

The Current

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WAR ON PARKING

BY JESSICA KEIL
AND MATT POPOSKY



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

For a commuter school, the issue of parking on campus is not inconsequential. Students complain that spaces are sparse, shuttle buses are unreliable and passes are needlessly expensive. At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the swift parking ticketing from the department of Parking and Transportation increases the complaints. Whether or not the complaints or tickets are warranted is another source of debate, and the War on Parking continues to be waged at UM-St. Louis.

Some students say that the cost to park on campus is unfairly high:

"The parking prices are ridiculous. I'm taking 17 hours, and I pay over 300 dollars for one semester," Bradley Hult, sophomore, psychology and vocal performance, said.

Others say the cost of parking at UM-St. Louis is average:

"I usually pay around 200 dollars for a parking pass per semester. I've never gone to another school, so I don't have a com-

parison, but I imagine prices are pretty high everywhere," Derick Allison, junior, graphic design, said.

Some students say they cannot find parking, even after they pay for the pass:

"The first day I had a parking pass at UMStL, I was late for class because of trying to find a spot. I looked all over—the MSC, parking garages, etc.—and it still took 20 minutes to find a spot," Mike Nelson, senior, media studies, said.

And then others attest that there are al-

ways parking spots to be found:

"There's plenty of parking; it just may not be close necessarily, but walk some. It's good for you. I can always find parking in the second garage on East Drive," Erhan Chou, senior, criminology, said.

Chou, it could be assumed, is a reliable student to speak with when it comes to parking at UM-St. Louis; he is the chief justice of the Student Court.

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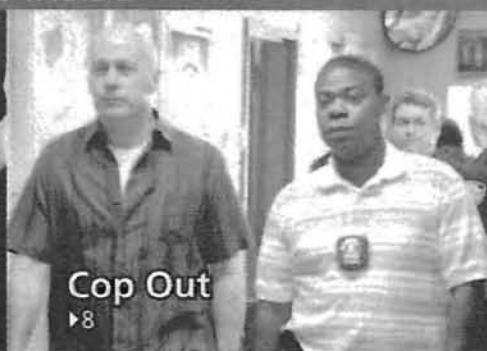
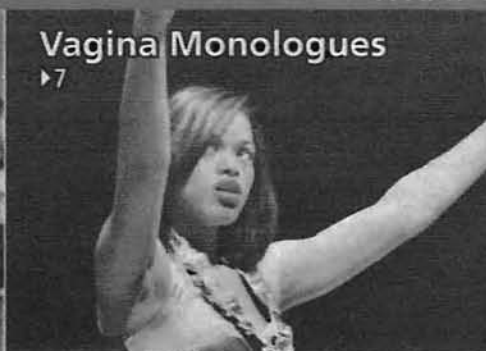
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FROM PAGE 1

As the chief justice, Chou makes the ultimate decision on the hundreds of parking ticket appeals that stack up in his office every semester.

"[At] my first meeting as chief justice, we had seven [ticket appeals]. The second [meeting], we had 128," Chou said. "The next one, we still had a sizable stack. I haven't counted them but ... we have a lot of appeals on hand."

Chou has heard all the excuses for parking mishaps at UM-St. Louis. He said most of them are "sob stories" and adamantly asserts that parking spots on campus

are never impossible to find, citing laziness from commuters who do not want to park in the garages. Nevertheless, even Chou agrees that the price for parking might be too high.

"I think the prices are a bit high when we compare ourselves to other campuses. Even though we are a commuter school, it's still kind of high ... If you're taking full time classes with 16 credit hours per semester, you're paying 288 [dollars] per semester, whereas at other schools you will pay like, 150, for a year, which is considerably less," Chou said.

Missouri S&T, a school in the same University of Missouri system as UM-St. Louis and with the same president, pays nearly half what UM-St. Louis students do for parking.

That president is Gary Forsee, who visited the UM-St. Louis campus Wednesday in part to talk with students about their college experience at a formal, invitation only, luncheon. The first issue of concern brought up by the students in the luncheon was parking. And the first issue of concern brought up when Forsee visited UM-Kansas City and Missouri

S&T? Parking.

"When I hear it three times in a row, and it's the first thing that comes up, then yeah, probably I'll take a look at that," Forsee said.

And as Forsee takes a look at parking concerns in the UM-System, UM-St. Louis will be holding parking forums next week to get more input from students on the issue.

What will come of the forums is unknown. Check back next week for the outcome, and until then, steer clear of the heated War on Parking, or its likely you will get clipped.

UM-St. Louis plays part in Hispanic population study

St. Louis universities make bid as Hispanic population grows

▶ CHRIS STEWART
Staff Writer

Universities are growing in order to adapt to the growing Hispanic population throughout the nation. The University of Missouri-St. Louis is no exception.

"African Americans aren't the only minority here, even though sometimes it seems like the university acts like that," Lauren Rodriguez, sophomore, anthropology, said.

In light of this, Rodriguez and a handful of other students have been working to start a UM-St. Louis chapter of the National Latino Scholars organization. And they are not the only ones championing the cause.

A handful of faculty from UM-St. Louis, St. Louis University (SLU) and Washington University has begun a unique collaborative research effort. Called the St. Louis Coalition for Latino Research, it is the brainchild of SLU professors Joel Jennings

and Onesimo Sandoval. Together their studies will combine with the coalition's general tracking of population and demographic statistics as well as other related projects.

As of fall 2009, the UM-St. Louis student body was composed of 77.1 percent Caucasian students, 17.3 percent African American students and 5.6 percent students representing "other ethnic groups," according to the UM-St. Louis Web site.

Between 2008 and 2050, the Hispanic population of the nation will grow from 46.7 million to 132.8 million people, according to projections based on the 2000 US Census as announced by the Census Bureau. This growth means that for the first time in U.S. history, a minority ethnic group will be the majority.

Missouri and the Midwest are hardly unaffected by this influx of Hispanic citizens, though there is arguably a lack of awareness and action here as compared to how

other states have handled the issues that arise as the population changes.

Lisa Dorner, an assistant professor with the UM-St. Louis College of Education, is one of three UM-St. Louis faculty members directly involved with the Coalition for Latino Research, which currently has 11 members.

"Everyone wants to diversify their student population and provide majors and certificates that will be useful in America," Dorner said. "SLU is in the process of developing a Latino Studies Certificate."

Dorner also went on to point out that Washington University has a "Center for Latino Families" in its school of Social Work.

UM-St. Louis faculty members like Dorner and her colleagues, Professors Richard Middleton and Deborah Cohen, are trying to bring UM-St. Louis up to speed in an area that it has not yet matched neighboring universities' efforts.

"Well, with budget cuts

and state finances, I would feel that the university is reluctant to begin any [Latino Studies] program [of its own]," Dorner said.

Middleton, who spent two years in the Dominican Republic researching Afro-Latino issues, sees a number of layers comprising St. Louis' efforts to address issues.

"A lot of faith-based groups are at the forefront," Middleton said. "And then a lot of non-profits or what you might call 'community' or 'grassroots' groups, and then on a tertiary level, academic efforts like ours."

At a practical level, the coalition is meant to draw prospective Hispanic students and then ensure that they have the best possible university experience.

More broadly, it represents UM-St. Louis joining the expanding number of universities taking measures to address the fastest growing demographic of the student, community and general population.

WEATHER

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New baseball field ready for action

Tritons ready for a home opener on a home field

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Asst. A&E Editor

Today, after years of budget and logistics planning by the university, the University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team is looking forward to playing its first home game on their new field.

To finally play with home field advantage on March 10th, the UM-St. Louis baseball program has the uninhibited potential to return to the standard of play that it earned notoriety for in the past.

For five years UM-St. Louis baseball did not enjoy such a luxury. Express Scripts bought property next to the Mark Twain building in 2004 that included part of the baseball field, and the university did not allot money for the field's relocation.

The Tritons have been forced to play home games at nearby schools like Southern

Illinois University-Edwardsville and Saint Louis University; such drifter status took a negative toll on the program.

"We hit this bump in the road where we didn't have a place for five years and our record reflected that," Jim Brady, head baseball coach, said. "We weren't able to recruit the blue-chip type of athlete because they were being told by other coaches 'well hey they don't even have a place to practice or play.'"

All signs point to a metamorphosis for UM-St. Louis baseball. Coach Brady has a history of winning; right now his teams have recorded a total of 650 victories. With the new field, he feels that positive recruitment and winning clubs will once again become mainstays of UM-St. Louis baseball.

"For 20 years here we had unprecedented success," Brady said. "We were ranked in the top 20 every single

year ... I think that you're going to begin to see a turnaround and a rise, much like the phoenix, of the program again.

"A lot of that is based on the fact that we have a new field. It's been extremely attractive to all of our new recruits coming in. Once they see it they are really impressed with it, and then when they have the opportunity to play on it it's going to be even better."

The new ballpark is situated on South Campus near the UM-St. Louis dormitories, giving on-campus students in the dorms easy access to games.

The directors of the baseball program are looking to capitalize on the close proximity the field shares with students by generating interest in the team by sponsoring parties, or as the athletic director Lori Flanagan put it, "bleacher bashes."



"One of our overall goals is to get more students involved in our activities, whether it's baseball, basketball, or soccer," Flanagan said.

"The more convenient and easy you can make it, the more likely people will walk out of their apartments or dorms and just come over and hang out and watch on a sunny afternoon."

UM-St. Louis is going to have the perfect opportunity

to showcase the field in its current state during the Great Lakes Valley Conference this spring.

The field will also be a site for preliminary rounds of the conference tournament in May as UM-St. Louis has been selected to co-host along with the Gateway Grizzlies' GCS Stadium.

The field itself has a vast range of amenities, including a press box, seating for ap-

proximately 600, and heated dugouts. And, according to Brady, this is only the start.

"We could expand seating to 3,000. There is a building that sits 30 yards from the foul pole that we could convert to a clubhouse someday."

"We could go out and raise money for field lights. It's a really nice facility, but with a little bit of tweaking here and there it could become second-to-none."

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees snubbed

Employee benefits don't extend to domestic partnerships, still waiting approval from UM-System

► **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Asst. A&E Editor

Dr. Mark Pope, professor and chair of the division of counseling and family therapy at UM-St. Louis, and Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez have written a proposal to extend benefits to all domestic partners of employees at UM-St. Louis, not only married partners. The proposal has received approval from the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Initiative, as well as the student senate, faculty senate and the university assembly. The UM-System administration, however, has still not changed policy.

The proposal notes that according to the UM-System Human Resources Policy

Manual, "All university compensation and benefit programs are to be administered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability and status." The proposal defines domestic partnership as "two individuals who are in a long-term committed relationship and are responsible for each other's financial and emotional well-being."

Five states and the District of Columbia in the US allow for same-sex marriages, but for many individuals, domestic partnership is the only option available. For these people, the current benefit program is discriminatory.

Stephanie Perkins, a representative for Missouri's state-

wide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organization PROMO, issued this statement:

"Offering domestic partner benefits has certainly made a positive statement to potential administration, faculty and staff. As many private and public schools have increasingly recognized the value of a diverse intellectual community, they have started to advertise their offer of domestic partner benefits to increase recruitment and retention. It is one more significant way that universities are able to say, 'This university cares about ALL of our employees and their families.'"

The problem, however, seems to be economic rather than theoretical or moral.

"The school's money is tied to the state legislature, and in a lean-right state like Missouri, there is always the threat that they will cut your budget if we do this," Dr. Pope said.

In the meantime, many UM-System employees are affected daily by this standard. D'Andre Braddix, an employee at the office of student life, is disappointed with the failure of the UM-System to provide domestic partner benefits for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees.

"Recently my partner was entertaining the idea of going back to college to pursue his graduate work; however since the UM System does not recognize domestic partners he

would not receive the same tuition reduction benefits that other spouses of employees receive," Braddix said.

"While I understand the need for the University of Missouri to remain favorable within the Missouri Legislature, I also feel that a duty rests with the university to be progressive on social issues and inclusive of its faculty, staff and students."

This issue is threatening the quality of education at UM-St. Louis, as some qualified employees have left the school for other campuses.

"The whole thing is just that it's unfair," Pope said. "Too many on our faculty or staff who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender are unable to have their partners

covered through healthcare insurance. It causes all kinds of stressors on the individual, but their families as well. If you can't afford to get insurance for your partner, it's always hanging there over you."

And for those GLBT faculty members who have not left UM-St. Louis for more progressive campuses, the lack of benefits is.

"My partner retired early and had to pay for his own health benefits, and that's quite expensive," William Mayhan, associate teaching professor of English, said. "For the past five years he had to pay for his own insurance. [Domestic partner benefits] would have helped us a lot if we'd had it at the time."

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Jennifer Meahan

Some organizations and groups advertise by placing flyers on windshields. What do you think about flyers being put on cars at UMSL?



"Flyers being put on cars is extremely annoying."

Ray L. Alexander
Senior
Criminal Justice



"It becomes annoying if you constantly have flyers posted on your car. If it's for a good cause it's understandable."

Courtney Edwards
Junior
International Business



"Not a good gesture!"

Justin Lohman
Junior
French



"I do find it a little annoying."

Brianna Shipp
Sophomore
Secondary Education

VERBATIM

"I know I'm fat, but was he really justified in throwing me off a flight? What, was I gonna roll on a fellow passenger?"

-Kevin Smith on getting ejected from Southwest Airlines for his weight



"Twilight is a big metaphor for sexual abstinence, and yet it's erotic underneath. There are so many elements in the story which are sexy."

-Robert Pattinson

"I haven't seen Daniel in the role. I tried watching it. It broke down, so I figured, 'The Gods must be saying something...'"

