

The Current

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New chief of police is sworn in

Police department calls for students, faculty, and staff to participate in improving campus safety

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

Forrest Van Ness was chosen on June 1 as the University of Missouri-St. Louis' new chief of police, beating out two other finalists.

"He was the absolutely best qualified. He knows the county very well, having been a county police officer and captain at one time, and has served as a chief of police in a nearby municipality," Glen Cope, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said.

Van Ness has an extensive background in law enforcement including a stint as a military police officer.

"I joined the St. Louis County Police Department in 1980. I was promoted to captain, and was reassigned as chief of police in the city of Fenton where I served until 2007," Van Ness said. Later, he served as commander of the Bureau of Criminal Identification for St. Louis until 2009. During the interview process, Van Ness prepared a briefing book containing several topics he planned to look into and improve upon immediately upon initiation. "I know the first thing he did in the past week was to go around, meet people, and get acclimated to the changes around the campus as a chief of police," Cope said.

Van Ness has already begun enacting several of his plans in the past week. The first of these is to provide services that will keep the UM-St. Louis community safe. "That's about providing patrols, being available and being responsive to calls that occur. I want to be comfortable knowing that there's a sense of ownership on part of our officers concerning problems on campus," Van Ness said. Van Ness also wants to guarantee that the recent tax increase passed in St. Louis County to assist with Emergency 911 services profits UM-St. Louis as well. "Eighty-five percent of the students here have come from St. Louis County and I want to make sure this provides that safeguard for students while they're here," Van Ness said.

Lastly, the new police chief wants to

guarantee that there is a feeling of mutual trust and respect between the UM-St. Louis community and its police department.

"Problems that aren't addressed immediately often grow into larger problems which are harder to address. I've met with staff members and spoken about [having] a Triton Watch [similar to] a Neighborhood Watch," Van Ness said.

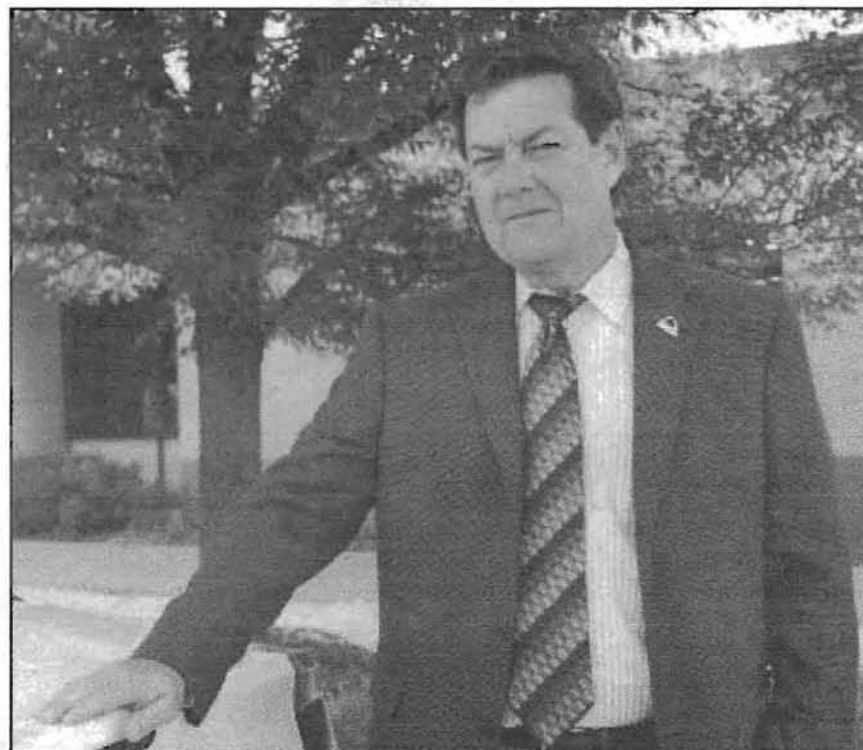
"The police officers can't be everywhere and see everything; and we have to rely on students, faculty and staff to report suspicious activities or things that seem out of order. I think this will hap-

pen by gaining trust with the officers and the police department," Van Ness said, "If behavior is predictable, it can be prevented and there will be safety amongst the campus."

Van Ness wants help from the campus community and is open to the suggestions of others. "There are an awful lot of good ideas that people have about safety, both from an educational perspective as well as personal experiences. If people are willing to share those experiences with the police department it's a great benefit to us. These are what I want incorporated into the police department," Van Ness said.

“ I know the first thing he did in the past week was to go around, meet people, and get acclimated to the changes around the campus as a chief of police. ”

-Glen Cope



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Forrest L. Van Ness, Chief of Police at UM-Saint Louis, in front of the Police Station, which is located on north campus next to Gallery 210.

WEATHER

MON.	91	TUES.	84	WED.	87	THURS.	92	FRI.	89	SAT.	91	SUN.	90
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Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Riki Tanaka

What do you think the government should do about BP's oil spill?



"Whether the clean up is delt with chemically or other ways, it must be handled properly"

Tim Meier
Chemistry & Business
Junior



"I think they should prevent futher oil spills from happening and take charge in making sure the oil should be safe to transfer"

Jawad Toor
Biochemistry & Biotechnology
Senior



"As government, they need to plan ahead in case something like this happens, they need to have the expertise to handle such a crisis and be able to take control of the situation"

Henry Kamkwalala
Accounting
Senior



"They need to find a way to take control of this issue and find ways to stop it from happen- ing again..."

Ariel Tabbs
Political Science
Sophomore

YOU SAID IT

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB: //

IN RESPONSE TO
"TEACHERS WORKS ARE THE WORST" FROM ISSUE 1312

"Surprising! Who would've thought an opinion piece knocking professors would get criticism from professors!"

-Doug

IN RESPONSE TO
"THE FIRST AMENDMENT" FROM ISSUE 1313

"I commend The Current on their justifiable outrage in this case. It's just too bad that there is no constitutional amend- ment guaranteeing fariness of the press."

-Robert M.

IN RESPONSE TO
"BON VOYAGE CHARTWELLS" FROM ISSUE 1312

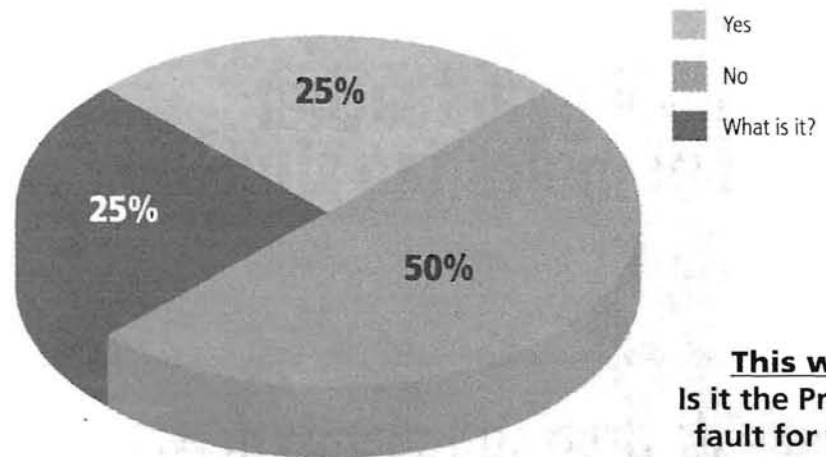
"Isn't this title misleading? Another article explained that they can make a bid for a new contract, so if UMSL approves it and they stay, where is the bon voyage?"

-Donald

We selected these highlights from reader comments on our website.
To see more, check out www.thecurrent-online.com

POLL

Have you had enough of the vuvuzela at the world cup?



This week:
Is it the President's
fault for the BP's
oil spill?
What is your Answer at
www.thecurrent-online.com

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ST. LOUIS NEWS

High School gym teacher accused of molesting student

SPANISH LAKE, MO-- A 26-year-old Physical Education teacher at Trinity Catholic High School has been charged Thursday with molesting a 15-year-old male student. Kellie Ryan was charged with two counts of statutory sodomy and one count of statutory rape. She was arrested Thursday and is being held in the St. Louis County jail with a \$25,000 bond.

Nationwide drug sting lands in Missouri

ST. LOUIS, MO -- As part of President Barack Obama's "Project Deliverance," a series of 13 arrests took place Wednesday as a part of President Obama's "Project Deliverance" federal anti-drug campaign. The nearly two-year, multi-agency operation is an effort by Obama's administration to fight the escalating and murderous Mexican drug trafficking operations. The sting resulted in the arrest of more than 2,200 people and the seizure of more than 74 tons of drugs and \$154 million in cash, officials said Thursday.

