

The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

OCT. 25, 2010

VOL. 44;

ISSUE 1326

HALLOWEEN EDITION



ALSO INSIDE

3 Scary print quota
UM-St. Louis' printing quota frightening

7 Portugal. The Man
Indie rock scares fans at Firebird

12 Homecoming horror
Come haunt me at the fair

The Current
 Vol. 44, Issue 1326
 www.thecurrent-online.com

EVIL EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief.....BunnyBoo Bean
 News Editor.....Dying Skull
 Features Editor.....Jen O'Scara
 Sports Editor.....Freddie Kruger
 A&E Editor.....Herschel Knife
 Assoc. A&E Editor.....Casket Maker
 Opinions Editor.....Urdoom Issealed
 Copy Editors.....Cassie Creepshow, Owl Eye Wilder
 Proofreaders.....Nurse Ratchet, Manananggal
 Staff Writers.....Cold Blood Jung, Darko Tempest
 Cookie Caitlin, Nero Angelo, Health Hazard, Shifty Eyes Scherer,
 Candyman, Bride of Chucky

DYING DESIGN

Design Editor.....Greenman
 Production Designer.....A Zack of the Living Dead
 Photo Editor.....Grave Dweller
 Web Editor.....Spooky Loo
 Staff Photographers.....Stabby Abby, Blood Drain,
 Riki Takilla, Yumurder, Bang Bang, Chenhowl Moon,
 Illustrators.....Greenman, Nail Spike, Samuel Killer

BLOODY BUSINESS

Ad Director.....The Undead J. Keil
 Ad Associates.....A Zack of the Living Dead, Flounder Feldman
 Distribution Manager.....Dying Skull
 Business Manager.....The Count
 Advisor.....Sunshine Petty

AFFILIATIONS



ABOUT US

The Current is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. *The Current*, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis. The University is not responsible for the content of *The Current* and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of *The Current* and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of *The Current*.

The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

CONTACT US

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
 Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
 Newsroom 314-516-5174
 Business/Advertising 314-516-5316
 Fax 314-516-6811
 E-mail (General) thecurrent@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Tips) thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
 Twitter umslcurrent

Statshot

The UNDERCURRENT by Riki Takilla



"I would be Justin Bieber."

Lisandro Fabellar
 Finance and Accounting
 Senior



"I would be Homecoming Carrie."

Dasma Hopkins
 Media studies
 Senior

"What would you be for Halloween?"



"I would be Chuck Norris for halloween."

JoTerese Russell
 Psychology
 Junior



"I would be Waldo for halloween."

Ankur Panthi
 Math/Computer Science
 Senior

Comments from the WEB

on "Proposition B will help Missouri's canines" issue 1320

"Vote YES and stop the thugs breeding so many pitbulls in awful conditions."

-Mark

on "Abrupt DADT repeal is better than none" issue 1325

"And this is why I say that they should just let all military/army/navy whatever people take a vote on it. At the end of the day it is the joe schmo in the army uniform that will be around the gay person, so let him decide and not the politicians who aren't even in the army in the first place and therefore should have no opinion on it.

I am all for letting gays in if it means I don't have to ever be forced (I am very anti-women being in the army)."

-E.C.

on "A vote's a vote, except when it is for the Tea Party" issue 1324

"I think Mr. Seal is trying to say that this November, don't vote for Republicans that have Tea Party ideals or backing. Seems simple to me."

-Johnny G.

VERBATIM



"I would say the league is viable as long as you have owners who want to continue funding losses. But it's not on the long term a sustainable business model that we're happy to be supporting. It needs to be reset."

- DAVID STERN,
 NBA COMMISSIONER



"The Obama experiment has failed"

- JOHN THUNE,
 SENATOR IN SOUTH DAKOTA



"You are not alone. You didn't do anything wrong. You didn't do anything to deserve being bullied. And there is a whole world waiting for you, filled with possibilities."

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA,
 IN A YOUTUBE MESSAGE DIRECTED AT GAY YOUTH

WEATHER

MON. 74	TUES. 82	WED. 71	THURS. 73	FRI. 61	SAT. 61	SUN. 78
59	61	46	42	35	38	59

News

College of Business Administration trick-or-treated by Princeton Review

► **COLD BLOOD JUNG**
Staff Writer

The College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has been ranked among the nation's best business schools by The Princeton Review 2011.

The 2011 edition of the annual college guide book, "The Best 300 Business Schools," was released on October 12. The College of Business Administration at UM-St. Louis was included in the top 300 business schools again this year. Only six other colleges in the State of Missouri were included on the list. "In fact, we do really well on a number of rankings, including the international business program which has been on the national top 20 list for the last six years as well as information system faculty productivity which was also highly ranked by U.S. News and World Reports," Keith Womer, dean of College of Business Administration, said.

In the guidebook, the business program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis was described as having "a good reputation in the St. Louis area for providing a good, quality business education." Princeton review also stated that the average starting salary for UM-St. Louis business graduates is \$48,067. "Regarding the fact that we have a lot of part-time students as well as transfer students, who often times are left out of the statistics in terms of the rankings, we should be proud," Womer said.

However, since the rankings are based on surveys filled out by volunteer students, the validity of the review has been questioned by many students and faculties around the country. "All the rankings are basically imperfect, which explains why all the institutions cannot generate the same results," Womer said. College ranking systems have drawn criticism from within and outside the United States since the ranking reviews started to be published. In 2007, it even

brought a major movement against international college ranking systems, bearing the outcome that approximately 80 presidents of college expressed their position that they no longer intend to participate in the U.S. News college ranking at the meeting of the Annapolis Group. "Yes, it does take into account a lot of students' comments. Therefore, it offers some interesting insights to think about. However, I think there is a somewhat biased point of view because it is not a wide survey of a very large number of respondents in the whole country," Womer said. The College of Business Administration at UM-St. Louis has been ranked on the list of top 300 business schools for the last few years. "Rankings only matter for people who care about it. I personally reference that, but when it comes to making a decision, it does not matter to me," Jia Chin Lin, graduate student, business administration, said.

New print quota no reason to be scared

► **COOKY CAITLIN**
Staff Writer

Many students were shocked when they returned from summer vacation and discovered their printing on campus computer labs would be limited this semester. The university has taken new measures to guarantee appropriate campus printing. The new system, PaperCut, keeps track of printing for Instructional Computing network print servers. "PaperCut was set up so the university could help manage printing, better understand academic needs and to be green," Ken Boss, director of Computing Services, said. PaperCut works by giving a print quota to each individual user.

The present print quota for students regardless of their year or major is 2,000 pages a semester but may be changed based on overall academic need. Instructional computing will evaluate how well 2,000 pages works for students and either increase or decrease the printing

limit. "We did not want to set a quota students couldn't meet; 2,000 is a pretty high quota," Boss said.

Many students agree that the limit of 2,000 pages is a bit excessive. "I transferred from a campus where the printing limit was under 100," Ben Schisler, senior, finance, said. "I probably am not going to use all 2,000 pages this semester. I am only at 1600 and it's already mid-semester," Sawyer Lisk, junior, finance, said.

If students print more than 2,000 pages in one semester, they will not be punished. The print quota is simply to inform students of their printing habits and to help them print more wisely. If students do not use all 2,000 pages and have leftover quota, they are not allowed to transfer it to the following semester or to give it to another student. The transfer of leftover quota would defeat the purpose of the experiment Instructional Computing is running.

Keeping track of individual print quota should be easy for students.

Whenever students log on to their accounts a small box with their print quota pops up in the top right corner of the computer screen. The PaperCut system also does other things besides keep track of printing. It limits the number of pages printed at one time. A student's request to print is denied if the amount of pages is over 20. PaperCut also keeps track of how much printing is done in each of the various computer labs. "It will give us the ability to really understand where most printing is done," Boss said.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is actually lagging behind when it comes to installing PaperCut. Other universities such as The University of Missouri-Columbia, The University of Missouri-Kansas City and The University of Missouri-Rolla already have controlled printing systems. "I can't say always because you never know what will happen in the future, but there will be a quota at UMSL from now on," Boss said.

LOCAL NEWS

Florissant Police arrest bank robbery suspects

Florissant Police are reporting the arrest of four suspects Friday afternoon in connection with an armed robbery of the Commerce Bank, located at 8190 North Lindbergh Blvd. in Florissant. According to authorities, three suspects, two armed with handguns, entered the bank at approximately 2:45 p.m. and announced a robbery. Witnesses observed the suspects flee the scene in a light blue vehicle which police located southbound on Lindbergh Blvd. near I-270. Within minutes, Florissant and Hazelwood Officers stopped the car on Fee Fee Rd. at Lindbergh Blvd. in Hazelwood, where all four suspects were arrested without incident. The weapons and cash were recovered from the suspects.

Via St. Louis Globe-Democrat

St. Louis residents call for end to violence

A group of north St. Louis residents say it is time to stop the violence. Members of the St. Louis Coalition Against Violence and the Better Family Life Community Outreach Center rallied yesterday, encouraging young people to resolve their conflicts peacefully. Former gang members took part in the event. The group took their message door to door. They plan to continue their efforts by visiting night clubs and other businesses.

Via KMOX

Area leaders announce campaign for bronze Dred and Harriet Scott statue

On Thursday evening, area community and political leaders and supporters of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation gathered at the Missouri History Museum to unveil a miniature bronze statue of the courageous couple, Dred and Harriet Scott, two slaves, who sued for their freedom. Pending a successful fundraising drive by the community of about \$250,000, a 6 foot bronze version will be erected at the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. "I'm very proud of our community for this effort," Francis G. Slay, St. Louis mayor, said. "I say, we can do this St. Louis."

Via St. Louis Globe-Democrat

Chain of Rocks residents send message to MO Gaming Commission

Missouri's 13th gaming license could end up in the hands of folks in the City of St. Louis, after a North County proposal fell through earlier this week. But those who live near the proposed site made it clear Saturday that they do not feel like they have been dealt a fair hand. Now, we are talking about a \$131 million casino within a 120,000 square foot complex along Riverview Drive near the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Those are big numbers that could bring in big bucks for the city, but nearby residents do not want to take a gamble on what could come along with all of that.

Via KSDK.com

University NRA group more like a ghost town

► **DYING SKULL**
News Editor

The National Rifle Association wants to recruit University of Missouri-St. Louis students. Unfortunately for the NRA, it appears few students want to be recruited.

NRA University was held in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center last Tuesday, Oct. 19. The sparsely attended event was designed to educate UM-St. Louis about the second amendment and how to get involved in its protection. Kristiana R. Cupp, a grassroots coordinator for the NRA, was the evening's main speaker.

During her presentation, she lectured on the history of the NRA, referring to it as the oldest civil rights organization in the country and highlighted pro-gun rights candidates currently running for election in Missouri. Ed Martin and Roy Blunt have both received high marks from the NRA where as both of their Carnahan opponents are failures, according to Cupp.

Brady Gibson, an NRA Campaign field representative, was also on hand

discussing his work with the Blunt, Martin and other pro-second amendment candidate campaigns in Missouri.

The issue hitting closest to campus was the NRA's lobbying for nationwide laws giving students of legal age and faculty the right to conceal and carry on college campuses.

"Individuals who are of age and have taken the proper classes should be able to carry [a concealed firearm] on campus," Cupp said. "If you can carry one across the street at 7-11, you should be able to carry one on campus."

Eric Hamre, junior, nursing, one of the few students at the event, questioned the wisdom of the presence of guns on a college campus.

In response, Cupp cited the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre as an instance when a responsibly armed student body would have potentially been lifesaving.

Cupp blamed the low turnout of the event, which was co-sponsored by the UM-St. Louis College Republicans, on the time of the year and a lack of preparation.

"We really just set this up seven days ago," Cupp said. "We've had recent

NRA Universities at University of North Carolina and around 350 showed up and University of Virginia with 120. I was disappointed not to have the same turnout here."