-Pierce Brosnan on Daniel Craig as Bond

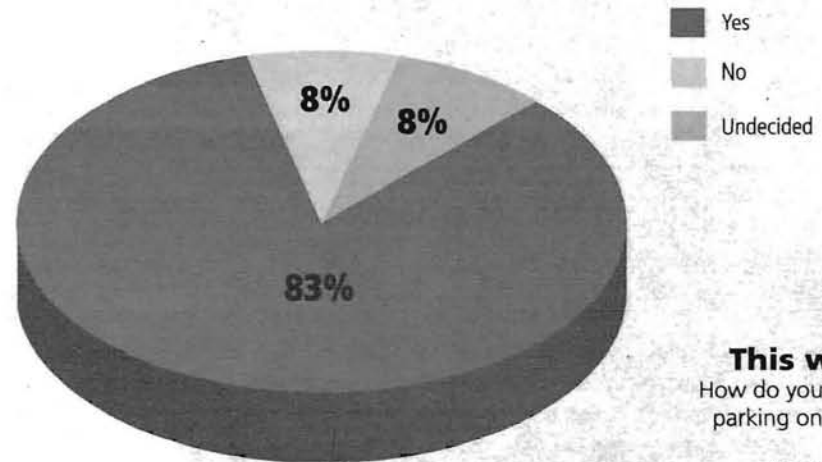


"I drink far more water than I drink alcohol anymore. I'm reminded of how often I get up to pee now. I go, 'Oh, my God, I wonder if somebody thinks I'm doing blow in there.'"

-Bruce Willis

POLL

Should UM-St. Louis offer benefits to same-sex partners?



This week:
How do you feel about parking on campus?
Answer at
www.thecurrent-online.com

CRIMELINE

Thursday, Feb. 18

Assault 3rd Degree - Mark Twain Building

The victim reported that he was assaulted in the Fitness Center by another student who punched him in the face. The victim was seen by paramedics on the scene for cuts to his lips. The victim indicated that this was as a result from an incident a few days before whereby the suspect damaged a picture of his at an apartment in Mansion Hill Condominiums. When the victim asked the suspect about being re-paid for the damaged property, the suspect punched the victim in the mouth one time with his fist. The suspect was located in the Fitness Center by the UMSL Police and arrested for assault. He was transported to the station where he was processed and released pending application for a warrant. This matter will also be referred to Student Affairs, as both parties are students.

Monday, Feb. 22

Burglary 2nd Degree - Mansion Hills Condominium

The victim reported that when she arrived home at about 10:15 PM she found her front door wide open and her computer stolen from inside. The victim indicated that when she left for work her friend was in the apartment. The friend was contacted by the victim and he told her that he left the apartment around 5:00 PM and everything was OK at that time. There are no suspects in this incident.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Burglary - Stealing University Meadows Apartments

At about 8:30 AM., the victim reported that the mother of his child was at his apartment and took his keys without his permission. The victim indicated that he has been having an on-going dispute with the suspect over child rearing and relationships. The suspect (who is not related to UMSL) along with her 2 year old child, came to the complex and entered the victim's unlocked apartment, confronted the victim in the bedroom and the argument started. The victim reported that the suspect took his keys to his car and apartment and ran out the door. When the victim tried to confront the suspect and get his keys back the suspect attempted to grab pepper spray from her purse. The victim ran back to his apartment and the suspect left the area. The suspect was later released pending application of warrants. The victim later decided not to prosecute.

Stealing Over \$500.00-Social Science Building

The victim reported that at about 3:00 PM she was assisting another student in the lab and left her book bag containing credit cards, cash, cell phone and other computer items on the floor unattended for a few minutes. When she returned her property was gone. The victim indicated that two subjects who were sitting in that area were now gone, however no-one saw the theft occur. There are no suspects in this incident.

Sports

ONE AND DONE

Tritons eliminated from playoffs



BEAUMONT BEASLEY AT ILLINOIS-SPRINGFIELD SATURDAY, JAN 23. FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team had its season ended last Saturday when it lost 74-60 to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UWP) in the first round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship Tournament.

Guard Jeremy Brown, senior, physical education, and forward Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, each scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead the Tritons. But it was not enough to overcome a 15-point deficit, as UM-St. Louis fell behind 51-36 midway through the second half.

The Tritons did rally from that point and put together a 10-0 run, capped by a deep three-pointer by Brown, to cut their deficit back to 51-46 with 7:34 left in the game.

Moments later, UWP added a couple of free throws to push ahead by eight, but UM-St. Louis guard Eddie White, junior, elementary education, hit a three-pointer of his own, and teammate Ryan Lawrence, junior, criminology, made a

jumper to make the score 56-51 with just over five minutes left on the clock.

Unfortunately, UWP's Jeremy Saffold, who had a game-high 15 points, made several key plays down the stretch to keep UM-St. Louis from completing its comeback attempt.

First, the freshman forward from Chicago grabbed an offensive rebound and turned it into a three-point play when he made a jumper and got fouled. Later, he grabbed another important rebound and then made two more free throws after he was fouled by the Tritons.

But the play that felt like a dagger to the heart of the Tritons was a three-pointer Saffold hit to put UWP back up by 10 points with only 2:40 left in the game.

From that point, UM-St. Louis was forced to gamble for steals and fouls, hoping to pull off some kind of miracle. But it just did not happen, as UWP went eight-for-eight from the free throw line in the final couple minutes to put the game away.

White and fellow guard Beaumont Beasley, sophomore,

business, contributed 10 points apiece for UM-St. Louis, which ended its season by losing 11 of its final 13 games.

That is a far cry from where the team started the year—winning a school-record six straight games to open the season.

At different points of the year, the Tritons even owned glowing records at 6-0, 7-1 and 10-5, but the 2009-10 campaign proved to be the epitome of a sports roller coaster, and unfortunately, the ride ended in very disappointing fashion.

On a positive note, UM-St. Louis did manage to make its first postseason appearance since 2005 by earning a trip to this year's GLVC Tournament. But Saturday's loss to UWP means the Tritons are now 0-5 all-time in GLVC Tournament play, and the program has not won a postseason game since defeating Missouri Western in an MIAA Conference Tournament game in 1996.

Officially, UM-St. Louis ended the season with an overall record of 12-16, the third time in the last four years the team reached double-digits in wins, but the second time in the last three years the team finished with a losing record.

12 game road trip

Triton baseball team completes their first 7 games with 48 more to go

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**
Asst. Sports Editor

With the University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team's home opener postponed on Feb. 16 due to snow, the Tritons hit the road. The team began a 12-game road trip, with each game against non-conference schools.

The first stop on the trip was in Monticello, Ark., to play a three-game series against the University of Arkansas-Monticello (UAM).

The first game of the series would require extra innings to decide. The Tritons were trailing entering the ninth inning, 5-3, before rallying to tie the game at 5-5. But the Cotton Blossoms would get the win in the bottom of the 11th, with the bases loaded and no outs, when Triton pitcher Zach Sturdefant, junior, business management, hit Blaine Ivery of UAM to bring in the winning run, 6-5.

The next day, the Tritons played a doubleheader against the Cotton Blossoms. The Tritons lost the first game 14-7. The Tritons scored three runs in the top of the seventh to make the score 8-6, but UAM scored six more runs to seal the game in their favor.

In the third game of the series, UAM gave the start to Kevin Lienard. The Triton bats jumped on Lienard early, scoring three runs in the first three innings, and forcing the Cotton Blossom to go to their pen at the top of the third.

UAM substituted six additional pitchers before the game was over, but the Tritons went on to win 8-1. Kenny Ford, senior, elementary education, got the start for the Tritons and earned the win, pitching five scoreless innings while allowing only one hit.

This past week, the Tritons were in Savannah, Ga., to take on Armstrong Atlantic, which entered the game with an 8-2 record.

Entering the top of the seventh inning with the Tritons trailing 5-4, Kurt Driemeyer, junior, business management, hit a solo home run, the first for the team this season. Eight more batters for the Tritons would get an at-bat in the seventh inning, tacking on three additional runs leading to an 8-5 win.

On Saturday, UM-St. Louis played a doubleheader against Queens-NY, which had not played a game yet this season. Unfortunately for the Tritons, Queens-NY was really jacked up and won both games, 7-6 and 4-2.

On Sunday, UM-St. Louis took on Armstrong-Atlantic again. It would be a pitcher's duel with the game scoreless going into the bottom of the sixth. Kenny Bechaud, junior,

criminal justice, started for the Tritons, and pitched five scoreless innings, gave up two hits, struck out five and walked just three. Armstrong-Atlantic put up the first two runs in the bottom of the sixth. They held that lead until the top of the eighth when the Tritons scored three runs to go ahead.

Michael Hoosen, senior, business management, scored the first run for UM-St. Louis with a sacrifice fly. Armstrong would commit two errors in the inning, which the Tritons used to their advantage to get two more runs in taking the lead 3-2, despite only having one hit in the inning.

But the Triton lead was short-lived, as Armstrong scored twice in the bottom of the eighth to regain the lead. UM-St. Louis tied the game in the ninth as Erik Walk, senior, liberal studies, blasted a solo home run for the Tritons to make the score 4-4. Unfortunately, the Triton pitching was unable to hold the tie in spite of having two outs with one runner on first and would lose 5-4.

With the loss, the Tritons are 2-5 on the season, but still have around 48 games left to play. Their re-scheduled home opener will be Wednesday, March 10, against Missouri Western at the UMSL Baseball Field on South Campus. First pitch that day will be at 2 p.m.

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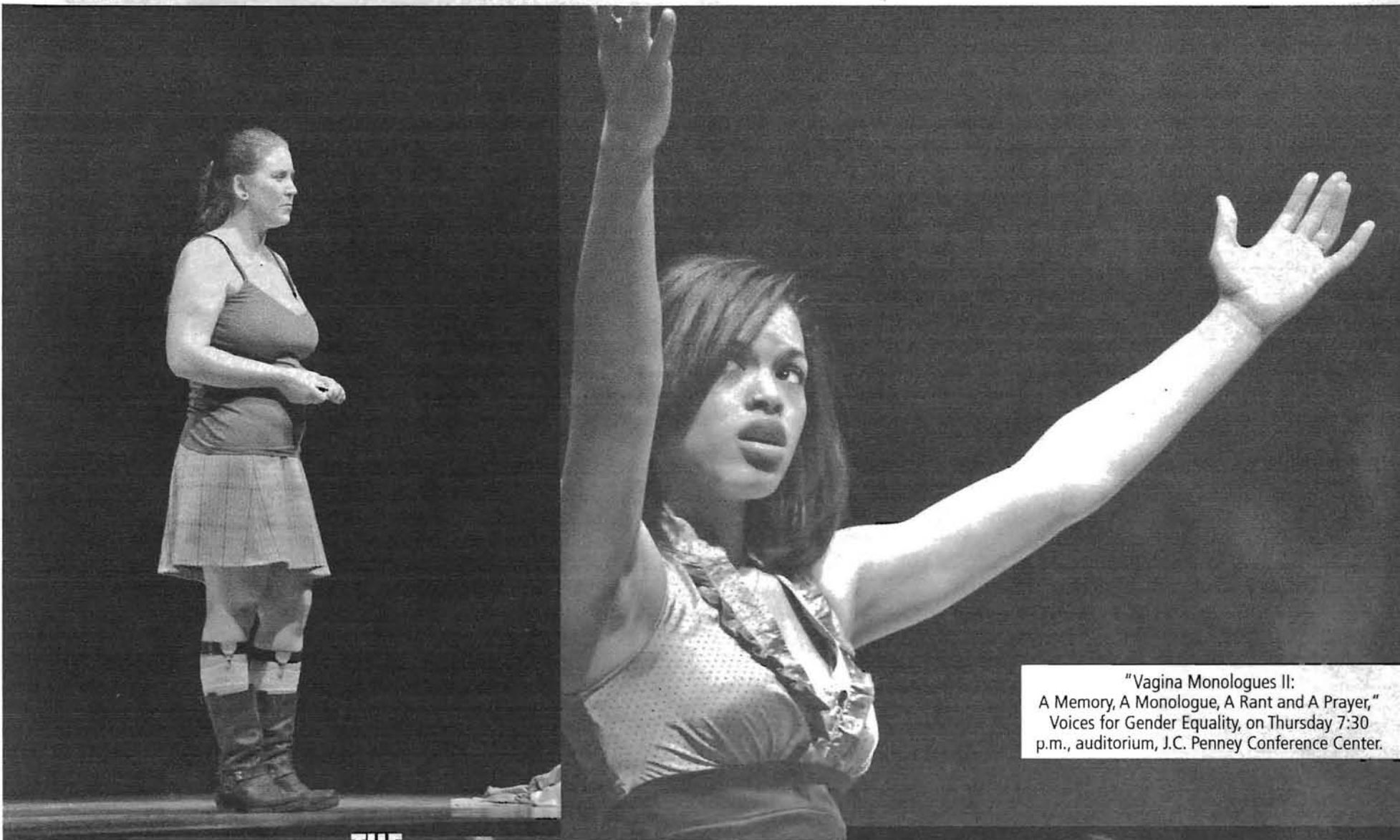