Record turn-out for the Komen race

ST. LOUIS, MO -- This year's Komen Race for the Cure set a record for participants. A total of 71,205 people braved the heat to support breast cancer awareness, event organizers said. As of Saturday morning, \$3.35 million has been raised.

Firefighter's killer gets life sentence

ST. LOUIS, MO -- A St. Louis jury convicted Terrence Hendricks, 23, of burglary, robbery and assault in a home invasion and shooting last year that left Ernest Strong permanently disabled. Hendricks broke into the Strong residence Feb. 11, 2009 with two other men, one of which was not charged. The other, Demar Cotton, 20, pleaded guilty in April of robbery, burglary and armed criminal action in the incident. He is scheduled for sentencing June 25.

Home foreclosures climb for the fifth-straight month

ST. LOUIS, MO -- Foreclosure activity in the St. Louis area surged to near-record highs in May, according to new data released Thursday by RealtyTrac. It is the latest sign that the mortgage crisis continues. There were 2,189 houses in the St. Louis metro area in the later stages of foreclosure — either set for auction or repossessed — in the month, according to the real estate data firm. That is a 27 percent jump from the same month last year, and just 21 houses shy of the highest month on record, September 2009.

NATIONAL NEWS

British Petroleum ordered to quicken up oil collection methods

NEW ORLEANS, LA. -- Federal authorities have ordered BP to get more aggressive with its plans to recover thousands of barrels of oil spewing from a broken well into the Gulf of Mexico. Rear Adm. James Watson, the government's on-scene incident manager, gave BP 48 hours to identify and expedite other ways to contain oil, given new estimates that doubled the amount of crude gushing out every day.

'JAWS' happens in Florida

GWINNET COUNTY, GA. -- A Gwinnett County teenager is recovering after being bitten in the leg by a 4-foot shark while on a family vacation in Jacksonville, Fla. Hannah Foster, 18, had gone boogie boarding with her boyfriend, Rick Hughes. Foster received 29 stitches.

Lap Dances for charity

TOLEDO, OH -- Everyone is doing their part to help the victims of the tornadoes that roared through northern Ohio last week, even strippers. Marilyn's on Monroe hosted "Lap Dances for Northwestern Ohio" Saturday in an effort to help residents in areas of Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties that were devastated by the severe weather. All proceeds will be donated to ISOH/IMPACT, a charity organization that ensures all money will be distributed to families and victims directly affected by the tornadoes.

Woman saves drowning boy

TIGARD, ORE. - A Tigard mom saved a boy from drowning in a backyard pond on Thursday. Elizabeth Redlinger was arriving home Thursday afternoon when she saw the 21-month old boy's white diaper beneath the water. Redlinger pulled the toddler out of the water and administered pushes to his diaphragm to relieve his lungs of water.

Arizona targets children of illegal immigrants

AR -- Because recent public opinion polls suggested they're on the right track with illegal immigration, Arizona Republicans will likely introduce legislation this fall that would deny birth certificates to children born in Arizona — and thus American citizens according to the U.S. Constitution — to parents who are not legal U.S. citizens.

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Is it over for Chartwells?

▶ MARIAN JONES
Staff Writer

After nearly nine years of food service, the University of Missouri-St. Louis decided not to continue service with Chartwells, Compass Group North America.

"Currently, I believe this is public knowledge that the contract is up for renewal at the end of this year. We chose as a committee...to go out and ask for new bids," Laura Griffitt, strategic specialist, said.

In February 2010, forums were conducted to gauge the opinions of the students concerning their dining experiences. While poor customer service, high prices and low food quality are factors to students, there were other reasons for the discontinuance.

"Whenever you have a long term contract, such as ten or five plus years, it's always good to open that door back up to see are we still getting the best value," Griffitt said. The university used this opportunity to review new and better options.

Since 2002 the needs of the university have changed. Over the past couple of years, the committee realized residential life needs weekend services and additional catering.

Addendums and modifications to the contract were made to accommodate the needs; however, the contract is out-dated. "There comes a point when you can band-aid the contract but it really needs a fresh look," Curtis Coonrod, Vice Provost said.

With no involvement in the previous bidding, the new food service committee is preparing a new Request for



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Chartwells truck parked outside of the North campus parking lot.

Proposal (RFP) that will allow all food service providers, including Chartwells, the opportunity to bid for the opening in January 2011. The committee has also taken certain measures in collecting information for the RFP to use as a standard in choosing the best provider. For instance, the committee was responsible for conducting the forums as a request by Coonrod and the committee meets once a week to discuss the criterion that will go into the new RFP.

"We are looking at a very

fair practice and we want the best in class," Griffitt said.

Parts of the committee are representatives from all stakeholders, such as residential life and housing.

"We try to ensure that every stakeholder throughout the university has at least some input on that," Griffitt said.

The biggest obstacle at this point is receiving sufficient information.

During previous surveys, the results were too generalized. "We need to be specific. To be very vague

about complaints is not helpful because you can't resolve that," Coonrod said. In addition, the committee is seeking positive input as well.

It is uncertain if Chartwells will present a new bid, but the university is open to the possibility of them re-bidding. "Well, we don't want to exclude anyone from participating in a bid especially when it's a public bid," said Griffitt. The bidding process was competitive back in 2002 when Chartwells was awarded

the position to be the food

service provider and this is exactly how the university will choose the next. The food service providers will make a presentation before the committee.

Unlike their approach in 2002, the new bidding process will not be a marketing presentation. The committee plans to thoroughly analyze the bidders by their staff, how they do things internally and how well the provider has done things in the past with other universities.

The committee also

understands that, no matter the food service provider, satisfying everyone is unrealistic.

Their objective is to do what is best for the staff and students. There is certain criterion the university is looking for in choosing a food service provider. That information will be provided in the RFP which will be available later this year.

Representatives from Chartwells were unavailable for comment.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis reaches new high

For its tenth year, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis takes on the big one—"Hamlet."

The most famous play in the world, William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is a drama of madness and revenge, with iconic characters and widely-quoted speeches.

Shakespeare Festival's production of "Hamlet" is one of their best, a superb staging graced by marvelous acting and riveting drama.

The Shakespeare Festival is a free, outdoor event in Forest Park, presented annually in a natural amphitheater to the east of Art Hill and the St. Louis Art Museum.

"Hamlet" is performed every night, except Tuesdays, through June 30.

Shakespeare in the park is more than just the play. People often get there early to stake out their spot, bringing blankets, chairs and a picnic, or to rent a chair or purchase refreshments. The "green show" starts at 6:30 p.m. with roving performers, before the main performance at 8 p.m.

The festival often brings in out-of-town actors for lead roles, so it is particularly satisfying that this excellent production features some of St. Louis' best actors, including Jason Cannon who is Assistant Visiting Professor of Theater at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Prince Hamlet (Jim Butz) returns home to Denmark from his university studies, upon receiving news that his father, King Hamlet, has died. He is shocked and dismayed to find his uncle Claudius (John Renshouse) has usurped the throne. Furthermore, his mother Queen Gertrude (Deanne Lorette) has married him within a month of Hamlet's father's death. Hamlet is depressed by his father's death, sickened by his mother's rapid re-marriage and also dismayed at the loss of a throne that should have been his, yet both the new king and the queen are puzzled by Hamlet's dark mood.

Informed by his closest friend, Horatio (Jason Cannon), of strange sightings, Hamlet encounters an apparition resembling the dead king (Rob Krakovski). His father's ghost tells Hamlet his death was not an accident, but murder plotted by the king's brother Claudius. The dead king urges his agitated son to exact revenge. To this end, the already half-mad Hamlet tells Horatio he will feign madness while he plots how to best take that revenge.

The cast includes Kimiye Corwin as doomed Ophelia, who loves Hamlet, Anderson Matthews as her father Polonius, King Claudius' trusted, if foolish adviser, and Justin Blanchard as Ophelia's loving brother Laertes. Audience-favorite Whit Reichert plays the dryly funny gravedigger, who unearths the skull of poor Yorick, the jester. Mark Kelley and Matthew Folsom play the ill-fated Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, respectively.

The award-winning Jim Butz delivers a sometimes fiery, sometimes introspective Hamlet, and creates a riveting presence on stage. He squeezes every drop from Hamlet's famous "to be or not to be" speech, making it sound fresh and off-hand—a remarkable feat for a soliloquy that many theater audiences can recite.

See HAMLET, page 9

Hamlet

Jason Cannon as Horatio and Jim Butz as Hamlet in Shakespeare Festival St. Louis' "Hamlet"

A&E



COURTESY / J. DAVID LEVY

IN CONCERT

The Black Keys sell out Pageant show

The Black Keys' sold-out show on Thursday, June 10 at The Pageant made blues music look good in St. Louis. Members, Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney, rode into the River City and brought with them their brand of dirty blues from Akron, Ohio. The jam-packed crowd responded with cheers and elation.