Of the students who did make it to the event, most said they were not NRA members, but wanted to find out more about the organization. Jeremiah Vistine, senior, history, said he came because he "was curious about what was going to be discussed." Vistine says he would not call himself a gun enthusiast though he does do some occasional target shooting.

Lauren Rodriguez, a member of the UM-St. Louis College Republicans, said she met with the representatives from the NRA and booked the Pilot House but made it clear to them there was little else she could do. "I wasn't going to be able to go out there and cheerlead for the event," she said.

Rodriguez said interest in the College Republicans has waned recently at UM-St. Louis. She went as far as to refer to herself as UM-St. Louis' only remaining member.

Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between October 14, 2010 and October 22, 2010.

October 14, 2010

Stealing under \$500.00-Mark Twain Soccer Field

A student left his bag at the soccer field at 2:00 PM and went inside to use the restroom. When he came back at 2:15 PM his cell phone was missing from his bag. There are no suspects in this incident.

October 14, 2010

Stealing under \$500.00-Millennium Student Center

A student reported that between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM she was in the MSC building on the 2nd floor and place two cell phones on a bench and walked away. When she realized she forgot them, she returned and they were gone.

October 21, 2010

Assault third degree-Touhill Performing Arts Center

After an event at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, two custodian employees got into an argument over potato chips. One of the custodians threw the chips at the other, then they both got in each other's face and starting yelling. The other custodian grabbed a trash can and threw it at the other one two times and chased them out of the building. There were no injuries in this altercation. This matter will be reported as an assault with no criminal charges filed, but will also be handled as an employee/human resources violation.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these, or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. The UMSL Police would like to remind all persons to be aware of your surroundings, walk in groups and stay in well lit areas if possible. Please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155.

USA NEWS

GOP chairman sees groundswell for party

Republican Chairman Michael Steele predicted Sunday that "a vibration out here that is unlike anything I've ever seen before" will carry the GOP to victory. Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" with David Gregory, he predicted Republicans may take both houses of Congress because "the voters are tired of the fact that the federal government has not listened to them over the past two years, has moved in its own direction at its own rhythm, and they want to pull back on that." Steele, the head of the Republican National Committee, dismissed complaints from President Barack Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about campaign spending by Republican-allied groups.

-Via Saint Louis Globe Democrat

Gay voters angry at Democrats could sway election

Kate Coatar is seriously considering voting for Green Party candidates instead of Democrats, whom she normally supports. James Wyatt won't cast a ballot at all because he no longer trusts anyone to fight for causes important to him. If Democratic candidates are counting on long-standing support from gay voters to help stave off big losses on Nov. 2, they could be in for a surprise.

Across the country, activists say gay voters are angry at the lack of progress on issues from eliminating employment discrimination to uncertainty over serving in the military to the economy and some are choosing to sit out this election or look for other candidates.

-Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Gov. Quinn, Brady address black Chicago church

Gov. Pat Quinn and Republican challenger Bill Brady have made their pitches to black voters at one of the largest churches in the state. Quinn told congregants at Salem Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side that voters need to support President Barack Obama by coming out to vote for Quinn and other Democrats. He says he's the candidate for jobs and education. Brady appeared with his wife, Nancy, and shared stories about his three children. He says Quinn has failed to deliver on many promises. But Quinn appeared to be the favorite, drawing hearty applause, cheers and standing ovations.

-Via St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Seattle's proposed tree rules prompt opposition

A judge was fined \$500,000 for cutting down more than 120 cherry and maple trees in a city park for better views, and residents fought for years to save a mature grove of 100 Douglas firs from being cleared for development. Tree lovers are now fighting proposed city rules that would remove current protections for large, exceptional trees and do not include a requirement that property owners get a permit to remove a tree and sincerely sorry."

-Via Associated Press

Sports

Large red lizards eat Norsemen: Female of species slain



UMSL goalie jumps high to get the ball on Friday at the Don Dallas Field on north campus.

PHOTOS BY CHENHATE LIES / THE CURRENT

► FREDDIE KRUGEER

Sports Editor

On Friday, October 22, the Tritons men's soccer team defeated the fifth ranked team in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II soccer poll, the Northern Kentucky University Norse.

Before the game, Coach Dan King, The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer head coach, emphasized that the Tritons needed to perform well against the Norse at home. "We're undefeated on the road," Coach King said, "but we are not getting results on home field." Entering their game against the Norse, UM-St. Louis has three wins and five losses with no draws at Don Dallas Field this season. Away from home the Tritons have six wins and two draws.

The Tritons took an early lead in the first half. Striker Almin Sabotic, junior, media relations, received a cross in the 18-yard-box by midfielders Evan Schumaker, junior, business administration and David Schwer, junior, undecided.

Schumaker intercepted a Norse pass and then weaved his way through the Northern Kentucky defense. Sabotic made a good off the ball run towards the six yard box. Schumaker attempted a shot from just inside the penalty area, but was saved by the Northern Kentucky goal keeper, Michael Lavric. However, Schwer followed the shot and crossed it to a waiting and onside Sabotic who touched the ball in the back of the Norse goal. "Coach put me up top," Sabotic said. "And I'm really feeling good up there and the game has been finding me."

The Tritons went into the locker room at the halftime interval with a one goal lead, but the Norse continued to force the issue as they pushed numbers forward from the backline. Northern Kentucky outshot the Tritons eight to four in the second half and 12 to seven overall. The Tritons, though, over-

came the pressure.

Midfielder Jordan Bruce, sophomore, criminology, slipped his man on the left side of the pitch and got into the Norse's 18-yard-box drawing a penalty kick. Sabotic, who recently took over most of the Tritons set pieces and dead ball situations, lined up the penalty kick and made Lavric guess the wrong way, sending the Norse goal keeper to the right and the ball to the left. With the penalty kick conversion, the Tritons took a commanding two goal lead.

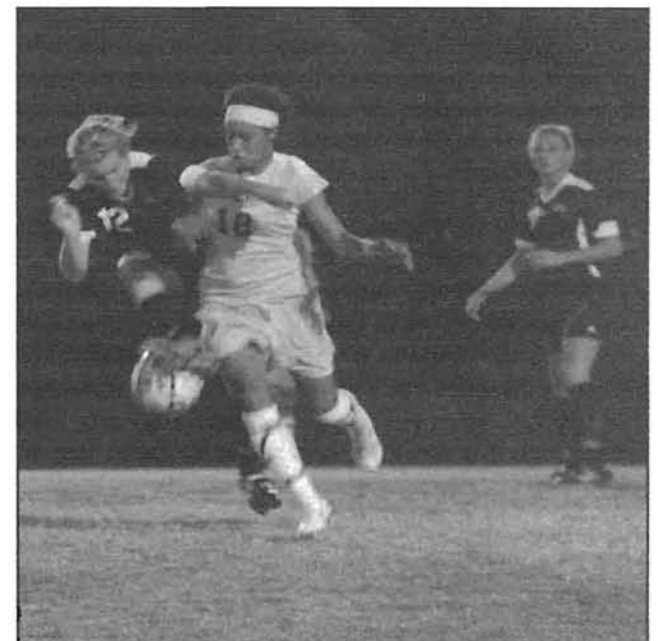
But the Norse continued to apply pressure to the Tritons. In the 60th minute, UM-St. Louis gave up a penalty kick to Northern Kentucky University. Goalkeeper Adam Giesegh, senior, accounting, lost the battle of wits against Norse midfielder Steven Beattie. The number five for Northern Kentucky converted the penalty kick opportunity cutting the Tritons lead in half 2-1.

UM-St. Louis held on and grinded out a tough victory in the final 30 minutes. "One lesson from today is never give up on this team," Coach King said. "These guys showed what we're made of."

With the win, the Tritons are still alive for the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

The Tritons women's soccer team fell to the twentieth ranked Northern Kentucky Norse 1-0. Hannah Sayre, junior, business marketing, kept a clean sheet until the 73rd minute when Norse Striker Taylor Jennings took advantage of a Triton mistake and scored far post on Sayre.

Kaylee Neutzling, junior, criminal justice, was the lone striker in UM-St. Louis' 4-5-1 formation. Both UM-St. Louis men's and women's teams will look to qualify after Friday's games.



SPORTS COLUMN

College zombies more fun than NFL corpses

College football at the Division I level is far more enjoyable than watching the National Football League on Sunday afternoons and Monday nights. College football games are an all day experience and watching the University of Notre Dame, University of Southern California, University of Missouri-Columbia or any other of the big name college football programs beats any Sunday afternoon telecast of players like Terrell Owens, Bret Favre or any other professional personality.

Saturday afternoons and evenings are college football time in America. It seems this season that more people are watching and talking college football than the professionals that play on Sunday for the National Football League.

Watching the University of Missouri-Columbia Tigers play a barn burner against the University of Oklahoma Sooners, it seems that the college football game is more marketable and much more fun to watch than the NFL. It seems more bars and houses were filled with people chanting M-I-Z-Z-O-U, than people cheering on the Rams.

If one faces the facts, the college game is more enjoyable. Looking on Stubhub.com, the tougher ticket in St. Louis this weekend was the marquee matchup against the two top teams in the Big 12 Conference. The Rams, as of Saturday night, are still looking to sell tickets to their home game against the winless Carolina Panthers.

Skepticism regarding the Rams has been expressed previously in the Does St. Louis Really Need the Rams column. The National Football League and the Rams are often embroiled in off and on the field scandals. Brett Favre



Freddie Kruger

of the Minnesota Vikings is always coming in and out of retirement. His off the field issues are also questionable.

The collegiate football game is not entirely perfect either, but watching on ESPN this weekend it seemed more people are excited about Gary Pinkel's Tigers squad. Heading into Saturday's game, Missouri is undefeated and have a chance at a national championship. What do the Rams have to look for: an outside hope of Sam Bradford leading an old team with a not so good coaching staff?

The experience and price level may have something to do with the better marketability as well. The college experience often coincides with college football or basketball. Even University of Missouri-St. Louis students may attend an occasional basketball, soccer or volleyball game.

At big time NCAA Division I programs, like the University of Missouri-Columbia, St. Louis University and Missouri State University in Springfield, there are stadium sections denoted for the sole purpose of students.

Professional teams hope for the best when selling tickets to football games. Oh, and good luck trying to find a ticket deal to a Rams game. The average price for a Rams ticket is over 45 dollars.

Freddie Kruger is Sports Editor for The Current.

Moonlight on Kelly Mitchell: Captain of UMSL witches' basketball team

► COLD BLOOD JUNG
Staff Writer

Kelly Mitchell, senior, communications, is one of the three captains of the women's basketball squad at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She moved to St. Louis for school five years ago from Louisville, Kentucky where she grew up. "This is my fifth year in St. Louis. My initial plan was to move to a bigger city after a while, but I decided to stay because I like the school and my teammates so much," Mitchell said.

In addition to her role as a basketball player, she also has been really passionate about being a student. She is majoring in communications and working on getting a minor in media studies as well as a public relations certificate.

"I started off with a business major but I soon switched it to communications. A public relations class that I took in my first year greatly influenced my decision. That is how I ended up choosing communications major with getting a public relations certificate," Mitchell said.

She started playing basketball when she was in third grade. Her family background provided her with the environment where she can enjoy basketball very naturally. "My dad used to play basketball in high school. He ended up being my assistant coach later on. My younger brother and sister also play basketball. So basically, except for my mom, everyone plays basketball. We are basketball family," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said she could not leave St. Louis, although her initial plan was to move on to a bigger city, because she loves her teammates so much. "We all get along really well on and off the floor. Even besides personal benefi-

cial reasons, I think it is really good in terms of building a team's chemistry," Mitchell said. As a captain of the women's basketball squad, she feels a big responsibility for the team. "Despite all the difficulties that I have as a captain, I like being a captain. We three captains all play different roles, always encouraging one another. That helps me a lot," Mitchell said. As her family background exhibits, her family is very interested in the games she plays and they have been her biggest supporters since she started playing basketball. "They have supported me, attending all the games that I have played throughout my entire basketball career," Mitchell said.