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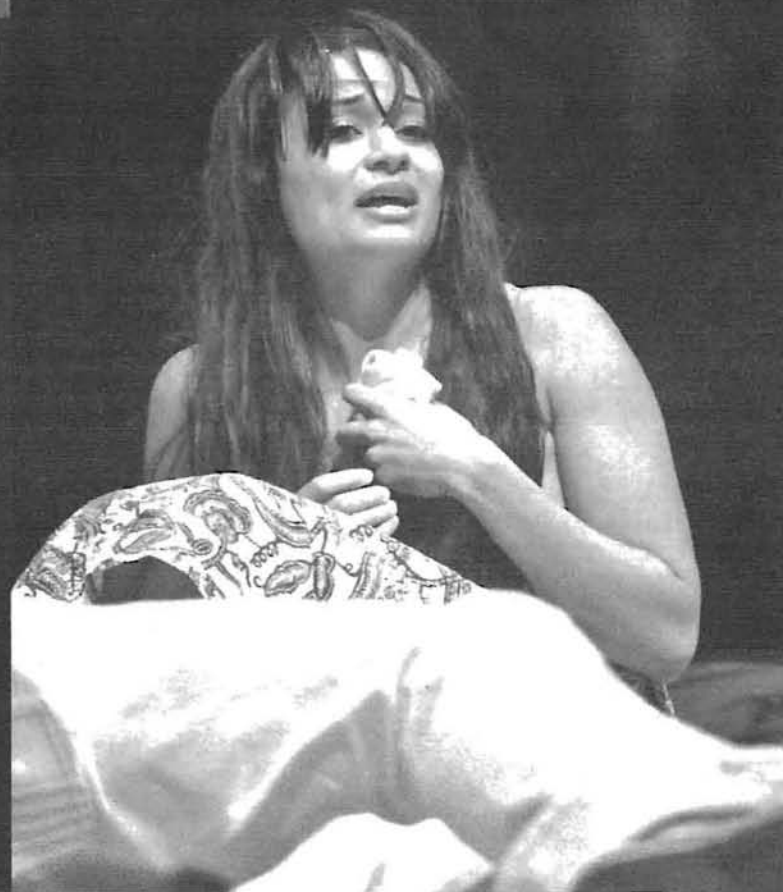
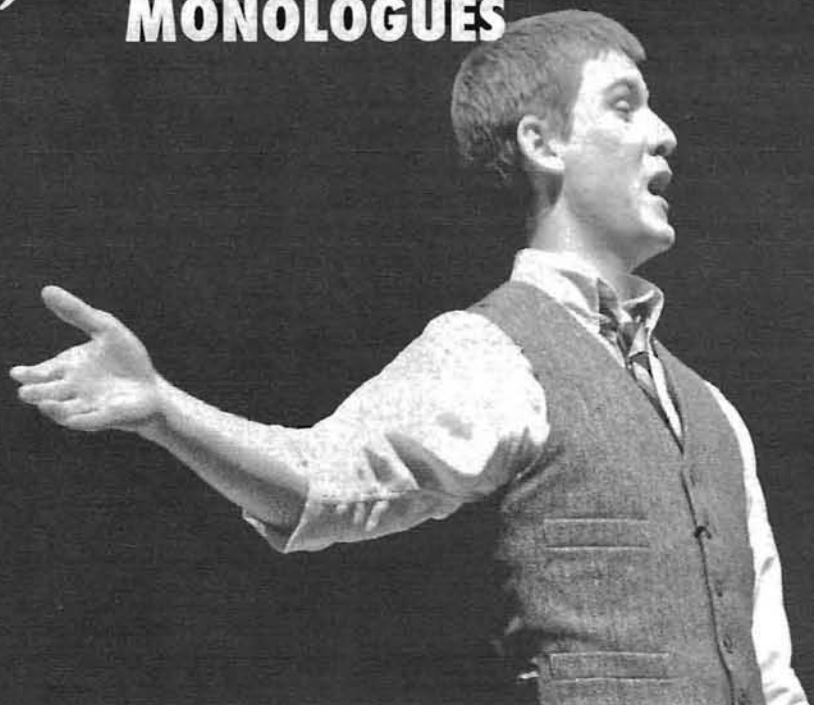
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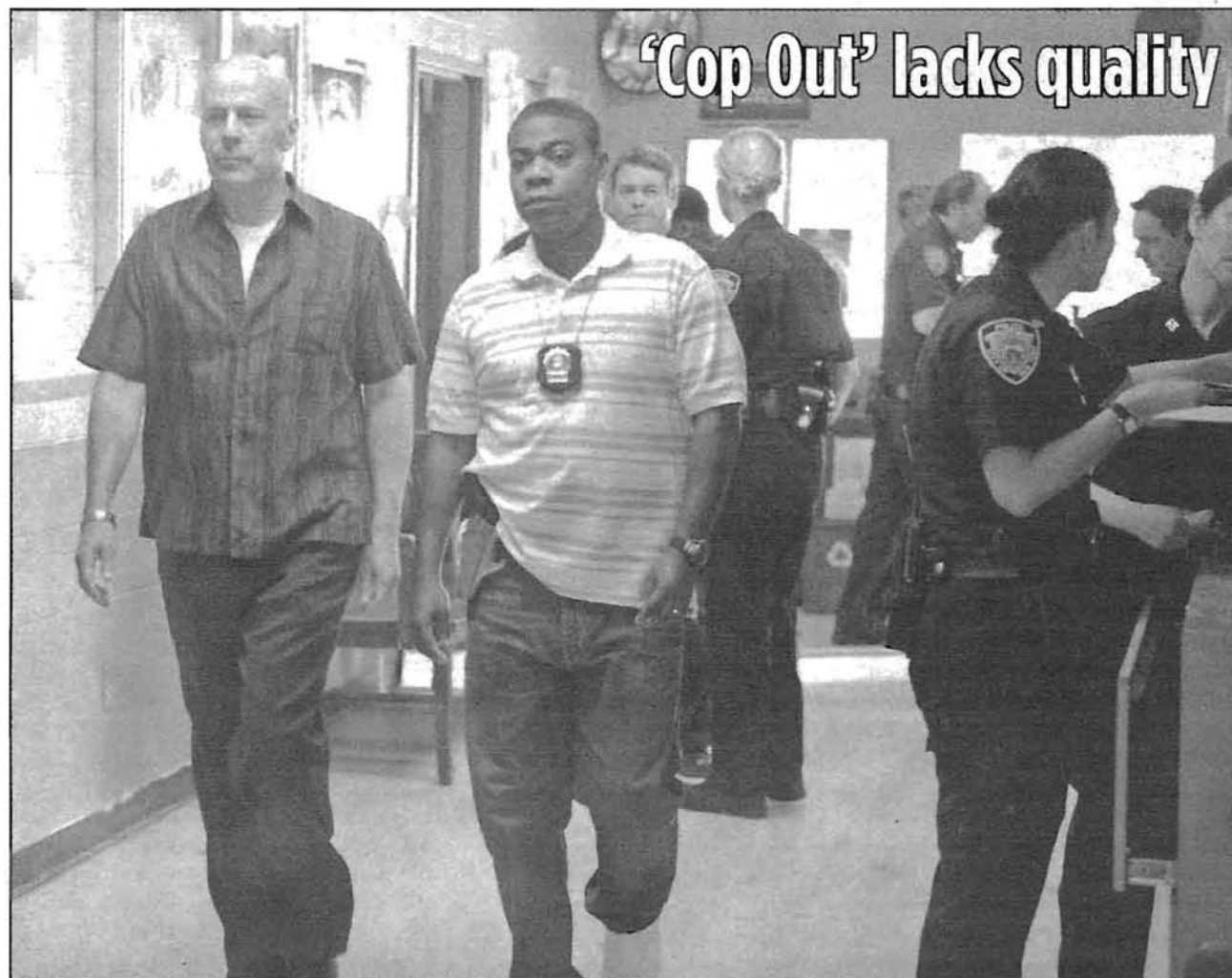


"Vagina Monologues II:
A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer,"
Voices for Gender Equality, on Thursday 7:30
p.m., auditorium, J.C. Penney Conference Center.

THE
({ }) **VAGINA**
MONOLOGUES



FILM REVIEW



'Cop Out' lacks quality

COURTESY / WARNER BROTHERS

Director Kevin Smith has managed to drag the likes of Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan into his upcoming slapstick comedy "Cop Out," a film set to please the male population with silly joke after silly joke.

Comedies are allowed to have an interesting storyline. Obviously this one did not get the memo.

Commonly known to his fans as Silent Bob, a character he originated in the 1994 independent success "Clerks," Smith has previously worked along side Willis in the 2007 action flick "Live Free, Die Hard." Sad to say, Willis' mere presence in the movie could not improve its quality.

The film "Cop Out" is the story of, well, it can be whatever its audience wants it to be. It can be a story about a father's love for a daughter, or the relationship between a stubborn cop and his insecure, trash-talking partner. It could be the story of two

NYPD cops' attempt to take down a murderous drug gang and save the mysterious girl. The film managed to throw so many elements into the plot at once that it was left up to the audience to choose which one to follow.

Most likely, the plot that Smith was trying to get across was of Jimmy Monroe (Willis), a NYPD cop, dragging his partner Paul Hodges (Morgan) along on this crazy search for his stolen baseball card that he intended on using to finance his daughters wedding. Attention should never be taken away from the main idea, a problem the writers slyly tried to correct by sneaking in random dialogues referring to the daughter, like with Willis' serious yet unnecessary dialogue in the car involving him and the mysterious woman that they are protecting. With her unable to speak English, it was meant as a joke but just came off as awkward for the audi-

ence.

The camerawork throughout the film involved a lot of close-ups and unsteady camera handling towards the end of the film, meant for dramatic effect.

The only time a shaky camera is necessary is in a war drama while showing the action on the battlefield. Any other time it looks lazy and is irritating to watch.

Casting for this movie did not feel right. It seemed as if they were trying to make Willis the opening act for Morgan. The media was spot-on when it mentioned that Willis was way bigger than a production such as this one. He may have wrinkles and no hair but the talent is still all there. He needs a script where he can use it.

In its choice of talent, the film was all over the place, with a look-who-is-in-this-movie mentality. First, it was Adam Brody paired with Kevin Pollak playing the

clumsy cops who get in Willis and Morgan's way. Random. And if that was not enough, Mark Consuelos appeared as the Spanish-translating restaurant worker, a part that could have easily been filled by an extra. On a positive note, characters to remember were an aggressive mother with a gun hidden in her purse and a foul-mouthed eleven-year-old boy. If only these characters had more dialogue.

This film was built up way more than it should have been. Instead, they should have spent the promotion time patching up where it disconnects with its audience but that would involve creating a whole new movie. Smith was less concerned with storyline and characterization and more invested in how to get the cheap laugh. Judging by this film alone, his presence is better served in front of the camera than behind it. **D**—Ashley Atkins

A&E

Dubstep will conquer the world

► JOE SCHAFFNER

Asst. A&E Editor

Electronic music can trace its root back to the '20s. Kraftwerk popularized the more specific genre, electronic dance music, in the early '70s. Since that time, the genre has evolved into a strikingly vast pool of subgenres, many with characteristics so subtly different that distinguishing between them may seem petty.

It is not petty because if a club advertises for a jungle night but plays house instead, people who show up expecting jungle will be angry and will leave the dance floor. If this is even 30% of the people, the party loses a lot of strength, and more people will walk out.

It is in the individual's best interest, as well as club owners', to understand what kind of music will be being played that evening, and what kind of a crowd it usually draws. Likewise, a DJ has to be very careful about the music he or she buys and mixes.

Moving forward—techno comes from Detroit and Juan Atkins is important. In England in the '80s, people got samplers. They started sampling breakbeats and making cheap, bass-centric music. This sounded surprisingly good in clubs. It was called "hardcore" (in the United Kingdom.).

There was a creative renaissance shortly thereafter, and things like trance and intelligent dance music came out.

The urban front absorbed dancehall influences and put out jungle, soon to be drum and bass. A different strain took in house influences and became UK garage, which basically sounds like R&B ballads remixed with double speed drums.

UK garage with British rappers became known as grime and took off in urban environments. The tracks got bigger, dirtier and eventually bass-centric again. Finally, these dirty bass-centric tracks took on dub/reggae influences and the resulting niche genre was called "dubstep."

See DUBSTEP, page 9

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

The Crazies. A re-make of a sort-of successful George A. Romero 70's gore-camp flick about a small town beset upon by blah blah. Notably a Romero film whose name does not involve the words "Of The." **B**—Chris Stewart.

Cop Out. I bet that when Bruce Willis sees some shit going down he gets the urge to arrest people. Seriously, if he approached me and told me I was under arrest I would comply. This movie sounds good on paper but apparently is really bad. And other small defeats in my life... **D**—Chris Stewart.

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.

DUBSTEP, from page 8

Dubstep has caught on, threatening crossover and global success time and time again. Skream's "Midnight Request Line" was popular in 2005.

More recently, Pitchfork.com marked Darkstar's "Aidy's Girl's a Computer" as one of the top 100 tracks of 2009.

Lil' Jon has been seen on YouTube going crazy for dubstep, Snoop Dogg has rapped over dubstep producers Chase & Status, Eve has rapped over dubstep pioneer Benga. Chase & Status have remixed Jay-Z and produced Rihanna.

Part of the reason for dubstep's accomplishment is its diversity. Outside of a general tendency to shuffle percussion and two-step the treble in order to fit boundaries set by all dance floor genres, dubstep has an extensive ability to vary itself and experiment. It can tear-out or chill-out within a matter of seconds in the hands of a good producer. Dubstep mixes have been made using everything from Lil' Wayne songs to the James Bond theme.

Of course, the success of dubstep is a problem too. For years, part of its appeal has been its largely vocal-less, and therefore distinctly imageless, prerogative. With people like Snoop Dogg getting in on the scene, it will be hard to keep dubstep underground. Even taking dubstep out of London, away from the melting pot of cultures and musical influences that spawned it may strip away some of its individuality.

It may sound ridiculous to talk about strict geographical borders in 2010 but it is still worth remembering that the best house music is still tied hyper-specifically to Chicago in the early '80s, for some people even to specific clubs.

Regardless, the genre has expanded beautifully.

Good new producers are emerging daily, and club nights featuring dubstep are popping up all over the place. Best of all, dubstep has these fun sounds in it that can make the most cynical curmudgeon laugh with amazement.

Inside look with Jason Cannon

► JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

Actor/director Jason Cannon is a nominee for two Kevin Kline awards this year, but he is also a visiting assistant professor here who will be directing the upcoming campus play "The Importance of Being Earnest" playing March 4.

The Current: What is "The Importance of Being Earnest" about?

Jason Cannon: It's a classic comedy about mistaken identity. There's this guy, Jack, who's in love with Gwendolyn, and he pretends his name is Earnest because it's a reason for him to get down to see her in the city.

It's an excuse to leave his house up in the country, where he has a ward and he can get away from being responsible and go and be kind of a profligate in the

city. The play is all about the machinations of these characters to try to figure out who each other are, try to get married. Everyone is pretending to be Earnest, but no one really is Earnest, because Earnest doesn't exist.

So, it's pretty much a play about men doing anything to be with the woman they love, to put it in a one-line thing.

We're doing something a little kooky with it, we are changing the setting. So instead of 1895 London, we are setting it 1965 Manhattan, New York.

It's right on the cusp of sexual revolution, right at the cusp of, you know, the '60s, with all that happened there.

Instead of going to the country, they go upstate. So, I spent a lot of time researching New York and the time period so I could update the script with all the references, all the numbers, all the dates and addresses make sense in the context.

TC: Could you tell me about the actors in the play?

JC: They're all students. There's nine actors. There's five gentlemen and four ladies. Some of them, it's the first time for them. Some of them, they've been on our stage many times in the past couple of years. It's a nice mix.

TC: What makes "The Importance of Being Earnest" such a great play?

