that global warming is occurring?

"A broad base of scientific evidence tells us that humans are, indeed, responsible for global warming," Clark said. Her point is supported by a wide variety of occurrences. Sea levels are on the rise, extreme natural events such as tornados and hurricanes are becoming more frequent, and ecosystems the world-round are changing and even collapsing due to the impact of climate change.

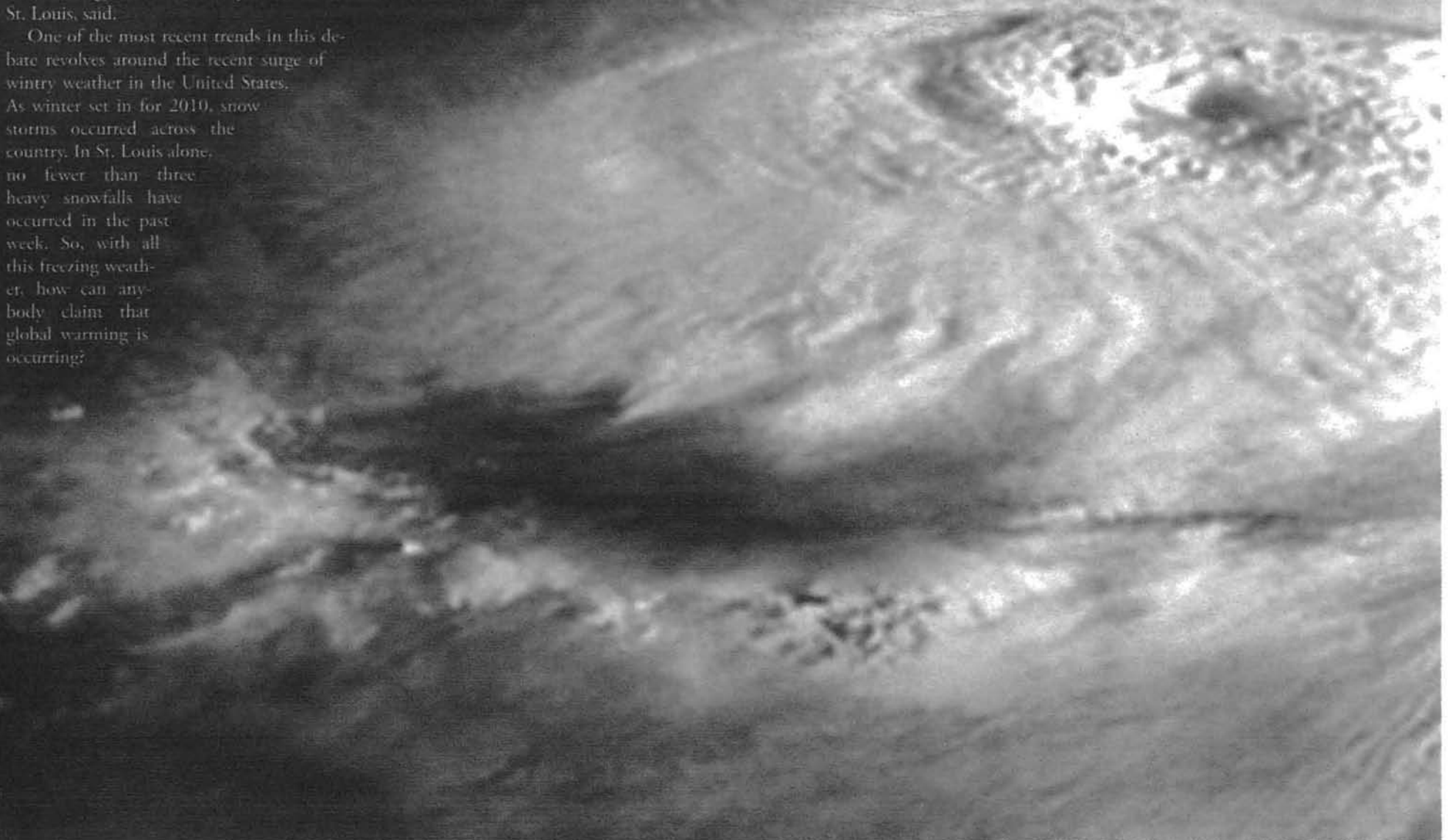
Elizabeth A. Kellogg, E. Desmond Lee professor and director of graduate studies for biology at UM-St. Louis, agrees. "There is a difference between weather, such as snow or rain, and climate," Kellogg said. "In fact, with warming oceans we may expect more precipitation in some areas,

and in winter, this could appear as snow. Weather patterns can still vary considerably even though there is a steady upward trend in global surface temperatures." In other words, the heavy snow we are experiencing actually is a result of global warming. It is the precipitation we would experience normally, just frozen over due to the drop in temperature the northern hemisphere is experiencing.

An article in last week's "New York Times" makes a statement on the matter as well. According to the article, global 'weirding' may be a better term. After all, as climate changes,

so too do weather patterns; storms and temperatures are expected to become more extreme.

Regardless of the weather outside, both Clark and Kellogg believe global warming to be occurring and an important issue. As to the 41% who believe that this issue is exaggerated, it will remain to be seen what spring and summer will bring.



COURTESY OF NASA

HOTWIRE

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Science/Health Editor

GENERIC DRUGS TAKING LONGER FOR FDA APPROVAL

Generic versions of drugs produced by large pharmaceutical companies are taking longer to gain approval by the Food and Drug Administration. According to an article in last week's New York Times, the approval process for generic drugs now takes nearly a year longer than it did in 2005, the last year tracking data was taken.

The FDA claims that the longer waiting period for approval stems from an increase in applications over the past five years. Makers of generic drugs may face additional problems in getting their version of a medication approved as the FDA is also considering making applicants for generic drugs pay an application fee, as major pharmaceutical companies must do for the original.



COURTESY OF AMA



COURTESY OF NASA

SPACE SHUTTLE DELIVERS ROOM WITH A VIEW TO ISS

The space shuttle Endeavour delivered and installed the final major component of the International Space Station during spacewalks this week. The final module, named Tranquility, contains waste processing equipment and living quarters, and also a "cupola," which is reminiscent of a large bay window and provides astronauts with an impressive view of Earth and the vast space that surrounds it.

The window also provides them with a panoramic view of the station's robotic arm when it is in use and the ability to visually observe spacecraft approaching the station. The arrival of Tranquility and the window comes at a precarious time for space travel as the U.S. is retiring the shuttle later this year and has only committed to keeping the ISS operational until 2015. Currently, proposals are in the works to keep the station in orbit until 2011.

LONG RANGE STUDY OF CHILDHOOD GROWTH SET TO BEGIN



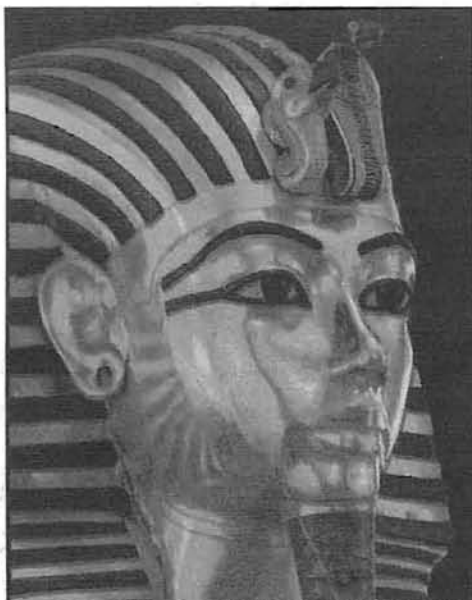
COURTESY OF CHILDCARE.ORG

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has begun what could possibly be the largest scale, longest running study of childhood growth and development that has ever been conducted.