The Black Keys opened with some of their older tunes, which the crowd loved. Guitarist and singer, Auerbach, was in command when he sang "10 A.M. Automatic" and "Girl is On My Mind." Patrick Carney, the drummer, impressed as he beat the trash out of his drum set. Auerbach kept the stage filled with guitar distortion on "Stack Shot Billy." From there, he strung the audience along with a guitar style that careened from loud and powerful to mellow and smooth. Just when it seemed The Black Keys were out of control, their sound smoothed and regained composure.

Auerbach also employed an overdrive pedal, which he depressed with his toe to blow his heavy blues riffs through the roof and into the stratosphere.

During the show, Auerbach churned out the guitar hooks and kept the crowd well enraptured. All bobbed their heads in unison and went crazy for songs like "Busted," "Next Girl," and "Howlin' for You," the last two are cuts from The Black Keys's newest album, 'Brothers' (Nonesuch Records). Another new tune, "10 Cent Pistol," featured an organ player who filled out the song's background with a palpable spooky vibe, perfect for the mellow and jazzy tune which erupts into a sinister depiction of a lover's quarrel.

It was the band's ability to mix older songs with newer ones that made their show special. While the older songs were a reflection of the group's roots, their newest asked listeners to dive headlong into the blues. Needless to say,



the crowd was more than ready to go overboard.

Auerbach triumphed through songs with gunshots for guitar lines. "Your Touch," a song from their first album, stood as one of the night's best. The group ended the show with two encore songs: "Everlasting Light," a new tune that sounded a lot like gospel, and "Till I Get My Way," a bluesy anthem with a throaty guitar line.

The Black Keys put on a show that was

worth seeing simply to witness the sheer ability of the musicians. They are the kind of group that play for fans and leave everything on stage. It was obvious that The Black Keys love to play, especially Auerbach who had a Jimi Hendrix aura hanging over him.

The Black Keys' Thursday performance at The Pageant was an impressive showing from a group that could easily make a home in St. Louis and retain their strong following.

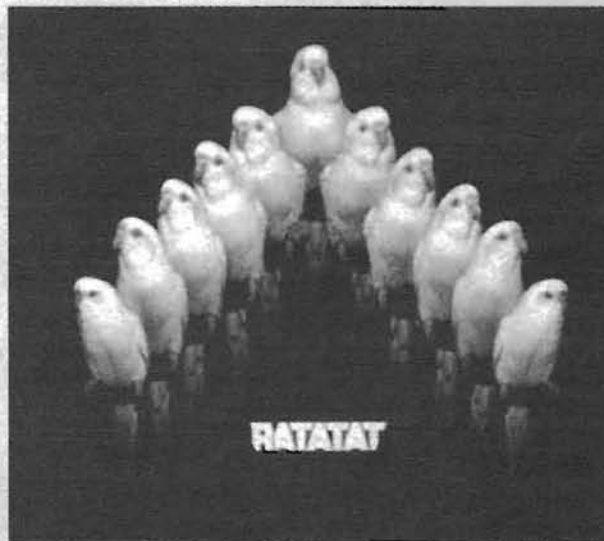
A- —Matt Bottchen

ALBUM RELEASE

Ratatat evolves, and still pleases fans with 'LP4'

Ratatat returns with its fourth feature length, "LP4" (XL). Here, duo Evan Mast and Mark Stroud offer listeners their signature brand of instrumental head-nodding drum and bass with dripping synth hooks and searing, late-eighties-TV-show guitar expertly layered over top. 'LP4' is loaded with aural blips, flourishes, cracks, pops and yelps, and yet, not one feels out of place.

Taken from the same sessions as 'LP3' (XL), 'LP4' like 'LP3' sounds more sonically filled-out compared to Ratatat's freshman and sophomore outings, and like these previous records, the band maintains their staggering attention to production. Nimble straddling the common ground between electronic, indie rock, and hip-hop, 'LP4' expands Ratatat's sound to develop a more eclectic world influence. Despite this, the early songs stick to the band's niche sound of background music that is paradoxically, imminently attention grabbing, as on opener "Bilar," with its strings, and rhythmic concussion, or "Drugs" with its silky keys, fuzzed out bass, psychedelica, and vanquishing evil-doers synth. While these are beautiful tracks, it is the second half of the



disc that utterly shines due to Ratatat's willingness to experiment.

Things get aesthetically more varied on "Neckbrace," which features some sublimely dingy scatting—not pooping, gutter-heads, but improvised Jazz singing—which sounds as though the "words" are falling from the leathery lips of a grand old elephant lumbering down the path on route to the watering hole. "Bob Gandhi" continues the world experimentation, with its tribal drumming and chill-out sitar guitar effect. However, the "chorus" (if one can call it that for lack of lyrics) forgoes cultural experimentation and explodes back into Ratatat's classic guitar propelled, cop-drama-car-chase, rip-chord fantasy hooks.

"Mandy," a pure electronic tune full of serene sonic

touches, and guitar light bending, has a sense of humor sure to make the inner fan smile, with its whirling high-end synth and groggy-mouth yawned, coming down grumbled accents. Things slow down a bit with the saccharine and dreamy "Manhalo," which offers wandering, Big Sur sounding Fender licks and surging Disney-esque piano swells. "Party With Children," the album's single, returns the disc to Ratatat's surge toward cultural experimentation, and sounds like a day spraying silly string up at the arched ceilings of Dracula's Transylvanian castle, complete with Doors keys and Donkey Kong drum and bass.

The final bit of 'LP4' offers a wonderful bleed of genre influence and in doing so features the album's best tracks. "Bare Feast" opens with a Middle Eastern string-stomp and keys, and evolves into a pastiche of their previous disco-fueled guitar leads with a worldly lilt. "Grape Juice City" offers tribal drums, more deliciously drab scatting, Rio De Janeiro organ work, and a loop of chirping island birds in the trees, all of which conjure the effect of riding on the back of a moped past cereal-pedaling toucans, run down houses, and sandy beach scapes. "Alps," the final track, a dreamy slip into the drift-away water, invites listeners to close their eyes and feel the lurching, wobble-pulse envelop them, with drooping daisy guitars and chamber keys.

'LP4' gives die-hard fans more of what they circle the watering hole for and employs a smattering of world influences culled from Rio to the Middle East, which dutifully work to push Ratatat's sound to new heights. It is their ability to evolve while constantly churning out a consistent blistering style, that sets Ratatat apart. On each subsequent outing, Ratatat gets tighter and stronger, and for a purely instrumental act, this is a magnificent feat to achieve. **A-** —Will Kyle

FILM



COURTESY / WARNER BROS.

'Get Him to the Greek' did not deliver

Director Nicholas Stoller brings another offbeat comedy in his latest, "Get Him to the Greek," where Stoller teams up with producer Judd Apatow. Sadly, we are far from the greatness found in some of Apatow's previous outings.

The plot plays as a spin-off from the film "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," directed by Stoller. In "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," the main character, Sarah Marshall, has been unfaithful to her long time boyfriend, with famous British rock star, Aldous Snow. In the midst of that film, a starstruck resort employee (Jonah Hill) makes a genuine attempt to please his idol.

"Get Him to the Greek" does not have a plot-based correlation with "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," but features Jonah Hill's character, Aaron, living in Los Angeles with girlfriend Daphne (Elisabeth Moss).

Aaron, aspiring to make it big in the music producing business, is called upon by his boss Sergio (Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs) to come up with an idea that will get the business more money. As a diehard fan of Infant Sorrow, Snow's band, Aaron suggests the label get Aldous Snow to play a tenth year anniversary show at the Los Angeles' Greek Theater. After initially being denied, Aaron's idea is approved, but it is decided he must have Snow make an appearance in New York on the Today Show and be back in Los Angeles for his anniversary show at the Greek Theater all within 72 hours.

If the movie were not overly profane and thoroughly perverted, throwing in a stereotypical rock star character whose life and career has deteriorated would give the rest of the movie an excuse for more. The rest of the movie follows the

duo's adventure from London to Los Angeles, as innocent Aaron attempts and fails to get an uncooperative Snow on schedule.

In the history of spin-offs, there has rarely been one that has come off as notable. In fact, most struggle as if hanging from a cliff and clawing to get back up. Unfortunately, "Get Him to the Greek" is no different. The movie represents another sad attempt to reel in an audience's money by dropping profanity every sentence, unnecessary nudity, drugs, and re-hashed 'party every night' attitudes. In another effort to hang by mediocrity's thread, cameos are made by stars such as Mario Lopez, Tom Felton, Pharrell Williams, Meredith Vieira and Kirsten Bell as Sarah Marshall. Ugh.