JC: It is one of the classic comedies. There's no one like Oscar Wilde, maybe Mark Twain, just for a turn of a phrase, a quip. Everything he says is witty and wise, and you wish you said it.

That's the biggest reason why the play survives, just because there's so much humor and wit, and it kind of tells some hard truth to the ways genders interact, the way love works.

It's both very romantic and very realistic at the same time.

TC: So I hear you're nominated for a Kevin Kline award?

See CANNON, page 21

FILM REVIEW



COURTESY / SONY PICTURE CLASSICS

'Last Station' has history, farce, drama, and Tolstoy

At the beginning of the 20th century, Leo Tolstoy was one of the most famous authors in the world. It was a time when movie cameras were a novelty and capturing footage of famous people, like the aging author of "War and Peace," was new enough that celebrities had not yet learned to shy away, a time when World War I and the Russian revolution are both on the horizon.

The star-studded, Oscar-nominated British film "Last Station" is a historical drama about the epic struggle for control over his legacy, starring award-winners Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren, Paul Giamatti and James MacAvoy.

The set-up sounds like a tense drama but there is actually a great deal of absurdist, farcical humor and even sexy, romantic scenes in this film. Everyone wants a piece of the great man—to be close to him, to be part of his work or in some cases to have control over his work and the money it generates—and will go to ridiculous lengths to get their

way.

Nominated for two Oscars, "The Last Station" is one of a handful of critically-acclaimed, award-worthy films that opened elsewhere in late 2009 and are just now making their way here. Another on that list that recently opened here is the gripping, chilling German-language "White Ribbon," also a period film, set in a small town in the same late Victorian pre-war period.

In "The Last Station," the struggle that takes place before the cameras is between Tolstoy's wife and muse Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren), and Vladimir Chertkov (Paul Giamatti), who has established the Tolstoyan foundation, an ideological, proto-communist movement inspired by the author's writings.

Love, sex and money are at the heart of their battle for control of Tolstoy's legacy. Born a count, Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) became a committed supporter of democracy and an end to class divisions, much to the irritation of his much-younger, loving but drama-queen wife. Tolstoy is torn between his great love for his hot-blooded, aristocratic wife and his political idealism, and his concern for his legacy.

The Countess wants their family to benefit from her husband's work, while the ideology-driven leader of the

foundation wants Tolstoy's work to become public domain, free of monetary value. Yet neither side wants to fight openly and risk losing the favor of the great man.

So the pawn in this chess match becomes Tolstoy's new assistant Valentin (James MacAvoy), an innocent, idealistic young man who worships the author.

Chertkov recruits young Valentin as his informant in the Tolstoy household, to keep an eye on the Countess and her influence over her husband.

"The Last Station" is not a flawless film but it is visually gorgeous, with nice period sets, costumes and fine photography. Plummer makes a very convincing Tolstoy and he certainly has chemistry with the appealing Mirren. Once again, James MacAvoy turns in a touching performance as the sincere Valentin, and holds his own with both Mirren and Plummer. One wishes writer/director Michael Hoffman had more scenes with Giamatti's scheming character and fewer over-the-top scenes for Mirren's character, and the plot sometimes loses dramatic steam. Apart from that, the cast is marvelous altogether.

The absurdist humor, the fascinating history and a wonderful cast make "The Last Station" a must-see for literary and history buffs alike. **B+** —Cate Marquiss

Collaboration, cooperation, education

Gallery 210's 'Art of the Book' offers more than cover art

The multi-media art exhibit "The Art of the Book: Journals Then and Now" opened February 11 at Gallery 210, for a run through May 2, 2010. The exhibit celebrates books old and new as art objects, through cover art and beautifully constructed books but also books as parts of artworks. "The Art of the Book" exhibit is a wonderful journey from the past to the present, spanning over about 500 years. There were many works of art donated by many prestigious and many fresh sources.

The book-themed works of art are placed on shelves, or, in the case of the older artifacts, are encased on pedestals. The exhibit is one that can be physically felt and experienced as attendees can actually handle the artwork/journals and flip through them, seeing stories, lives and journeys unfold be-

fore their eyes. Some items were hundreds of pages and some were less than ten. A printed guide of the exhibit and its history, with commentary from various names in the art community, is available at the gallery.

This is an excellent exhibit for history buffs. For example, it features a Bible from 1539, some drawings from early Native Americans, and an original souvenir book of views from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Another piece of history is an advertisement for a lecture given by the well-known poet Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Some of the items are basic books while others come in different forms. One artist, John Bently, creatively put a book on the heel of a man's shoe and then placed the shoe in a shoe box. Another artist folded a large piece of paper and drew on the sides of the folds. Every piece of artwork was unique and fascinating in its own way. Many tell stories, others review the past and still others make one laugh.

The journals, including their titles, were fascinating. "Bio Auto Graphic Scar Issue," "Wanderlust" and "Ode on the Death of a 'Favourite' Cat Otto" are some titles to look for when viewing this exhibit. Some pieces tell interesting stories, while some

contain drawings. Other artists elected to take pictures, like Sarah Bodman, who constructed the four-volume "Flowers in Hotel Rooms." Her books consisted of pictures taken at various hotels in several different locations, including Berlin, Tokyo and London.

It is fascinating to note that in this exhibit there are many names known and unknown, from the very famous Michelangelo to students who have yet to become famous. Many artists and donors came together to make an artistic feast for the viewer. These works have come from far and wide, from American universities to areas outside of the country.

Another fascinating feature of this exhibit is that some pieces were done by college students who only had 10 days to complete them. The students successfully took the art of bookmaking to many interesting places.

Three words come to mind for this exhibit: collaboration, cooperation and education. This exhibit, which will be traveling to Bristol, England later this year, will be touching and inspiring people for many years to come. "The Art of the Book" incorporates unity, beauty and culture all in one exhibit, making it worth seeing. **A+** — Amanda Roach

Rapture!

Bioshock 2 is a welcome return

"Bioshock 2" is an interesting proof-of-concept: it is a sequel for a game that did not need a sequel.

The problem lies in the fact that the first Bioshock was a unique game. With its tightly-focused story about a fallen Ayn Randian-inspired city beneath the sea, the game explored a type of narrative hitherto unseen by players.

"Bioshock 2" finds players returning to the waterlogged utopia of Rapture, only this time as a different protagonist. In fact, the main character is an earlier iteration of one of the first game's mini-bosses, the Big Daddy.

The concept is a little confusing at first. The game takes place 10 years after the events of first Bioshock yet you play as Subject

Delta, the first successful Big Daddy. Thankfully, everything is explained in due time—including those missing 10 years.

Developer 2K Marin had some big shoes to fill, taking on the job after the first game's developer, Irrational Games, declined to make the sequel.

"Bioshock 2" features an exciting and engaging plot with a game-changing twist near the end that keeps one playing into the night long after one should have gone to bed.

In the 10 years since Bioshock protagonist Jack fled Rapture with the Little Sisters, psychologist Sophia Lamb has taken over, indoctrinating most of the city's denizens into a cult called The Family and setting into motion some big plans for her daughter, Eleanor.

As mentioned before, Subject Delta is a Big Daddy—but as one of the first, he is weaker than the more heavily-armored and better-armed Daddies that roam throughout the game's levels. The game starts off as a simple quest

for reunion (and revenge), but becomes much more.

Unfortunately, though, at its heart, "Bioshock 2" is a game with simply too many "too's": too much similarity to the first game, too easy (even on the hardest difficulty) and too long for the narrative to truly start (about 10 hours or so).

One of the game's earlier antagonists is the Big Sister, a spindly, faster female version of a Big Daddy.

The ease at which she decimates you in your first fight is overwhelming, and yet by the midpoint of the game, Delta can easily take on one or two Big Sisters at the same time.

Originally, the Big Sister was supposed to be more of a "Nemesis" from Resident Evil 3 type of character: something so monstrous, so strong and unbeatable, that you had to either hide or run from.

Instead, in a baffling design choice, 2K Marin simply made her into another enemy type. Never again does a Big Sister re-

capture that sense of dread felt at the first meeting, which is a shame.

Another baffling design choice is the addition of a multiplayer mode for "Bioshock 2." In a twist, the multiplayer mode is actually a prequel to the first game, where players can experience Rapture before its fall. Though it is a prequel, there is not a lot of story; it is a multiplayer mode, after all.

The multiplayer offers several types, from capture the flag with Little Sisters being ingeniously used as the flag, as well as straight-up team death-match, and "Adam Grab," a kind of Halo-esque "Oddball"-type game beside a few others.

"Bioshock 2" is a game that was not needed, but somehow, against all odds, it works. The story, though slow to start, is a powerhouse that packs just as much of an emotional punch as the first game, if not more.

For fans of the first game, returning to Rapture is a no-brainer. **B+** —Andrew Seal

SWEET JAMS

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

1

'Imme Be'
Black Eyed Peas



The master tapes for this recording should be chopped up, melted down, cut into small pieces and used as ukelele picks. Only, everything is digital now so it's probably like a master file. In that case it should be deleted. Yeah.

2

'Hey, Soul Sister'
Train



Clearly the great unwashed masses downloading music and moving this song up the iTunes Charts don't read *The Current*, or perhaps, like me, skim the Fashion Column, try to do the Crossword (there's an error) and throw it away.

3

'Blah Blah Blah'
Ke\$ha



Can you spell one-trick-pony? Neither can Ke\$ha. Shame, because if she could I would ask her to and watch her face for the moment when she connects the dots of my rapier wit. I don't really need help spelling it! Nay! I'm actually insulting you!

4

'In My Head'
Jason DeRulo



Jason DeRulo's forgettable electro R&B anthem is at least lyrically honest. DeRulo clearly isn't concerned with beating around the bush. He wants to jump right in it and wiggle around for awhile. Or at least, that's how it goes down in his head.

5

'Tik Tok'
Ke\$ha



Whatever, "Tik Tok", that hot new "Blah Blah Blah" song has totally replaced you in the hearts of America's music lovers. What's that, are you crying, "Tik Tok"? Is that the sweet milk of your sorrow pouring from your eyes?

Her Majesty's comedy sets sail at Touhill

For anyone who likes off-the-wall and downright silly humor, "H.M.S. Pinafore" is the play to see. The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players performed a spectacular rendition of the Victorian Era British Opera at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on February 20 and 21.

In 1878, playwright W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan wrote the opera as a satire to Victorian Britain and the British Navy.

The operetta is set on Her Majesty's Ship Pinafore's deck in an interesting world where it seems as if the British did not lose the 1776 American Revolution.

Nearly 130 years later, a New York repertory company would specialize in Gilbert and Sullivan and bring their hilarious portrayal to UM-St. Louis.

The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players have been exclusive performers of such works as Pinafore, "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The

Mikado" for 35 years. Nevertheless, these actors and actresses know their parts and perform them well.

The cast of over 20 were accompanied by St. Louis area symphonic musicians just below a masterfully crafted ship deck set. Stephen Quint's performance of the incompetent and upstart Sir Joseph Porter offered an insightful and hilarious insight into the inner-working of Gilbert and Sullivan's silliness and off the wall humor.

Porter is to be wed to the much younger Josephine, the daughter of Captain Corcoran. Porter is the equivalent to Secretary of the Navy by contemporary American standards. He is clumsy, stupid and above all under qualified when he jumps from law-office doorknob

shiner to, "commander of the Queen's Navy."

Colm Fitzmaurice plays Able Seaman Ralph Rackstraw, the forbidden love interest of Josephine, played by Laurelyn Watson Chase. Chase and Fitzmaurice's performances of the protagonists do not coincide with other British literary characters and archetypes. The obvious parody of two proverbial blind lovers offers another silly and hilarious part of the opera.

Dick Deadeye, another alliteration by Gilbert and Sullivan, played by Louis Dall' Ava, offer through his dialogue the only sane mind on the entire ship. But because of his name and grotesque physical features, Dall'Ava explains through a great limp and eye patch that he is

the antagonist who is going to ruin all the rip-roaring good fun aboard the H.M.S. Pinafore.

Broken up into two acts, the opera has 25 well-done and flowing musical numbers that captivated the sometimes singing along, near sell out crowd.

"We Sail the Ocean Blue," to "When I Was a Lad," to the famous finale lines of "he is an English man," sung by the entire cast was not only a worthwhile experience but also recommended to anyone who enjoys theater.

And for those who enjoy television and film, "H.M.S. Pinafore" is an entertaining way to see the roots of Monty Python's Flying Circus and Marx Brothers. **A+** —*Michael Frederick*

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BLACK HISTORY SPOTLIGHT:

Features



• James "Cool Papa" Bell's star rests on the Delmar Loop walk of fame across the street from the Tivoli theater.

James "Cool Papa" Bell

Fastest man in baseball history

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT



James Bell, or "Cool Papa" Bell, has a street named after him between Jefferson and Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue.

► **JEN O'HARA**
Staff Writer

With baseball season just around the corner, thoughts turn to early pioneers of the sport, including to that of infamous James "Cool Papa" Bell.

James Bell was born on May 13, 1903 in Starkville, Mississippi to farmers. Bell came up to St. Louis in 1920 with his brothers due to a lack of education and employment opportunities in Mississippi at the time. He juggled attending school

for a couple of years, working at a packing plant and playing baseball with a semi-pro league, the Compton Hills Cubs.

Bell was discovered by the St. Louis Stars, a Negro League Baseball team, in 1922. His paycheck came out to \$90 a month. He was signed on to pitch, but forever became infamous for his incredible speed in the game.

In September 1928, "Cool Papa" married Clara Belle Thompson. They had a daughter, Connie, and lived quietly in St. Louis.

Although he was known for his speed on the playing field, James "Cool Papa" Bell earned his nickname for his pitching. A left-handed pitcher, Bell was noted for having an outstanding curve ball and an even better knuckle ball. As a young player, his teammates expected nervous behavior, especially when he met up with famous Negro League star Oscar Charleston. Charleston was reported for having a mean temper that matched his large size and baseball skills. Wiry Bell faced Charleston as a pitcher, and statements describe Bell as "calmly" and "coolly" striking out the feared opponent. The addition to the name was derived from Bells manager, Bill Gatewood, for his maturity at a young age.

Stories of Bell's unfathomable speed have been told for decades. While there was truth to the story, tall tales such as "Bell could shut off the light and be in bed before it was dark," were

spread. Bell often played center field, his speed undoubtedly an advantage.