The research project intends to track 200,000 children from their prenatal stage until they are 21 years old. It will draw data about their lives by testing everything from their placenta when they are born to the tap water they drink, the food they eat and even the dust in their homes.

The study will seek to gain insight on some outlying health issues for which there is inconclusive or little data, such as childhood leukemia, autism and respiratory conditions. The data received from this study will also serve as an incredible look into the human development cycle during its most critical stages.

Already the plan has come under fire from Congress after it was revealed that the initial \$3.1 billion price tag for the project would more than likely increase to \$6.7 billion before it can be completed.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

LEGENDARY MUMMY'S CAUSE OF DEATH IDENTIFIED

Following extensive testing on his mummified remains, archeologists revealed this week that King Tutankhamen, the legendary boy king who ruled Egypt from the age of 9 until 19, died of malaria, which he contracted from an infection after fracturing his leg. King Tut, as he is commonly called, was also afflicted by a malformed foot and probably walked with the aid of a cane. This data was gained

through a detailed examination of his mummy, which included MRI and CT scans as well as DNA testing, which has also helped to finally identify the mummified remains of several of his relatives. His tomb, discovered by British archeologists in 1922, was found to contain a vast array of artifacts in excellent condition. Many, such as his gold burial mask, have traveled the world over in exhibitions.

Hospital layoffs

75% of staff

Forest Park Hospital cuts back 300 jobs

▶ PATRICK W. CANOY
Staff Writer

Forest Park Hospital recently laid off about 75 percent of its staff. The hospital has been struggling for the past couple years with rising debts and issues with creditors.

The workers that were laid off include nurses, housekeepers, security officers and maintenance workers. The layoffs will go into effect beginning April 11, 2010, a statement from the hospital said.

The first phase, which has already been enacted, is the layoffs of employees, 268 full-time equivalent workers and 80 to 90 part-time employees. Some of the other workers are employees who only work when needed. The hospital is combining services with their sister hospital St. Alexius in order to reduce costs, Janet Conners, the spokesperson for the hospital, said.

"The only services that will remain are those that are needed and necessary within that community surrounding Forest Park Hospital," Conners said.

The need in that specific area for every service provided by a hospital is not as great as South City, where St. Alexius is located, because Forest Park is right in the center of Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Health Center.

"The hospitals have requested to combine their licenses from the state," Conners said.

If allowed to do so, Forest Park and St. Alexius can further reduce their costs by having only one governing body instead of two, and instead of two administrative teams, they will only have one. It will also give the employees more flexibility; if the St. Alexius service line is not busy, then employees can go to work at the Forest Park Hospital instead, and vice versa.

Conners said that after April 11, the services that will re-

main at Forest Park Hospital will be the 24-hour emergency department, the psychiatric department (where the majority of the hospital census is currently located), a small laboratory and a small pharmacy.

Struggling hospitals around the country have been doing the same as Forest Park Hospital. This month, St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan in New York City has laid off more than 300 workers, and may temporarily cut staff pay 10 to 25 to avoid closing its doors for good, Fierce Health Finance said. According to Fierce Health, five other hospitals around the country have been cutting back jobs this month.

Not all hospitals are struggling, though; some are actually adding jobs.

"There are still plenty of nursing jobs, some hospitals are expanding, there are nurses that are retiring, and there are still plenty of jobs for our graduates," Beth Dudley, RN, clinical coordinator and lecturer for University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Nursing, said.

Many graduates from the college of nursing at UM-St. Louis find jobs at St. John's Mercy Medical Center, Missouri Baptist Hospital, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, St. Anthony's Hospital and Christian Northeast Hospital. Also, the UM-St. Louis College of Nursing has never done clinicals (a type of interning that is used by nursing schools to get students acclimated to real-world healthcare environments) at Forest Park or St. Alexius, so it will not affect them in any way, Dudley said.

"I wouldn't discourage any students from going into nursing because there are still ample opportunities for them when they graduate," Dudley said.

College healthcare: *Is change on the way?*

▶ CHRIS STEWART
Staff Writer

College students on the brink of making their own health care decisions, choices that they will likely live with for years, are a public that stands to be affected by any reform being proposed in Washington, D.C. So what do University of Missouri-St. Louis students know about the various proposals currently being debated in Congress, and what are their opinions on the matter?

Erin Richey, sophomore, criminology, who has a parent that works for Blue Cross/Blue Shield, said, "I don't think that politicians [in either party] seem to know what they're talking about, because specialists on health care and economics and other areas have different recommendations from what both sides are saying."

When asked what came to mind when she thought of the current reform bill, Richey named public insurance as the first component that she associated with the bill.

Jonathan Meany, junior, engineering, also sees a public option (which was dropped from the bill in the Senate in December of last year) as the main issue being pushed in Washington.

"I'm not a fan of the bill. It's the government sticking its fingers somewhere else they don't belong," Meany said.

Meany's point of view is representative of Americans who have shown how weary they are of the government's proposal in a national debate that has highlighted the fundamental partisan disagreement about where personal freedom and responsibility starts and the government's responsibility to take care of people stops.

It is often expressed, even by detractors to health care re-

form, that both parties are willing to admit that we need to reform health care. Currently, 30 million Americans are without health care and more people are losing coverage every day during this strenuous economic climate.

When asked how many uninsured Americans they thought existed, Richey guessed 13 percent, and Meany said, "It's in the millions." Meany also guessed the U.S.'s current ranking by the World Health Organization as "in the top five, maybe number one".

The World Health Organization's ranking of the United States' health care system is in fact No. 37, just two steps above

.....
"It's in the millions."
.....

— Jonathan Meany

.....
Cuba and far below Columbia (No. 22), Iceland (No. 15), and even well below other large nations like the United Kingdom (No. 18).

Still, when one notes that this, the most recent ranking, is from the year 2000, it illuminates the complicated nature of a debate in which evidence on both sides of the aisle, no matter how compelling, is often itself debatable, a sad reality faced every day by both the millions of sick and uninsured, and the millions of hardworking insured citizens who pay the bill at the end of the day.

But the issue is a broad and hotly contested one, and both proponents and detractors to White House's proposed changes have worked double-time to bring up equally compelling evidence, case studies, and other facts to support their case.

President Obama outlined the key components of the health care reform that the White House would like to see enacted in a September 2009 address to the joint session of Congress. Obama broke down these specific reforms, which can be found at Healthcarereform.gov.

First, the president stated that reform, in his mind, should "build on what works and fix what doesn't," rather than starting over from scratch. Second, he said that the hundreds of millions of Americans who have health care and do not want to change it will not be affected, and can keep their current plans. "Let me repeat this: nothing in our plan requires you to change what you have," Obama said.

