

The Current

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The Arch scheduled for re•in•ven•tion

by Jen O'Hara

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The Current
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Statshot

The **UNDERCURRENT** by Riki Tanaka



"I didn't have to take it but for most students, it will be a good idea. I know many students that have had trouble getting used to using the online sources for success, so it is a good idea."

Jessica Bleile
Biology
Sophomore



"I think it is a good idea. I don't have to take the class because I am a business major, but since I am new to the university, it would be helpful if they required all new students to take the class."

Kiauna Newman
Information systems
Sophomore

"What do you think about the University Studies 1003 course that students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take?"



"It sounds like a helpful approach. It is always good to set students up for success."

Max Siegrist
Geology
Senior



"I don't think it's a good idea. It's too expensive just to learn basic skills."

Dorian West
Biology
Junior

Comments from the WEB

on "Religious America has to stop" issue 1318

I Disagree! This is what America is about. If you don't like it get out.

-Heather

"There is also no reason why our president is constantly accused of being a Muslim, as if it is a bad thing."

True, his being a Muslim is not a bad thing. Individuals are allowed to hold their own beliefs. The problem would be if he IS Muslim, and LIED about it to get elected. Religion, to me, is irrelevant as a Presidential qualification, but character and integrity are at the top of that list.

If you're willing to compromise your beliefs to pander to a group who's favor you need, ie. the Christian majority, that demonstrates a complete lack of character and integrity, which, to me, would completely disqualify a president in my opinion.

Also, has anyone noticed that Sequita's article this week regarding sex tapes takes a position that is strangely in line with the religious right's views in the matter? Seems ironic following an article like this which could be said to malign the religious right, eh?

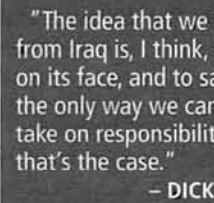
-Robert M

VERBATIM



"She thought it was a powerful speech - but she is biased, she's my grandmother."

- BARACK OBAMA ABOUT REACTION TO HIS SPEECH ON RACE.



"The idea that we can walk away from Iraq is, I think, terribly damaging on its face, and to say that, 'well that's the only way we can get the Iraqis to take on responsibility,' I don't believe that's the case."

- DICK CHENEY ON IRAQ



"A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week."

-GEORGE S. PATTON

WEATHER

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News

Campus police offer safety rides

► **JEN O'HARA**
Features Editor

As more crimes have occurred on campus, the University of Missouri-St. Louis has been attempting to take measures for further resolutions and prevention. Certain measures, however, have been in place for years without a wide student knowledge.

The campus police department offers students an escort program. This program allows students to call the police station at 314-516-5155 to receive a ride or be accompanied in walking from anywhere on campus, to another location in the general area. Students and faculty may use this service at any time, including weekends and holidays. "What we provide at the police department is an escort for your safety. Anytime a person is fearful or feels their safety is in jeopardy, and they want an escort from a police officer, to simply call the police department. We'll respond to wherever you are and escort you to your ve-

hicle, or to your building or your dorm, or wherever you need to go to," Sergeant Tom McEwen, campus police, said. The campus police station emphasizes that use of the program should be limited to times of actual fear of safety, and not for other personal uses. "The kind of thing we've been trying to do is providing escorts for people's safety for any faculty, staff or student for their safety. It's not a convenience ride. If somebody goes 'I don't want to walk. I want you to drive me in the car' it's not what the program is for. The program is about safety. So, if it's dark or [you are] not comfortable walking through this area that [you] have to walk through, or [you] don't feel safe, that's what our escort program is for," McEwen said.

"We're trying to get the officers to not put people in police cars unless they're under arrest or they've got police business to do, versus putting people in cars to get rides across campus. That's not the best use of the police resources, or the safest thing



By calling 5155, the Police Department can escort you to wherever you need to go on campus.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

to do."

Parking and transportation services also have a role in the program. Should campus police not be able to provide rides for any reason, police correlate with parking and transportation to give rides to those in need. Also, should anyone have car problems, parking and transportation can provide things such as repairing a flat tire, recharging a car battery or unlocking services free of charge. "Sometimes what we do also is some people have difficulty walking, if one of my

EM drivers is available at a particular time, we can take you to the place. But, it's not like an everyday thing. It's for safety, for emergencies," Leo Gutierrez, parking and transportation operations, said.

Police describe most of the crimes on campus as "opportunity crimes." To avoid these, students and faculty are reminded and suggested to prevent certain crimes by doing things such as locking car doors, walking in groups, especially at night and keeping valuables close.

New mandatory class for freshmen students

► **RYAN KRULL**
Staff Writer

This semester the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is introducing a new course called University Studies 1003, or First Year Experience. This class is now mandatory for all of the college's incoming freshmen.

The course is designed to educate new collegians in how to handle some of the less obvious obstacles that can come with entering college life as well as with the nuances of UM-St. Louis in particular.