Comedy should be creative and original. This film was definitely not. **C-**—*Jen O'Hara*

More funny than scary

'Splice' slices and dices biotech

What if you updated "Frankenstein" with modern bioscience?

The new science-fiction horror flick "Splice" is essentially that, a modern version of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" with mad scientists making a monster not from dead bodies, but from bits of DNA from various species, including man.

This is the film's one fresh idea.

Rather than cloning, which means making identical copies, "Splice" uses genetic modification, inserting genes from one organism into another unrelated one; essentially the same technique used to create genetically-modified foods.

These are ironically called

"Frankenfoods" by Europeans.

Regardless, "Splice" is far more fiction than science. It is mostly a mash-up of scary flicks, including "Species," "Alien" and "Damien," thrown into a cinematic blender.

The result is supposed to be scary but is more a laugh-provoking mess.

Although "Splice" is often unintentionally laughable, it has a certain "ick" factor, thanks to a pair of modern mad scientists with an un-

healthy attachment to their bizarre offspring.

Two ambitious, ethically-challenged biotech hot shots, power couple Clive (Adrien Brody) and Elsa (Sarah Polley) head up a research lab funded by a private company. They are on a quest to create a novel life form to manufacture drugs to cure all of humanity's ills and problems, although what exactly this magic-bullet substance actually is remains vague.

See **SPLICE**, page 9

LATEST + GREATEST

MUSIC

Dirty South Dance 2 A-Trak



While this buoyant mixtape has been available as a free digital download on A-Trak's blog since May 17, it is more than worth mentioning because it offers a perfect dance blend that will keep any Electro-house-rap fan gyrating non-stop for approximately forty-seven minutes. Did we mention it is free! Snag it at djatrak.com



Expo 86 Wolf Parade

Due out June 29, Wolf Parade's third full-length is sure to feature more boisterous sonic dealings between lead men Spencer Krug and Dan Boeckner; guitar jangle, head bobbing drums, and deliciously layered keyboard hooks. Two of the tracks, "What Did My Lover Say," and "Ghost Pressure" are available streaming at Wolf Parade's Myspace. myspace.com/wolfparade

Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty Big Boi



"Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty" is coming out July 6 in the midst of a rights dispute with the record label Jive concerning three of the tracks, which include "Lookin' For Ya," and "Royal Flush," because they feature Andre 3000. Big Boi's newest will undoubtedly feature the rapper's trademark deep silky flow even if it does not include the aforementioned tracks, which, to Jive's chagrin, have been mysteriously leaked on the Internet.

MOVIES



Inception

"The Dark Knight" writer/director Christopher Nolan teams with Leonardo DiCaprio in a sci-fi thriller about a business built on entering people's dreams and stealing their thoughts. It opens in several theaters on July 16.



Winter's Bone

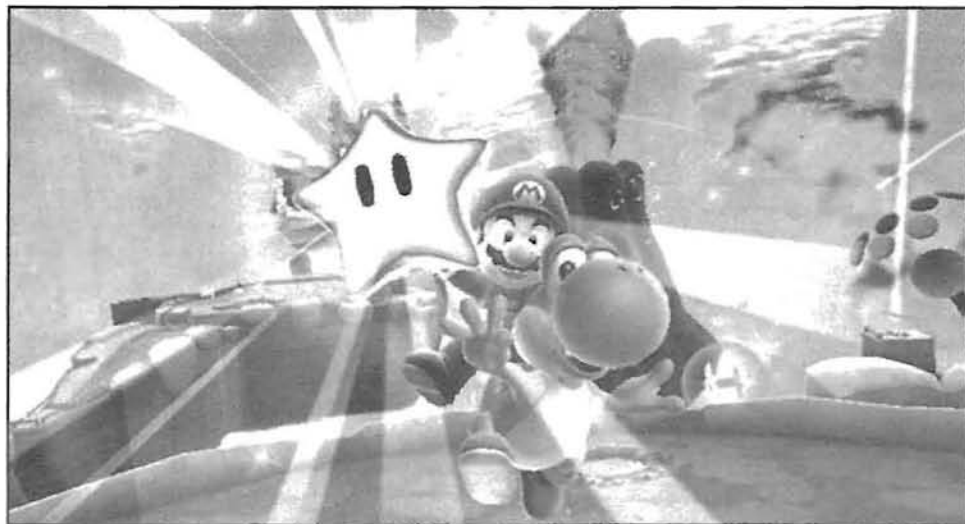
A big hit at this year's Sundance, this hard-hitting, fact-based, rural Missouri drama was filmed on location. It opens at the Tivoli on June 18.



The Last Airbender

This 3D movie based on Nickelodeon's popular animated action-fantasy series directed by M. Night Shyamalan, is already provoking mixed feelings amongst his fans. It opens in theaters July 2.

VIDEO GAMES



COURTESY / NINTENDO

Mario is back

'Super Mario Galaxy 2' Rises Above its Predecessor

The plumber is back for another installment of the trademark Nintendo franchise. Mario returns for the sequel to the 2007 smash hit, "Super Mario Galaxy," embarking on another epic quest to fight his arch nemesis Bowser and rescue his frequently kidnapped love interest, Princess Peach.

With its arrival on the Wii, "Super Mario Galaxy 2" is the first 3D Mario game to receive a sequel on the same system as its predecessor.

One of the most awaited games of the year, "Super Mario Galaxy 2" was released on May 23 and has already become a bestseller. But is all the hype worth the time and money?

Mario's newest adventure starts the same as the many other games in the series: Bowser invades the Mushroom Kingdom and kidnaps Princess Peach from her castle. After Bowser drags her to the center of the universe, Mario, as always, heads out on a quest to rescue her.

As in the original "Super Mario Galaxy," Mario sets off on his intergalactic journey,

but this time he captains a spaceship flying from galaxy to galaxy while collecting Power Stars. The Power Stars fuel Mario's ship so he can progress on his exciting expedition, setting him on a path to conquer the bigger than ever Bowser and his minions. However, this time, Mario is not alone, his brother, Luigi, returns as a playable character along with the beloved Yoshi.

To help collect Power Stars, Mario has a few tools in his arsenal. In his last space adventure, Mario had a handful of Power-Up options including, Bee Mario and Boo Mario, which return, but thankfully, Mario boasts a few new, more helpful abilities, such as Cloud Mario, which allows the plumber to create cloud platforms so he can get to new locations. There is also Rock Mario, which allows him to crush through his adversaries as well as any obstacles in his path.

Not to be left out, Yoshi also receives Power-Ups in the form of Dash Yoshi, which causes Yoshi to torpedo forward in a fiery blaze

after he eats spicy peppers. Blimp Yoshi inflates the dinosaur like a blimp and lifts Yoshi and Mario into the air allowing them to reach new heights.

"Super Mario Galaxy 2" stands beside some of the best Mario games in the franchise and certainly doesn't disappoint Mario fans. The title was not meant to break any boundaries for the franchise, and those disappointed with Mario's first Wii outing, probably will not like this one. The developers simply wanted to take what the fans loved about "Super Mario Galaxy" and double it for the sequel.

"Super Mario Galaxy 2" brings the fun with complex, imaginative levels, new game options, such as an expanded two-player mode, challenging obstacles, a mix of old-school Mario side-scrolling flair, Wii peripheral enhancements and a few creative surprises along the way. For all Mario fans, both casual and hardcore, "Super Mario Galaxy 2" is a standout in the franchise and definitely a game to add to the collection. **A**—Troy Peters

HAMLET, from page 6

Jason Cannon is masterful as Hamlet's rock-solid friend Horatio. Anderson Matthews is perfect as the bumbling, elderly plotter Polonius while John Renshouse as cunning King Claudius and Deanne Lorette as Queen Gertrude are both outstanding. Lorette's scenes with Butz Hamlet are some of the

most incendiary in the play. The actors even manage to capture the breezy friendship between Hamlet and Horatio, and the false merriment of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Wisely, the production is staged traditionally, in Elizabethan costume. The large set resembles a partially ruined castle with stairs, para-

pets and a balcony, allowing the action to take place on several levels.

The combat sequences are particularly powerful, with an energy and violence that sharpen the overall dramatic effect.

A better production of "Hamlet" has not been seen in St. Louis in years, if ever. **A**—Cate Marquis

SPLICE, from page 8



COURTESY / WARNER BROTHERS

Pressured by their benefactors to lay aside their costly research and move on to the profitable drug production phase, the couple ignore legal and ethical considerations and secretly continue their experiments to create the next level of lab-created life, mixing in human DNA this time.