With this plan there would be an added emphasis on prevention, which will require insurance companies to completely cover routine preventative checkup items such as mammograms. In addition, President Obama called for new, broad, low-cost government-based health care, the so-called "public option" marketed by the president as a way for everyone to have the same health care that Congress gets. A later-dubbed "personal mandate" will require all individuals to have, at very least, the new low-cost health care, in the same manner that states currently require everyone to have automotive insurance.

There is a movement to pay for this vast reform primarily with funds gained through the reform itself—the cutting of waste and fraud that is pervasive throughout our current system. And whether or not any of the president's suggestions will make it into the bill he will sign into law remains to be seen.

Opinions

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

Extend benefits to same-sex partners

If history is any guide, the march to equality is a slow one.

In this country, it took 144 years for women to get the right to vote and 189 years for African Americans to formally receive full rights with the Voting Rights Act.

To this day, both of these groups wage an uphill battle against discrimination, despite the protections that the law has provided for them. These are just two examples of how our nation has strived toward equality, but there are many other examples. One of them is the fight for equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Part of the fight toward equality for GLBT individuals is being waged right here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and within the UM System at large.

Currently, GLBT individuals employed at UM-St.

Louis and other UM System campuses cannot share their health care benefits with partners the same way that heterosexual staffers can with their spouses. Furthering this inequity is the fact that all other comparable universities extend this coverage to its GLBT staff members. This even includes the religiously conservative Wake Forest University.

We at *The Current* believe that this is a travesty. It is sad that we attend a university that does not provide these individuals these benefits.

We feel this way because it means that we attend a university that sees some people as less equal, a university that believes that some are not worthy of the same basic treatment that is extended to others.

We believe that this inequity sets us aside from the rest of our peers in the same

way that the lack of GLBT benefits sets them apart from other employees, or even from other people.

This paints a grim patina of shame across us and our sister campuses, and until it is resolved, we at UM-St. Louis and other UM system campuses are like the public institutions in the segregated South long ago, where there used to be separate water fountains for blacks and whites.

We thought that things like this were a dark part of our past, and we hope that we will soon be able to say it is a part of the past at UM-St. Louis.

The Current supports the resolution by the UM-St. Louis Diversity Council to extend these benefits to GLBT individuals. We believe it to be long overdue and hope for its quick adoption.

ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT / THE CURRENT



What's another day?

A new bill in the Missouri Senate would require women planning abortions to wait an additional 24 hours for the procedure. The bill would also require that women seeking abortions receive literature on the emotional risks of an abortion and information on fetal pain.

Although it would not be mandatory, the women would be given a choice to either see an ultrasound of the fetus or hear the heartbeat.

Republican Senator Rob Mayer is the sponsor of this new bill, and hopes that the additional 24 hour waiting period will persuade women to seek other options.

Though the reasons why may vary, it is safe to assume that most women seeking abortions have already thoroughly considered their decision.

There is typically already an ongoing battle within the woman when deciding whether or not to abort her pregnancy. When she steps inside of Planned Parenthood (or whatever abortion services she may use), her mind is already made up. What is an additional day?

There are clearly ulterior motives behind a bill meant to push the operation back one day so that women can think about what they are doing. Since *Roe v. Wade*, Republicans have immersed themselves in finding ways to prolong or expunge the abortion process. Several states already have laws in place to make the abortion process more difficult, and these extra laws and bills help neither the mother nor the unborn child.

It behooves lawmakers to realize that not every pregnant woman is fit to be a mother, so making it more difficult to obtain an abortion by prolonging the process is potentially detrimental to both the mother and the child.

While some have proposed adoption as an alternative to abor-

tion, not every pregnant mother is fit to carry a child to term. There are several things that could go wrong, such as the woman drinking, smoking cigarettes, doing drugs or not taking her prenatal vitamins. There is already an alarming rate of babies being born with preventable disabilities, not to mention babies born with drug addictions due to the mother's use. According to Childwelfare.gov, there is a 46 percent chance that these children will end up in foster care at some point in their lives. Taxpayers pay for that.

Right now, the bill proposes that women be given the option to listen to the heartbeat or see an ultrasound. If this bill passes, will that be made into a requirement as well? The supporters of this bill re-

alize that *Roe v. Wade* will never be overturned, so it is obvious they are hoping that the bill, though ostensibly small, will create an open door to propose more laws to prevent or prolong the abortion process.

Choosing to have an abortion is not an easy decision, and the women brave enough to do so are already aware of the emotional risks and the dangers associated with aborting their child. A doctor cannot operate on an individual without letting them know the risks or what the procedure entails. They are already given literature about abortion and they know what it does to their bodies. Extending the waiting period to another day will not help, nor will it change the mind of a pregnant mother whose mind is already made up.

Drinking on campus is actually safe

Ah, American universities—havens for millions of children to gather and cultivate alcohol dependencies and superior mind power. Unfortunately, up until now, the powers that be have only seen fit to embrace the latter horn of these beautiful institutions, leaving said children to resort to smuggling operations and appearances in dives amongst grisly sailors and various other riffraff and ne'er-do-wells in order to get their liquor fix.

This is a mistake on so many levels. First and foremost, if college students are indeed being trained to become leaders of the world, distrust in their ability and maturity to handle their drink is a funny place to start. If a law student is not allowed to drink black Johnny Walker in peace while reviewing *Roe vs. Wade*, how is he going to feel when he or she moves into the real world to argue with lawyers who have spent much more time on the horse? The beauty of a college campus is that it is supposed to nurture higher learning, but by not allowing students to complete the picture with the right supplements, universities are really missing

the point.

Also, it would be safer. For too long, freshmen have had to resort to paying extra for whatever beer the mister outside of the gas station thought would suit them. Of course, they end up receiving the worst of the bad malt liquor, and the consequence is the worst of bad headaches the next morning.

If universities sanctioned and handpicked the alcohol that was served to students, they could rest assured that hangovers would be minimized.

Then of course, there is the economic benefit of introducing drinking culture as an official and fundamental element of universities. Surely the idea of creating jobs for bartenders and the increased revenue a school would produce from alcohol sales during campus sponsored events and Tuesday doldrums would pique the interest of even the most complacent fat-cat university president.

Though alcoholism has played a prominent role in academia for centuries, it is shocking how little active scholarly work and research has gone into the matter. If



Joe Schaffner

alcoholism were accepted as core curriculum, as it rightly should, perhaps professors and students would be able to answer ancient conundrums that have plagued hung-over students and vagrants for millennia. Questions like “What wine goes with eggs?” and “How do I handle a martini?” would no longer have inexact trial and error estimations, but scientifically tested and informed answers. For specialization in the subject, we’d look no further than pointing out the peculiarities of particular alcohol strongholds. For example, one may seek a PhD in clubbing or drunken kung-fu.

More than anything, it would make student life more interesting.

See DRINKING, page 21

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Slowly and fortunately, we are finding out that man-made global warming, as well as our carbon “problem,” are hoaxes. It began with the release of emails which showed the manipulation and cherry picking of data, intimidation and blackballing of skeptics, manipulation of what acceptable peer review journals are and refusal to comply with Great Britain’s Freedom of Information Act. It has continued with admissions by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of many errors in their Nobel Prize worthy report regarding glaciers, rainforest depletion, food production and sea levels.