"We're trying it out for the university as a kind of experiment," Ronald Yasbin,

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. "I would assume that somewhere along the line all colleges here will do it."

Early in the semester the course is covering the navigation of University services such as MyGateway, MyView and the reference area of the Thomas Jefferson library. Using an attendance clicker, joining campus groups and avoiding plagiarism are other college fundamentals that are part of the early curriculum.

After the first five weeks, students enrolled in University Studies 1003 will choose a disciplinary module based on their major or their interests. The

departments three subdivisions, the Natural and Physical Sciences, the Humanities and the Social Sciences, are all represented in these modules that cover the second five weeks of the course.

"You might be an English major and choose the English module," Rabin said, giving an example of how the course seeks to broaden students' horizons. "The English department will come in and explain to you the diversity of English and give you a feel for the writing part, the literature part, the theater part so you get an exposure to help you realize the depth of any one major."

See MANDATORY, page 4

LOCAL NEWS

Mother charged with burning, assaulting 2-year-old

A 22-year-old mother of three has been charged with assault and endangering the welfare of a child after police say she scalded her 2-year-old daughter in a bathtub full of hot water. Shalanda Bradford Brown, 22, of the 11000 block of Sagunto Terrace called for help after the child lost consciousness late Wednesday. Initially, paramedics thought they were responding to a possible drowning, but recognized the child had been burned. St. Louis County Police were called to the scene shortly after midnight Thursday, said Officer Rick Eckhard. The child sustained first- and second-degree burns to her lower extremities. Her condition is unknown, although Eckhard said paramedics were able to revive the child at the scene and that she is conscious. **Via St. Louis Post Dispatch**

Motorcyclist killed in St. Louis

A motorcyclist was killed Saturday night after colliding with an Ameren UE utility truck at the intersection of Riverview Boulevard and Chambers Road. Police say the street lights at Riverview at Chambers were not working at the time of the accident. Police say the motorcyclist, 42, was traveling south at a high speed along Riverview. Around 10:50 p.m., he hit an Ameren truck that was turning from northbound Riverview onto Chambers, police said. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead at Christian Northeast Hospital. He was driving a Kawasaki ZX 900. The name of the motorcyclist has not been released, pending notification of his family. **Via St. Louis Post Dispatch**

Several hundred gather at Jefferson Barracks for Sept. 11 memorial

St. Louis veterans joined with area residents Saturday morning to honor and remember the victims and heroes of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Several hundred walkers participated in the second annual "Freedom River Walk" sponsored by the Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center and the South County Chamber of Commerce. The walks, which are held throughout the nation, ask Americans to reflect on the lives lost and to honor the sacrifice of the nation's police officers, firefighters and veterans. St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley read a proclamation naming Sept. 11 as Patriot Day in the county. He told the gathering that the terrorist attacks nine years ago should not be remembered solely as a day of loss and tragedy but as a day of triumph and patriotism. **Via St. Louis Beacon**

River City Casino revenue inches upward

The new River City Casino in Lemay once again saved total area gaming revenue from dropping in August compared with last year. Total gaming revenue at the St. Louis casinos increased 1.5 percent in August to \$91.8 million from \$90.4 million a year earlier. But without River City, revenue would have fallen 15 percent, as revenue fell at the five other casinos. River City, which opened in March, brought in \$14.8 million in August, compared with \$14.9 million in July. Missouri is holding a statewide competition to award the gaming license freed up when the President closed. Earlier this week, regulators rejected a proposal from Sunway Gaming LLC to build a casino outside Kansas City in Sugar Creek because the company's gaming license application was deemed incomplete. Regulators plan to hold public hearings on each of the remaining proposed locations. **Via St. Louis Business Journal**

Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between September 4 and September 10, 2010.

September 4, 2010

Assault Third Degree-University Meadows

A non-student resident at the University Meadows apartments reported that around 10:00 PM she was assaulted. The victim stated that she invited two male friends over and after visiting for awhile, one of the male subjects got into a verbal argument with the victim and slapped her and shoved her to the floor. The suspect then left the apartment complex through the rear gate with the victim's gate card. The victim located that gate card near the gate and called the police. The suspect had left the area and was later located at the South Metro-link platform. The suspect was interviewed by the Police and indicated that there was a verbal argument, however denied any type of assault occurred. The victim did not show any signs of being assaulted and did not require medical attention. This case will be sent to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review.

September 7, 2010

Child Abuse-South Campus

A Faculty member called the UMSL Police to report child abuse in progress. The caller advised that she observed a woman with two small children walking in front of Marillac Hall and while walking grabbed the older child by the neck and pick him up. The UMSL Police stopped the subjects identified and spoke with them, however did not observe any visible marks or injuries. Information was gathered on all parties and a Hot-Line call was made in regards to the possible abuse. No arrests have been made in this incident and the investigation is on-going.