Bell played for the St. Louis Stars for 10 years until the economy demolished the Negro National League. He continued to play for the next 24 years with teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs, Chicago American Giants and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. He also played winter ball in Latin America. He was also the first player in Cuban League history to hit three home runs in one game.

Bell retired his playing days in 1946, but began a new task as manager of a Kansas City farm team. Two years later, he began work in St. Louis City Hall as a custodian and retired 21 years later as a night watchman. Bell was inducted as the fifth Negro League player in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974.

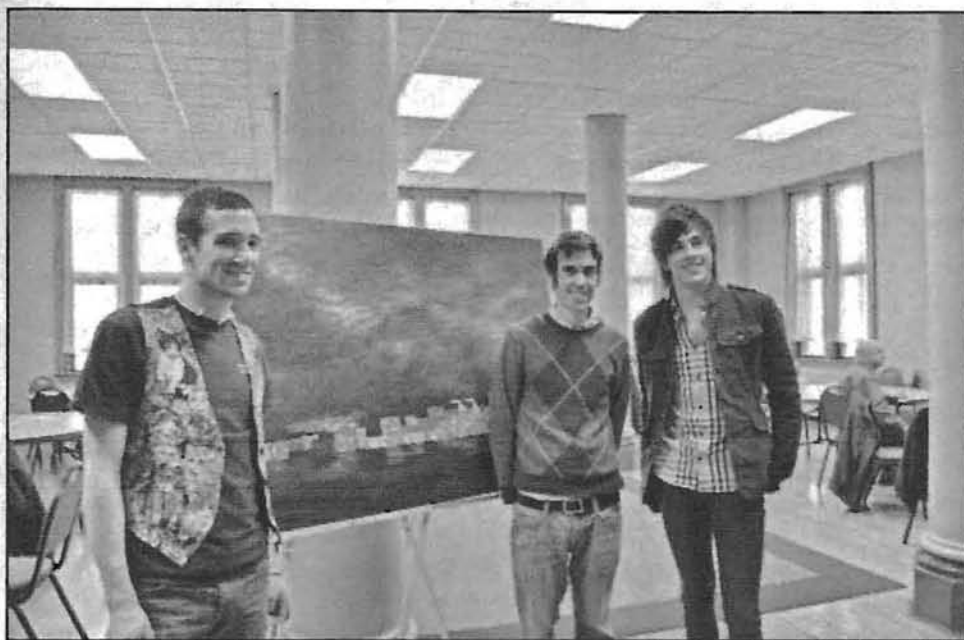
Clara Belle Bell died in January 1991 after 62 years of marriage. A month and a half later, James Bell suffered a heart attack and died. The street they lived on was renamed in 1987 in Bells honor. "Cool Papa" Bell lies in St. Peters Church cemetery in St. Louis.

Bell left behind a baseball legacy, including the reminder that segregation was an additional struggle in Bells era.

"So many people say I was born too early, but that's not true," Bell said. "They opened the doors too late."

10th anniversary of "Bellerive"

Students help make it happen



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

UM-St. Louis students (from left) Derick Allison, senior, Louis Nahlik, senior, and Kyle Mueller, senior, collaborated to design the cover page of the Bellerive 10th Anniversary Edition at Provincial House on South Campus on Friday afternoon.

▶ SEQUITA BEAN

Features Editor

The Pierre Laclède Honors College of the University of Missouri St. Louis presented the 10th anniversary issue of their student literary publication "Bellerive" last Friday. In recognition, the college hosted a launch party to celebrate the monumental achievement of the publication.

Nancy Gleason, Associate Dean of the Honors College, is one of the faculty advisors for "Bellerive." She, along with the Dean of the Honors College, Robert Bliss, came up with the idea to start a literary publication for students 10 years ago. Back then, faculty advisors and students worked on "Bellerive" during their free time. It was not until the third issue that a Bellerive Honors Seminar class was formed which allowed students enrolled to work on the publication for credit. Since then the publication has grown tremendously. This year they had over 360 submissions for the book and about 60 students who helped with the project.

"Readers can expect some really wonderful poetry, short stories, an essay that won the essay contest here in the Honors College and just a nicely laid-out book that has interesting pieces," said Gleason. "There are also some humorous pieces." In the 10th anniversary issue, readers will see more diverse submissions in general.

"I think more than any other issue we've done in the past, we've got a very interesting

mix of several different types of works," Geri Friedline, faculty advisor for the publication, said. "I think that there's something for just about everybody this time around, and it adds a very nice sense to the book."

"In fact, the class sort of feels that way too, and that's one of the reasons why we chose the title 'Archipelago' because several things can stand on their own, but are much better when they're put together as a group."

The 10th anniversary also marks the first time "Bellerive" has used a painting as its cover art. The cover was painted by Louis Nahlik, senior, liberal studies, and the layout was collaborated with Kyle Mueller, senior, music performance, and Derick Allison, senior, studio art. "We decided on it, and I just kind of took it and ran with it from there and came up with the layout for the cover," Mueller said. "We found something that fit with his artwork and didn't overshadow it. It's very complimentary."

Nahlik was inspired by a photo from a trip to Hawaii for his painting titled "Hawai'i at Night."

"I'd visited Hawaii last December and January, and we were out on a cruise and it was a picture looking back on the shore," Nahlik said. "I just extrapolated from that picture, and made my own style with it." Nahlik was surprised that his painting was chosen as the cover. "It felt pretty awesome getting that email."

See **BELLERIVE**, page 14

FACULTY PROFILE:

Dr. Patricia Kopetz

Changing children's lives, one kid at a time

▶ SEQUITA BEAN

Features Editor

Dr. Patricia Kopetz is an E. Desmond Lee Endowed professor of Education for Children with Disabilities. She has taught all over including Tennessee, Michigan and even Africa. This native St. Louisan has returned home to enlighten students at the University of Missouri St. Louis with her expertise.

The Current: You were previously a professor at Central Michigan State University; what brings you to UMSL?

Dr. Patricia Kopetz: What brought me to the university was the advertisement of this particular professorship. It's an endowed professorship—the E. Desmond Lee endowed professor of education of children with disabilities, in conjunction with Variety, the children's charity. The opportunities that this provided with regard to my academic work, research, and teaching, but also service to the community. We prepare teachers to work in the schools, so it seemed like a natural fit to be in the university in the faculty capacity, and also have the time to work with the community. That's what brought me here.

TC: What sort of challenges do you face dealing with children with disabilities and how do you overcome them?

PK: With working with all children you have to have very good problem-solving skills.

I feel that with special education you have to have the creativity, the flexibility and the knowledge how to deal with situations that you won't find in typical educational settings. We like to provide strategies and interventions, and acknowledgement to this particular population of learners. They're special to the special needs of the students.

TC: You've made many accomplishments throughout your career; what accomplishment are you most proud of?

PK: Probably the work that I've been able to do in the area of autism spectrum disorders. It has afforded me opportunities within the states, and nationally and internationally to work with other educators, parents, and children who have these very different communication modalities. Trying to satisfy their needs and work with the parents of these children, and then work with teachers who are trying their best to understand the challenges of children with autism, is probably what I've enjoyed most doing.

TC: You were recently elected to the board of the St. Louis Arc; could you tell us a little about that experience?

PK: St. Louis Arc provides assistance for 3,000 families in the greater St. Louis area, and they're growing.

See **KOPETZ**, page 14

TRIP PRESENTS

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The Runway

Top 10 fashion do's and don'ts



Sequita Bean

Finding style can be tricky. It is unique to every person, so here are some tips to help find style and own it.

10. No one likes a copy-cat.

Style is something like a fingerprint in the sense that it is unique to every person. When someone is trying to dress like Paris Hilton, it is obvious they are trying to dress like Paris Hilton. If Paris' style is a favorite, take notes, but add your own personal twist to it. Besides, celebrities get their style from stylists. Fashion is more fun when it is personal, so bring something new to the table and do not be afraid!

9. Wear white after Labor Day.

This fashion rule went out with trucker hats. There are just way too many beautiful white pieces being designed this season to wait for spring. Pair a white dress with color-

ful shoes and accessories, or a white pant with a colored top. Break up the white or wear it solo, but be careful—avoid the gallon milk look.

8. If there is second guessing, do not wear it.

Thinking twice about wearing that sequined rainbow headband? Don't put it on. Clothing helps confidence, but it mostly lies in the person wearing the clothes. Feeling insecure about an unsure clothing item is a confidence downer. It is okay to push the envelope and dress unique, but only if it feels right.

7. No graphic tees over the age of 30.

In some cases, the age limit could be cut down to 25. Shirts that read "If you're rich, I'm single" are not becoming on people old enough to get a discount on their car insurance. Either grow up or go sit in the corner.

6. No denim on denim...

...unless you are A) a cowboy or cowgirl or B) auditioning for "Brokeback Mountain 2." Not just denim, but all prints and fabric. It is a monstrosity of tackiness. Just run away from the three-piece blue jean outfit. Just because it is on the same hanger means nothing.

5. Put things into perspective.

Do not purchase something that is not budget friendly, even if the money is available. If you make \$10 an hour and you are thinking about purchasing a \$600 handbag, evaluate

this: is this handbag worth 60 hours of labor? Again, being fashionable does not depend on the price of the clothes, it is about the person wearing them.

4. If your foot is about to fall off, take the shoes off.

People who sacrifice pain for style have the bunions to prove it. Take care of those feet. It may require a little digging, but there is such a thing as a fashionable, comfortable stiletto. Visit Myoptumhealth.com to read tips on finding the perfect comfy shoes.

3. Just say "no" to VPL.

Visible panty lines can ruin an outfit, especially when the panties are too tight and there is butt cleavage coming from the sides—the horror! Invest in a boy cut, or a pair of seamless underwear.

2. Be the queen of the jungle.

Animal print is just one of those trends that will transcend time. The key is that less is more. Tiger print shoes? Yes. Zebra print belt? Yes. Leopard print skirt over a solid top? Yes, yes, yes! Be careful not to overdo it, because with fun animal prints, it is easy to get carried away and look like a pimp.

1. Stay true to yourself.

Let your personality shine through. Don't like these rules? Break them! Personal style is a unique fingerprint and it is your choice how to design it.

KOPETZ, from page 13

The university's affiliation comes into play because we have students who can get hands-on, real-world knowledge of working with the clients and the children with special needs.

We can become affiliated with their programs to provide clinical experience for our master's- and doctoral-level students.

We just find the Arc and the people that administer the services for individuals with disabilities to be very gracious in allowing us to collaborate with them and allowing our students more practical experience. We consider it a win-win situation.

TC: What is your favorite thing about being an educator?

PK: The students, the new ideas, and the discussions that we have. You have to stay contemporary or you die in this profession. You have to know about what the students' frustrations are, you have to know about the battles that they face, [and] you have to know about the achievements that they desire.

It really takes a lot of consideration of others to survive in this field. We have to work with where the students are coming from. It's challenging, it's interesting, it keeps us contemporary, and we learn as we go.

Nothing ever stays the same. That's what I enjoy most about it. It's an ever changing field and you don't grow stagnant.

BELLERIVE, from page 13

Senator Wayne Goode was in attendance for the launch and was very impressed with the cover art.

"The cover is really nice," Goode said. "I'm a bit of a photographer and my wife is a colorist, so I have a bit of appreciation for what goes into this sort of thing."

Senator Goode is also a sponsor of several scholarships that aid students in the Honors College and hopes to be in attendance next year. "I've just kind of gotten a little bit attached to things over here, so I come over from time to time."

The launch of "Archipel-

ago" was the biggest launch the publication has ever had. "This was the best-organized launch in some time, possibly the best-attended ever, and certainly raised more money in direct sales than any previous launch," Dean Bliss wrote in an email.

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COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Is Google bound to fail?

The corporation may repeat Apple's mistakes

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Business/Tech Editor

Keeping a competitive edge is the biggest motivating factor in the technology business. Among the companies that engage in this endless race, there are those who excel by investing themselves in creating incredible products and those who experience scattershot success through multiple projects.

Whether keeping that competitive edge can ever happen for any company depends on how much it can invest in any project at a given time.

Companies that invest themselves into a limited number of lucrative projects do well just so long as their final products are innovative. But what happens to companies with vast resources to pour into multiple projects, only a few of which ever make it out of the lab, let alone become successful?

Well, in the long run they can stumble and ultimately fail.

A prime example of this scenario can actually be seen in the history of what we now know as one of the most successful and innovative companies in the field of technology.

Following the breakthrough successes of the Apple II and Macintosh com-

puters, Apple was much what we know it as today. It was the company that sat on the cutting edge of what was possible in technology, in great part because of its ability to innovate and deliver incredible projects that set the pace for everybody else to follow.

In the business world, this was very well received. At the time that its stock went public back in the late 1970s, Apple enjoyed one of the highest initial public offerings ever seen. But things changed.

First, the two founders and chief innovators of the company, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, were forced out or left. Next, the new leadership decided to turn loose the incredible innovative powers in its labs to tackle any number of projects either they or the engineers wanted.

This took a series of massive investments on the part of the company, which ate up much of its cash on hand and ultimately drove it to the brink of bankruptcy. Very few of these projects ever became products, and the few that did were failures. In the meantime, the few solid products they had stagnated while attention and resources were devoted to products that would never see the light of day.

What this example reminds me of is Google. Like Apple, Google was founded

by two men who came out of nowhere to change things almost overnight. The algorithm that powers the Google search engine was groundbreaking at its time and has become much of the force that currently drives our online world.

But Google was not content with merely providing a search engine. It quickly began offering a whole host of tools and services like Gmail, and eventually software and hardware like the Chrome Web browser and Nexus One smartphone.

What bothers me about this is the failure rate of Google's labs. Services like Google Wave and now Google Buzz have fallen flat while new projects, like Google's ISP, appear to be a costly endeavor to test, let alone deploy and maintain. And while all of these innovations are taking place, many of the products that made Google great in the first place are stagnating.

I fear that if Google continues on its current path, it will wind up being very much like Apple in the mid 90s: a burned out shell of what it once was, with the sharks circling around its carcass waiting to finish it off. I just hope that the best and brightest we have seen in a long time does not become the least and dullest.