Their opinions were admitted to be created either for political purposes or based on information from environmental activist groups. Further news was the admission by Phil Jones, a leading researcher, that there has been no significant global warming since 1995, the Medieval Warming period was warmer than the present time with no industrialization and that he lost the data on which a large portion of his research was based.

Brazil, India and China all but openly laughed at us and President Obama at Copenhagen, and on Feb. 18 a top UN Climate official resigned. The hoax has been summed up well by the Indian magazine “Open”: “The climate change fraud that is now unraveling is unprecedented in its deceit, unmatched in scope. ...”

Follow the money. Stay current with news from around the world, and don’t be afraid to share the news with your elected officials and others.

Nicholas Wnuk
MBA Student

Playing the blame game

Apparently, the Boston Herald thinks it is still the 1980s

You see, last week’s horrific shooting at Alabama University was not the work of a desperate woman pushed to the brink.

On no, according to the Herald, it was the work of one of those dangerous and deranged Dungeons and Dragons players.

An article in the Herald tries to draw a connection between alleged shooter Amy Bishop and the fact that she and her husband met while playing DnD in college and supposedly still play it.

The Herald’s “source” claims that “they acted this crap out.”

Ignoring the atrocious breach of journalistic ethics and tenets, let us assume the source means Live Action Role Playing. If that is the case (or even if it is not), the statement is not only meaningless, but moronic.

Just because someone is a Dungeons and Dragons player does not mean they are a killer waiting to happen.

If fantasy games caused real world violence, there’d be a lot more fantasy football and board game killers. God forbid Jason loses that game of Catan—he might snap and pull out a gun!

On top of that, the Herald article seems to completely disregard the recent reveal that Bishop allegedly shot and killed her brother with a shotgun in 1986. Or, you know, the fact that she was charged with assault in 2002 after she punched a woman in the head at an International House of Pancakes.

Saying Bishop’s actions

were caused by her DnD playing would be like saying everyone who plays Monopoly is secretly a real estate mogul or an entrepreneur.

Sadly, the Herald’s DnD accusations are not the first of their kind.

For far too long, the press has been playing the blame game.

Over the years, nearly every kind of medium has been accused by the press of inspiring negative and destructive behavior, whether it was radio in the 1920s, television since its very inception, or comic books and Dungeons and Dragons in the ‘80s.

Video games seem to be the popular target these days, but since Bishop does not play video games. I guess the Herald took what they could get and went back to the ‘80s notion of “Satan’s game.”

The press seems to believe that the gamer that stabs his buddy over an argument did not do so of his own free will—no way: Grand Theft Auto made him do it.

Sadly, this mindset has so thoroughly permeated into the press that criminals are starting to use “GTA made me do it” as a legal defense, such as in the case of 20-year-old Patrick Morris, who allegedly shot and killed 15-year-old Diego Aguilar by shooting him five times with a shotgun.

Morris’s defense attorney brought up the idea that “violent video games such as ‘Mortal Kombat’ and ‘Grand Theft Auto’ may have blurred Morris’ ability to distinguish reality and the consequences of his actions,” according to a news post on law Web site gamepolitics.com.



Andrew Seal

This of course, despite the fact that prosecutors alleged that “Morris sought revenge because Aguilar ripped him off in a drug deal.” Drug deal gone bad? Never. Must be those video games and X-Men comics.

Even Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were ‘outed’ by the press as avid Doom players, as if that had any bearing on the insensate violence they wrought. The press apparently thought so.

In the end, no one is responsible for the violence they cause but themselves. For every person that happens to play games or DnD that kills someone, there are thousands that play these games and watch these movies without any kind of negative behavior.

Amy Bishop has a whole host of problems in her life, and any one of them could have been what caused her to snap.

Unfortunately, anyone has the potential within them to be a killer. It does not matter whether they play Grand Theft Auto or soccer, Halo 3 or rugby.

Or even, for example, Dungeons and Dragons.

Andrew Seal is Opinions Editor for The Current.

www.thecurrent-online.com

SCIENCE MATTERS

Weather and climate are not the same

Climatologists and meteorologists must get tired of repeating it: weather and climate are not the same thing.

Anytime there is a weather event with temperatures unexpectedly cooler, the naysayers rise up in a chorus of, "See, there is no global warming," no matter how large the pile of evidence supporting climate change grows. A surprisingly heavy snowfall in Texas or Washington D.C. and they are out there screaming "hoax." But unseasonably warm weather and low snowfalls in Canada or New England, of course, never enter the picture in these gleeful denier dances.

The climate change deniers point to Snowmagedon as "proof" that the climatologists are wrong. In fact, climate change models do predict these kinds of extreme weather events as part of overall global warming. What those climate models cannot predict are individual weather events.

Some weather events are simply one-time occurrences that do not indicate a long-term trend. What climate-change deniers really reveal when they go on these weather-related "I told you so" rants is that they do not understand the difference between weather and climate. What is more, these diatribes reveal that deniers have never actually looked at the climate change data or models, which predict (and have predicted for some years now) unusual weather changes, such as less snowfall in some areas and more in others, increased drought in some areas and flooding in others, and a host of other extreme weather events. Like two feet of snow in Washington D.C.

What are the differences between weather and climate? And where can you read some of the predictions

of climate change models? The really cool thing about science is that you do not have to take some pundit's word for what is really going on. You can look at the data yourself, and make up your own mind.

Here is what NASA has to say: "The difference between weather and climate is a measure of time. Weather is what conditions of the atmosphere are over a short period of time, and climate is how the atmosphere 'behaves' over relatively long periods of time. When we talk about climate change, we talk about changes in long-term averages of daily weather." Read more at www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/noaa-n/climate/climate_weather.html.

Clearly, local variations in weather, like record snowfall in D.C. or unseasonably warm weather and a lack of snow in usually-snowy areas around Vancouver, Canada, may or may not be linked to a larger, long-term climate shift. Sometimes freak weather events are just anomalies, one-time events that do not indicate a trend. Other times, unusual weather re-occurs in a pattern, indicating a climate change is taking place.

Climatologists use weather data about the present and past and mathematical formulas to make projections about the future, much as economists do when describing how economies work.

Both use mathematical calculations and computing power to generate a picture of how a big complex system works.

None of the climate models predict an even rise in temperature everywhere, with no local variation and no changes in present weather patterns. That climate everywhere will be the same, just 7 degrees warmer, is



Cate Marquis

not what is expected. There are a number of climate modeling systems and, like economic models, all have some imperfections. However, a 2008 study comparing climate models to each other and to the observed data found a great deal of agreement, which gives confidence to the predictions.

What would cause a big snowfall in a place like D.C., which is a more southern location? Three things are needed. Temperatures low enough for snow is one, and such temperatures are not unheard of in D.C. Another is a slow moving storm front, one that allows precipitation to keep falling. The last one is excessive moisture in the atmosphere, something predicted by global warming models. The same thing that contributes to increased flooding: warmer atmosphere, more evaporation, more moisture in the air. Result: Snowmagedon.

Picking the one weather event that confirms one's pre-existing view and ignoring other weather events that do not is no convincing argument for tossing out the huge pile of evidence supporting climate change. Scientists are not allowed to pick and choose which piece of information they like and which they want to ignore; neither are those driven by preconceived ideologies.