September 9, 2010

Stealing Under \$500.00-Daughters of Charity

On September 8, 2010 around 6:30 PM the victim left her cell phone on a table in the dining room and it was found by a food service worker. The employee put the phone near the cash register for safe keeping and apparently it was stolen from there. The victim and employees checked to see if anyone found it and it was never returned. There are no suspects in this incident.

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.

MANADATORY from page 3

For the final five weeks of the course each student will choose a second module, but it has to be from a different subdivision than the first. For the nearly 300 students currently enrolled in the course the class is just one hour a week and graded on a pass/fail basis.

Besides covering the fundamentals of college and raising awareness of the diversity of classes offered, the First Year Experience course will also allow students to meet and make friends with others in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We plan on getting students out and about campus on a treasure hunt activity," Kristin Jordan, senior, English, said.

Jordan is one of University Studies 1003's student teacher assistants. "We also have an UMSL Idol competition planned and are recruiting singers from each section to compete against each other. I'm hoping my section wins!"

The course has six teaching assistants, all of whom are upperclassmen undergraduates. "I think the most exciting part of the course is that freshmen, being new to the college experience in general and [to] UMSL in particular have an opportunity to interact [and] get advice from people such as myself who are fairly familiar with the university and have helpful information to share," Keith McGraw, senior, philosophy, said.

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USA NEWS

Fire pit may have sparked Colorado wildfire

Colorado crews let hundreds of evacuees return to their scorched homes Sunday as investigators probed the cause of a devastating wildfire that has burned 10 square miles near Boulder. A senior law enforcement official familiar with the investigation told the Denver Post that authorities are looking into whether a fire pit sparked the blaze, which could mean criminal charges are possible. The newspaper did not name the official. Authorities previously said the fire may have started after a vehicle crashed into a propane tank. The sheriff's office is aware of Post's article but won't comment on the cause or origin of the fire because it's under investigation, said Sarah Huntley, a spokeswoman for the fire response. The fire left some houses standing among blackened forests while homes nearby burned to the ground. **Via USA Today**

Obama, republicans battle over tax cuts for wealthy

President Obama's news conference today didn't do much to calm the great tax cut debate. Obama said Republicans are too eager to give tax cuts to rich people; Republicans called Obama a tax raiser. The dispute centers on tax cuts that President George W. Bush signed into law, but which are due to expire at the end of the year. Obama supports extending the tax cuts for middle-class Americans, but ones for individuals making more than \$200,000 are unnecessary and would add \$700 billion to an already-large federal deficit. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in a statement that Obama wants businesses to hire more people, but also plans to hit many owners with a tax hike when the Bush rates lapse. **Via USA Today**

Kentucky man kills family in murder/suicide

A man in Kentucky shot and killed five people before turning the gun on himself after a domestic dispute on Saturday, Breathitt County Sheriff Ray Clemons told CNN. The gunman was identified as 47-year-old Stanley Neace, said Trooper Jody Sims of the Kentucky State Police, which took over the investigation. Clemons said Neace's wife and stepson are among the dead. The shooting happened around midday at a mobile home community of about a dozen trailers, Clemons said. He declined to give the victims' ages and names. Officers heard a gunshot as they arrived on scene. **Via CNN**

For many unemployed workers, jobs aren't coming back

Police in California have found a plastic-wrapped body that might be tied to a bizarre saga involving several homicides in the San Francisco Bay Area. The body of Frederick Sales, 35, was found bound in plastic and hidden in a closet of a home, the Hercules Police Department said in a statement Saturday. Sales' cause of death had not been determined. On August 28, Sales' father, 73-year-old Ricardo Sales, was found bludgeoned to death with multiple puncture wounds in the same home, police said. At that time, the younger Sales was reported missing. An arrest warrant was issued for Efen Valdemoro after information came to light that he had an altercation with the elder Sales and his son the previous week, authorities said. **Via CNN**

Read
The
Current

Sports

The 'Chico' Jones zone: 31st season in progress

► **CHARDAIS BASTIEN**
Staff Writer

There is no doubt that 31 years of dedication comes with an immense passion for what someone does. Charles "Chico" Jones is the assistant coach for the Tritons men's basketball team and is starting his 31st season now. He does not just coach for the love of the game, it is deeper than that. He coaches to teach as well as to learn to touch lives and be inspired by those who have touched his. "The young men's lives I have touched since the beginning of my coaching days still remain in touch and we remain friends to this day. The opportunity to touch young people's lives... that is why I do it," Jones said.

Chico grew up in Memphis, Tennessee where he attended Manassas High School and Shelby State Community College. He was a triple threat in college sports dominating football, basketball and track. He also attended Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo. One of the guys Chico played basketball for in college got a head coaching job and hired him on as his assistant coach. Chico started his coaching position with the Tritons in 1979 while working on his masters in secondary education at UM-St. Louis and teaching at Normandy Junior High.