Google Buzz: the next big thing?

Application may change social networking

► **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

Beginning Feb. 9, those who signed up for Gmail account got a message offering Google Buzz as an extra service. Buzz is Google's latest attempt at creating competition for sites like Facebook and Twitter in the social networking world, and it is linked directly to users' Gmail accounts.

Buzz provides connectivity similar in function to that of Facebook. Users can post status updates, photos, videos and links, and are able to comment on others' postings. All of these actions collectively are referred to as "Buzzing."

Friends on Buzz are called "Followers." Upon activating an account, new users are instantly offered the opportunity to import their contact and chat lists from other Google programs as people they will follow on Buzz.

To further assist users in locating people they may know, Buzz implements a "Follower Suggestion" program. Much like Facebook, this function analyzes data on users' current Followers and who the user is following in order to suggest other connections the user has not made.

Google Buzz also offers

users the option of instantly linking their Buzz account to accounts from other services such as Twitter. This feature is offered to allow users to inform their followers of their activity around the net, all in one location. Facebook is one network that Buzz does not offer connectivity with.

Students had mixed reactions to the new service.

"I think Google Buzz would be good for people who already have a Gmail account, but I think it's a bit simplistic when compared to other social networking services," Brandace Grosich, sophomore, theatre and dance, said. "It's really nothing special or revolutionary, and I think it will need a lot of improvement in order to compete with Facebook."

"My dislike of it may be a little immature. It seems very practical, since it's tied to your actual email. It just seems really professional to me. Facebook is very entertainment-based, which I actually like more," Derick Allison, junior, graphic design, said. "If I were to use Buzz normally, it would need to be more visual-oriented; it's too plain right now, too cut and dry. I could see businessmen who are always emailing using this. But for someone in

my field, it just doesn't seem stylish enough."

While some were unimpressed with the limited features, others saw it as a knock-off version of other services already available.

"It's an incomplete rip-off of Twitter. It has the same basic principle in that you post updates based on who you're hanging out with, what you're doing, etc. You also search for people to 'follow,' and people 'follow' you, just like with Twitter. I don't think it will ever take off globally. I think it may have the potential take off and be popular with diehard with Google fans, much as Google Chrome did, but I don't think it will ever be as big a social network as Facebook or Twitter," Greg Laine, freshman, biology, said.

Google Buzz is still young. Having been released less than a month ago, there may still be room for the site to grow.

The new service has already come under fire by privacy rights advocates. When a response is posted "@ another user, that user's email is shared because Buzz is directly linked to Gmail. Additionally, the new service's automatic suggestions feature provided other users with certain contact information.

HOT WIRE

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Business/Tech Editor



COURTESY OF FAST U.K. SECURED LOANS

New mortgage option helps homeowners

There is a new option being implemented by banks as a means for their customers to escape eminent foreclosure, an article in the New York Times said. In lieu of banks evicting homeowners from their property and then attempting to sell it themselves, financial institutions are allowing their customers to turn their deed over to the bank and then sell the property themselves. This allows the homeowners to still live in their homes while they sell it.

The plan does have its faults, however, as the properties of-

ten sell for much less than the remaining balance owed on the mortgage. Under the agreement, homeowners give whatever they get for the property to the bank, which then forgives the remaining balance owed on the original mortgage. While this arrangement still leaves banks with the residue of the toxic assets they once held, it does remove them from having to sell the properties they take over through foreclosure. CitiMortgage is currently testing this strategy in six states, including Illinois.



COURTESY OF AMAZON

E-Books not experiencing growth in market share

Despite steady sales of devices like the Amazon Kindle, the Barnes and Noble nook and other e-book readers, the sale of e-books accounted for only two percent of books sold last year, according to data released last week by Bowker, a group that tracks sales in the publishing industry. According to their report, trade paperbacks and hardcover books made up 70 percent of all sales last year and only 20 percent of those books were sold through Internet retailers, with 27 percent being sold through traditional retailers.

These statistics seem to back up a common claim being made by publishers: while e-books are easier to distribute and consume, they also sell for less and involve an immediate investment in technologies that can be costly. This has made commitments to the new format questionable to publishers. It will remain to be seen whether sales will grow in conjunction with the availability of tablet computers like the Dell Mini 5, HP Slate and Apple iPad—all of which have the capability to double as e-book readers.



IEEE

COURTESY OF IEEE

IEEE backs algorithm aimed at combating fraud

The IEEE convention, which is ultimately responsible for approving everything from wireless Internet standards to USB connections, has thrown its approval behind a new computer logarithm that can analyze a photo of a piece of artwork, compare it to algorithmic data gathered from a photo of the original piece, and tell if one is a fake. Art fraud is a multi-million dollar business, as fake reproductions of paintings often sell for more than the originals at auction to unsuspecting buyers.

The method being used is called sparse coding, and it allows

programs that utilize it to absorb and record a minute level of detail in a particular artist's work, more than the human eye could ever comprehend. This technology uses powerful mathematical equations, known as algorithms, which are already in use in facial recognition technologies used by some governments. It is also the same concept that companies like Google use to imbed ads in Web sites based on a user's previous Web searches, or that Facebook uses to suggest other members a user may have things in common with.



COURTESY OF APPLE

iTunes winner mistakes phone call as prank

According to a report in Rolling Stone, Louie Sulcer, a resident of Woodstock, Ga., believed that the personal phone call he received from Apple CEO and cofounder Steve Jobs to notify him that he was the 10 billionth iTunes customer was a prank. Sulcer attributed the phone call to his son, who is known for pulling pranks, and reportedly asked Jobs, "No, really, who is this?" Sulcer only realized that the call was legitimate when he saw that his caller ID display for the number read "Apple."

Sulcer received a \$10,000 iTunes gift certificate for his 99 cent purchase of the Johnny Cash song, "Guess Things Happen That Way," which he was downloading for a mix of Cash songs to give to his son. He said he chose the song because he "really liked it. It had some really good pickin' in it." Jobs mentioned that the iTunes store had sold its 10 millionth song at the introduction of the iPad in January, but made no mention of this incident in the phone call to the winner at that time.

Captain of Industry: Dr. Rose

Professor speaks on health care & job market

► **PATRICK W. CANOY**
Staff Writer



Dr. David Rose

University of Missouri-St. Louis economics chair David Rose has been at UM-St. Louis since 1985. Dr. Rose is from St. Louis and received his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Virginia. Rose contributes often to on-air debates with radio and television networks, including KMOX.

The Current: What sparked your interest in going into the economics field?

David Rose: Most people have a hard time figuring out what they want to do in college, and my problem was that I wanted to do everything. I loved math, writing and the sciences. So there were all these different things I wanted to do and I was worried if I picked just one of them, I might miss the one true thing I was supposed to do.

Someone told me that because the way my mind worked, they thought that I should be a lawyer. So I went to a pre-law meeting and there they said there were specific majors that law

schools really like but almost nobody chooses, and one of them was economics. So I took an economics course and liked it almost right from the start.

TC: How do you feel about the government bailouts?

DR: They may be helping a little bit, they may be hurting a little bit, but either way I think they are a bad idea. The bailouts that happened with the current situation are a legacy of bailouts that occurred in the 90s, and at the time, we were told that it was not going to make any difference; firms are not going to adjust their behavior. Yet in fact, many firms did bet on the fact that the government would bail them out, so that made the size of the bailout problem bigger. As these firms come to count on the government coming in to bail them out, they will engage in ever more risky behavior and increase the likelihood that they will need to be bailed out even more.

TC: Why are we not seeing much job growth right now?

DR: Two reasons: first and foremost, job growth is always the last thing to come in a recovery. People who run firms do not want to fire people, so they will not hire new people at the end of a recession until they have no

choice. The fact that they probably just had to fire a bunch of people a year or so ago will cause them to be very reluctant to start hiring new people again.

The second reason is that the government is attempting to stimulate the economy in a number of ways. One of the big changes is obviously health care reform, and the problem with that is that it can have a dramatic effect on the cost of employment. Most people work for middle-sized firms ... Many of these firms are just going to wait it out and see how it goes.

TC: How do you feel about the job market for college graduates over the next few years?

DR: It is going to be especially difficult for students who did not choose a serious major. When times are good and firms have a hard time filling job positions, it does not make much difference what your major is; as long as you are fairly smart and willing to work hard, you will still get a job somewhere. Times are difficult now and could be for even the next five years. A college student who has a major that does not generate specific skills that employers need is at a huge disadvantage and is looking at pretty grim prospects.

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Opinions

Parking passes should be worth their weight in gold

In St. Louis, parking is a fact of life. Most people here are forced to have a car or suffer the inconveniences of a terrible public transit system that is not practical for county residents, has unsafe platforms and is shut down for the majority of the late night.

And at our commuter school, despite having two Metro stops on campus, most students and faculty have to deal with campus parking. Not surprisingly, everyone has an opinion.

Students tell their teachers they skipped class because they could not find a spot. Parking tickets are distributed because drivers do not want to pay for a pass that is so expensive. And all the while, the shuttle bus taxis three or four people around campus when it could seat at least 20.

University of Missouri-St. Louis is not the only university campus with parking issues. In fact, Gary Forsee recently said that both UM-Kansas City and Missouri S&T students have complained to him that there are never enough parking spots on their campuses. And that is probably true.

But for those who complain of the same at UM-St. Louis, *The Current* respectfully disagrees. Sure, sometimes the only spots are at

the top of a parking garage, located 15 minutes from class, but the spots are there. After driving the lots of this campus for more than a semester, it should be clear that circling the MSC lots at 9:30 a.m. instead of heading straight for the garages is probably not a practical way to make it to class on time. At least the parking is there, albeit inconveniently.

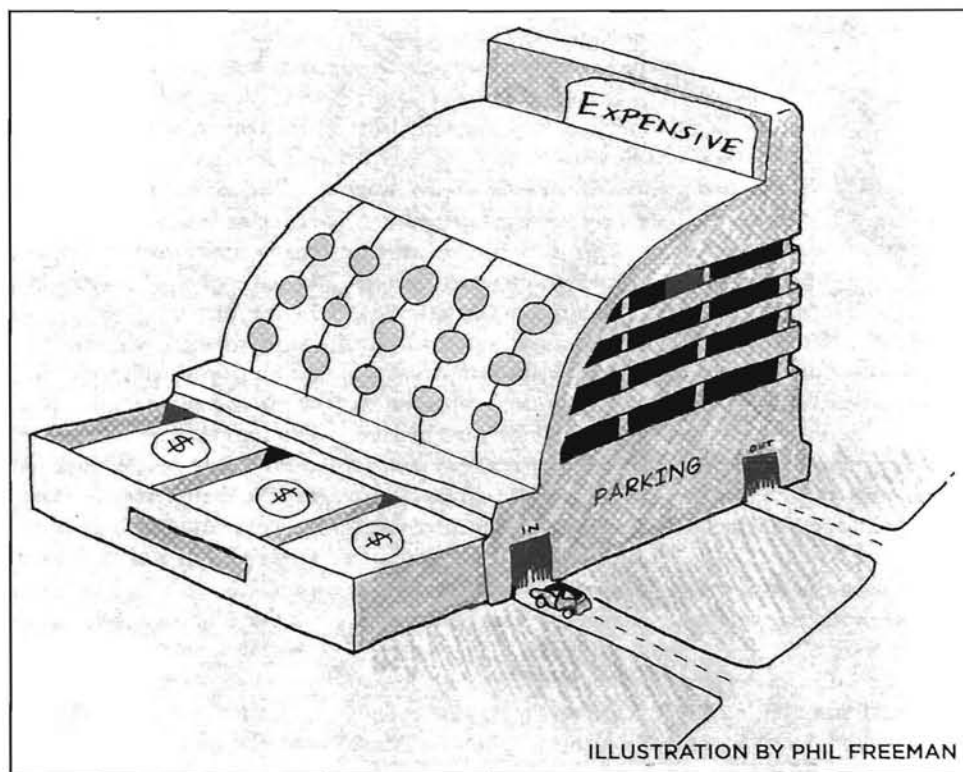
Those who gripe about the prices, however, could be on to something. For a full-time student, parking can cost almost \$300 a semester. And where is all that money going? Not to mention the money from the copious amounts of tickets distributed for those who do not shell out hundreds to park? As parking spots can always be found, the money certainly should not be going to building more garages and parking lots.

At a commuter school in a city with poor public transit, it is unfair to ask students to pay so much money to park every semester. Perhaps most unfair is that the students who give the most money to the school, and take a full-time course load, are the ones footing most of the bill.

Since the amount of parking spaces is not an issue, why would it cost the students who take more courses (and are theoretically park-

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:

Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel
Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal • Cedric Williams



ing in the lots more often), more money? The number of spaces does not increase or decrease by what people pay for a pass. In fact, it is the students that take a lot of courses who have less flexibility when it comes to purchasing a pass. If the price for a UM-St. Louis parking pass was flat, those students who take fewer courses and do not want to pay can make a choice. They can get a ride to school, take the Metro one day a week, or they can pay the

price of convenience.

Until there is an obvious reason for charging nearly double the amount for parking at UM-St. Louis then they do at other UM System schools (such as Missouri S&T), the price of parking should be flat, and much, much less. Until then, keep parking and keep complaining, but make sure to at least put the parking sticker on the left side of your back windshield.

America owns the podium in Canada

This Winter Olympics, the U.S. teams have proven to have greater depth than the other countries. This could be attributed to the funding the U.S. Olympic teams are given. Here in the U.S., we don't necessarily focus on any one specific sport, like Germany with sledding or Norway with cross-country skiing.

The fundamental approach for the U.S. is to simply put consistently high-quality athletes in all the disciplines.

The U.S. surpassed its previous record for total medals

in the winter games with 37 total medals this year, the previous record being 34 in Salt Lake City in 2002. We were beat out in gold medals by host-country Canada (14), and Germany (10), while tying for fourth place with Norway with nine.

By winning more gold medals than any other country, Canada saved face by spending millions of dollars on their "Own the Podium" campaign. It will be interesting to see if the grand push that was specific for these games will translate into Canada being a regular Win-

ter Olympic powerhouse—something they have gradually been working to become since winning only five total medals in the 1988 games in Calgary, the last time the games were held in Canada.