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

THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

2010: Could "Yes, we can" become "No, we didn't"?

Once upon a time, there was a popular Democratic president who won his office in a landslide. In fact, the crazy electoral forces that brought that president into office were, at the time, seen as repudiation by the electorate of a long reigning Republican regime.

Arriving in Washington as an outsider, this president promised to change the way that government worked. With a Democratic Congress to back him, it seemed as if he would be able to bring about this change.

However, things did not work out that way.

Some of the first issues this president tried to tackle were healthcare, the economy and environmental protection. His attempts at reform fell flat on their face. Pundits and the opposing party attacked him on all sides. He failed to use the bully pulpit of the presidency to sell his agenda and inspire the people.

In the end, this president spent a great deal of his political capitol entrusted to him by the Americans, along with their hope and goodwill, in order to get his reforms. His failure to deliver was seen as a waste of that power. This even began to turn those who had elected this man against him.

This failure gave power to those on the right who had been gunning for him all along. They were offended by the wide reaching scope of this liberal Democrat's agenda and his legislative power to make it into law, and they swore that if he got his way the nation would crumble.

This president made himself into an easy target for them, as his skeletons had moved with him into the White House closets. As personal scandals began to pull him down, his advisors began to show their weaknesses and inexperience at their jobs. As it began to look as though the president was unable to lead, many members of his party in Congress began to give up as well.

These retiring members of the House and Senate left their seats open to be fought for by Republicans. Armed with plenty of cash and a rising tide of discontent, they managed to take over many of them in the mid-term elections. With this, the Democrats lost control of Congress and this president saw his ability to bring about change diminish almost entirely.

The time in which this all took place was the early 1990s, the president was Bill Clinton.

However, sex and real estate scandals notwithstanding, the issues that plagued the Clinton administration seem to be repeating themselves with the Obama presidency.

As a number of Democratic members of Congress have retired with the mid-term election looming ahead, Republican candidates are already making inroads in areas that were previously considered safe Democratic turf.

The results of these changes have already become apparent in Massachusetts, and it is worth considering what will happen in states like Indiana, which is typically seen



Andy Phipps

as a red state, without populist Democratic senator Evan Bayh on the ballot this November.

Bayh's decision to retire from the Senate at age 54 and after serving only 12 years comes as a shock. Already, there are almost too many open seats to defend (some in hostile territory to Democrats), and already, it is looking as though the Democrats will lose some of their majority in the Senate and the House this November.

The only thing that can keep this from happening is if Obama and the Democrats in Congress get their act together.

While they should not abandon the key, big-ticket issues they are tackling right now, they should concentrate on matters that are easier to take on. Legislation needs to get passed and it needs to be heralded if the president and his party are to ever save face and survive the coming storm.

If not, I fear that the cries of "Yes, we can" from two years ago will become sad whimpers of, "No, we didn't."

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

What do you think about this week's columns?

Post a comment at
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DRINKING, from page 19

I have been to a lot of lectures, and those that would not be improved with the aid of a flask or a bit of whiskey in my coffee are few and far between.

Actually, there aren't too many things in the world that would not be improved by adding lots of whiskey, but

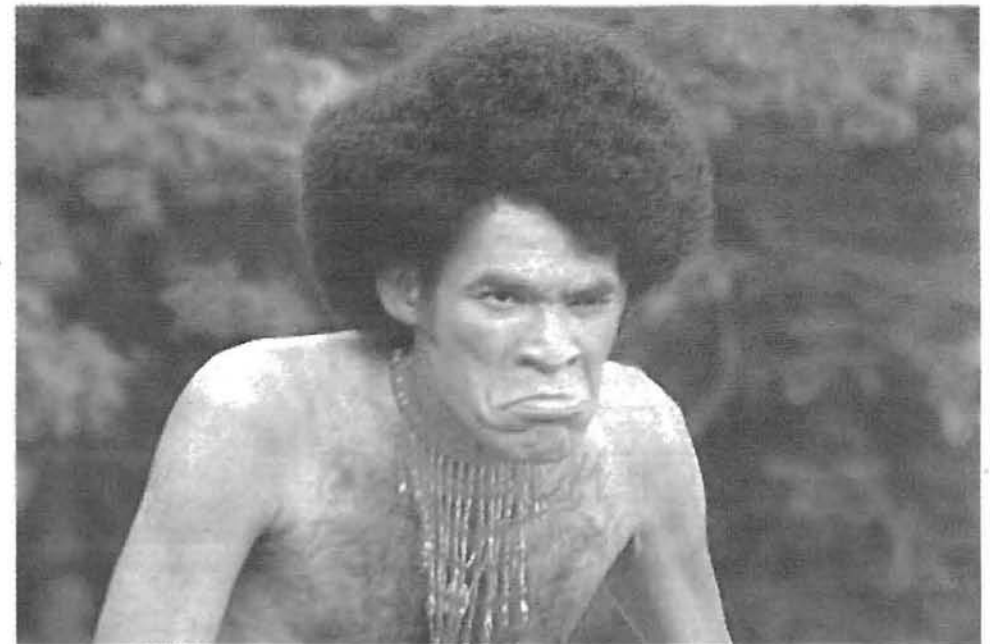
I digress.

Some classes, particularly political science courses, which no one cares about when they are sober, might even consider implementing a necessary BAC% of .05 to guarantee that students are appropriately belligerent and cocksure to engage with the

subject matter.

Which leads me to my next point—professors really need to start auto-tuning their lectures if they are serious about their gangster mic skills rhyming with my next level pen tap beats.

Joe Schaffner is a staff writer for The Current.



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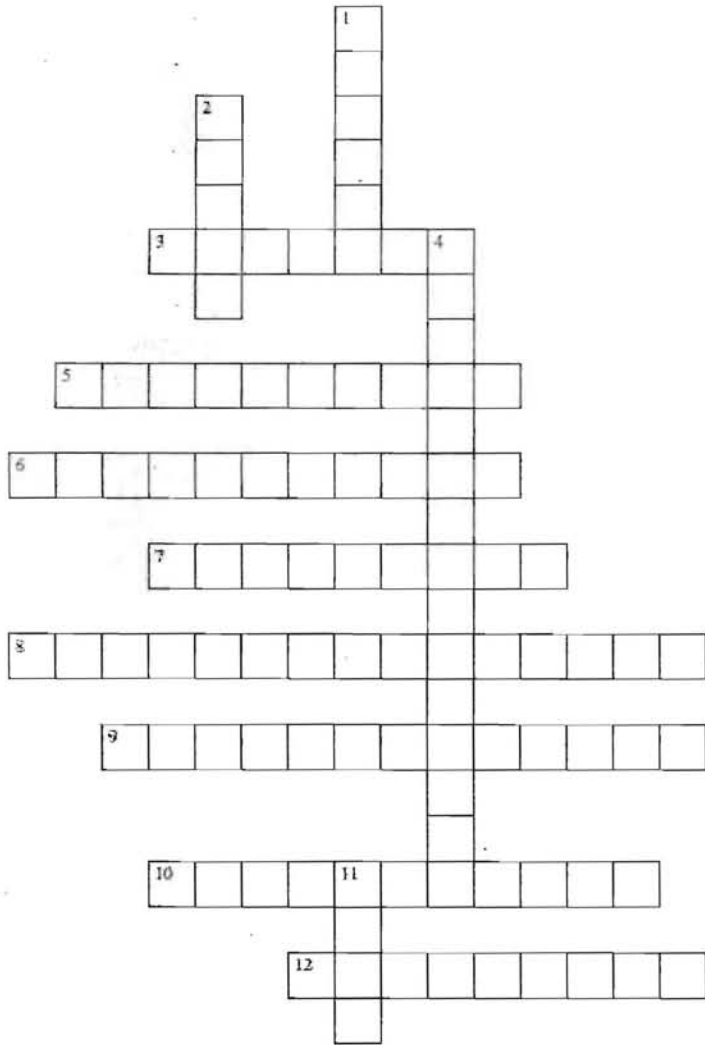
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Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