Reggie Miller is her favorite basketball player. "Since my family is from Indiana, I grew up watching [the] Indiana team's games, which naturally led me to becoming his fan. I think he is a phenom-



UMSL women's basketball team captain-Kelly Mitchell, senior, communicaton, practicing at Mark Twain building.

BLOOD DRAIN / THE CURRENT

enal shooter," Mitchell said.

"It is sometimes hard to balance between school and basketball. But for the most part, now it just became [second] nature to me. I really enjoy both of them," Mitchell said.

"After [everything] that I'm going through, I eventually want to go back to

Louisville in Kentucky where I grew up, leaving my basketball career behind. This probably will be the last year for me to play basketball at school. I hope we can do the best this year. I also want to mention that we always appreciate our fans [that] come to the games to support [us]," Mitchell said.

UMSL Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon

Join men's head coach Steve Tappmeyer and women's head coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor along with their coaching staffs and members of their squads as they preview their 2010-11 seasons!



When: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 @ 12:30 p.m.

Where: Mark Twain Building on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Emceed by UMSL graduate and former basketball player, Newschannel 5's Frank Cusumano

Tickets are \$15 per person or tables of 10 for \$135

To RSVP for more information contact Sandy Ray at 314-516-5661 or rays@umsl.edu



A&E

Portugal. The Man:

Accessible indie rock for your treat bag



Zachary Scott Carothers, bass and vocals, performs with his band mates from Portugal. The Man at The Firebird on Tuesday.

HERSCHEL KNIFE / THE CURRENT

On Tuesday, October 19, hundreds of flannel wearing indie kids packed into St. Louis' The Firebird to see Alaska's Portugal. The Man (punctuation intended).

The audience gathered around the stage like a pack of hungry wolves waiting with steeped anticipation for Portugal. The Man to hop on stage and rock them with a soulful blend of vintage and modern pop-rock.

The sudden light show began with thick smoke jetting out as the band took the stage: guitarist and vocalist, John Baldwin Gourley; bassist and vocalist, Zachary Scott Carothers; drummer, Jason Sechrist; and keyboardist Ryan Neighbors. The quartet grabbed their instruments and kicked off the set with "My Mind" from 2007's 'Church Moth.' The cut soared with Gourley's pitch-perfect and tightly delivered lines. "The Sun," from 2009's acclaimed 'Satanic Satanist' opened with ethereal, falsetto vocals, guitar twang and thrumming bass, before the song leapt into its Oasis influenced chorus.

Green lasers beamed over the crowd and bathed Portugal. The Man in a psychedelic cannon of pinks, blues, greens and yellows. The lights played off the fog and created the perfect ambiance for soulful indie rock.

"Guns And Dogs" sent the crowd into frenzy as the bass landed like a space ship and Gourley's crystalline vocals led the song from intricate, near-rapping to its punch-out chorus. The show exploded into post '90s power ruckus with the swarthy "Do You" hinged with a fuzzed out chorus and saccharine, alt-country verse. Bassist Carothers jumped and gyrated as he inserted the neck of his bass guitar into the crowd's loving arms before pulling it out again like a marshmallow from a campfire.

Ryan Neighbors' keys supported the catchy "Shade." Gourley's vocals spiraled down like a winding staircase in a lighthouse, delivering one solid, grounded hook after another. "Oh Lord," also from 'Church Moth,' channeled the British invasion style of Wolfmother. "Marching With 6" was a jam fest, sticky like peanut butter caked on the teeth, featured trade off vocals among Gourley, Neighbors and Carothers and walk-the-dog piano. "Stables and Chairs" wobbled with plucked minor chords and Animal Collective drums. The song's swagger got everyone in the audience swaying like dandelions in the wind. The acoustic and piano based "And I" brought the show to a soulful quiet, before Portugal. The Man leapt into

fan-favorite "People Say" from 'Satanic Satanist.' The track featured white-hot guitar licks and a characteristic bee-bop, lyrically complex verse. Waving hands in the air, the crowd joined the topical chorus, "What a lovely day, yeah we won the war, may have lost a million men, but we got a million more." This is when the crowd became a single organism whose heart beat only for Portugal. The Man and their diverse set.

Portugal. The Man ended with "AKA M80 the Wolf" which employed Radiohead-esque drumming, long guitar strums and an industrial tinged chorus. Beckoned back to the stage by the hungry crowd, Portugal. The Man charged into their encore as the lightshow clicked into finale mode and featured a three-dimensional dot pattern that refracted through the thick smoke to create an effect of floating in space.

Portugal. The Man's packed show at the Firebird was a stylistically epic tour-de-force that spirited the audience through the hills and valleys of accessible indie rock, classic rock, contemporary pop and vintage psychedelics. Portugal. The Man's return to St. Louis was one of rock, passion, power and unbridled skill. **B+** -Herschel Knife

'Jackass 3D:' frighteningly stupid

The high school daredevils and amateur skateboarders who go see "Jackass 3D" will undoubtedly leave the theater with plenty of dangerous activities to imitate, film and post on YouTube. Many others will leave wondering what all the hype is about and where their \$7.50 went.

The film suffers many shortcomings, but none of them are a result of a lack of effort from the cast.

No less than three segments feature horn-headed animals stalking and eventually striking members of the Jackass crew. In a particularly memorable scene, Knoxville himself literally goes to great pains to prove once and for all that people really cannot roller skate in a buffalo herd.

The exotic wildlife that made the Jackass spinoff "Wildboyz" the ultimate in edutainment is sadly missing

entirely from the new Jackass film. That is with one exception; "Jackass 3D" does feature another installment in the tried and true "toss the hyper-ophidiophobic Bam Margera into a pit of snakes" series of stunts.

In fact it is during that very scene that many viewers may all of sudden begin to feel uncomfortable. As Bam screams for help and curses his conniving friends who tricked him into the snake pit, whether or not these dare devils are still having fun becomes a very legitimate question. Bam's cries for help sound too real and make Knoxville and company's laughter seem nothing if not cruel and callous. Of course no one is forcing these guys to submit to this inhumane treatment, but a \$50 million opening weekend is undoubtedly hard to say no to.

One thing the "Jackass 3D" cast undoubtedly did say no to was the 'no nudity' clause of whatever contracts they signed with MTV films. The instances of male full frontal nudity are too many to keep track of without a tally sheet and go well beyond the criteria necessary to qualify as gratuitous. Though gratuitous and hilarious are not always mutually exclusive.

Cameos in the film include Sean William Scott, singer songwriter Will Oldham and several NFL players, including the St. Louis Rams very own kicker Josh Brown (he place kicks a football right into Preston Lacy's face.)

The scene featuring Josh Brown highlights a technology featured in this film that is just as interesting as the real 3D. Much of the filming was done with a Phantom high-speed camera, which captures



COURTESY / MTV FILMS

1,000 frames per second. As result, every single twinge and jiggle in the fat of Lacy's face is captured as the speeding pigskin makes contact. The amount of movement that occurs during the millisecond of contact, invisible to the naked eye, is fascinating to watch within any context,

slapstick or otherwise.

James Cameron, the man responsible for the reemergence of 3D, has stated his belief that shooting in 3D should be done primarily to differentiate background from foreground. In doing so, the medium is understated and does not feel gim-

micky. But the Jackass guys clearly do not subscribe to the Cameron school of thought. Early and often, Knoxville or one of his cohorts shoot projectiles directly out from the screen, apparently aiming for the audience members' red and blue framed cardboard glasses. **C** -Dying Skull

University of Missouri – St. Louis, College of Arts & Science
Gender Studies Program, Sally Barr Ebest, Ph.D., Director

DESIGN YOUR OWN MAJOR WITH THE BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES DEGREE (BIS)

How do YOU apply?

- Setup Advising Appointment with Lorraine Simeone, 225 MSC, 314.516.5985 / Lorraine_simeone@umsl.edu.
- Submit a completed Application Form.
- Submit a 500-word (2 page) Statement of Educational purpose.

The BIS degree is the ideal vehicle for students who know what they want to do, for it makes every course count. The Gender Studies Program will help students design the major. To discuss specific class choices, please contact Dr. Kathleen Nigro, 211 Clark Hall, 314.516.5581 or nigrok@umsl.edu.

All applications must be approved by the faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

Calling future Peace Corps Volunteers!

Thousands of new volunteer
positions are available for 2011.
Apply now!

Life is calling. How far will you go?
800.424.8580 | peacecorps.gov/application

Learn more about the benefits of
Peace Corps service.

Information Session
Thursday, Oct. 28th
3:00 p.m., MSC 269



Apply by year-end for added programs
leaving in 2011 – Peace Corps'
50th Anniversary Year!

Health coverage made easy.

We offer health coverage for:

- Individuals without Group Coverage
- Independent Contractors
- Dependents and Students
- COBRA/Alternative
- Self-Employed
- Small Businesses

Solutions with choices are easy, just call

David Jackson

314-923-5531 or 800-541-4254

www.davejackson-insurance.com

David.Jackson@anthem.com



David Jackson
Authorized Agent

We offer health coverage for 30 states in the United States and the District of Columbia. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trademark for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Missouri, Inc. (BCBS/MO), Priority Health Life Insurance Company (PHLIC), and Blue Cross of Kansas, Inc. (BC/KS) and certain of their subsidiaries own PHIC benefits underwritten by PHIC and PHIC benefits underwritten by PHIC Missouri, Inc. PHIC and certain of their subsidiaries provide administrative services for self-funded plans and their underwriting benefits, Life and Disability products underwritten by Anthem Life Insurance Company, independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Associations. ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Anthem

'My Soul to Take 3D' will disappoint Craven fanatics

Wes Craven wears out welcome

Wes Craven has once again worn out his welcome in the thriller/horror genres with his latest project "My Soul to Take 3D." Besides a storyline that failed to stay true to its original concept, the film struggled with how to properly market itself to an adult audience.

The film is centered on a small town, known as River-ton, and the legend of the schizophrenic serial killer that resides in it. It is 16 years from the night of the killer's arrest and disappearance and it is believed that he has returned to claim the souls of the seven children born on that very night. Out of the seven teens targeted, the tormentor takes great pleasure in turning the skittish, sleep-deprived Bug (Max Thieriot) into his own personal pawn of deception.

While this storyline, on its own, sounds somewhat interesting, Craven feels the need to suffocate it with scenes revolving around what it is to be a man, a classroom project involving a giant bird attacking a student and a "Mean Girl" click. Most viewers, at this point are contemplating as to whether or not they are still watching a horror film. Confusion is even present during scenes of soul possession versus scenes of domestic violence. Why was the main character being physically abused so much?

So, even after adding in all of this adolescent nonsense, did Craven manage to spark an interest in the younger generation of movie goers, who tend to gravitate toward the gory "Saw" franchise? Unfortunately, no, compared to the box-office numbers that the ever so popular "So-

cial Network" brought in. And why is that?

The answer lies in marketing. This film was branded with an R-rating because of its use of blood and obsessive throat slitting, keeping the teen audience it was obviously marketed for away. Craven, who is known for his free use of R-ratings in past screenplays, should have gotten off of his high-horse for the sake of the film's box-office results. There are other ways to depict a murder in a horror film besides a throat slashing, especially when its over-usage gets to the point that it becomes ineffective and predictable.

On the subject of casting for this film, it seemed as if

Craven had hijacked these actors from the next casting of "High School Musical." While most of the actors were playing characters of a younger nature, such as Zena Grey (as Penelope, the faith driven loner), and Paulina Olszynski (as Brittany, the shallow popular girl), on screen they still appeared too young to be considered high school students. How is an adult audience supposed to relate to a high school tale with child star actors?

And, it was distressing to see "Great Debaters" actor Denzel Whitaker reduce his talents to a cheesy horror/thriller.