No need for invaders from space when you can make your own monster right here.

When the experiment results in a violent but fast-growing organism, surmising fast-growth means a short-life span, the couple decides to keep the creature hidden. As scientists, they clearly feel the rules do not apply to them, and as a romantic unit, have some complex emotional baggage and inner demons to deal with. But as one of them queries, "What's the worst that could happen?"

The first time the little experiment appears on screen, in a dress and being held like a toddler balanced on a mother's hip, it is obvious that this cannot end well.

But the film deteriorates quickly from there. Scenes clearly intended to be fraught with tension are more likely to leave audiences mocking rather than gasping from fright, as one predictable horror bit after another trots out.

The film starts out in a sleek world that screams both money and cutting-edge biotechnology. These hip, successful scientists, who proudly call themselves nerds, have a convincingly state-of-the-art lab, and live in a quirky apartment full of high-tech toys. But glass-walled conference rooms soon give way to old abandoned barns, half-lit woods with swampy pools and other familiar horror film

trappings.

What exactly the gifted Adrien Brody is doing in this dumb, bizarre mess is anyone's guess. He and Sarah Polley do their best, but it is hard to salvage this absurd plot. French model and singer Delphine Chaneac plays the adolescent version of the creature, named Dren, who like Frankenstein's creation starts out mute, communicating through clicks and purrs. Her eerie part-human CGI creature is one of the few genuinely scary things in the film.

Not having enough of catastrophe in one round, the story even sets up for a sequel, using that same line, "What's the worst that can happen?" If one were to apply this thinking to "Splice" in the hopes that it would be scary rather than unintentionally laughable, the answer is "plenty." **C**—Cate Marquis



Photos by Jennifer Meahan

Hallways to *Runways*

Sarah Estoque: Model student

► JEN O'HARA
Features Editor

For a twenty-two year old, Sarah Estoque has quite the resume including modeling, traveling, volunteering and multiple education interests. For someone living in the Philippines for eighteen years, she is about to make her mark here in the United States.

The Current: What are you studying at the University of Missouri St. Louis? What do you like most about it?

Sarah Estoque: I'm majoring in psychology and minoring in anthropology and organiza-

tional management.

I like studying people and what motivates them and all of that. I would like to work in a human resource department and then I'm planning to work for one or two years. Then, probably pursue my master's in industrial organizational psychology.

I chose UMSL because I knew it had a great psychology program and through the years I've really grown to the degree of academic flexibility at the school. It also allows me to pursue other interests, taking courses in various skills of study.

TC: How did you

get into modeling?

SE: My mom, when she was younger, modeled. When I was in the Philippines, they made me model there when I was little, but then I stopped.

When I came here to the United States, a photographer was insisting to [have me model].

Then I got my portfolio done, and I got in some agencies, and I started from there, and got some jobs. From that point, I liked modeling.

I like meeting new people, and who doesn't like being dressed up and being pretty? I like the part where you travel



too, and just seeing the end product. Professionally, I've been doing it for five, six years.

TC: So, your mother is a famous Latin singer back in the Philippines. Can you tell us a little about her?

SE: She's really a good performer. She's not just doing it for work. It's like living her passion to please the audience. She's there to please everybody and just giving her all, and really gives

everybody a good performance.

TC: Where else have you traveled before?

SE: I've been to Asia. I've seen the ugly sides of it. When I was there, I'd usually do community involvement for kids who were unfortunate and teach them how to read. Or after floods and all of that stuff, we usually try to respond. You know, help them out [by sending] food and all that. Just help out as a volunteer, that kind of stuff.

TC: Who is a big inspiration in your life?

SE: My family. They are my inspiration in everything. Whenever I think about them, I think about working [harder]. People want a successful life. For me, being successful means if I'm able to help my family someday, I can say that I'm successful. They are really my number one priority.

TC: What goals do you hope to achieve in the future?

SE: I would like to, of course, help my family, have a stable career, own my own restaurant. I would like to have more like an international cuisine [restaurant], like each continent has its own signature cuisine. There's so much people [do all] over the world, and that inspires me. I cook my own food, I don't really go out that much, but when I go out, I try different cuisines. I'm not scared to try anything. I like that kind of thrill.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Millennium Student Center has what all students need

► **MATT BOTTCHEN**
Staff Writer

The Millennium Student Center is more than just a good place to get lunch on campus.

"The building contains all student service offices, the campus bookstore, a cafeteria and conference and meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 400 people," said Thomas George, Chancellor.

"The student center was built in 2000 at the suggestion of the students who advocated for centralized ser-

vices and community space," George said.

Before its construction, student services were spread throughout the campus, and there was inadequate space for meetings and socialization.

The building cost \$32 million to build. Funding was provided by the campus in general, along with a student fee that students approved in a campus wide referendum. The referendum received the most participation in campus history.

"Students I've spoken with think the Millennium

Student Center is one of the greatest assets on campus. It's certainly changed the culture of the campus in a positive way," George said.

The student center houses the records and registration office, the admissions office, the financial aid office and the student government hall. On the first floor, the student center has two television rooms, an Internet chat room, and also the Nosh, where students can get something to eat.

"It really helps with streamlining my day because all the offices are right there,"

sCasey Jovick, senior, English said. "It's really good for getting something to eat and using the Internet or doing an on-line test review at the same time. I like it. It's very user friendly. It works for me."

Jovick said that he always gets prompt service when he goes to the records or financial aid offices. He said that it is why it works well for him as a commuter because he can get in and get out easily.

"That's where I take care of business and get something to eat." Jovick said.

Other students have simi-

lar opinions on the student center.

"The downstairs area with all the tables is pretty chill and the bridge is nice. It's really convenient," said Jeff Yates, graduate student, secondary education.

He said it is one of the nicer student centers he has been to.

He graduated from the University of Missouri Columbia, and said that the Millennium Student Center is nicer than the student center they had there. He also said that UM-Columbia has since

renovated its student center.

According to the student centers' website, the student center also houses student health and support services, disability access services, the student life office, and counseling services.

The first floor of the student center also holds the Pilot House where concerts and other student events are held, and the Gallery Visio, which serves as the student art gallery, and a game room.

Around St. Louis this month

Galileo and the Church:

Cardinal's Games

Hamlet

Around UMSL this month

Child Trauma Colloquium Series

Melissa Jonson-Reid, professor and director of the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention for the school of social work at Washington University, will talk about child maltreatment, education, and how we should construct the systems for both. She will be here June 17 from 8:30-10 a.m.

UM-St. Louis Girls' Leadership Camp

This camp running on June 20, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for \$125, will help to build leadership by giving an opportunity to interact with other participants throughout the camp. Education about successful career women will also be provided for participants to learn how to make intelligent choices.

Starting a Small Business: The First Steps

This session will give necessary tips for starting a business. Opportunities for evaluating one's own strengths and weaknesses will be introduced during the session, in addition to essential information about funding and regulatory requirements for opening a business. It is being held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center on June 18, 2010 from 1-4 p.m. for an admission fee of \$40.

Back to school, back to scholarships

Making the most of student resources; Finding out all there is to know about scholarships

►STEPHANIE BENZ
Staff Writer

Scholarships: college students all want them, compete for them and search for them. They are not always easy to find, but they are the best way for college students to control the monster of student loan debt. Rarely would a student turn down a scholarship to the school of his or her choice, yet not every student is collecting scholarship money. The main reason is that scholarships are not always easy to find. A new school year is approaching quickly, and students should be aware of the ins and outs of scholarship searching.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis offers a general scholarship application that can be found at www.umsl.edu under the financial aid link. Many departments take applicants from this pool of applications. When looking for scholarships, students should always check with their individual college or department for opportunities that may be available.

In addition to scholarships offered through UM St. Louis, there are endless opportunities for scholarships available through other sources. This availability is especially true since the emergence of the Internet. FastWeb.com

is one of the most popular sites used to browse available scholarships and to put in applications. Students agree that online maneuvering can in fact be the best way to find more information, "In the past I've looked online, [scholarships] are all over the place," John Manning, freshman, said.

This process leads to an important topic, scholarship applications. When scholarship applications are reviewed, they are judged against all of the other applicants. For this reason, an impressive application is the key to receiving any aid. "[Success in applying] has a

lot to do with how aggressive you are in applying; making sure that application is flawless," Jason Bornhop, UM St. Louis Director of Scholarships, said. Students must use applications as a way to sell themselves.

"Tell us, what are you planning to do with this?" asked Bornhop.

Specifics are vital and taking the time to write a well-developed essay could make all of the difference when being compared to other students on paper.