America at War



ACROSS

- 3. 1964-1973
- 5. 1941-1945
- 6. 2001-Present
- 7. 1917-1918
- 8. 1898
- 9. 1776-1783
- 10. 1991
- 12. 1812-1814

DOWN

- 1. 1950-1953
- 2. 1861-1865
- 4. 1846-1848
- 11. 2003-Present

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
This week it's important to get an outside perspective on something that's been weighing on you lately. A different point of view might help you to clear up confusion around the issue.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
You should have a lot to smile about this week, and your good mood will spread to those around you. Keep clear of negative people who will try to rain on your parade.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
You may have been feeling reclusive lately, and while it's good to take a little time to yourself now and then, right now it's a great time to get out and meet some new people.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)
Someone close to you may overreact to an issue involving money this week. It's important to keep in mind that there may be nothing to do in this situation besides offer reassurance.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)
Make some time for people you've been too busy for lately, especially if they seem to want your attention. You may have missed them more than you thought.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)
Keeping your focus may be difficult this week. Stay away from situations that seem volatile and do your best to get through it without stepping on any toes.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
If you're feeling uneasy this week, don't take it too seriously. You're bound to be sensitive to the smallest things as your intuition is working hard right now, but stay alert all the same.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
A friend or acquaintance may be overwhelmed by their hectic and difficult week. Offer a shoulder to cry on and some sympathetic words, then try to help them get things under control.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Simple things will be a source of a lot of happiness and pleasure this week. Take time to enjoy the everyday things you tend to overlook, and think about calling up a friend to share in the fun.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Fights with a friend probably revolve around a misunderstanding. Next time conflict arises, figure out what's really going on with the other person, and how you might fix it.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Too much time with certain friends may be wearing you down this week. Give that particular group a long break. In the meantime, stick with pals who share more of your interests.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
You're not really in a social or cooperative mood this week, which could be a problem if you're expected to work as part of a group. Make the best of it by working hard.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★

(Medium)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating: Easy

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

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

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

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

"IEHZH MO ATYE IGG ATYE

LFZIMOFWOEML

FWU WGI HWGTCE LZGCZHOO."

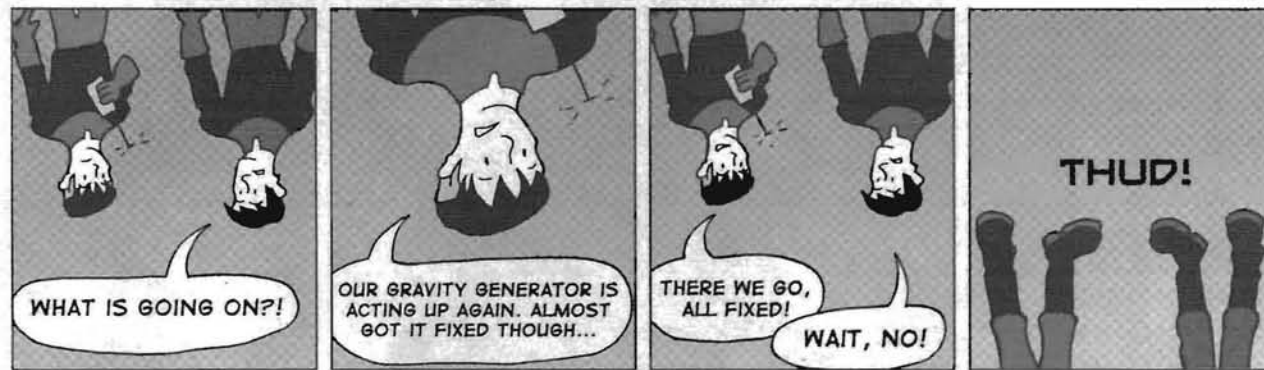
The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt when we get more in.

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



RANDOM MINDS BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



Bananas #25

by Paul Maguire



Awkward Abe

by Andy Phipps

"Lincoln gets an online girlfriend"



Emancepator87:
lets meet up
some time..

Hotchikk69:
Take me to
your log
cabin, sexy.



Hotchikk69



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WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

What's Current

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

Monday, Feb. 22

V-Day Bake Sale Come by the V-Day booth and purchase a tasty treat; you can even decorate your own vagina cookie! As always, proceeds go to organizations that work to end violence against women and girls. Located in the MSC from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. For more info contact Monica Swindle at 314-516-4530.

National Student Exchange Information Session Find out how you can broaden your personal and educational experience by becoming part of the National Student Exchange program. Come to one of our informational seminars at 12:30 in SSB 218. For further information e-mail hankinsonc@umsl.edu.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

Your Pink Shirt to Celebrate Female Sexuality Please wear your pink shirt in support of our campaign and to celebrate the pleasure of the feminine. P.S. Vagina is not a dirty word! Sponsored by VOICES for gender equality, Student Social Work Association. For more info contact Monica Swindle at 314-516-4530.

2-Ball Soccer Tournament Exciting one-night Indoor Soccer tourney using 2 balls on the field instead of one! It's a kickin' good time! 6-players per team, plus subs (men and/or women). Teams and individual sign-ups welcome. Located in the Mark Twain Gym from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation at 516-5326.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

V-Day Consciousness Display Learn more facts about being a woman in contemporary society, as well as how you can make a difference. Visit the Bridge on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 24th and 25th and help us celebrate the lives of women and girls. Sponsored by VOICES for gender equality, Student Social Work Association, Women's Resource Center, Men's Resource Center and Women and Gender Studies. For more information contact Rick Gyllenborg at 314-516-4530.