This year marks the first time the U.S. won the most in medal counts since 1932 at Lake Placid games. Since then, the U.S. has had to fight just to get into double digits in the medal count in most games, but they have been on the rise ever since they hit bottom in 1988 with a mere six medals.

The increase in its overall

medal count can be attributed to the U.S. getting better at winter sports than in the past.

The best example of this can be found in the Nordic Combined, in which the U.S. won its first-ever medals in the 86 years since the event was introduced, including a gold medal for Bill Demong and three silver medals for Johnny Spillane.

However, this still leaves room for improvement in some of the more fringe Olympic sports that Team USA is not known to be in competition for, such as

biathlon, skeleton and the oddly transfixing curling. We at *The Current* would like to take a moment to attest to our love of curling, as it is our favorite winter sport. Of all of the events held at the winter games, it is the only one that can easily—and safely—be adopted as a drinking game.

But while the U.S. is getting around to winning at sports that have been around as long as the Winter Olympics themselves, other countries are gaining on the U.S. This is no more apparent than in snowboarding,

where in the Salt Lake games team U.S. had a sweep of the medal podium in the Men's halfpipe and won a total of five medals in the 12 that were up for grabs. This year, though, Shaun White, the Titan of the Halfpipe, was the only U.S. Olympian on the podium.

The U.S. may have the most medals, and hopefully, next Winter Games, we will have even more. We are slowly growing our stable of reliable Olympians, and hey, who knows, maybe next time we will beat Canada at curling.

Illegal webcam viewing horrifying

It must suck to be a kid these days.

Granted, I am not all that far removed from being a teenager, but when I went through high school, one thing I did not have to worry about was my privacy.

These days, social media like Facebook and Twitter dominate teenage lives. Every weekend, numerous events occur - prom, parties, even just plain hanging out - and lots of pictures and status updates result from them.

With employers checking up on potential hires via Facebook and Twitter and law enforcement using the same to help track down criminals, keeping private anything that happens can be a chore.

Yes, teenagers have a lot to deal with. Sure, Facebook and Twitter both have privacy settings. But what about when students are unknowingly spied on in their own homes?

Talk about a privacy nightmare.. The Lower Merion School District of Pennsylvania has been experiencing a backlash of unimaginable proportions over allegations that the school used school-issued laptops to remotely take pictures of students.

Harriton High student Blake Robbins and his parents are leading the fight, claiming that Robbins was disciplined by principal Lindy Matsko for "engaging in improper behavior," according to an article about the lawsuit on Abcnews.go.com.

This supposed "improper behavior" occurred off school grounds and in Robbins' bedroom. His Apple laptop camera was allegedly activated by school officials and a snapshot was taken of

him "selling drugs."

Robbins has denied the school's accusation and claims that what the school saw as drugs was simply a piece of candy. Mike and Ike's, in fact.

Whether or not Robbins was doing something illegal is irrelevant. The school—allegedly, of course—was taking a picture of him. In his bedroom. After school hours.

The fact that the Lower Merion School District thought that it would be in any way okay to spy on students is incredible. Did not one, for lack of a less-cliched term, think of the children?

The idea behind the school's ability to remotely view their student's laptop webcams is sketchy at best. Supposedly, remotely viewing the webcams will help in locating lost or stolen laptops.

However, the Abcnews.go.com article said that "during the current school year, the district has recovered 18 stolen or misplaced laptops, yet the system has been activated 42 times."

Those numbers look pretty lopsided. On top of that, for a laptop's webcam to be activated, the laptop has to have both battery life left and be open.

It appears that the school has instead elected to use their students' laptops as virtual parents, spying on them in their own houses and bedrooms. The ability of this system to be misused for both stupidity and evil is astounding.

On the one hand, there is Robbins and his situation: being accused of a crime he didn't commit.

On the other, there is possible child pornography and voyeurism.

Sadly, Harriton is not



Andrew Seal

the only school to have used their provided laptops for nefarious purposes.

PBS Frontline showed a documentary titled "Digital Nation" a few weeks ago, and one part featured the vice principal of Intermediate School 339 in New York, Dan Ackerman. Ackerman kindly demonstrated how he "remotely monitors" the students through their laptops for "inappropriate use."

Several of Ackerman's more choice quotes were horrifying: "They don't even realize we are watching," he said, mentioning that 6th and 7th graders have their cameras activated. On top of that, he "always like[s] to mess with them and take a picture" and that some students "use it like a mirror."

This kind of practice puts educators everywhere to shame.

Spying on students via their webcams is a despicable thing. Not only is it most likely illegal thanks to federal wiretap laws, its ability to be misused should not be understated.

Teenagers have a lot going on without the school they are at for 35-plus hours a week spying into their personal business and reprimanding them for things done after hours.

Let parents be parents. Not schools.

Andrew Seal is the Opinions editor for The Current.

Do we have the right to die?

The topic and practice of euthanasia is one of the very few subjects in my life that has stumped me to the point of having several different opinions on the matter. It is easily one of the lesser recognizable terms, yet one of the most controversial topics in the world today.

Euthanasia is defined by the Webster's New World Dictionary as "an easy and painless death" or "the act or practice of causing death painlessly to end suffering; advocated by some in cases of incurable diseases." It comes from the Greek word meaning "good death." For many, it is an incredibly uncertain opinion. For others, there is no question as to whether ending a life is wrong or right.

Here is a scenario: an 89-year-old grandmother recently was diagnosed with a form of terminal cancer; 22 of 24 hours each day are spent in her bed for the simple fact she cannot form strength to do much else. Vomiting, seizures and difficulty with speech are a few of the other physical challenges she faces. She is consistently in pain, despite medication, and for the past few months, expresses that she just wishes it would end, easily and painlessly with a lethal injection.

Here is another scenario: a two-year-old child is born with an equal terminal cancer. He has not ever lived outside the hospital and spends most of his time in bed in pain. The doctors do not foresee him living past the age of three.

Most people would find ending the life of an 89-year-old, someone who has lived much longer and more fully than the two-year-old, somewhat easier than ending the life of the two-year-old. The reality is that the situation of the two-year-old is just as

common as the 89-year-old.

So is ending a life or lingering one more ethical?

One on hand, we as humans should have every right to decide whether we live or die, especially if someone is considered terminally ill. If a person is consistently in pain and suffering for months, or even years, it might be better off for them to finally rest in peace. When patients give consent for a lethal injection or a halt to medical treatments, they are using their rights as patients to determine what is best for them.

In one case study, cancer patients were expressing their wish to die. After receiving the proper pain relief and counseling, 98% changed their minds. In cases like these, it is believed that certain things such as underlying depression or loneliness may be the likely cause of people wishing to die.

Another thing to consider is the influence of family. Most families are not cookie-cutter Brady Bunch types and can be very manipulative at times.

Several situations have come about where the hospital, other family members, etc., find out that one or more persons from the family persuade the dying family member to give consent to pass. This could be for a few reasons, including they do not want to be burdened anymore, or the rewards of the dying persons will.

One of the more disputed parts of euthanasia is involuntary euthanasia. Involuntary euthanasia involves ending a life without the person's consent or knowledge. An example of this would be in the case of a coma patient or the 2-year-old. Much of the time, this is the most controversial topic of "mercy killing" because it is often up



Jen O'Hara

to friends, family members or hospital staff who may not truly comprehend the entirety of the situation. In addition, doctors and family alike sometimes choose taking the "easy route" for their own sakes. With the patient gone, it makes their lives and workloads easier.

Expectedly, religion is a very influential factor concerning this. Most religions argue that certain people are just meant to live, and if God wills it, they will pass. Holding that true, should we stop medical treatments altogether? After all, if God wills us to live, then we should be able to, without medical treatment. Perhaps it is God's will to allow us to die with a lesser pain and also use the experience to test others. Everything happens for a reason, as some say.

Euthanasia is a very it-depends-on-the-situation topic. It purely depends on the person, what is happening, and the family of that person. For now, there isn't any specific right or wrong.

At the moment, euthanasia is legal in a very small percentage of the world. In the United States, specific types of euthanasia are allowed only in Oregon, Washington and Montana. But, like underage drinking and drugs, certain types of loopholes do occur and it happens daily.

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

SCIENCE MATTERS

Beyond survival of the fittest, animals also show altruism

Survival of the fittest. You hear this phrase all the time to sum up Darwin's theory of natural selection, the way in which species evolve. Individuals of a species that have traits that make them better adapted to their environment have a greater chance to survive and leave more offspring, increasing the chance of that trait among members of the species.

People often think of Darwin's theory as a heartless, toe-and-nail "kill or be killed" battle to survive but nature is more complex than that. Sometimes the most adaptive thing is kindness, and the best strategy for survival might be to help others.

Altruism may seem counter-intuitive as a survival-of-the-fittest strategy in a fiercely competitive world, but nature has plenty of examples of it. Cooperative or selfless behavior increases survival for a related group. If you think about it a bit, selfish individualism does not always make sense if the goal is survival of your species or for your genes to increase in the gene pool. No matter how fit, all individuals perish eventually. Parents are selfless with their offspring because if the offspring survive, the genes of the parents survive.

Individuals can sacrifice for other related members of their species, increasing the chances for survival rates for other individuals that share many of the same genes, even if they are not their own offspring.

Among insect species, like

bees that live in organized colonies, many individuals work for the common good and the survival of the whole community, rather than competing with other individuals in the colony of reproductive ascendancy.

There are even examples of altruistic behavior between species, as outlined in a 1994 study, "The Genetics of Mutual: The evolution of altruism between species."

A recent study of aphids highlights the pros and cons of altruism as an adaptive strategy, and some of the factors that influence altruism.

The study from researchers at Royal Holloway, University of London, published Feb. 3 in "Proceedings of the Royal Society B," looked at the social behavior of certain aphid species. The species examined in the study "The impact of colonial mixing on the evolution of social behavior in aphids" include some aphids that cease reproducing and become "soldier" aphids that defend, clean and even mend the communal nest, even at the risk of their own lives. The work of the soldier aphids is essential to maintaining the physical integrity and survival of the nest.

While these individual soldier aphids contribute to the common good, the nest is also colonized by as many as 25% aphids from other colonies. These invaders do not contribute to the running of the colony but do continue to reproduce at the same rate as productive nest members. The researchers looked at whether the altru-



Cate Marquis

ism of the soldier aphids put them in danger of losing out to the freeloader invaders, as the invaders increased in number and spread throughout the colony.

But one interesting thing they found was that selfless behavior increased when other individuals around them were more likely to also engage in selfless or helping behavior. This similar behavior is described as the "relatedness" of individuals. Increasing the number of unhelpful invaders decreased social cooperation but not enough to lead to a colony collapse. Additionally, the researchers were able to reduce the complex social behavior of the group, including migrations between nests, to a mathematical model that predicted the levels of social behavior. The researchers believe the model can be adapted, with modifications, to predict social behavior in other species.

So even among aphids, it pays to be nice if you want niceness in return, and not even an aphid likes a freeloader.

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

THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

Democrats trap Republicans at health care summit

Last week's health care summit at the White House always had the possibility of being an incredible spectacle. After all, on one side were the Democrats, who managed to come off like the sissies that were picked on in grade school that would always go tattling and always in the most pathetic whining voice. On the other side were the Republicans, who always managed to lie their way out of it or at least go kicking and screaming to the principal's office.

Just to sweeten the deal, both of these incredibly annoying groups of people were trying to iron out their differences over health care reform. No matter what your take on what reform should be, it should be certain that what would come out of a summit between these two groups would be nothing short of interesting.

What it wound up being also depends on which side of the debate one sits on. To a Republican, last Thursday's summit was nothing more than political theater for the sake of advancing the democratic agenda. To a Democrat, the summit seemed to be a rare moment when their side would take on the opposition in a healthy debate, hopefully finding a middle ground and working toward making a compromise.

Republicans tried to portray the entire event as a trap, even though they had asked for it and even asked for it to be televised. But that would only be because they treated it as such and made it into one for themselves.

From its opening remarks to its close, Republican senators and congressmen at the event came to the table with nothing less than their tired talking points, which, when

held up under scrutiny, had already failed to hold true. Their repeated attempts to hold the points against an aggressive Democratic front were useless.

In fact, I would say that, in response to the rhetoric from the right, the entire democratic side of the forum came down to one simple phrase, printed here as its widely used acronym:

STFU.

The Democrats used this phrase in a veiled political form that was charged and effective without coming off as rude or spiteful to anybody who was watching and had not made up his or her mind.

This could be seen in President Obama's questioning of Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) after Alexander bluntly asserted that the Congressional Budget Office had said that the current democratic proposal for healthcare reform would raise the cost of insurance premiums. When Obama began to calmly dismantle Alexander's smoke and mirrors argument, the senator from Tennessee decided to interrupt and assert his already deflated stance yet again. This only riled the president, and things got aggressive.

Indeed, many of the interjections from Obama during the seven-hour session left Republicans breathless. Obama shot down McCain when he compared their conversation that day to the conversation the two men had had as candidates for president. Obama reminded that the election was long over, that he had won and moved on.

At another point, a senator pushed Obama on a plan in which consumers would pay out of pocket into healthcare savings accounts, like those



Andy Phipps

that some members of Congress have in lieu of receiving subsidized assistance from the government. "Would you support this plan if you only made \$40,000 a year?" was the president's response, and it left the senator speechless.

In the end, the summit was a victory for Democrats, who left the meeting with the approval of the president to move ahead the current healthcare proposal as soon as possible, and get it to him in pieces using the reconciliation process normally used to get budget measures through without the threat of a filibuster.

But the only reason that Obama gave this unprecedented approval was because he received no constructive response from the other side. Instead of attempting to broker a deal, he was left to lay down the law after realizing that the Republicans would offer no genuine terms or ideas for moving forward.

Ultimately, this leaves the Republicans out in the cold. There will be healthcare reform this year, and they will have done nothing to shape it. Their shadowboxing over the issue has not changed anything; it has only made them look like, well, a certain nickname for the Democratic Party mascot.

Andy Phipps is Business/Tech Editor and a columnist for The Current.

What do you think about this week's columns?

Post a comment at
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See **CANNON**, page 9

JC: I was part of the [award] founders about six years ago. Our fifth annual award ceremony is coming up on March 22. As far as my nominations go, I was nominated for actor and director of 'Doubt' with Dramatic License Productions.