Finding money for college can be serious, but students should not give up hope. There are scholarships for ev-

erything imaginable. There are scholarships given to students every year for being tall, being short, being a twin or having an outstanding recipe. Every year, the Chick and Sophie Major Memorial Duck Calling contest awards the student with the best duck call \$1,500 towards school tuition. The Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck on Prom contest offers \$6,000 to the couple who creates the best of prom attire strictly out of duct tape. As a last example, the Klingon Language Institute offers \$500 per year in scholarship money to a student showing marks of high achievement that is entering

the field of language study.

A key for students is to stay persistent, be aggressive and start tackling scholarship applications as early as possible. Now is the time for students to begin planning scholarships for the fall of 2011. Students should make a valiant effort to resubmit applications every year. Asking as many questions as needed to understand the world of student financial aid may take time, but it will make all the difference when assessing student loan debt after graduation.

New baseball field aids recruitment

From disappointment to a new field and a promising future

► RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Triton baseball players ended their season this year with a dismal overall record of 15-37 and went 11-21 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference play. This was the team's sixth losing season since Jim Brady became head coach 26 years ago. According to Coach Brady, the poor record resulted from their closer's sudden departure just before second semester and an inability to find an adequate replacement until it was too late in the

season.

A record well below .500 and a void where a reliable closer should be puts this team in a rebuilding frame of mind. Recruiting will be essential during the off-season. The team will not only need to find a reliable closer, but also must fill the gaps left by the team's eight graduating seniors. Brady and those around him remain cautiously optimistic about the team's outlook for 2011. However, thanks in no small part to the brand new field and the implications that it will have for recruiting.

"Five years ago," Lori Fla-

nagan, director of athletics, said, "if you were a baseball player looking at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and you looked at this campus, you would say to yourself, 'Where am I going to practice? Where am I going to play?' There was nothing here."

The Tritons were forced to practice wherever they could find a field, sometimes having to drive all the way to Edwardsville, Ill. Other times, they would practice on a parking lot or throw long balls on UM-St. Louis' tennis courts.

But now there is a field,

an impressive one at that, and Coach Brady is excited to show off the "crown jewel of a stadium," as he referred to it. The stadium, completed in spring of 2009, has bleacher seating for 200 and an elevated press box. The field has served the Tritons for one season of play, but this off-season will be the first time the top-of-the-line facility has been available to help sway high school and junior college players to come play for Brady at UM-St. Louis.

During the Tritons' off-season, the new stadium hosts tournaments for regional prospect teams, sum-

mer teams composed of the best high school and junior college players. This brings future college players to the campus earlier and allows UM-St. Louis to make a good first impression. These tournaments also allow Brady to scout out and make connections with 30 or so top young players in one weekend in one place. Previously, he had to travel to nine or ten places over a span of three or four days, meeting only one or two players of interest at each stop. Now the talent comes to him.

"Our talent level is not what it was back in the early

2000s, when we were a perennial top 20 team," Brady said. "We have been just a notch below and part of that was we didn't have the facility and couldn't attract ... But now we can get back to where we were. It's a process. It takes time."

Their time could very well be as early as 2011. Director Flanagan said she recently saw Brady giving a tour of the facilities to a high school prospect with the physique and hopefully the talent of Los Angeles' ace closer Jonathan Broxton. "[Brady] told me," Flanagan said, "if he signs, yup, he's our closer."



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The UM-Saint Louis Baseball Field was completed in 2009 and is the newest athletic addition on campus.

Classrooms may be empty, but the gym is heating up

► **STEPHANIE BENZ**
Staff Writer

School is out, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis basketball programs are offering camps to remedy summer boredom while sharpening athletic skills in the off-season.

Camps will be held for both boys and girls in the Mark Twain Gymnasium during the months of June and July.

The camps will be led by UM-St. Louis head basketball coaches and their staff members. These will also feature instruction from top college and high school coaches along with outstanding college players.

The girls basketball camp will be overseen by UM-St. Louis women's basketball head

coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor and her staff. The camp will be held June 21-24 and is open for girls ages 7-17. Registration will be open until the first day of camp. The camp is open to all skill levels and will focus on fundamentals as well as contests and games. There is a registration fee of \$120, which will include a camp T-shirt until they run out. Campers are asked to bring tennis or basketball shoes, a water bottle, and if the camper chooses to stay for an optional hour of swimming after camp dismissal, a swimsuit and towel.

The program is growing at a strong rate. "Enrollment has doubled this year [from last year]," Coach Curliss-Taylor said.

For the boys, there are even more available camp dates. A shooting camp is being offered

from July 6-9 for those who are looking to improve on the essential fundamental. Individual boys' camps are also being held from both July 19-23 and July 26-30. These camps will have a stronger emphasis on game-play and drills. All three camps will be open to boys ages 8-16.

There is a registration fee of \$150 per session. Certain discounts may apply for campers who have a brother attending the same camp, or who have a parent or grandparent working at UM-St. Louis.

UM-St. Louis men's basketball head coach Steve Tappmeyer and his staff will be in charge of the activities for the boys camps. Men's basketball assistant coach Dale Ribble is anticipating a great turnout and is excited

for his first year coaching the camp. "We're really looking forward to it," Coach Ribble said.

Information on both camps, including printable brochures, can be found at www.umsl.edu under the athletics tab. Applications should be returned to the UM-St. Louis Athletics Office as soon as possible. At both camps, an athletic trainer will be available at all times.

There will also be optional swimming available for campers between the hours of 4-5 p.m. Lunch will not be provided, but can be brought from home or purchased onsite. Coach Curliss-Taylor, Coach Tappmeyer, or any of their assistant coaches or other staff members should be contacted with any questions.

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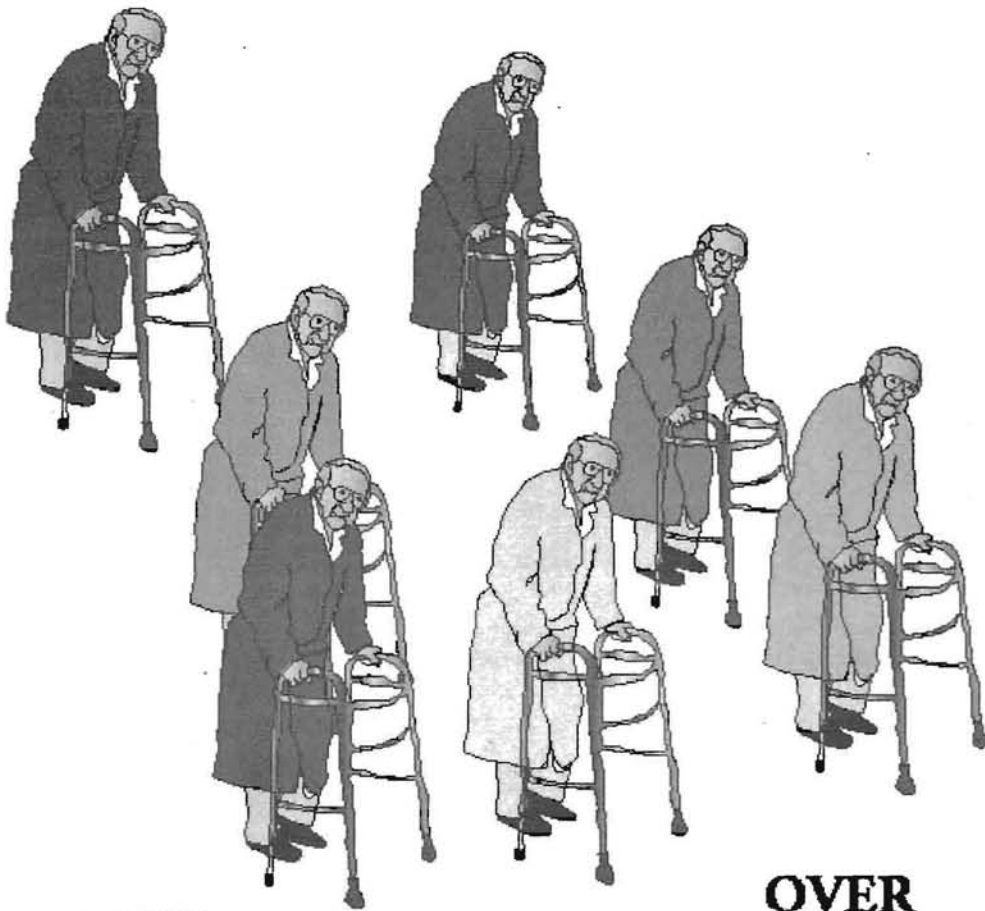
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The Touhill: The arts go insular

Dissecting the Touhill



OVER THE BLANCHE M. TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Illustration by Zachary James Kraft

As many know, the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center sits nestled on the north side of campus and offers the University of Missouri-St. Louis top-shelf performing arts. But it is a safe bet few have attended a show. Why is this?