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. 25

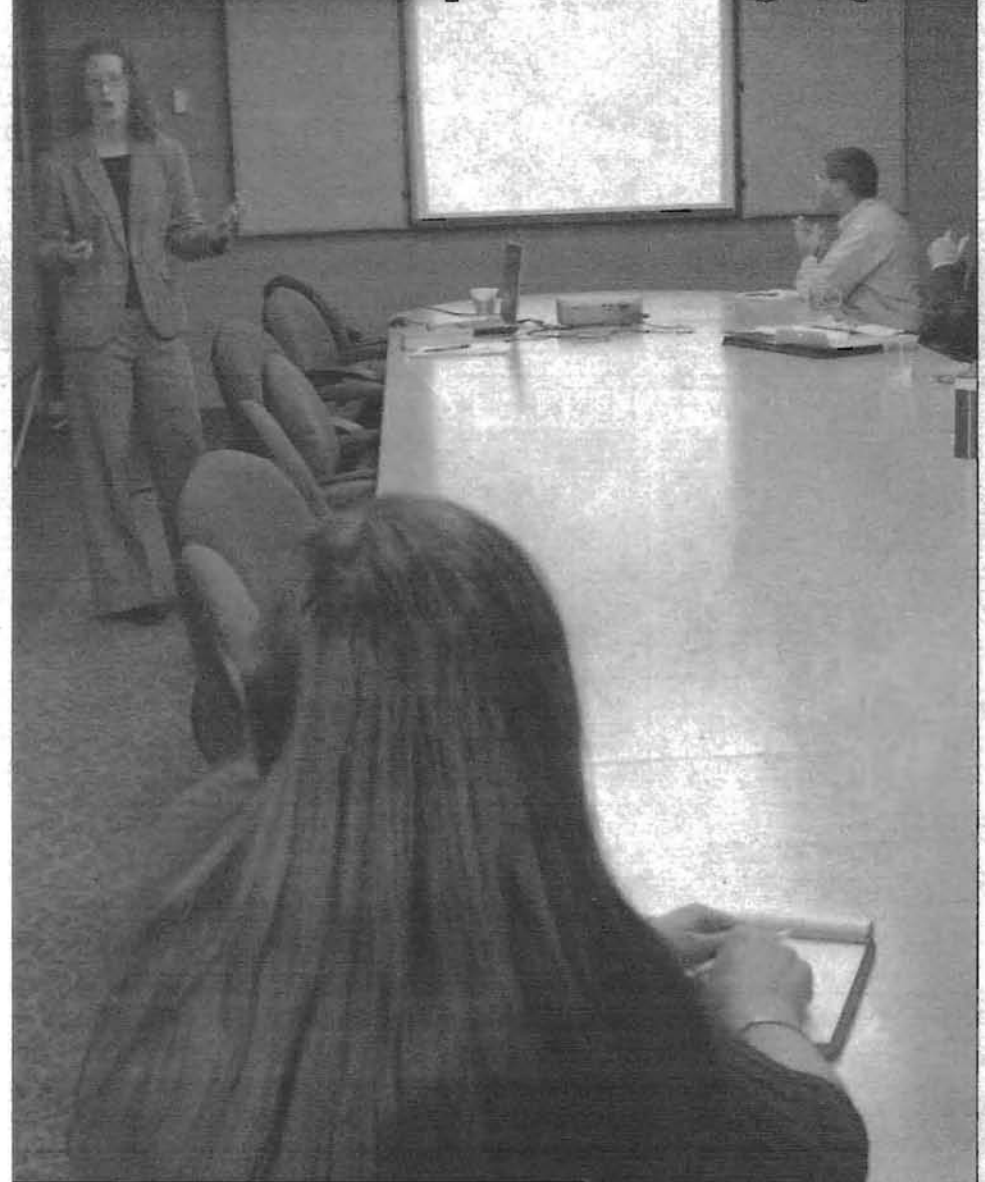
Beyond High School: Understanding the Barriers Join us on Thursday, February 25, at 3:00 p.m. for a panel discussion on the College Access Pipeline Project (CAP). The panel will present research on the region's current status and discuss a coordinated strategy for increasing the number of low-income students in the St. Louis area to enroll and succeed in college. Located in 126 J.C. Penney Conference Center from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. For more information contact Kay Gasen at gasen@umsl.edu.

V Monologues II: A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer Author, playwright and performer Ensler hosts a collection of new, personal and often powerful essays by celebrities, literati and feminist luminaries. All proceeds will be donated to organizations that help end violence against women. Located in J.C. Penney Auditorium from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact Monica Swindle at 314-516-4530.

Friday, Feb. 26

UMSL Spring Internship & Job Fair Discuss internship & employment opportunities with employer representatives. Admission is free only for pre-registered current UMSL students and UMSL alumni - you must present your admission ticket at the door. Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, February 23, 2010. Admission for UMSL students/alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door and for non-UMSL job seekers is \$10.00 at the door. Click on Job Fairs at <http://careers.umsl.edu> to see a list of participating companies/organizations and to register. Located in Mark Twain Gymnasium from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Bonnie Wilson on special interest groups



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Professor Bonnie Wilson presents "Banking Crises: Do Special Interest Groups Matter?" on Friday in the SSB. Wilson, an Associate Professor of Economics at Saint Louis University, discussed, amongst other things, whether or not "interest groups influence the fiscal costs of crises."