Overall, this movie was not well thought out and had

no significance what so ever. Viewers see this when Craven has the villain talking to a girl on a cell phone. Sound familiar? The only positive thing that can be said about the movie is that it eventually comes to an end. As far as the option of viewing the film in three dimensions, it was a waste of money and clearly a promotional tactic to increase box office sales. If one cannot live without seeing this film, even after reading this review, it is still recommended that one wait, not for it to come to their local video store, but until it premieres on television.

D -Health Hazard



2010-11 UMSL basketball ticket options

AT THE DOOR

- \$6 General Admission

GENERAL ADMISSION SEASON TICKET - \$65

- Includes admission to all regular season home dates

TRITON FULL SEASON PASS - \$125

- Includes admission to all regular season home games dates
- One (1) ticket to the October 27th Tip-Off Luncheon
- One Tritons polo shirt
- Invitations to attend special events
- Voucher for one (1) free item at the concession stand per date

All ticket prices are for a single date, including both men's and women's games.

CONTACT BRIAN YOUNGBERG
314-516-5663

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE

2010-11 Men's and Women's Basketball Schedules Available at:
WWW.UMSLTRITONS.COM

LATEST + GREATEST

HALLOWEEN CONCERT PREVIEW



Dark Star Orchestra Oct. 29 at *The Pageant*
Get out this Halloween weekend and catch Dark Star Orchestra at The Pageant. Dark Star Orchestra are world renowned for recreating Grateful Dead shows with maximum fidelity. This is no ordinary cover band but a experience complete with original tunes.



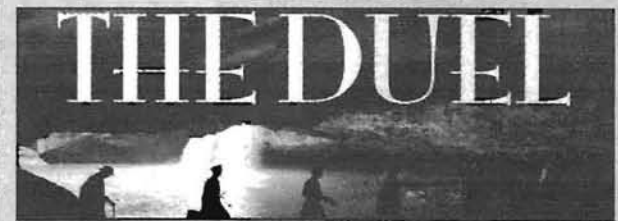
Deer Tick Oct 31 at *Off Broadway*
This Sunday, Deer Tick, swarthy country rockers from Rhode Island, grace Off Broadway with their singular brand of rollicking whiskey-folk tunes. Dress up and rock out at Off Broady—the place to be this Halloween.

MOVIES

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets Nest
Plaza Frontenac

The third international hit mystery-thriller in the Swedish series based on Stieg Larsson's bestselling books, featuring a tattooed and martial-arts-skilled computer hacking genius (Noomi Rapace) and an investigative journalist (Mikael Nyqvist).



Anton Chekhov's The Duel *Des Peres only*
A visually lush, literate adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Duel," produced by a St. Louis native who was president of Merchant-Ivory Productions, an anything-but-stuffy drama about love, lust, betrayal and aristocrats behaving badly in late 19th century Russia.



Saw VII 3D *everywhere*
Another installment in the trap-and-torture-themed horror flick series, in 3D, starring Tobin Bell.

Kathleen Turner confronts scary subject in Rep's 'High'



COURTESY / JERRY NAUNHEIM JR

Kathleen Turner, starring in the Broadway-bound "High," was greeted by an enthusiastic packed house opening night on October 13. The play made its debut at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' Loretto-Hilton theater in Webster Groves and is scheduled to run through November 7.

Typically, Broadway plays have out-of-town openings to work out

kinks. Although billed as a world premier, St. Louis is one of three cities hosting versions of "High," with re-writes for each.

Turner first wowed movie audiences in "Body Heat." The actress still has that smoky voice and sly delivery. On stage, she was a delight, giving the audience everything they hoped for. The other actors in this three-person play, Michael Berresse

and Evan Jonigkeit, offered strong performances aided by the skillful direction of Rob Ruggiero. The production as a whole was perfect.

The play? Not so much.

With the wonderful Turner and the Rep's strong production, the stage was set for success but the play itself does not measure up. Playwright Matthew Lombardo creates interesting characters and chose a socially-significant topic with dramatic potential but seems not to know what to do with them.

"High" opens strong, with Turner alone on a bare stage, backed by a starry sky. With dry humor, she recalls childhood memories of her sister, the pretty, smart one to her less-than-perfect ugly duckling. The dialog is just the right mix of funny and ironic and is telling. Turner's timing and skill at phrasing are impeccable, delivered in her distinctive deep voice. She could have held the audience rapt all night.

Turner plays a fascinating character - a wisecracking, salty-tongued nun. Sister Jamie favors casual

clothes over the nun's habit and came to the religious life late, after hitting bottom as an addict. Now she is a counselor in a substance-abuse treatment facility, working with teens from affluent families.

Until Father Michael (Michael Berresse) appears asking help for a very different kind of patient. Cody Randall (Evan Jonigkeit) is a young gay male prostitute - homeless, drug-addicted, suicidal and in trouble with the law. Sister Jamie resists the assignment but the priest is certain she can save him. Whether Cody wants to be saved is less certain. After a childhood of abuse and drugs, Cody's situation seems fated. Something draws in Sister Jamie, who has her own personal demons.

"High" is adult stuff, with nudity and drug scenes. The topics, drug addiction and inner demons from the past, certainly is worthy but this is not the first drama to explore them. Even early on, the play seems to display hints of "Equus," "Doubt" and several dramas about addiction, childhood trauma and

the therapist with issues. Traveling down a too-familiar path until intermission, it then takes an abrupt turn in the final act.

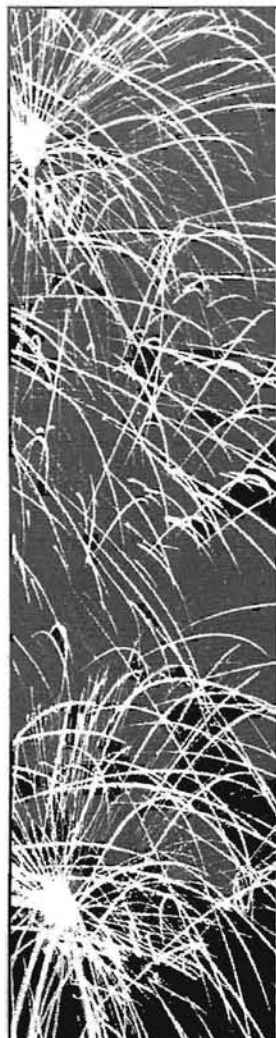
There is quite a bit about religion but the ending is unlikely to appeal to those of faith. Turner crafts a distinct, complex character yet her actions at the end ring false. The playwright seems desperate to interject some fresh twist, even to the point of undermining the play's believability.

Turner certainly did her part to aid success. Jonigkeit is impressive as the haunted, manipulative Cody. Berresse does well as the priest but the acting fireworks largely belong to the two other characters.

Sets were spare but evocative - the starry sky, a white hospital office, two tall brick walls. Costumes were simple, in neutral tones with a touch of palest blue, well-suited to the subject.

"High" has potential but a rewrite, perhaps a drastic one, is needed before it is ready for Broadway.

♣ -Casket Maker



Are you planning to graduate this semester?
Have you applied for graduation?
If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!

2010 DECEMBER Commencement

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>10 A.M. - College of Education
- College of Nursing
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- BGS/BIS
- Master of Public Policy Administration</p> | <p>2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences</p> |
| <p>6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program</p> | |

All Graduating Seniors

- Activate your Free Alumni Membership!
- Get a FREE UMSL Alumni Gift November 2, 3, 4
- At the Grad Fair, MSC - Bookstore
- Stop by the UMSL Alumni Association Table

Don't Miss the Grad Fair

November 2, 3, 4 at the UMSL Bookstore in the MSC • 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Purchase your cap, gown and tassels, etc. Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 late fee will apply after Monday, November 29.

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at www.ums.edu/commencement for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OLD SCHOOL AND THE HANGOVER

DUE DATE

LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A GREEN HAI FILMS PRODUCTION A TODD PHILLIPS FILM ROBERT DOWNEY JR. ZACH GALIFIANAKIS "DUE DATE"
DIRECTED BY TODD PHILLIPS
CASTING BY JILL GREENBERG
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES FOX
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THOMAS STALL SUSAN DOWNEY SCOTT BLOOMBY
PRODUCED BY ALAN R. COHEN & ALAN FREEDLAND
SCREENPLAY BY ALAN R. COHEN & ALAN FREEDLAND
DIRECTED BY TODD PHILLIPS
CASTING BY JILL GREENBERG
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THOMAS STALL SUSAN DOWNEY SCOTT BLOOMBY
PRODUCED BY ALAN R. COHEN & ALAN FREEDLAND
SCREENPLAY BY ALAN R. COHEN & ALAN FREEDLAND
DIRECTED BY TODD PHILLIPS
CASTING BY JILL GREENBERG

MPAA R RESTRICTED
Under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian
www.duedatamovie.com

The Current

INVITES YOU AND A
FRIEND TO AN ADVANCE
SCREENING OF
DUE DATE

FOR PASSES GOOD FOR TWO
TO AN ADVANCE
SCREENING, GO TO:

WWW.GOFOBO.COM/RSVP

AND ENTER CODE:

COLGGKZ6

SCREENING IS

MONDAY,

NOVEMBER 1, 7:00PM

*Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Limit two admit-one passes per person. Void where prohibited. Entrances of participating sponsors are ineligible. The film is rated R. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

WWW.DUEDATEMOVIE.COM

IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 5

Winter Intersession

January 3-15, 2011
earn 3 credit hours
in 2 weeks



ce.umsf.edu/wi

“THE PROMOTIONAL STUDENT PRICES OFFERED AT THE TOUHILL ARE GREAT. THEY MAKE SHOWS, ESPECIALLY THE BIG NAMES, WORTH EVERY PENNY”
 – **KRYSTLE MOREHOUSE**
 UMSL STUDENT

MAVROTHI KONTANIS & THE MAEANDROS ENSEMBLE
 OCTOBER 28 / FREE
Presented by the Center for International Studies

ARIANNA BY REQUEST
 OCTOBER 29 / FREE

SUM OF MOTION
 NOVEMBER 11 / FREE

SARA BAREILLES
 NOVEMBER 13 / \$5
Presented by UPB & OSL

AVAILABLE AT THE TOUHILL TICKET OFFICE
 with a valid UMSL Student ID
 Quantities are limited.

SNAP UP YOUR SEATS

FOR \$10 OR LESS

FOR INFO VISIT TOUHILL.ORG/STUDENTTIX

BODIES
 THE EXHIBITION

BODIES...The Exhibition makes for a great date night. Present to you on Wednesday and Thursday night and receive one FREE ticket for every ticket you purchase.

No double discounts. Price is based on student pricing at \$18 per ticket.