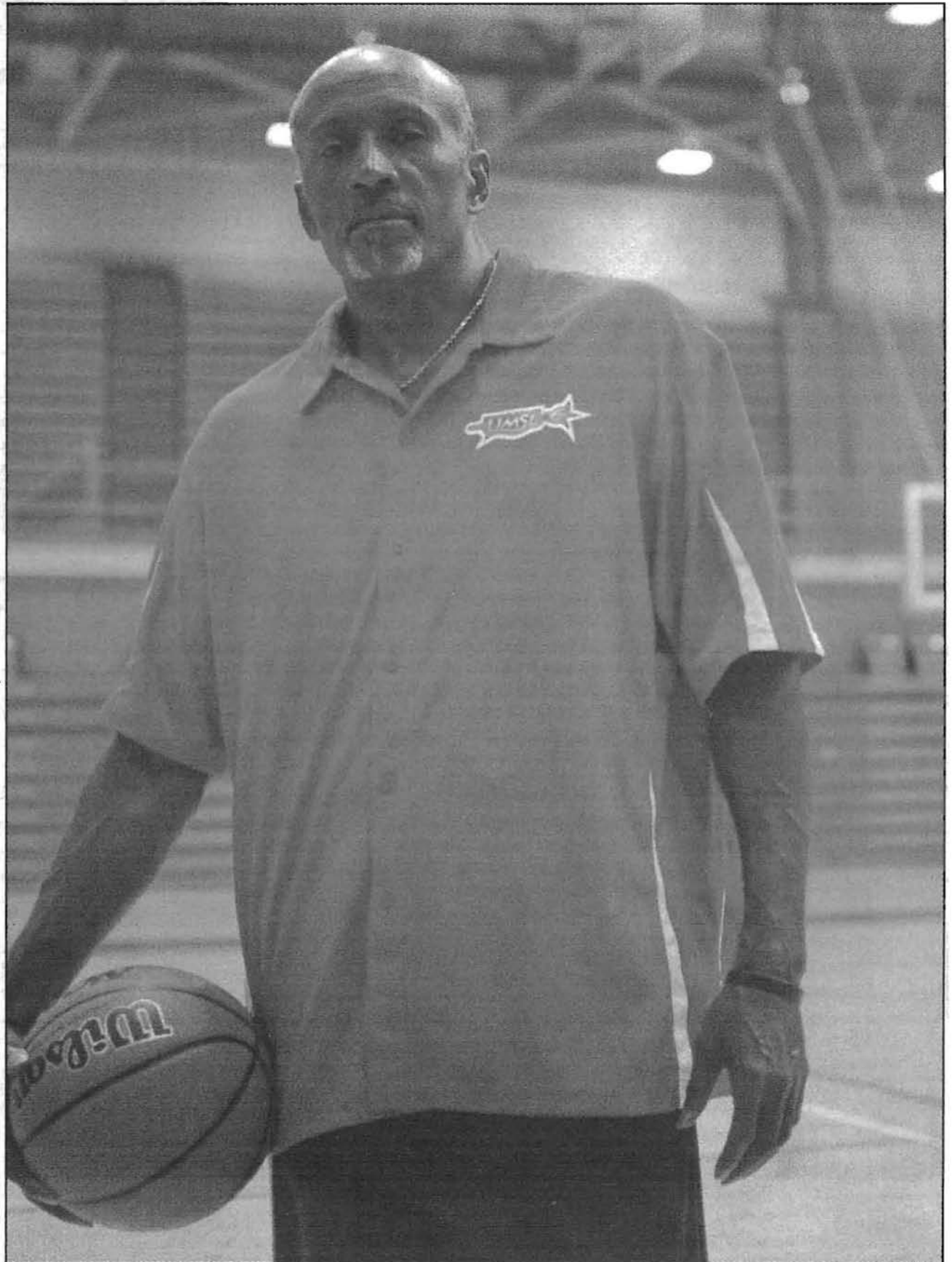
Mr. Jones is much more than a coach to the men's basketball program of UM-St. Louis. He is a father, brother, friend, mentor or practically anything these young men need him to be. He is an on-the-floor coach and also in charge of the young

men's conditioning. He is a role model and has high expectations of the guys on his team. He teaches by setting a leading example on and off the court and at workouts all while pushing the guys to new limits.

He shared one of his favorite memories, "cutting down the nets at SEMO and seeing the smiles on my teams face to know that they all worked together and accomplished that as a team. It's been an amazing experience to see the transformations from boys to young men."

"Chico is a very hardnosed coach but is a great individual. He will do anything he can to help us. To me, I look at him as family and not just a coach. My favorite thing Chico does is when he makes fun of one my teammates receding hairline. The whole team gets a kick out of it and the guy doesn't mind so it's even funnier," Ryan Lawrence, senior, criminology, said. He is hard when he needs to be, but still has time to laugh and enjoy life.

Looks like Chico is not near done with his coaching days. Coaching and working out with the guys keeps him young and maybe even in better shape than them. His goal is to snatch a championship title in his career at UM-St. Louis. This season he is working with 14 eager and energetic young men everyday pushing and fighting for the number one spot. If hard work equals payoff, than a dedicated leader like Chico definitely has the ability to help lead the Tritons to that championship he is seeking.