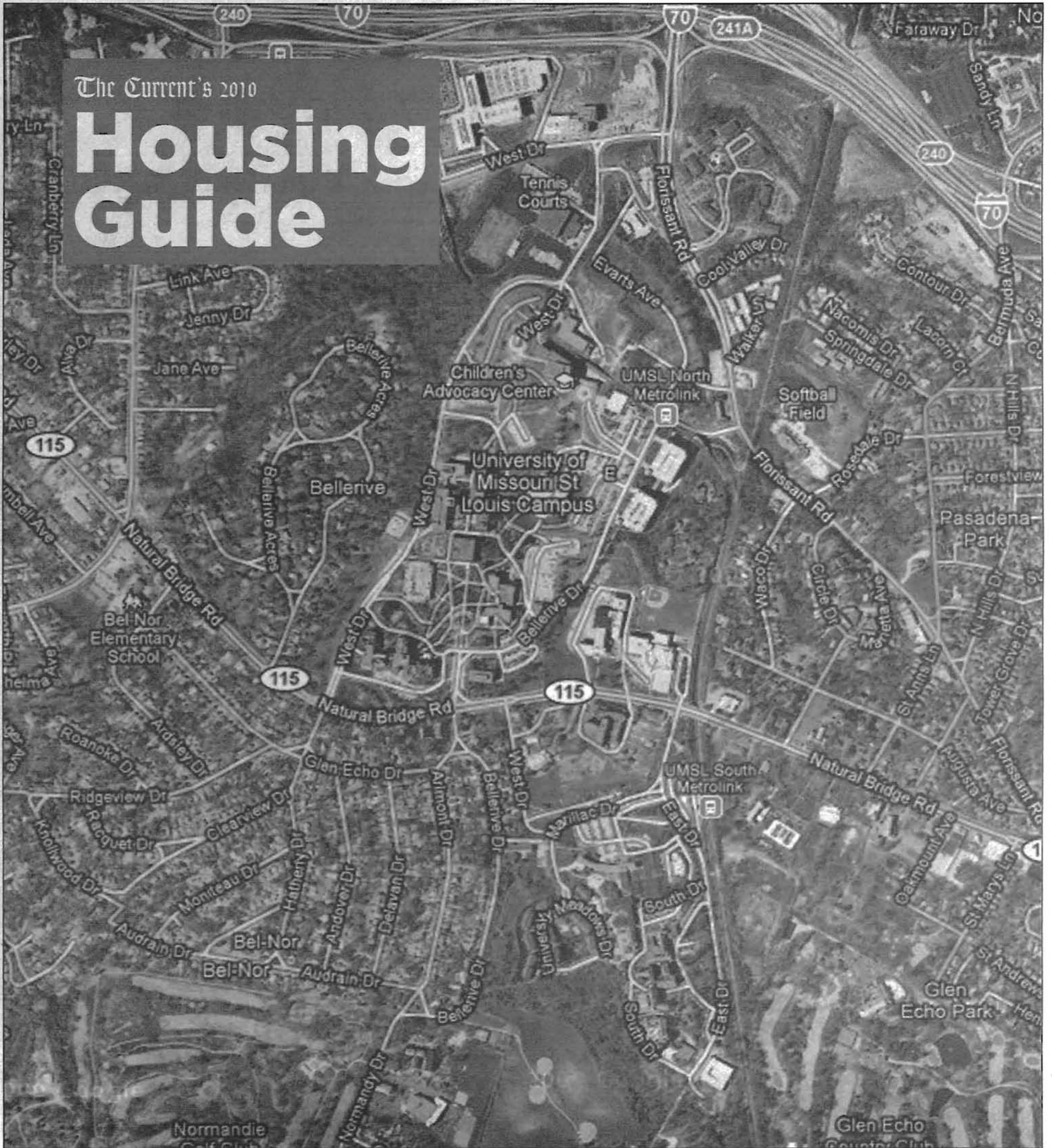


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The Current's 2010

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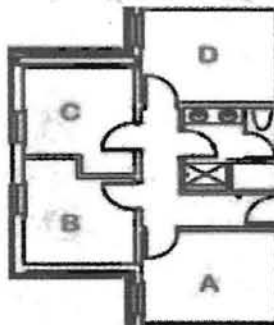
Oak Hall (23 and younger) The Suite Life

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Oak Suite

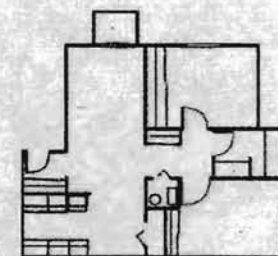


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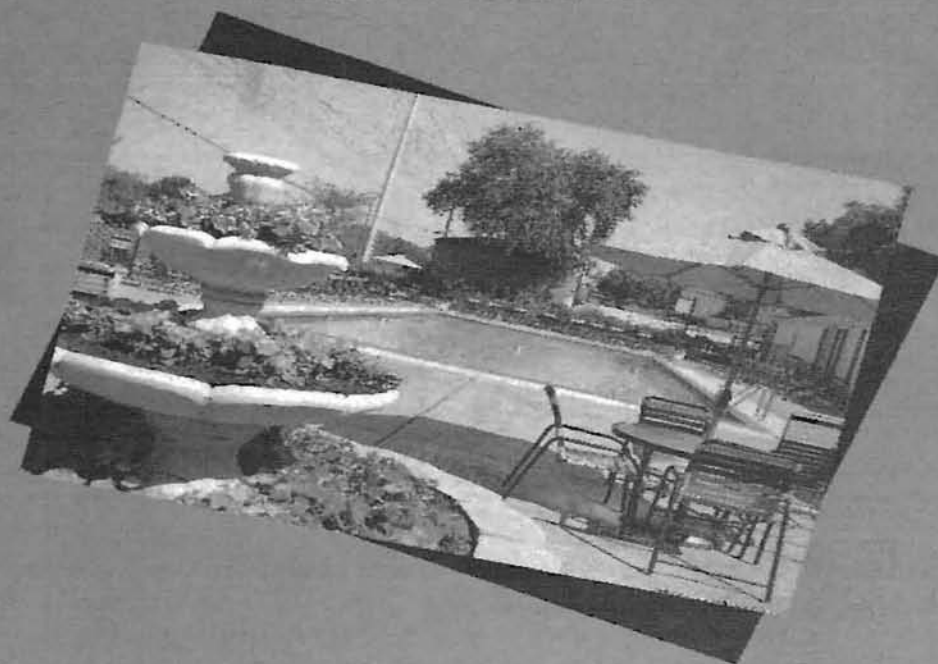


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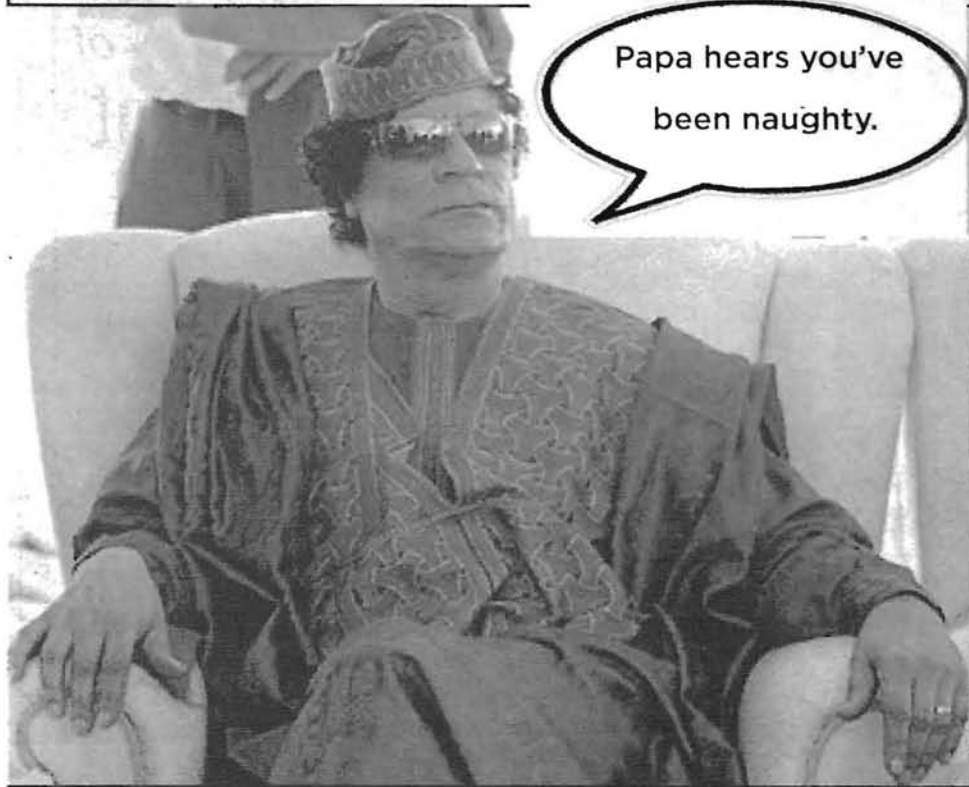


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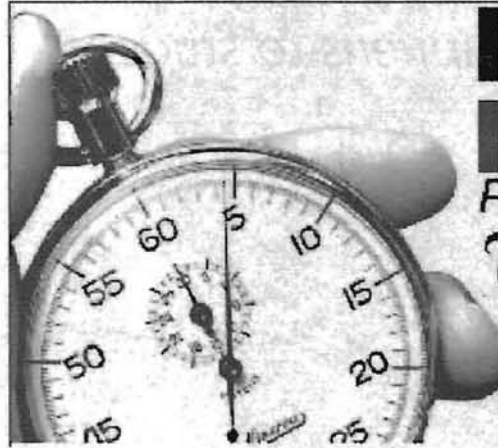
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Applications Available/ Filing Starts: **February 11th**

Filing Ends: **March 5th, 12pm**

Election Rules Reading in SGA Chambers: **March 8th, 2:30pm**

Elections Debate in SGA Chambers: **April 15th, 3pm**

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