NOW OPEN

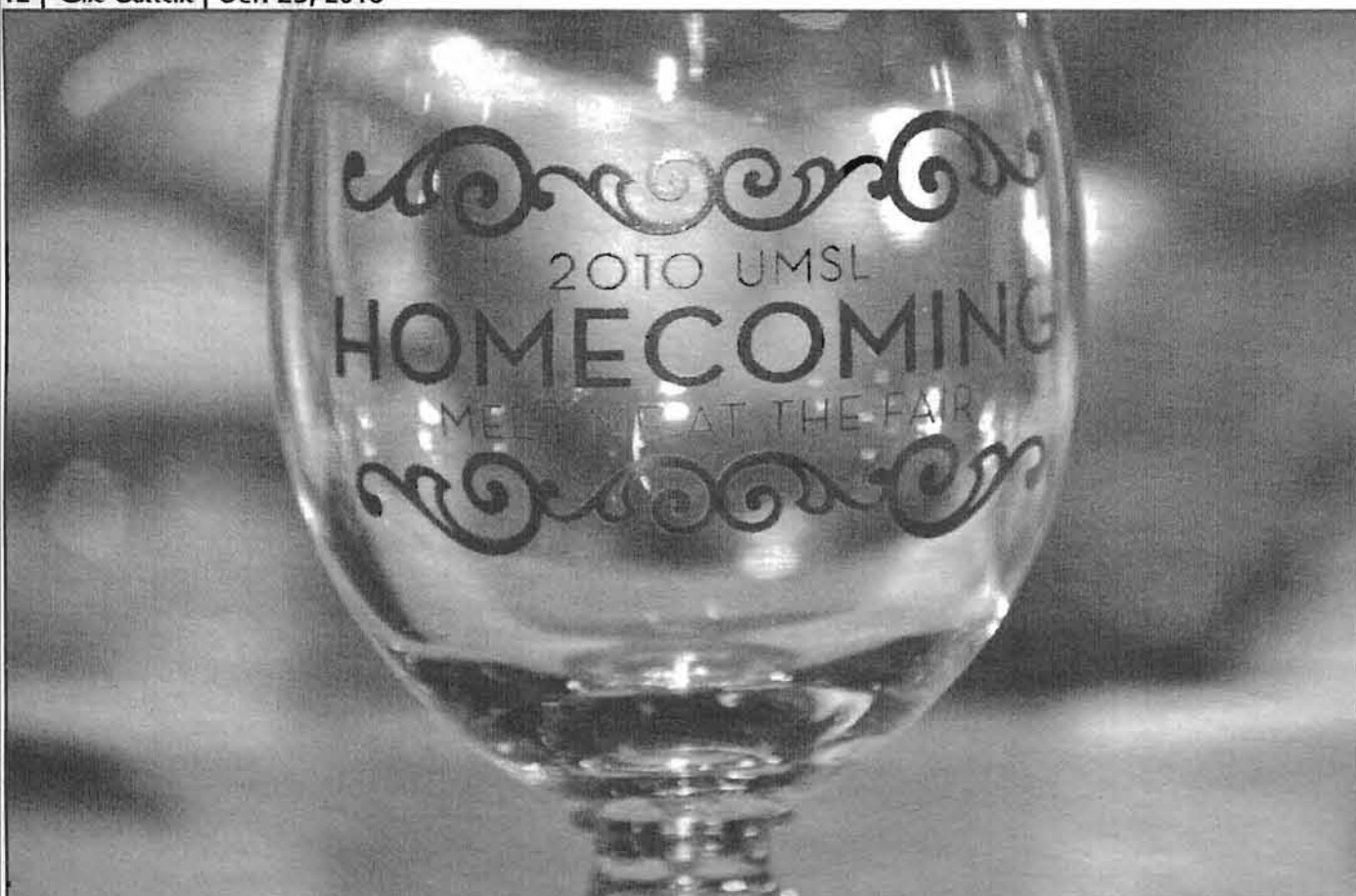
SAINT LOUIS GALLERIA
 at the North Entrance

BODIES...The Exhibition is a unique and engaging educational experience. Exhibition showcases real human bodies, dissected and preserved through an advanced process, allowing visitors to see themselves in a way that has never before.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **BODIESSTLOUIS.COM**

THE ST. LOUIS GALLERIA requires that those 16 and under be accompanied by a parent or supervising adult age 21 or older after 6:30pm on Friday and Saturday. PREMIER CANNOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY THE PROVENANCE OF THE HUMAN REMAINS IN THIS EXHIBIT.

PREMIER EXHIBITIONS



A HOMECOMING HAUNTING

Features

► **JEN O'SCARA**
Features Editor

To end a week of fun and welcoming back alumni, the University of Missouri-St. Louis hosted the annual homecoming dance and dinner last Saturday. This year, the event was held at the Marriott hotel inside none other than St. Louis' Union Station.

The doors opened at 6 p.m. to reveal a sea of red and black on the tables, decorations and place settings with salad and water prepared for around one thousand guests.

The light sounds of soft rock and music of the early 20th century welcomed the crowds of people walking in. Dozens gathered just outside the ballroom in anticipation of the rest of the night.

At seven, an announcement was made for attendees to begin eating dinner. When buying tickets, purchasers were asked to choose between chicken and a vegetarian platter. Neither failed to

impress most of the guests.

While dinner was wrapping up, the announcements for the homecoming king and queen were made. Those nominated for king and queen had participated heavily in homecoming activities throughout the week, including attending games and the homecoming fair and parade. Among the court, were Andrew Black, sponsored by Sigma Pi, and Courtney Luehrman, sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center.

"My favorite part about homecoming is seeing the school come together. Just seeing everyone participate in things, going to the soccer games, having school spirit for one week on campus; It's really awesome," Luehrman said.

Other members of the court included Brandon Corbin, sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha; Jillian Richardson, sponsored by Associated Black Collegians; Tom Dixon Elisha Seals, both sponsored by Residential Hall Association; and Marshall Lee

and Ann Kneib, sponsored by sigma tau gamma and zeta tau alpha. In the end, Tom Dixon and Jillian Richardson took home the crowns.

Though one might think a "simple" dinner and dance is easy to plan, it is not. Student Life has

actually been organizing this year's homecoming since last December. The homecoming committee booked the venue in December and chose the theme last January.

"We've been working steadily on it since January. It's actually been a very long process, but it's been

fun and there has been a lot of committee members involved," Jericah Selby, junior, criminology, said.

The theme of the dance, and the entire week, was inspired by the venue itself.

"We went through a couple of venues and I really loved this place when I walked through it. This is actually a building that was here during the 1904 World's Fair. So, I thought that'd be kind of neat to incorporate St. Louis. I really wanted to do something that was a little more different [than past years] but still kind of St. Louis based, Selby said.

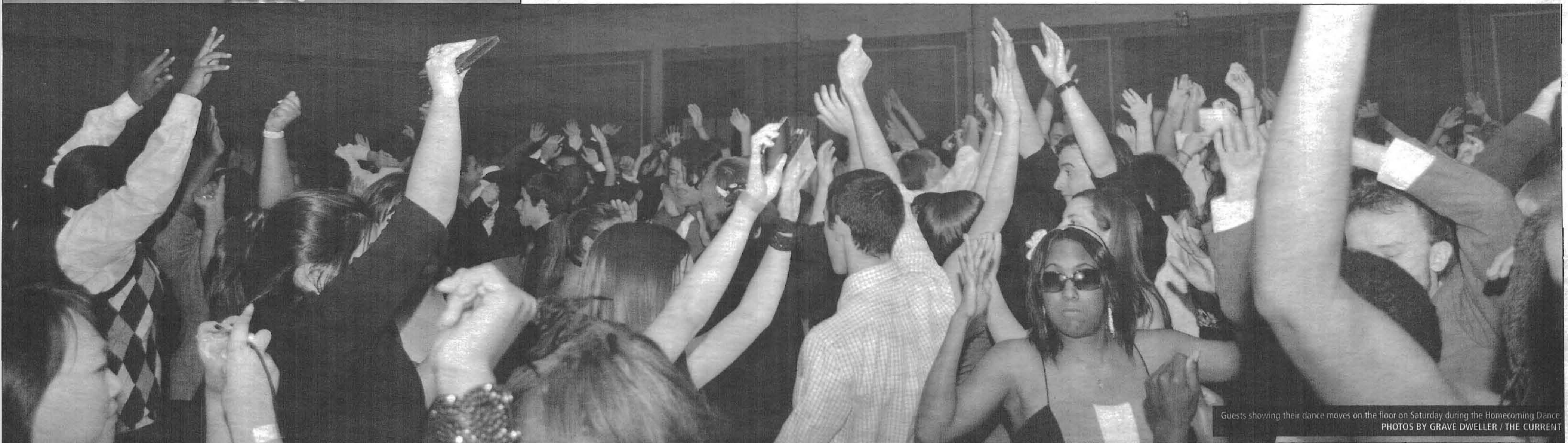
Although the dance was a hit, several attendees were there to please their significant other or to enjoy the food.

"My girlfriend wanted to come. If my girlfriend wants to come, [I'd come back next year]. It's nice meeting friends and dressing up. But, I don't really dance," Tae Choi, junior, business, said.

Just as soon as it had ended, plans for next year's homecoming will soon be on the way.

“My favorite part about homecoming is seeing the school come together.”

- Luehrman



Guests showing their dance moves on the floor on Saturday during the Homecoming Dance. PHOTOS BY GRAVE DWELLER / THE CURRENT

A frightful fun time at the mini fair



Students enjoy a ride on the ferris wheel at the Homecoming Kickoff Fair on Monday.
STABBY ABBY / THE CURRENT

► DARKO TEMPEST Staff Writer

Student Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis kicked the week off with an exciting mini-fair filled with games, music, food and other activities. This event took place October 18 on the patio lawn of the Millennium Student Center, which began the commencement of homecoming week.

The fair kicked off the 2010 Homecoming, which was cleverly named, "Meet Me at the Fair." The area was filled with activities and booths such as bottle throw, pick-a-duck, ring toss, and sack toss. Other attractions included a mini skating rink and the spinning ferris wheel. The ferris wheel was the biggest attraction and went a lot faster than the average ferris wheel. Many of the fairs' participants seemed impressed.

"I liked the Ferris wheel, it was cool and went super-fast and I kept screaming the whole time," Jackie Woodward, freshman, communication, said.

To make the event even more entertaining student life was able to get a DJ to play music and keep the excitement going. Along with that, UM-St. Louis Triton Cheerleaders also paid a visit to the event. Students were able to take pictures and meet Louie, the new school mascot.

There were raffles, contests with prizes and students were able to take green screen pictures, and also tons of free food available. There was

homemade cotton candy, ice cream cones with strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla flavors; and candy from the booths as prizer.

The event lasted from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Later that night, Student Life set up "Toy Story 3" on the big screen on the MSC lawn. The movie started at 7 p.m. Everyone enjoyed s'mores, had fun near the bonfire and were able to watch a funny Disney cartoon. "I was excited because I saw candy and I got to do other things besides homework. I only had a problem with Louie. I'm scared of clowns and things that look like them," Rebecca Moran, freshman, nursing, said.

Other homecoming week events consisted of a blood drive, chili dinner, volleyball and soccer game and the Associated Black Collegians' Step Show at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Voting for homecoming queen and king advertisements were everywhere; on the ground, in public announcements and UM-St. Louis' homepage, which is the place to vote for the winners. The homecoming dance was located at Union Station in the Marriott Hotel. All the events and games are what lead up to the best part, the homecoming dance. "I like to dance all night long, I'm always having good time when I'm dancing with my friends," Nick Ussery, freshman, computer science, said.



The Big Scary Man on Campus

► JEN O'SCARA

Features Editor

The 12th annual Big Man on Campus pageant was held at 12 p.m. in the Pilot House last Wednesday. Psychology professor, Dr. Jennifer Siciliani, hosted the pageant. This year's contestants were Charlie Kenison, Marshall Lee, R.J. Miller and Ryan Robinson. The Judges were Nick Messing, Ashlee Roberts, Jessie Chandler and Kelcy Sieddall.

The sportswear round started the event. Kenison walked out first wearing gray triton sweatpants and a red University of Missouri-St. Louis hooded jacket. He carried a basketball with him and pleased the crowd by performing a few tricks before leaving the stage. Lee, clad in his Victory Fuji suit, rolled onto the stage and did a series of flips. Miller wearing white baseball pants, a red UM-St. Louis t-shirt and a baseball helmet carried a baseball bat and had an audience member toss soft balls at him to hit. Robinson wore khaki slacks and a black and red UM-St. Louis shirt. Robinson used a golf club to whack a beach ball into the audience.

Round two was the talent portion. Kenison

played the piano and sang an acoustic version of "Down" by Jay Sean. Lee, accompanied by two friends, performed a step routine for the show. Lee then lay on his back and used his arms to lift up one of his friends 19 times to prove his strength. Miller played his drum and rapped an ode to the university.

"I love UMSL. I love the tritons. I love my girlfriend. Man, I love UMSL," said Miller.

Ryan Robinson earned a standing ovation for his solo dance to "Single Ladies" by Beyonce. The crowd cheered and applauded while he shimmied, dipped and ran in circles across the stage.