Coach Chico Jones has been with UMSL basketball team since 1979.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

SPORTS COLUMN

Soccer city lacks a team

St. Louis has not had a legitimate professional soccer team in decades, and it looks like it will not get one any time soon.

The now defunct St. Louis Athletica of Women's Professional Soccer played at Anheuser-Busch Soccer Park. Now they are replaced by an at best mediocre team that does not fill the less than 5,000 seat facility.

Soccer Park is a great facility for the Missouri State High School Championship Tournament. But in the last few months, with attendance dropping and lack of a quality lead sponsor and television deal, it would be a long shot over the next few years if St. Louis received a Major League Soccer team.

Jeff Cooper, owner of AC St. Louis, said in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch earlier this year that St. Louis is taking the necessary steps for such a team. In May 2010 the club faced major financial issues causing the Athletica to go bankrupt.

Soccer Park and AC St. Louis often do not market ticket deals. Unless a fan is their Facebook friend, then most ticket deals are not published. This is poor marketing and Major League Soccer took note. According to a recent ESPN article by ESPN soccer net, Major League Soccer was not impressed by Jeff Cooper's dismal idea of a soccer complex in Collinsville, Illinois.

Cooper brought in an injured and washed-up player, Steve Ralston, who did not play a minute for AC St. Louis. The St. Charles native said last spring in an interview with *The Current* that he was excited to be back in St. Louis. However, midway through the season, amid the



Michael Frederick

club's financial woes, Ralston left to play for the New England Revolution where a career ending injury occurred.

St. Louis soccer fans deserve better than Cooper's poor business techniques. But without a good lead sponsor, like a major local business or a better marketing strategy, St. Louis will be in the dark for big time professional soccer.

A solution to this complex problem would be simple. Saint Louis University has hosted several professional soccer events at Hermann Stadium on their campus. About two years ago, the Kansas City Wizards played FC Atlas in a Superliga fixture. Hermann stadium sold out in weeks prior to the game.

Hermann Stadium is located in the Central West End off of Grand and Lindell. This location is great for a Major League Soccer team. Filled up, the stadium can hold more than 10,000 people. Jeff Cooper, though, seems to want a stadium all for his mediocre team. All in all, with the way St. Louis markets soccer it would be near impossible to have an MLS team in this city.

Michael Frederick is Sports Editor for The Current.

A preview of men's and women's golf

► RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

The Triton men's golf team was disappointed with their performance at the season's inaugural tournament. Coach Troy Halterman called this frustration "a good sign" given the fact that the team was in third out of a field of 18.

The feeling they need to do better than third at the Missouri Intercollegiate in Sunset Beach is symbolic of the team's high hopes for the 2010-2011 season.

In collegiate golf, five players represent the team at each tournament and the top four scores are counted. Last season, Halterman's squad often had to make tournament appearances with only four players or borrow a fifth golf-inclined athlete from the soccer team. But with a full team of nine, including all four back from last year, "This is our first year with what really feels like a real full squad," Halterman said.

Halterman says his team will be disappointed if they do not make it to the NCAA regionals and his goal for the team is for them to take first place in at

least one tournament.

"I can't say I'm willing to go out on a limb and start making predictions, but I feel very confident about our team and our ability to make it to postseason play," golfing ace Matt Rau, senior, marketing, said. "In the three years I have been a part of this program this is by far the best team we have assembled and should really see some good golf out of this squad."

"The vets are already right up at the top in stroke average and you expect a player to get better every year and we're expecting to get some play out the new guys too," Halterman said. "The team looks really strong on paper."

The second year coach was quick to add, "But you don't play matches on paper."

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's golf team also looks good on paper and there is no indication the impressive roster will not translate into success on the course this season.

For the five returning players and the two rookies, last season will be difficult to top. The team won three tournament

titles, coach James Earle won the Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year and Shweta Galande placed 27th in the NCAA Division II Championships and won the GLVC Freshman of the Year Award. Last season also saw the program's first ever NCAA Regional Tournament appearance.

"First and foremost the team would like to make it to NCAA Super Regionals," coach Earle said about the team's goals for the upcoming season. Earle also said that his team is competing to win the GLVC and anything less than a top three finish in that tournament would be a let down.

In something that coach Earle calls "unique to NCAA golf," four of the world's continents are represented on his team. Players hail from New Delhi, India; Barcelona, Spain and Capetown, South Africa. Ironically, the other four players on the team are all from Illinois.

The team's first tournament begins today against Drury. "We're going to find out exactly what kind of state our game is in," coach Earle said. "We're jumping right into the fire."

The paid college athlete debate

► MICHAEL FREDERICK
Sports Editor

NCAA student athletes have often been the subject of a controversial debate. Should amateur college students receive compensation beyond scholarship to play sports?