Is it because the events are too stuffy? Too artsy? Perhaps the space feels too ritzy and confuses students into thinking they have arrived at the wrong university.

Let us sample the Touhill's calendar. On June 19, the a capella group, The Ambassadors of Harmony, perform. On June 26 and 27 is "The Sleeping Beauty," and about a month later Michael McDonald plays (do we really need any more '80s, doctor's office-waiting-room, Motown?).

The calendar continues in this stuffy vein. But why does the Touhill, home to the both the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall (1,600 seats) and the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee

Theater (350 seats) host only dance and world music events? The answer is because someone (with money) says so. But who decides which and what kind of acts are allowed to perform?

According to its website, the Touhill's mission statement claims: "The Touhill offers quality arts and entertainment from across the spectrum of the performing arts genres," but upon examining the calendar, one can see this lacks truth.

Where is the hip-hop? Where is the sub-Pageant indie rock? Where is the punk rock or heavy metal? Where are the large national acts that the Touhill, "...known for incredible sight lines and near-perfect acoustics" could easily accommodate? Michael McDonald cannot be the closest the Touhill comes to something students would readily deem hip, but even this is a stretch, like trying to see Pluto through a peeping-tom telescope swiped from Sports Authority.

But yes, the Touhill is meant to be a cultural Mecca. A place where high society types can come rub elbows and watch string quartets with the volume turned low and the wine and cheese piled high.

This all feeds into the notion that the Touhill feels like a deviously insular arts community. It appears partitioned, unconnected to the rest of the college. One senses this when walking into the space, where the economic disparity between the rest of UM-St. Louis' campus and the pristine, beautifully designed Touhill Arts Center become painfully apparent. The space just seeps, almost sings "we are better than you because we put on lofty performing arts shows that the UM-St. Louis community is not interested because they, you, are all ravenous-grubby heathens looking to drink up, smoke out and dance like hyenas in heat." This was not taken from their website, merely suggested by the space itself.

Clearly, the board wants to keep the space in mint condition. Or perhaps they believe students would not attend a popular music event at the Touhill, thus rendering planning one moot.

Whatever the reason, it would be wonderful to see the Touhill act as a community installation rather than some walled off, infallible Wizard of Oz shadow figure, keeping the arts snobby and common interest distanced. The Touhill needs to offer students performing arts they will salivate over and shell-out money to see, but then again, the Touhill might not be concerned with capturing the hearts and minds of the UM-St. Louis community, but hey, why not their cash? Maybe the Touhill wants to disavow UM-St. Louis completely, unhook from the mother ship, and fly to a conservatory far, far away.

Why Pujols makes \$14 million a year and school teachers eat soup for every meal



Jen O'Hara

When I see the Cardinals land a three base run, or make a comeback after being down by four, the tomboy and St. Louis pride inside me send my heart fluttering and adrenaline rushing.

When the game is said and done (or sometimes during), the nerd inside of me is

appalled.

Are we really paying Pujols \$14 million a year to hit a ball?

The United States is notorious for being frivolous and full of consumption hungry people.

For years, that has now become true of United States professional sports teams.

Back when sports first began as something professional, players generally got slightly above average pay. These days, salaries are outrageous.

Personally, it would make sense to give millions to careers that have more of an impact on our lives.

On average, doctors make approximately two-hundred

thousand dollars a year, while teachers make an average of forty thousand dollars, according to payscale.com.

On the flip-side, USA Today reports that the total payroll for the New England Patriots in 2009 was \$97,565,413 with the median pay coming in at \$829,780. Our own St. Louis Cardinals median salary comes in at a staggering \$1,000,000.

Doctors spend years in school and hours trying to promote health in our lives, and teachers work hours every day to be a part of the upbringing of children.

Yet, one player on a team makes more than five doctors or more than twenty teachers?

In the same sense, we can compare athletes to celebrities, who are being paid mega bucks for looking pretty.

Another highly disturbing figure, the salary of President Barack Obama, is about \$400,000 per year.

Granted, he has several benefits outside of his salary, but it would still make more sense to pay millions of more dollars to the person running our entire country than to pay a single professional athlete.

As entertaining as sports can be, and as hard as professional athletes work, it is sickening to think about all we could do with money that is going toward players.

Among the millions of

things we could be putting funds towards medical needs, such as cancer research.

As much trouble as the United States is having with education funds, perhaps if we were not paying millions to athletes, our dollars could be benefiting the country as a whole.

Even the oil spill in the Gulf could have reaped benefits at this very moment from the extra money.

Sports these days could easily be compared to Hollywood.

The difference seems to be that hundreds of sports professionals are still "in it for the sport" and fame has "nothing to do with it."

At least most of Holly-

wood admits they are getting paid for making appearances.

Even worse, if we want to buy into the entertainment industry and pay big money, why on earth are we paying so high for bad athletes?

Not to mention any names, but a certain, recent ex-quarter back of the Rams was paid over six million dollars last year.

It is understandable for players to have somewhat of a comparatively high pay rate.

Several athletes travel a lot during the year, and some of what they earn is sure to go toward medical expenses.

However, what professional athletes get paid is well over-compensated for their "troubles."

What's Bean Happening

Welcome to issue 1314 of *The Current!*

This is the first issue of the 2010-2011 school year and the first issue of my chief editorship.

I am very proud to serve the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus and honored to be the first black editor-in-chief of *The Current* in its 44

year history. While there was no "Obama moment" for me, it is still an overwhelming feeling being a part of something greater than you.

I'd like to thank everyone who voted me into this position and for trusting me with our paper.

For that, I am forever grateful and I will not let you



Sequita Bean

down.

I have a ton of new things planned for *The Current* this year.

Last year's editor, Jessica Keil bravely switched us from broadsheet format to the easily readable tabloid which we received vast amounts of positive comments about.

This year we're sticking with tabloid and taking our design aesthetic to the next level.

We're launching *Current TV*, a YouTube channel dedicated to giving our readers a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in our newsroom, interview clips and clips of the concerts reviewed in A&E.

We're also launching *Current Secret*, a service similar to PostSecret for students to post their secrets anonymously on our website to be published in the paper. On our website, there will be an "Editor's Blog" that I will post on weekly with my thoughts on each issue.

The blog will be a great way for readers to send me feedback as well.

Also in the works is our website re-design, more structured sections and new page layouts in the paper. Starting in August, the news section will be expanded to include not only campus news, but news that covers the community surrounding our campus.

The Current's staff is expanding and our minds are brainstorming more ideas, so stay tuned! All of these changes will be launched in the Fall.

Again, I cannot stress enough about how proud I am to serve the campus community.

I know this job will be tough, challenging and sometimes stressful, but I am 100 percent dedicated to this job.

In the editor-in-chief's office at *The Current* there is an old, barely noticeable, charred brick on the top of one of the shelves.

That brick is from *The Current's* old office at 7940 Natural Bridge Rd., which was burned down by an arsonist in 1997.

For nearly 13 years editors-in-chief and staff members have come and gone but that brick sits indistinctly on the shelf.

So whenever things get too hard, too stressful or overwhelming for me, that brick will be a reminder of where the past editors-in-chief have been and how far we at *The Current* has come.

Sequita Bean is Editor in Chief of The Current.

The Current is like a beautiful diverse rainbow of different voices and ideas. A rainbow that brings you the news every week.

SCIENCE MATTERS

How bad could the BP spill get?

It's this century's Exxon Valdez, it's this decade's Katrina, and it's still going on



Cate Marquis

Will the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico be a wake-up call for change or a harbinger of things to come?

What would be the best-case or worst-case scenarios? Now approaching two months in duration, creating such scenarios is hampered by a lack of clear information on how much oil has been

spilled. The on-going nature of the spill and its indeterminate end, the unprecedented range of the oil and unknown effects of the chemicals used to disperse it.

Scientists studying the spill have been frustrated by a lack of access to government data on the disaster, but NOAA now plans to set a website to provide some information. Because the disaster is unprecedented, we have no guide for what effect it will have on the Gulf and coastal ecosystem.

The deep-sea gusher has brought comparisons to the Exxon Valdez spill, although it has already surpassed that disaster in volume of oil spilled.

But they are far different events. The Exxon Valdez

disaster was a one-time spill of a defined amount of oil in a confined area over a fairly short period of time. It despoiled a pristine beach in a lightly inhabited area.