Rounds three and four, the formal wear and question rounds, were combined. Kenison came out in a charcoal colored suit, a baby blue shirt and a blue and gray striped tie.

Messing, one of the many judges, posed the question "Who is your favorite fictional character?"

Kenison answered Huckleberry Finn, but then changed his answer.

"Will Smith. Because he gives 100% no matter what," Kenison said.

Lee walked on stage in a gray collared shirt,

black pants, a black tie and a black belt.

Roberts, also a judge, asked Lee which part of his body he considered his best asset.

"Honestly, I think it's my chest because I work out a lot. I do pushups every morning," Lee said.

Miller wore a black suit over a white shirt along with a gray and red striped tie.

A third judge, Chandler, asked, "If you could be any superhero, who would it be?"

Miller had to take a moment to think about this.

"Hmm...superhero...superhero...Spiderman...I like him," Miller said.

Robinson wore a black three-piece tuxedo with a white shirt underneath. Sieddall asked who's life Robinson would live in for a day if he could and why.

"I would be Kyle Kerston because he takes a lot of responsibilities every day. I wish I could be like that," Robinson said.

Ryan Robinson was announced the winner at the Greek versus Roman soccer game last Friday. All donations earned at the 12th annual Big Man on Campus pageant were donated to the Girls Inc. of Normandy.



Students who are sponsored by student organizations standing on the stage.

Spirit Points help ignite an inferno of participation

► **NERO ANGELO**
Staff Writer

Homecoming Week each year explodes with festivities. Be it Big Man on Campus, the Homecoming Blood Drive or the week-long campaign for the prestigious positions of Homecoming King and Queen, students show active involvement and spirit on campus during Homecoming Week.

In an effort to help give incentives for the hundreds of large student organizations on campus to get involved with each event, Homecoming week features a point system called spirit points.

"Homecoming week is a way for students to engage in the university and reflect on the accomplishments and contributions that students, faculty, staff and alumni have put into our university since its establishment. The spirit competition is a way for us to thank student organizations with the most involvement

throughout the week," Jericah Selby, junior, criminology and criminal justice, said.

Selby also cited that the system has checks and balances to help ensure that no organization receives preferential treatment based on its being larger than another. The way this is done is by limiting the number of sign-ins per organization that actually count for spirit points. While any number of organization members may attend and participate in events, only 13 of them will actually count toward tallying points.

"To be recognized as a student organization, you must have 13 members, which is why we picked this number. This allows for each organization, large and small, to take advantage of the competition," Selby said.

Spirit points, then, are the currency of Homecoming week and the proof that one's organization is contributing to the spirit of the week. However, what happens to organizations that do not participate as heavily or, in

some instances, at all? Well, Selby had an answer for that one, as well: this is meant to be purely for fun, and will not reflect negatively on organizations that simply cannot find the time to participate.

At the end of the week, though, what is the true point behind Spirit Points (pun intended)? Why would organizations strive to earn points by participating in these week-long activities, especially with midterms in full swing?

"The points will be added up and the organization who wins the competition will be announced at the Homecoming Dance this Saturday. The winning organization will receive their name engraved on the Homecoming Spirit Plaque in the Office of Student Life and will have bragging rights as the most spirited student organization," Selby said.

As for this year, the winners were announced at the dance itself, as tradition demands. As the ballroom grew anxious, Orlandis Barge

approached the stage to announce placing in the competition. Having announced second and third, his final announcement incited an eruption of cheering and clapping.

"And in first place is Residence Hall Association! Congratulations to everybody who took part!" Orlandis Barge, sophomore, pre-engineering, said.

General celebration followed, as the victorious organization jumped around and cheered each other on.

So, with a victory prize of a plaque and pride, the mass celebration of the victors certainly qualifies the true strength of their spirit for the University of Missouri-St. Louis. For those interested, who may have missed out this year, be sure to keep an eye out next fall for Homecoming Week's plethora of festive occasions: those bragging rights may just be up for grabs again!

The Current

The only student newspaper supported by zombies and werewolves.

www.thecurrent-online.com

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Politics in Misery has boiled into a litany of smears

Once again the issues and the candidates' views on them have taken a back seat to the mud slinging and personal attacks in an election. Missouri's senate race between Roy Blunt and Robin Carnahan has devolved into a contest to see who can smear the other side more effectively.

In their attack ads the Carnahan and her supporters have attempted to paint Congressman Blunt as a corrupt political insider who serves special interests on Wall Street. Of course, those ads neglect to mention that Blunt's largest political donor in the financial industry is St. Louis' own Edward Jones.

Of course, there are allegations coming from the other side that are just as outrageous.

Blunt's campaign has focused on linking Robin Carnahan to unpopular Democrats like Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and President Obama. Blunt's campaign has also criticized her for supporting the unpopular healthcare reform and stimulus program. The problem with those allegations is that Carnahan has only held state office

throughout her career and thus never voted on those aforementioned pieces of legislation. Nor has she ever worked with Obama, Pelosi or Reid.

Even the candidates' families are not safe. Robin Carnahan's brother, Tom, has been attacked for operating a wind farm that received Federal stimulus money. Blunt's wife and son, both of whom are lobbyist, have been brought into the fray as well.

The disappointing thing is that the Blunt-Carnahan hatefest is not the nastiest Senate race in the country. Earlier this month Kentucky's Jack Conway ran a television ad in which he accused his opponent Rand Paul of blindfolding a woman and forcing her to pray to an "aqua Buddha" idol, despite there not being a shred of hard evidence behind the allegation.

At best, name-calling and sensationalized personal attacks merely distract voters from the issues causing an election to be decided primarily on shady half-truths and hearsay. At worst the negative ads make the elec-

torate cynical and apathetic to the democratic process causing America's chronic low voter turnout to plummet even further.

It is irresponsible for politicians to base their entire campaigns on digging up dirt and slandering their opponent. This strategy may yield short-term gains but ultimately it is reinforcing the perception that all politicians are sleazy immoral creatures who will do anything to get and stay elected. All too often politicians promise to run civilized and positive campaigns only to abandon such intentions the second they begin to struggle in the polls.

The sad reality is that the only reason negative campaigning is so prevalent is because it works so well. Voters need to say no to negative ads and demand their candidates focus on issues over personal attacks.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Urdoom issealed, Bunny Boo Bean, Jen O'Scara, Herschel Knife, Freddie Kruger, Grave Dweller, Greenman.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Ballot propositions, brass zombie style

The future of Missouri is in voter's hands on November 2.

It is every citizen's duty to be enlightened and knowledgeable about the issues at stake come each Election Day, and this year is no different.

Especially this year, though, are some Propositions that have the potential to acutely affect the way Missouri will operate in years to come. There is a lot of rhetoric going around and it can be confusing as to what the actual issues are.

So without further ado, here is the Seal of Approval take on the Propositions up for vote:

PROPOSITION A:

Prop A is the sole work of one man and his millions. Rex Sinquefield is a local "zillionaire", according to the Riverfront Times. He has his hands (and money) all over Missouri politics.

His latest gig is his very own "Let Voters Decide" initiative, aimed at eliminating certain cities' local earnings taxes. Essentially, it is a way for the rich to get richer and for the rest of us to suffer for it. He's poured \$10.8 million of his own cash into it, hoping for a bigger payoff down the road.

Getting rid of the earnings tax would result in cities like Saint Louis and Kansas City being underfunded. Almost 30% of Kansas City and Saint Louis' general revenue comes from that earnings tax, according to that same article in the RFT.

Sinquefield is no econom-

ics guru. He wants to use Missourians as his guinea pigs for his theory. And if everything goes wrong, he still has his millions. Verdict: Vote No on Prop A. Sinquefield should have kept his millions, and his hands, out of Missouri politics.

PROPOSITION B:

Prop B is a no-brainer. It calls for "large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each dog under their care with sufficient food, clean water, housing and space; necessary veterinary care; regular exercise and adequate rest between breeding cycles", according to the Secretary of State's website.

So far so good, right? If you cannot take care of the dogs you should not have the dogs. It would "prohibit any breeder from having more than 50 breeding dogs for the purpose of selling their puppies as pets". This could be controversial, but 50 seems like a good number.

The big dog, pun intended, is the last bullet point: Prop B will "create a misdemeanor crime of "puppy mill cruelty" for any violations".

Anti-Prop B advocates really have no leg to stand on here. The above is what Prop B will do. It would not outlaw having pets or any of that absolute nonsense.

It will make Missouri safer for dogs and is aimed at helping curb the atrocity that is making Missouri known as the number-one state for puppy mills. Verdict: Vote Yes on Prop B. Show Me some compassion.

PROPOSITION C:



Urdoom Issealed

Prop C is the most interesting of the three props up for vote. It aims to "deny the government authority to penalize citizens for refusing to purchase private health insurance or infringe upon the right to offer or accept direct payment for lawful healthcare services".

In and of itself, this does not seem like a bad thing. The healthcare reform act was not what it should have been (thanks to Democratic bumbling and Republican stonewalling), and penalizing citizens who cannot afford to purchase private health insurance is pretty nasty.

It would also "modify laws regarding the liquidation of certain domestic insurance companies", but for the average Missourian, that is not really important. Verdict: Vote Yes on Prop C. Kicking someone when they are down is never right.

This November, make sure to know your issues and candidates before you vote!

Urdoom Issealed is Opinions Editor for The Current.

Got an opinion of our opinion?

www.thecurrent-online.com



Point

Counterpoint

Should the US cut off relations with Iran completely?

Yes: Severing relations would help America

Despite a popular and public policy to the contrary, the United States seems to be pretty comfortable negotiating with at least one terrorist, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. That needs to stop.

Where to even start with Ahmadinejad? He is a theocratic totalitarian who chooses to use Iran's vast natural wealth pursuing a nuclear weapons program instead of feeding the starving and homeless in his own country. And by the way, he wants those nuclear weapons so badly so that he can use them to wipe America's closest ally, Israel, off the map. In the meantime, he has had to settle for funneling funds to and training members of the political party/terrorist organization Hamas. On August 31 of this year, Hamas militants killed four Israeli civilians, including one pregnant woman.

Ahmadinejad also allows women, lots of women, to be stoned to death in his country in accordance with Sharia law and fervently denies that

the Holocaust occurred. As if all that was not enough, Ahmadinejad recently told a United Nations general assembly that America was responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. And he was not criticizing US foreign policy, claiming that America invited the attacks. Even that stance is too sane for this guy. Ahmadinejad said that the 9/11 attacks were the result of a conspiracy perpetrated ostensibly by George W. Bush.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration is fine with going to the table with Iran without preconditions. That is inexcusable. Sitting down with another country without preconditions is basically giving a thumbs up to that nation's status quo. It is, at the very least, a sign of respect and respect is not something a person like Ahmadinejad deserves. The Obama administration simply needs to sever all diplomatic ties with Iran.

Supporters of continuing relations with Ahmadinejad point out that it is wise

to keep an enemy close and the only way resolution will come is through an open dialogue. That is a nice sentiment, but unfortunately history begs to differ.

President Clinton and Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin came to the table with the leader of the quasi-terrorist Palestinian Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, in the early 1990s. Clinton was criticized for legitimizing a terrorist, but his supporters insisted that it was worth it and peace in the Middle East was just around the corner. The resulting 1993 Oslo Accords only legitimized Arafat and failed to move forward the peace process even one iota.

President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton or any other American official sitting down and talking with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will only have the same effect. A lunatic cannot be reasoned with and giving Ahmadinejad a worldwide platform to spew his hateful rhetoric will only make the situation worse.

No: Iran needs to be treated

The United States plays a large part on the world stage.

Generally, whenever America does something, other countries follow suit. See, for example, the Iraqi War. Even though the United Nations did not support the U.S.-led invasion, countries like Great Britain and Canada gave their support.

There has been some talk recently as to whether the United States should totally cut off relations with Iran. We already do not have an embassy there, why not just take it one step further and totally ignore Iran? Cut ties completely, and disregard them until a different leader is in power or until the reign of the Ayatollah is over, whenever that is.