According to University of Missouri-St. Louis coaches, many scholarship athletes often have tuition and books covered by athletic and academic scholarships. Lisa Curliss-Taylor, Tritons head women's basketball coach, said that because it is a choice to be a collegiate athlete a partial or full scholarship is enough. "We also provide uniforms and gear," Coach Taylor said. "As a student athlete it is a choice to play sports at this level."

Coach Taylor also mentioned that professional athletes should be given salaries, not college student athletes. "That is really for the next level of competition," Taylor said.

Jim Brady, UM-St. Louis head baseball coach, said while student athletes would appreciate a stipend it would also

stretch budgets and would be hard to monitor.

"If colleges and universities did give out individual stipends to athletes," Coach Brady said. "There would really be no way of NCAA officials to monitor and check it."

Coach Brady also gave some hypothetical figures as to how UM-St. Louis athletics would be stretched. "Say, for example, you give \$50 to an athlete," Coach Brady said, pulling out a calculator. "I have 25 players on my team which would make it \$1,250." Coach Brady also mentioned that not all of his student athletes were on athletic scholarship. "What about the walk-on player who isn't recruited or given a scholarship," Coach Brady said. "He may have an academic scholarship but do we give him less or more?"

Steve Tappemeyer, Tritons men's head basketball coach, emphasized how it was a privilege to be a scholarship student athlete. "If you give players a stipend it would be difficult to police it," Coach Tappemeyer said. "If a university says 'we'll give you \$10,000,' then another

would say 'we'll give you \$20,000.'" Coach Tappemeyer, who is one of the top college basketball coaches in Missouri, also said that a stipend could keep collegiate athletes in school longer. "If offered, I think big time programs and BCS schools would take advantage of it," Coach Tappemeyer said.

The consensus among Coaches Tappemeyer, Curliss-Taylor and Brady was that while individual student athletes would benefit from a monthly stipend, it would seem unfair to the remaining student body. "Not everyone is a gifted athlete," Coach Curliss-Taylor said. "It is also a privilege to play college sports."

USA Today reported in 2003 that during the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl and Orange Bowl participating college football universities made over \$200 million in television revenues. According to a 2009 ESPN report, only 14 division I college athletic programs made profits in 2009. The Tritons do not have a television deal for UM-St. Louis sports.

A&E

FALL TV PREVIEW

Fall means changing colors, the return of football, but most importantly, it heralds in new seasons and shows for America's real favorite pastime, television. *Compiled by Andrew Seal.*

NEW



UNDERCOVERS

Sept. 22, 7 p.m., NBC

This fall, J.J. Abrams is trying something a little different. A non-supernatural, character-driven drama starring Boris Kodjoe and Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Steven and Samantha Bloom, former CIA agents who have settled down to a mundane life of catering when they are called back to work together. Think Mr. and Mrs. Smith, but on the same side.

RETURNING



CASTLE

Sept. 20, 9 p.m., ABC

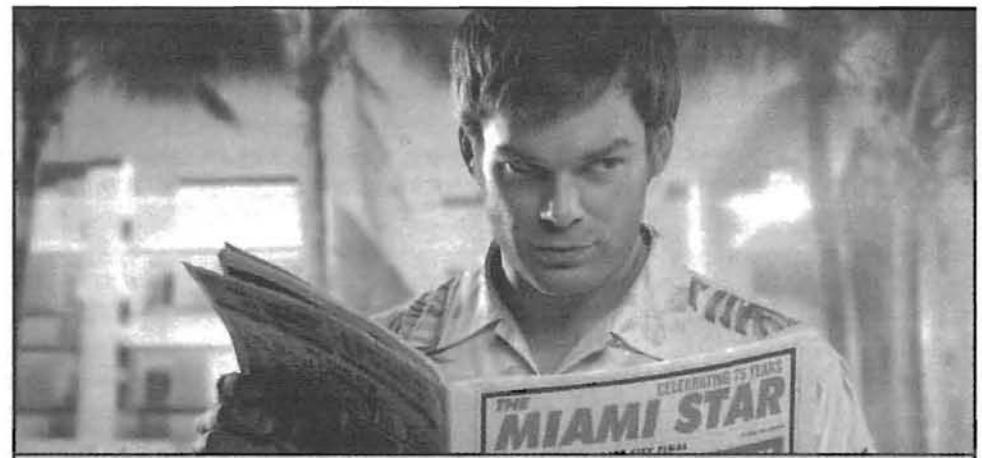
Featuring the stunningly handsome and clever Nathan Fillion, "Castle" follows the exploits and interactions of famous mystery novelist Richard Castle. In order to research his latest character, he signs on to the New York Police Department for a little one-on-one shadowing with Detective Kate Beckett (Stana Katic).



\$#! MY DAD SAYS

Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., CBS

The great William Shatner makes his return to television as Ed Goodson, a former Army surgeon who is not afraid to say anything and everything that comes to his critical mind. The show is based on the real life of writer Justin Halpern, and its success lies squarely on the show's writing and Shatner's acting chops. It is also the first show to be based off a Twitter feed.