This spill in the Gulf impacts a very different ecosystem, a populated area in a semi-tropical climate, a complex environment where a variety of species co-exist with a vibrant fishing industry and recreational area. It is not a pristine area but has lived with oil spills for some time, although not on this scale.

And the BP spill may go on for several more months. Recent estimates of the amount of oil pouring into the Gulf compare to an Exxon Valdez spill taking place every 8-10 days.

Time is a factor, as the oil

reaches currents that will take it around the tip of Florida and up the eastern coast, according to NOAA models. The weather may play a role, as the approaching hurricane season may impact the spilled oil or efforts to contain the gusher.

Several huge plumes of oil have been spotted floating in the gulf, although their effects are unknown.

Since the spill began, over 200 sea turtles and almost 30 marine mammals have been found dead in the gulf. The timing of the spill was particularly bad, as endangered species, like sea turtles, are migrating through the area. The whole range of marine life may be impacted long-term.

Dispersants cause oil to

sink to the sea floor, so there is concern about its impact on life there, like clams and mussels.

Coastal wetlands around the Gulf of Mexico have faced environmental degradation for decades but this is a big challenge. Natural systems, like microbes that breakdown oil and grasslands and barrier islands that have played a protective role, may be overwhelmed. Killing marsh grasses and coating the coastal sediment in oil could have devastation effects on that ecosystem.

Best-case scenario looks like a severe impact on the Gulf shore ecosystem lasting decades.

The worst-case scenario is a permanently altered envi-

ronment, with severely reduced wildlife.

Optimistically, the disaster may serve as the wake-up call to finally move the country to break our addiction to oil. With the easy oil all gone, this hard-to-reach stuff is what we have left.

Deep-water drilling will always carry a higher risk.

Pessimistically, we have a past history that indicates we have a great capacity for doing nothing, to going back to what we have been doing, without making any meaningful changes. After the Exxon Valdez, there was a flurry of immediate action but it died out.

The real best-case for the Gulf is to prevent another spill. Better yet, just get off the oil.

Dear Republican Party : Stop gay hypocrisy



Andrew Seal

Let's pretend for a moment that Congress is a big house.

A big house where all its occupants constantly bicker and disagree on how best to run the house, and for the most part, they refuse to work together.

In the left wing of the house are the liberals and Democrats, both reading the news and trying to understand how they "run" the

media if all the media does is criticize what they do.

The Tea Party is in the kitchen, excited that their first few recipes have turned out. They are already dreaming of being world-famous chefs.

Obama and Biden are like the patriarch and matriarch of the family, desperately trying to keep their wild children under control and working together.

Also, this matriarch drinks a lot and likes to curse on national television.

The right wing of the house is extremely noisy, but very empty because the majority of the GOP and its ally, the Moral Majority, have all shut themselves in the coat closet.

It is awfully loud in the closet, with each member

shrilly proclaiming his or her heterosexuality even as they grope each other in the dark. You see, the GOP has built this closet out of homophobia and intolerance.

They have so thoroughly convinced themselves that anything and everything homosexual is an affront to God and man, especially that "gay marriage" nonsense. Those heathen second-class citizens wanting the same rights as God-fearing Republican citizens? Hah!

This, of course, means a very awkward situation if you happen to be homosexual and right-leaning.

Take former Republican Senator Larry Craig, for example. Instead of coming out of the closet, he decided to reach underneath an airport men's room stall to try for

some man-on-senator action.

Or there is the Rev. Ted Haggard, founder of the New Life Church and former leader of the powerful National Association of Evangelicals.

Due to his strong stance against homosexuality and gay marriage in particular, he was only able to relax from the stress of his day-to-day life with the help of some crystal meth and a male prostitute.

Speaking of male prostitutes, let us not discount the new poster boy for rentboy-com, George Rekers, who took his new Internet boy toy across Europe with him to carry his bags and provide nude massages.

Rekers also happens to be a psychologist who not only believes that homosexuality can be "cured," but has also

testified that gay and lesbian people are unsuited for parenthood.

While it is always fun to catch die-hard Republicans with their pants around their ankles, it does make sense that the GOP would be against homosexuality though.

If allowed throughout the United States, gay marriage would destroy the sacred institution of marriage—much the same way that divorce has done.

Just look at that bastion of Republicanism, that titan of matrimony Rush Limbaugh. This man is so committed to the sanctity and finality of marriage that he has done the deed four times now. With four different women!

It is like anti-gay marriage activists say: Marriage

is between one man and one woman. And another woman. And another. And another.

Rush can be forgiven, though. The "till death do we part" and "in sickness and in health" parts of the "traditional" marriage vows probably got lost among the 60 page prenup.

If the Republicans want to "win back" this country, the first thing they need to do is stop the hypocrisy and get with the program: Marriages between gay people can be a mistake. But so can marriages between so-called "straight" people.

Andrew Seal is Staff writer for The Current.

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, June 14

UMSL Soccer Camp - Session II on June 14, 2010 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Located on Soccer Fields. Open to all.

UMSL soccer is pleased to offer three sessions of youth soccer camps this summer for kids ages 5-18. Each 4-day camp session will be broken down into age appropriate groups including: Juniors (boys and girls ages 5-7), Academy (boys and girls ages 8-13) and Girls Prep (girls only ages 14-18). Half day and full day options are available. The camp dates are as follows: Session I June 7 - 10 Session II June 14 - 17 and Session III July 5 - 9. Discounts are available for the children and grandchildren of UMSL Faculty and Staff! For more information about the camp and for registration details please visit umslsoc-cercamps.weebly.com or call 314-516-5646.

Thursday, June 17

Travel Writing: Journaling on June 17, 2010 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Located 63 University Center. Open to all.

Participants will learn how to create three-dimensional, written memories by using rich sensory details and the emotions that they evoke. Special tips for scrapbookers will also be covered.

For Info: Raina Traore-Gress at 314-516-5974

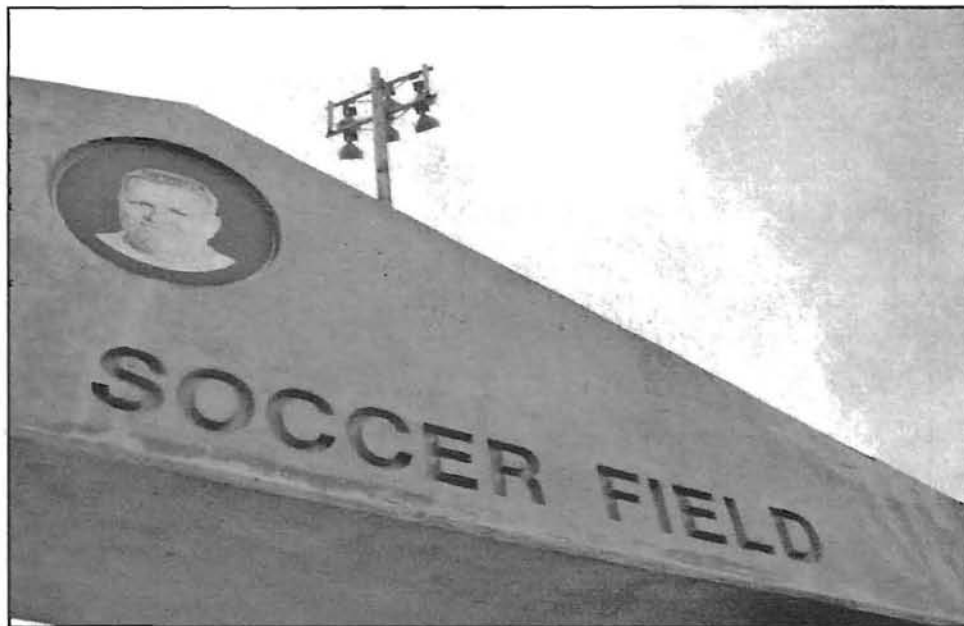
Friday, June 18

Tai Chi Qigong at Noon on June 18, 2010 12:00 to 12:30 PM

Located at Room 119 Benton Hall. Open to all.

This Tai Chi Qigong session is a blending of meditation, breathing, and slow fluid movements incorporated into a 30-minute set with an emphasis on the breathing. This practice is FREE and open to all UMSL faculty, staff, and students. It is suitable for people of all sizes, ages, and fitness levels. No previous experience or special clothing is needed. The practice begins at NOON. If no participants have arrived by 12:05pm, the instructor will assume no one is coming and the practice will be canceled. Email Linda Gatson at gatsonl@umsl.edu for more information.

For Info: Linda Gatson (gatsonl@umsl.edu) at 314-516-5091



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The Don Dallas Soccer Field was named after former head coach Don Dallas, who coached the team for 23 years.

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