The thing is, we can't. The United States has a responsibility to the world and its peoples to set a good example for other countries to follow. Sure, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad isn't the easiest person to get along with, but remember, for all his fiery rhetoric and Holocaust-denying, he's

not the real one in power; the Ayatollah is.

The world stage isn't some middle school where we can just ignore the kid no one likes until they go away. Severing all ties with Iran could lead to devastating results. We're all adult-run countries here; there should be a way to work with Iran that doesn't involve shutting them out.

There are several very good reasons as to why Iran should be worked with and not ignored and shunned by the United States and her allies.

For starters, who do you think is keeping the Iranian nuclear program at bay? Sure, they've probably bought enriched uranium from North Korea already, but at least the U.N. can still get the occasional inspector into Iran. If the world shut off Iran entirely, there'd be no oversight to prevent them from stockpiling the world's largest collection of nuclear warheads ever.

There's also the question

of Middle Eastern peace. Israel and Iran are already at each other's throats. If Israel thought it could get in a few punches (or nuclear missiles) at an unsuspecting Iran and not have to face any reprimands or sanctions from the international community, it'd do it in a heartbeat.

Now, the United States and her allies are not the only things standing in the way of war and anarchy in the Middle East. But with the knowledge that the U.S. has washed its hands of any goings on involving Iran could make for a very rough time if you live in or near a country that ends in -stan.

The United States needs to redouble its efforts to maintain a working relationship with all of the countries in the Middle East. Sure, we can't trust Iran any farther than we can throw them, but keeping an eye (or two, or three) on them isn't a bad idea at all.

What do you think?

Let us know at

www.thecurrent-online.com

thecurrent-online.com

The greatest student news website in the world.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Drug companies are fright-fully irresponsible

As cold and flu season approaches, lines at local pharmacies are becoming unimaginably longer. Customers are getting grouchier, louder, all waiting for that taste of hope. They are all awaiting that medical fix that saves jobs, vacations and most importantly the person themselves. Shaken, not stirred. Swallowed, not crushed. Capsule, chewable, take with food, take without, take through a syringe, snort this. Have a favorite color or flavor? No worries, behind the great white counter of miracles rest the colors of the rainbow.

Basically, the pharmaceutical companies have become the Willy Wonka to societies Charlie Bucket. And a golden ticket is expected.

So, are these drugs we are willing to spend an arm and a leg for, (literally, for those without insurance) worth the risk that they produce? Why doesn't the public care what they put into their bodies?

It is because of this motivation to stay healthy that the drug companies still continue to thrive despite its recent conflict in drug manufacturing. Just earlier this week, the Johnson and Johnson McNeil Consumer Healthcare unit had to remove Adult Tylenol from store shelves for the thirteenth time this year. This action was put into affect after the company had received complaints about the product's containers produc-

ing a musty odor. Customers who had taken the pills were experiencing stomach pain, vomiting, etc. The odor was believed to have come from a chemical used in shipping pallets the company claimed to have stopped using since their large callback of product last January.

Despite this serious conflict, everybody knows that come Monday morning another person will stroll out of the store with a new repackaged bottle of Tylenol, as if nothing had ever happened. Society is full of stressed out individuals who also suffer from extreme sleep-deprivation, factors that further contribute to the development of a sickness. The mentality that is owned is "what can I get" and "when can I get it." And if all else fails, whatever they can not get from Tylenol, they can get from another painkiller on a temporary basis which turns out to be a benefit for Tylenol competitors. The fact of the matter is that drug companies are wealthy empires and billions of tainted bottles would never shut them down.

How many people have ever taken a diet pill? A diet pill in Canada was recently pulled off of the shelves because it was leading to heart attacks and strokes. So, what will happen to the unaffected users who still have weight to lose and are without a product? Are they going to say to themselves, "Hey, maybe I should find a healthier way to lose weight" or are they



Health Hazard

going to say "what else can I take?" A human would take rat poison if it promised them eternal life.

There has even been controversy over certain menopausal drugs causing breast cancer. What is a woman suffering from these symptoms supposed to do if the drug that is supposed to be helping them is hurting them? She takes it anyway.

Some extremists have talked of conspiracy that the drug companies are purposely making society sicker through drug distribution in order to main business. Others continue to debate that what a person chooses to put in his or her body is a decision of their own. Either way, because of the demands of the lives we live, society does and will continue to live at the mercy of the pill, with children to raise, jobs and appearances to maintain. And maybe that is what is wanted. The drugs are killing us, yet the drug pusher remains supreme.

Health Hazard is a staff writer for The Current.

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Purity rings are actually for the dead, not your kids

Teenage pregnancies, especially unplanned, have become a serious problem in this country. There are several offenders that help to cause this rising trend, but today, one in particular will be brought to light: purity rings, pledges and all their associated forms.

As this is Pop Culture with Poposky, Mr. P. is here to lead everybody through some of the dangers which have arisen due to this in America. Will this offend some people? Yes. Does Mr. P. care if some people are too oblivious to realize what is causing problems? No. This is actually part of a much larger problem: early, excessive sexualization of teens. However, one step at a time, young grasshoppers.

Oh, Mr. P. is quite aware of what these purity rings and religions are attempting to accomplish. If a teenager takes such a pledge, they are supposed to be in control of their sexuality, more so than the "slut" who thinks this sort of thing is ridiculous.

However, there are some startling statistics regarding this, as well. Interestingly enough, according to a federal study completed in December of 2008, teenagers participating in purity pledges are not only just as likely to participate in sexual activity as their "whore" equals, but are also 10 percent less likely to make use of any sort of contraceptive or protection during or after partaking of sexual activity.

So, what does this mean? Who cares if these girls are

10 percent less likely to protect themselves? Well, if parents of such teenagers truly gave two drops about their youths, they would certainly care. However, assuming the parents actually care about their children, and not just about an appearance they want their children to have, we shall point out even more statistics, assuming their innocent ignorance, instead.

Here are reasons parents of pledge takers should be concerned about that 10 percent lapse in contraception use compared to their peers.

To begin with, there are 750,000 teenage pregnancies per year. Eighty-one percent of these are born to unmarried teens, and the same ratio are unplanned. These statistics are from a 2009 federal study, which also showed that 2009 was the second consecutive year in which unplanned teenage pregnancies were on the rise.

Naturally, there is no telling how many of these pregnancies, in total, were actually from purity pledge couples, and how many were not.

However, if Mr. P. was a parent of such a teenager, having seen these statistics, he certainly would not be assuming the purity pledge was the best method of sexual education for young teens. Seeing as abstinence alone does not seem to be preventing anything at all, maybe it is time for a new approach?

Now, it is time for Mr. P. to do his happy dance, for new information has come to



Nero Angelo

light: the recent purity ring craze awoke roughly in 2007.

So, readers will remember that earlier, we cited a two-year consecutive increase in teen pregnancies between 2007 and 2009, yes? Mull this over for a while: some call it a direct correlation, in which one rising action accompanies, according to the given timeframe, another rising action. Mr. P. likes correlations, as they allow us to understand relationships amongst certain occurrences.

Teenagers are not abstaining from sex due to purity rings. They are actually more at risk if they are not taught about contraception. So, parents, for the sake of the next generations' prosperity, teach your teenagers more than just abstinence. Is over sexualization at a young age a problem? Yes. Can parents help protect their children from its more harmful impacts? YES!

Nero Angelo is a staff writer for The Current.

Don't think Health Hazard is right? Does Nero anger you? Sound off at our website, www.thecurrent-online.com

SCIENCE MATTERS

It is the spooky time of year, so let's bring out the spiders

Halloween brings to mind all things spooky. There are scary things in nature, creeping things. Among creepy creatures, it is hard to top the black widow spider.

Black widow spider - the very name conjures Halloween, as does its signature black and red coloring. The spider's spooky name comes from its color and the female's reputation for killing and eating the male after breeding.

What is more, the spider spins a disorganized web - a cobweb - to capture its prey of flies and other insects. When bugs wander into the web, the spider is alerted by vibrations and rushes out to inject its prey with venom. When its victim is dead, the spider injects enzymes to digest its meal and sucks it dry. Creepy, eh?

Actually, female black widow spiders do not always kill their mates. But it does appear common for *Latrodectus mactans*, the Southern black widow spider, the species indigenous to Missouri.

Latrodectus mactans fits the description we typically picture for the black widow spider - shiny black, with a rounded, larger abdomen and a red hourglass-shaped mark on the underside of its abdomen. But not all widow spiders, as they are called, are black - some are reddish or brown, and not all have the distinctive red hourglass-shaped mark on their undersides. Sometimes the mark is absent or has other colors.

Black widow spiders are

actually part of a group of spiders found in temperate zones worldwide, with 31 species worldwide. They are Arachnids in the family Theridiidae and of the genus *Latrodectus*.

Three North American black widow species previously were grouped together but are now recognized as separate. Besides the southern black widow, *Latrodectus mactans*, there are the Northern black widow (*Latrodectus variolus*) and Western black widow (*Latrodectus hesperus*). North America also has gray or brown widow spiders (*Latrodectus geometricus*), and red widow spiders (*Latrodectus bishopi*). False widow spiders, of the genus *Steatoda*, are often mistaken for black widows.

Latrodectus mactans is one of two venomous spiders found here. It is the most venomous spider but bites are rarely fatal to healthy adult humans. It can, however, make one very sick and may kill small children, the elderly and those already ill. The venom is a neurotoxin.

So what about that blood-thirsty courtship? The female does sometimes kill and eat the male but this does not happen in all cases or is even common for all widow species. In some, the males breed with several females, although they typically have shorter lives than females, who can live 1 to 5 years.

Black widows are usually solitary except for mating. Females are the ones most likely to bite, as a defensive



Casket Maker

measure. The much-larger females are shiny black with the red hourglass shape on their underside, and some may have red spots on their back as well. The males are about one fourth their size and usually brown with stripes, looking more like juveniles. The hourglass mark is usually lighter, maybe yellow or even white.

The spiders lay 100 to 400 eggs in an egg sac in its web. The spiderlings hatch in 20 to 30 days. Many do not even survive to hatch and fewer yet survive after hatching and dispersing. The little spiders sometimes engage in cannibalism.

Black widow spiders have their natural enemies, besides your shod foot. In North America, the flightless wasp *Baeus latroducti* parasitize the egg sacs. The adult black widows can fall prey to the blue mud dauber (*Chalybion californicum*) or the spider wasp (*Tastiotes festiva*).

Get the Halloween spirit, but watch out for those black widow spiders.

Casket Maker is Associate A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

Like us on Facebook and receive a movie pass.

facebook

Totally freakin' sweet!

- The Current

Agree with Casket?
www.thecurrent-online.com

PUT! THAT COFFEE! DOWN!

Coffee's for closers only.

The Current &  **NATIONAL SALES NETWORK**

The Current in conjunction with the National Sales Network an organization of sales professionals will hold a training session on advertising sales.

Kendra Neely-Martin of the National Sales Network St. Louis Chapter and Chapter President, Michael Whitley will talk with students about the in's and out's of advertising sales and sales as a career.