DEXTER

Sept. 26, 9 p.m., Showtime

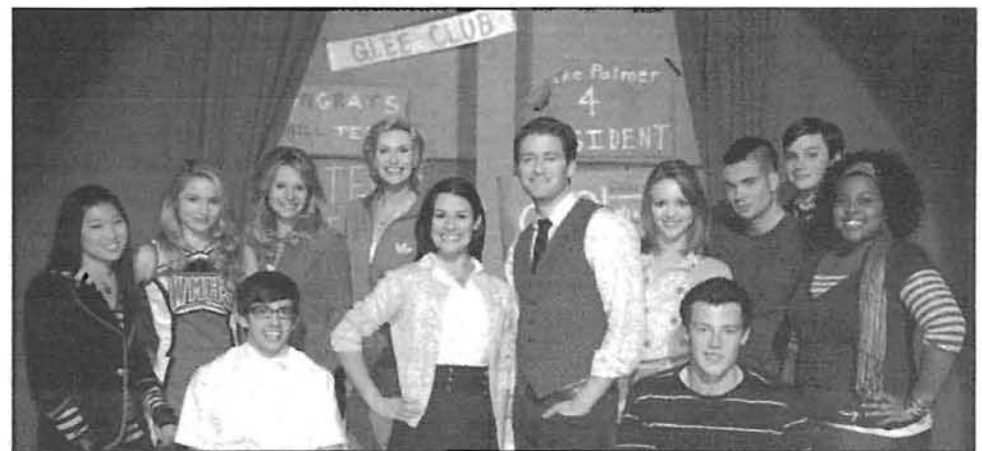
Dexter, the serial killer who kills other serial killers and murderers, has his own demons and compulsions to work on this season. "Dexter" is one of the few shows on television that consistently enralls and innovates, and actually gets more and more interesting each season. Entering its fifth season, "Dexter" fans have come to expect a lot from this show, and it never disappoints.



THE WALKING DEAD

Oct. 31, 9 p.m., AMC

Based on one of the original comics about zombies before zombies were big in Hollywood, "The Walking Dead" is not an all-out gorefest or scareathon. Its focus is not zombie hordes, but rather it is the people that must survive, day-to-day, in this new and unfamiliar world. That is not to say that there is not a lot of violence and gore; there totally is!



GLEE

Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Fox

While it may not be for everyone, the cultural phenomenon that is "Glee" cannot be denied. The amalgamated tales of the New Directions Glee club will be gaining a few new faces this season, both regulars and special guests. Like the themed episodes last season, this season has a Rocky Horror-esque episode around Halloween.



COURTESY / 20TH CENTURY FOX

Machete (Danny Trejo) and drug kingpin Torrez (Steven Seagal) have an epic showdown in "Machete."

'Machete' slices and dices with comic edge

Two words sum up "Machete": bloody funny. Both in the British slang sense of (expletive) funny and as in, bloody and funny.

Unlike "Grindhouse's" faithful recreation of '70s drive-in movies, "Machete" captures both the genre's feel and its fun - and funny - side. It goes over-the-top into cartoon violence and takes a more satiric view but keeps the genre's low-budget effects, stock characters and family plot elements. The result is a movie that is entertaining and laugh-out-loud funny.

It is bad taste, but in a deliberate, tongue-in-cheek way. Robert Rodriguez, along with Ethan Maniquis, wrote and directed this bad-taste delight. Yes, stuff blows up and chicks get naked. Buckets of chocolate syrup flow as stand-ins for blood, heads pop off after the camera cuts away and a man with a big knife lays waste to gangs of guys with guns. It is like a trip back in time to the drive-in, only funnier.

The movie opens with a badass Mexican Federale nicknamed Machete (Danny Trejo) hunting down a drug kingpin named Torrez (Steven Seagal) in a small Mexican town. The story then fast-forwards a few years to a Texas border-town where Machete is now a face in the crowd of illegal immigrants looking for work.

The would-be workers gather around a taco lunch truck run by the beautiful but tough Luz (Michelle Rodriguez).

Despite her denials, rumors swirl that Luz is the head of an underground network helping immigrants, named She (alluding to Che, in a poster in the background).

Nearby, immigration's Agent Sartana (Jessica Alba) keeps an eye on things.

Meanwhile, Senator John McLaughlin (Robert DeNiro) is up for re-election, running on an anti-illegal immigration platform. Among his strongest supporters is a border-patrolling vigilante

group headed by the sunglasses-wearing Von (Don Johnson).

When a well-dressed man named Booth (Jeff Fahey) rolls up in an expensive car and offers Machete a job, the plot really begins to roll.

This entertaining romp through drive-in fare recreates its cinematic style, stunts and special effects. But it also recreates a common genre theme, the revenge of the underdog, with a sly modern social commentary wrapped in its Mexi-ploitation plot. Sure, the bad guys are drug dealers and corrupt politicians but there is also an underclass of Hispanic workers exploited no matter which way they turn. The social satire is a plus or negative depending on one's own views.