That's my fourth and fifth nominations. It'll be a great time, it'll be open, and the public can attend. It's a great time. It's a big award ceremony like the Oscars or the Tonys"

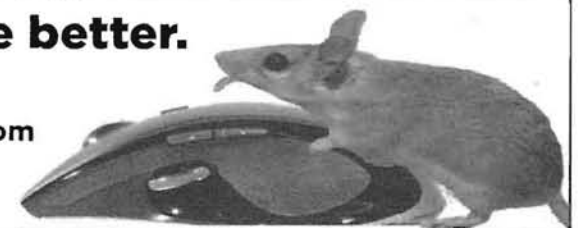
TC: *Could you tell me about the Kevin Kline awards?*

JC: The whole point of the Kevin Kline awards is to galvanize St. Louis professional theaters, to celebrate what we do, and to create more audience for every company. The last few years, we start showing up in blogs and news stories across the country and actors bios are [getting out there]. Some people are talking about St. Louis professional theater in the same breath as DC or Chicago, or LA.

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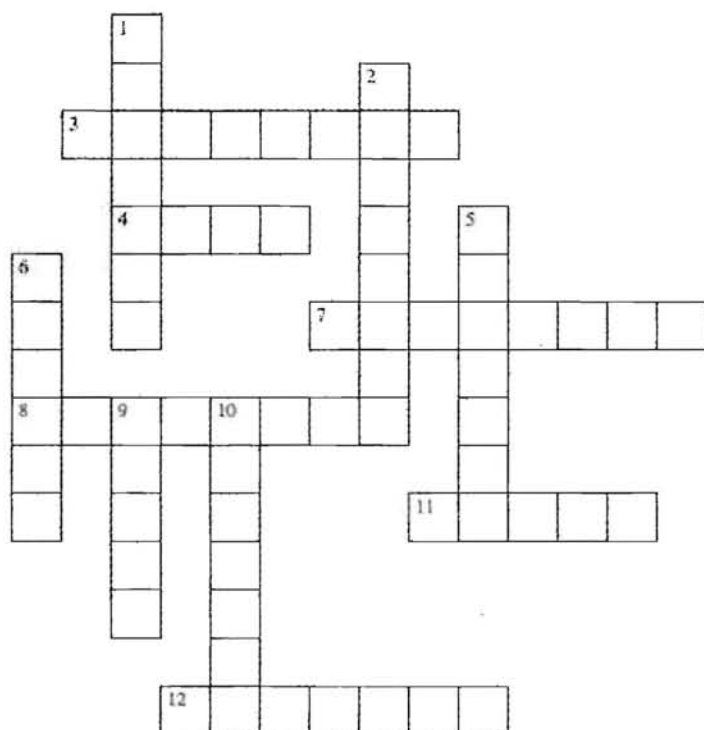
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Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

Earthquakes



ACROSS

3. This 1948 quake killed over 100,000 in this city, the capital of Turkmenistan.
 4. The western portion of this Asian country sustained an estimated 50,000 dead in 1990.
 7. Peruvian city that suffered losses of over 70,000 in 1970.
 8. At least 86,000 people killed in this Asian country's 2005 quake.
 11. Caribbean nation that sustained over 200,000 dead.
 12. The eastern part of this Province suffered China's latest major earthquake in 2008.

DOWN

1. Over 40% of the population of this Sicilian city was killed in 1908.
 2. City in China that had the second most death attributed to an earthquake. 1976.
 5. Caused a devastating tsunami in its aftermath in 2004.
 6. City in Northern Syria that suffered a devastating quake in 1138.
 9. Caused the great Tokyo fire in 1923.
 10. Province in Northwest China that is believed to have had the most deaths attributed to an earthquake. 1556.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You may have a hard time getting your point across to others this week. Try to hold back your frustration and be as patient as you can even if you have to repeat yourself multiple times.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Someone else's jealousy and suspicions, whether well-founded or not, may cause you quite a bit of trouble this week if you're not careful. Be honest about the issue.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Those around you might think of you as a bit overbearing this week. Pay close attention to how you interact with friends, family or co-workers.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

If you've been feeling guilty about something you've said or done lately, now is the time to apologize and make things right. The person you're apologizing to will take it well.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Your friends might try to talk you into doing something you know is wrong or dangerous. Going along with them is a sure way to get yourself into trouble, so it may be best to politely decline.

VIRGO (AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

This week may be difficult for you in terms of the amount of work you have to do, but if you can hang on, the weekend is likely to bring a lot of fun and perhaps an unexpected meeting.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You may find yourself fudging the truth a little or perhaps outright lying to get out of a sticky situation this week. It's almost certain to backfire on you eventually.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Look at a difficult question from many perspectives, and ask a friend for their input. This may not be a problem you can solve on your own, but you should be able to work it out.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

A heart-to-heart with a dear friend could bring the two of you even closer, as long as it stays two-sided. Take care not to make your conversations all about you.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

An approaching change might have you feeling worried, but really, once it happens it will be a relief, and might even make your life better.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You'll have to work a little harder than usual just to keep up this week, but by the time the weekend comes you'll know you've earned the break.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

If you have the opportunity to take a position of authority whether in a group project or at work, don't pass it up. Those around you will appreciate your clearheadedness.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★
(Hard)

Last week's answers

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

Last week's rating: Medium

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

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: P = T)

"VF NMULF NEYF EI PMF SOFVN EI PMF PFU
 HULPOFLN OB PFLYN EI PMF LEWF EI NHFZOUW
 OBPFLENP OBPFLENP OB VUNMOBKPEB C.Z."

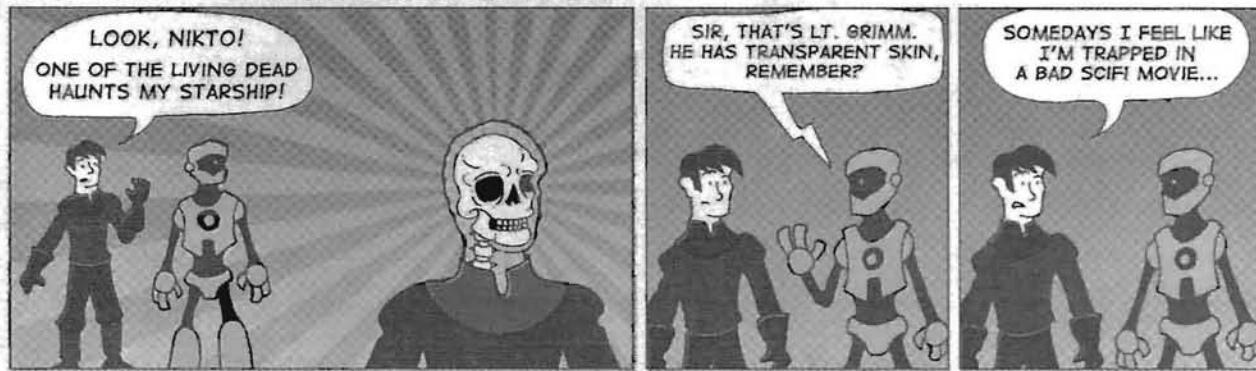
The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt when we get more in.

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



RANDOM MINDS BY JEFFREY GROSSMAN



PAUL MAGUIRE'S
GLUTTON B

"But sirs, missus, I see that it's wrong. It's wrong because it's, like against soci-ety."

"I was cured, alright."

♪ I'm singin' in the rain, just singin' in the rain... ♪

Awkward Abe
by Andy Phipps "Lincoln gives a life story"



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What's Current

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

Monday, Mar. 1

Art and Music in Poetry Members of the Faculty of Languages & Cultures in the UMSL Department of Anthropology & Languages read poetry in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish, along with translations in English. This annual event is in recognition of National Foreign Language Week. Located in 222 J.C. Penney Conference Center from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. For more information contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5699.

Sapphire Sapphire is the author of the novel, *Push*. It won the Book-of-the-Month Club Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's First Novelist Award, and in Great Britain, the Mind Book of the Year Award. *Push* was named by *The Village Voice* as one of the top twenty-five books of 1996 and by *TIMEOUT* New York as one of the top ten books of 1996. *Precious*: Based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire, the film adaption of Sapphire's novel, *Push*, recently won the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Awards in the U.S. dramatic competition at Sundance (2009). Located in the MSC Century Rooms from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact MK Stallings 314-516-5291.

Tuesday, Mar. 3

Tips and Strategies for Test-Taking Do you prepare for tests only to find you completely blank out when the test is placed in front of you or that your grade did not meet your expectation? Learn tips about taking certain types of tests: ex. Multiple choice, essay, true/false, etc. Located in 225 MSC from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM. For more info contact Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

Wednesday, Mar. 4

Office of Student Life Self Defense Workshop Officer Gary Clark of the UMSL Police will be teaching low intensity techniques that can effectively help you protect yourself against an attacker. Please wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. Located in the South Campus Museum Room from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information contact Ashlee Young at 314-516-5555.

V-Men Workshop This workshop will be the foundation for an eventual V-Men script entitled "10 Ways to Be a Man," which will be a collection of monologues of men's voices, ideas and experiences to end violence against women. For more information contact Monica Swindle at 314-732-4530.

Thursday, Mar. 5

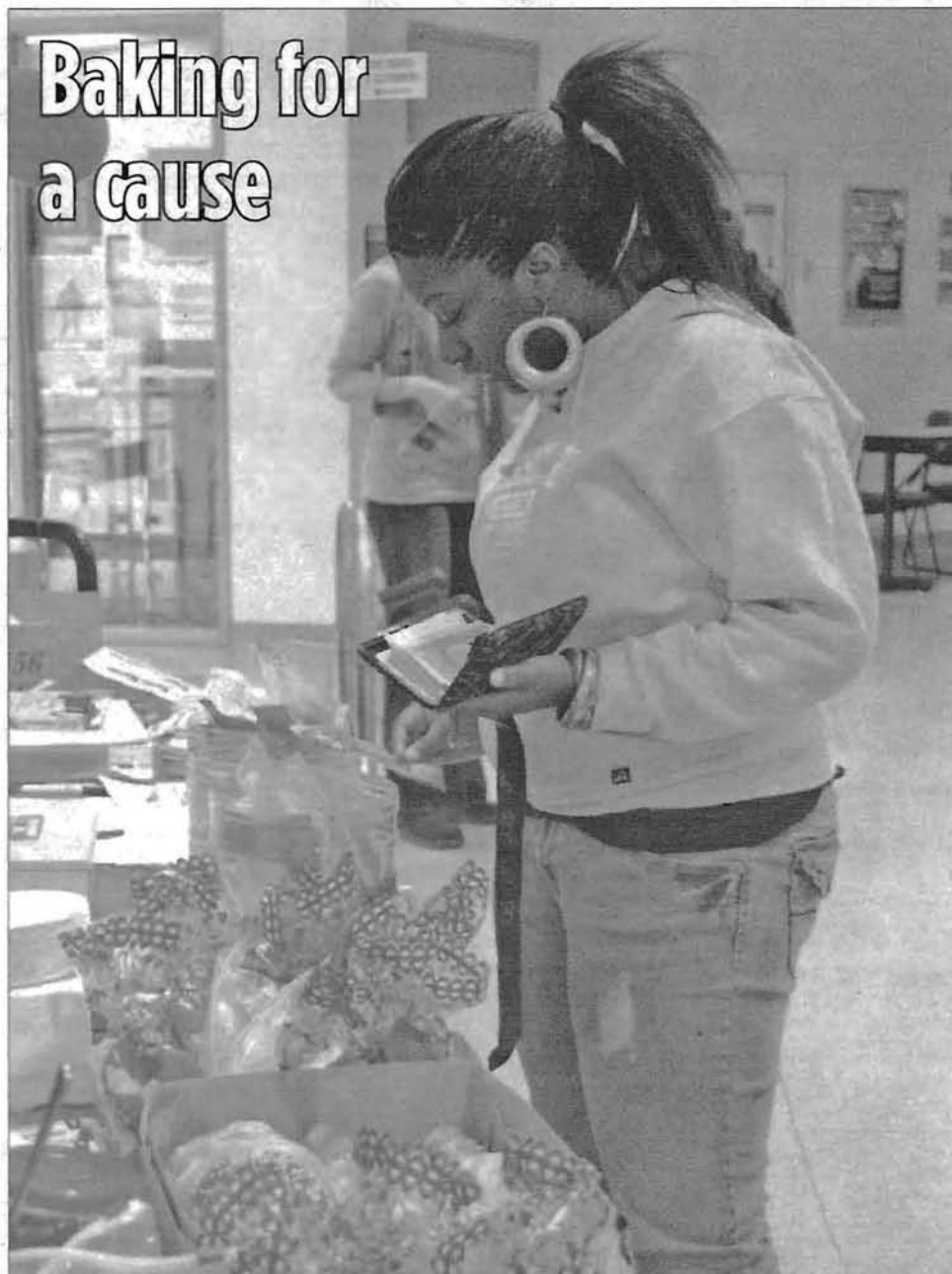
Bowling & Pizza Party Sponsored by Campus Rec Don't miss the food and the fun. Campus Rec's party includes pizza and 3 games of bowling. Best of all, it's free! Advance registration is needed and the deadline is Tuesday, March 2 by 5pm. Located at North Oaks Bowl from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Register in the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain. For more information contact Campus Rec at 314-516-5326.

Breakfast and Business Breakfast and Business sponsored by the College of Business Administration. Discussion leaders, Russell Odegard and Michael Pruett, Co-founders and Managing Partners of DYNALABS LLC. Topic: Serendipity In Action; A Journey to the Center of a Market. Located in the SGA Chambers, MSC from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. For more information contact Jane Ferrell at 314-516-5883.

Friday, Mar. 6

C Short Course - Adobe Photoshop Basics Sessions 1 and 2 This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of Adobe Photoshop. Learn how to use this application for image editing and more that may be required for classes, your job or for your own website purposes. Topics include: opening an image, merging images, adding text to an image, copyright responsibilities, personalize your photographs, improving the colors of an image, etc.. Located in SSB 124 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Baking for a cause



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Taylor Ray, freshman, music education, looks over what the V-Day bake sale has to offer on Monday. The bake sale had cookies, donuts and chocolate for students in the MSC and the money will be donated to help stop violence against girls and women.



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*