When: Tuesday, October 26

Where: Clark Hall room 312 at UM-St. Louis

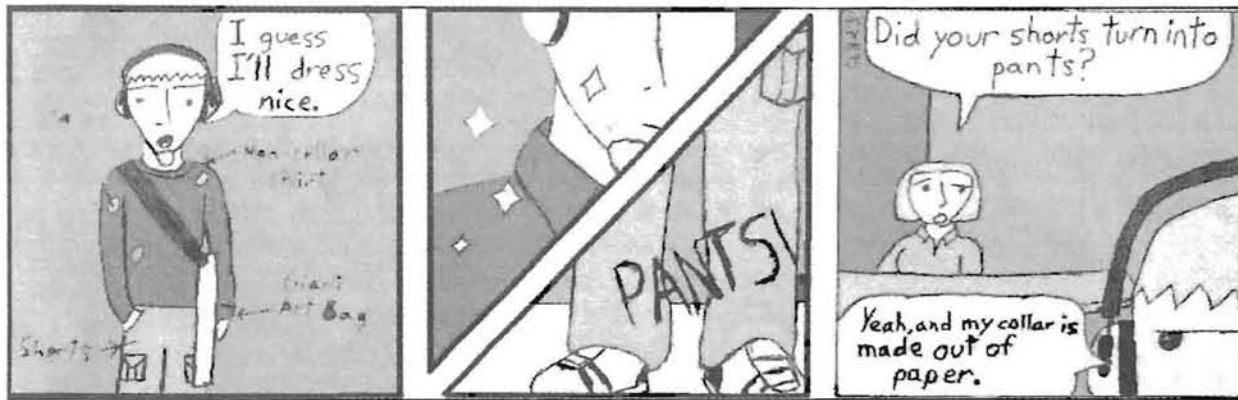
For More information contact

Charlotte Petty

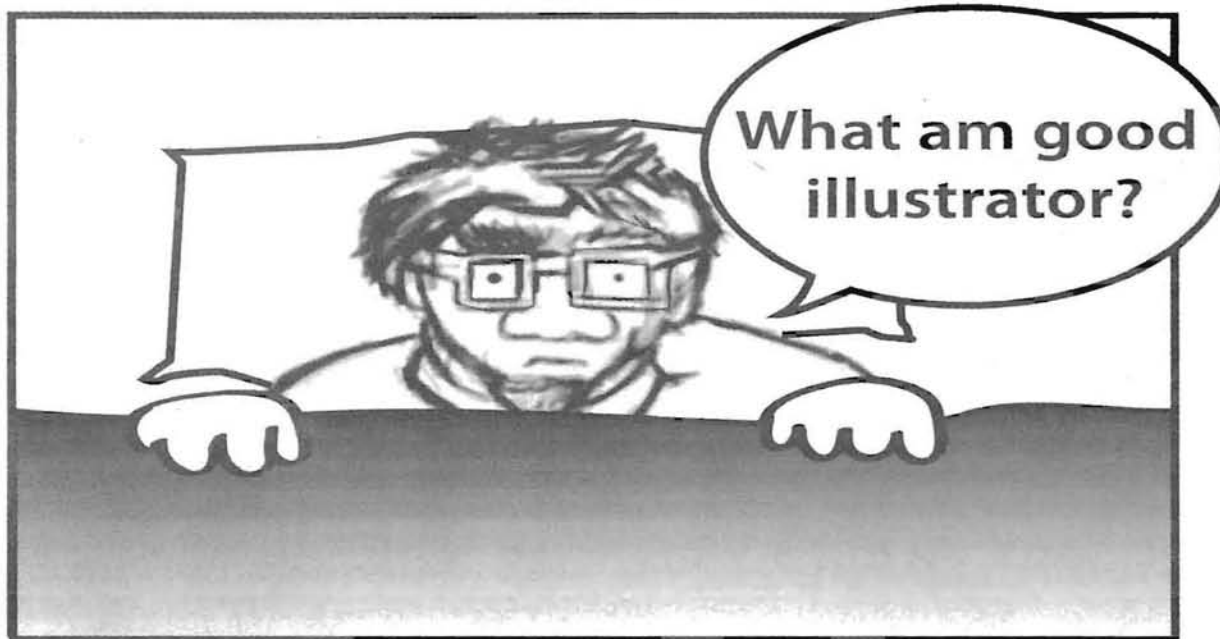
Adviser to The Current

pettyc@umsl.edu

They teach that? by Samuel Killer



Letter to the Editor by Jaggernaut Putz



Storytime by Manananggal



Comics

Max and Lobo by Nail Spike



Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

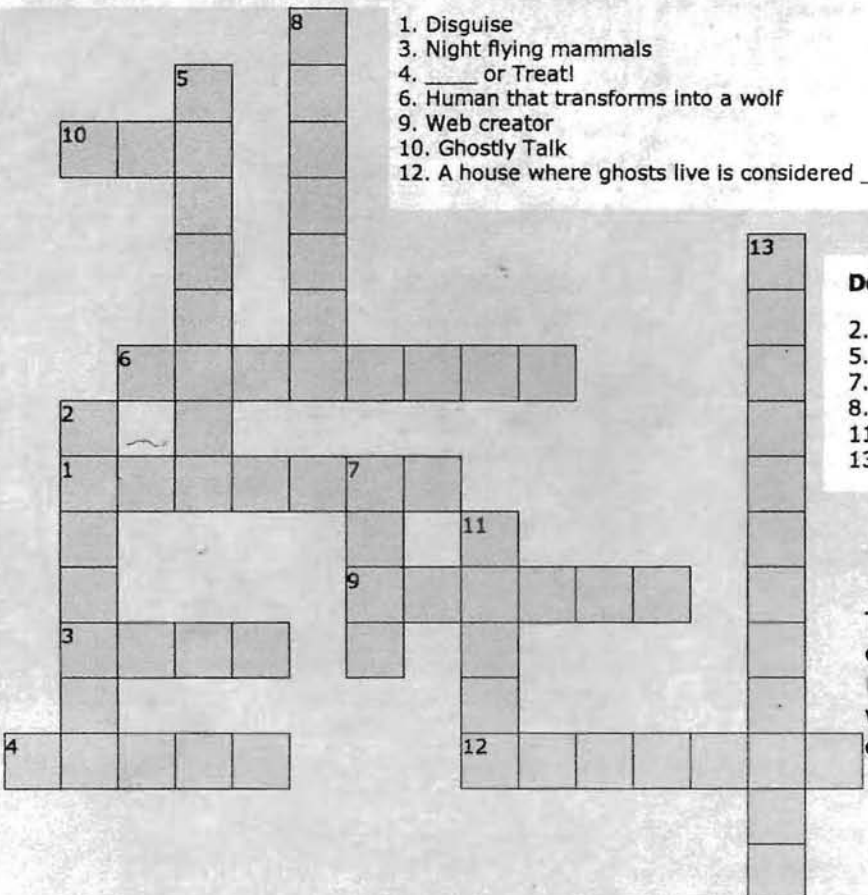
HALLOWEEN

Across:

- 1. Disguise
- 3. Night flying mammals
- 4. _____ or Treat!
- 6. Human that transforms into a wolf
- 9. Web creator
- 10. Ghostly Talk
- 12. A house where ghosts live is considered _____

Down:

- 2. Halloween month
- 5. Scary creatures, or _____, Inc.
- 7. Placed over your face
- 8. Dracula is one of these
- 11. Stirs potions in a cauldron
- 13. Carved pumpkin



The first person to bring this completed puzzle to The Current's office at 388 MSC will win 2 tickets to the "Bodies" exhibit at the St. Louis Galleria!

CURRENT WORDSEARCH

HALLOWORD SEARCH

Z E G B B S G O B L I N R N I G H T G G
 Z D D R C P H V B A N E E W O L L A H C
 P Q O A A O O A W R E T S N O M O W B A
 D N N R E O C S R U B K C N H Q N D V T
 E D F S U K T K E V W T P R A N K S Z I
 Y U R K A Y O V X M E R T V Y L N G A S
 S J I E Z H B O G F U S T Q R W O M E P
 A K G L I S E E A D O T T D I W U M U E
 L X H E M O R S I Y J U S U D S A M Q O
 U X T T N E M E T I C X E O E G P Y O Q
 C Q E O Z M N M J Y A O T M C K P B W S
 A W N N U A W U T T A Z E Q I Y L K I W
 R S R Z E S X M Z R R N T N T N E P S O
 D T I F K K A M J A T Y S U V H S P I D
 H S K B F T G Y E P E G N A R O I U W A
 C O N I E T S N E K N A R F P D T M E H
 T H N J L C W T E P V P Y E E R I E R S
 I G X V N D X T U C K G W R E G P O A J
 W T R I C K O R T R E A T V Q L S H C C
 F N N M U T U A B L A C K N W F W J S E

- AMUSEMENT
- BLACK
- CAT
- EERIE
- FRIGHTEN
- GOBLIN
- HAYRIDE
- MUMMY
- ORANGE
- PUMPKINS
- SHADOWS
- SPOOKY
- APPLES
- BOO
- COSTUMES
- EXCITEMENT
- GAMES
- HALLOWEEN
- MASK
- NIGHT
- PARTY
- SAFE
- SKELETON
- TRICKORTREAT
- AUTUMN
- CANDY
- DRACULA
- FRANKENSTEIN
- GHOSTS
- HARVEST
- MONSTER
- OCTOBER
- PRANK
- SCARE
- SPIDER
- WITCH

CURRENT HOROSCOPES by A Zack of the Living Dead

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Your boyfriend starts yelling at you about how you stole his Justin Bieber costume idea when you show up to the party, to which you reply: "Oh yeah, it's Halloween!"

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You're a beautiful young girl running from a murderer in your OWN house and all logic tells you to run out the front door. But alas, you run up stairs like an idiot and get murdered. You deserve it.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Later this week you and your friends will be interrogated by the police because a friend of yours is confused about the rules surround something he calls "Brick or Beat."

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your hatred for children and of fun in general usually leads you to simply leave the front lights off on Halloween. But this year, you think of something better: pass out carrot sticks.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

For some reason, during a full moon at the end of this week, you'll be brutally murdered by an enormous hairy monster. The lesson you learned: Getting eaten hurts.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You and your friends are surprised this Halloween to discover that there are nearly 75% more old ladies this year handing out Jesus coloring books.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Your 42 year old diabetic uncle Bubba steals the show at the Halloween party and wins the 'Most Accurate Celebrity Costume Contest' dressed as Snooki.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

This Halloween you eat entirely too much candy, and you explode. The person who wrote your obituary is fired for titling it "Death by Chocolate."

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

In your new house, breakfast is on the table every morning, your laundry is always done, and the bathroom is always spotless. You learn later that the house is being haunted by the nicest ghost ever.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

A scientific breakthrough in energy technologies occurs this week when scientists simultaneously discover nuclear fusion properties in Candy Corn and the source of all cancer.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Your dad takes you to school one day this week. He has trouble driving because his arm is rotting off, he only talks in moans and grunts, and eats your boyfriend's face. Parents are sooo lame.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

If you've learned anything from every horror movie ever, this Halloween you'll refrain from: drinking, being alone in dark rooms, sleeping and/or showering, and being stabbed. Good luck!

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrentads@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions.



GRAVE DWELLER / THE CURRENT

Happy Halloween from everyone at The Current!

Monday, Oct. 25

Arianna String Quartet

From 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., the Arianna String Quartet members return to discuss their work and teaching in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. For info, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

Tuesday, Oct. 26

Ad Workshop

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The National Sales Network is hosting a sales workshop for all interested UMSL students. The workshop includes 2 speakers and a question/answer session. For more info, contact Charlotte Petty at 314-516-5174.

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Protect St. Louis

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., an informational workshop on Missouri's Proposition A will be held in 450 Lucas Hall. Pros and Cons of the proposition will be discussed. For more info contact Gerda Ray at 314-863-3166.

Thursday, Oct. 28

Children's Game Night

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., a Hispanic game night will be held in Pilot House. Students are invited to come play Hispanic games they may remember as children. For more info, contact Lidia Aponte at 314-825-8977.

Friday, Oct. 29

Psychology Dept. Colloquium with Tara Barnes

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tara Barnes, PhD. hosts a seminar on firing patterns in neurons of the sensorimotor striatum during learning will be held in Benton 101. For more info, contact Tara Galovski at 314-516-7232

Saturday, Oct. 30

Hermann London Halloween 5K

At 11:30 a.m., a 5K run/walk will start and end at Schlafly Bottleworkshop parking lot, 7260 Southwest Ave, Maplewood, MO. Proceeds go to Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. For more info, contact Chris at 314-381-9215.