Trejo's scarred, menacing face is perfect for the lead role, as is his stone-faced performance. All the performances of stock genre types are handled just right, particularly Seagal's villain. Michelle Rodriguez gets to do the most acting, creating

almost as scary a presence as Trejo that is also appealing.

There are smaller but funny roles for Cheech Marin, as a gun-toting priest, and Lindsey Lohan, as an oft-naked, hard-partying chick (what else?)

A sample of how over the top this all is, without giving anything away, is a scene where Machete enters a room surrounded by six armed bad guys, spins around wielding his namesake and all six heads pop off. How does one not laugh at such absurdities?

Two-fisted fights, guns and gore and sex scenes that end abruptly—as if it cut out—abound.

Midway the film sags a bit, briefly getting more heavy-handed with its social commentary, but recovers its entertainment footing in time with a final showdown.

"Machete" is violent and tasteless in the drive-in tradition but it sure is fun, although its satiric touches will either elicit a smile or a frown, depending on the viewer. **B+** —Cate Marquis

LATEST + GREATEST

MUSIC

Maximum Balloon *Maximum Balloon*

The side project of TV On The Radio's Dave Sitek is a unique mix of dance-pop and electro. The project features guest vocalists like Karen O, Holly Miranda and Yuki Nagano and grooves tightly enough to transform even the most painfully un-hip into card-carrying members of the hipster revolution. Don a pair of black-rimmed glasses and look for 'Maximum Balloon' when it drops on September 21.



Margot and the Nuclear So and So's *Buzzards*

The newest record from the chamber pop churning Indianapolis songsters, "Buzzard" finds Margot and the Nuclear So and So's departing from record label Epic and hitting the independent circuit. On "Buzzard," front man Richard Edward weaves heart-rending pop songs appropriate for the radio, mix tape or lovers quarrel. "Buzzard" drops on September 21.

Vincent Minor *Vincent Minor*

The troubadour known as Michael Mangia blends Ben Folds keys, Destroyer swagger and song craft whimsy to create a singular piano-pop sound. Vincent Minor's self-titled debut album is riddled with distinct observations and painful life truths, all sung with a light nasal hum. Try "Late Night Show" at Myspace.com/vincentminor and catch the rest of his self-titled debut on September 21.



MOVIES



The Town At most theaters

Ben Affleck directs and stars in a gritty crime drama set in Boston, about a bank robber (Affleck) who finds himself romantically drawn to a bank teller (Rebecca Hall).



I'm Still Here Tivoli only

A documentary by Casey Affleck about his brother-in-law Joaquin Phoenix's life after announcing he was giving up acting to become a rap artist.

Strawfoot floods The Firebird with rootsy punk-stomp

Strawfoot, St. Louis' premiere gang of genre blending rustic musicians, is helmed by the maniacal Reverend Marcus, and supported by a salty brood of banjo, stand up bass, violin, cello and electric guitar. Think drunken country-stop but loud, dark and very raucous. Like Flogging Molly brewed up with dead pioneers, locusts, pumpkins, scarecrows and funny-dark folk tales of murder, love, loss and misery all stirred together with a rusty shovel.

Strawfoot opens for national acts around St. Louis and never fails to warm the crowd to a roaring drink-primed rabble. Their show on Wednesday, September 8 was an awe-inspiring success.

The Reverend Marcus and the rest of Strawfoot strutted onto the stage and leapt into "Broken Crown," the banjo-led, lead track off the recently released 'How We Prospered.' Bauer, the banjoist, plucked along madly in a nifty black suit, white tie and hat combo, while the band broke into the staccato verse, then punk rocking, barnyard-love of the song's chorus.

In "Strawfoot Waltz" the band channeled a rollicking, European energy, like being port-fueled on cobbled streets of Paris with

whispers of Golgol Bordello waltzing in the background. Strawfoot then leapt into a cover of Flogging Molly's "Selfish Man," a show staple. All the indie-kids ran toward the stage fist pumping, linked arms and seriously got down.

"Invisible Man" featured fancy verse building toward its jangling chorus, which proffered squealing violin, thick standup bass plucking and booming kick drum. The song culminated with an angry, impassioned and drawn-out yell from Reverend Marcus, whose screeching capped off the song's frenzy.

For "Independence Day," Bauer crept off the stage, joined the audience and sang with no microphone or plug in. The crowd fell silent as Marcus supported with a weary but moving croon.

The whole moment channeled a vast, melancholy moon-filled cornfield on the Fourth of July. Strawfoot returned to their electric, full band sound on "More of Dread," which snuck out from beside a headstone with its Devil fists balled and guns cocked.

"Hole" opened with a breezy banjo line, washtub sounding bass, harmonica and rhythmic drum tinkering that chugged toward a



Wesley Jones, upright bassist, and The Reverend Marcus, vocals, perform along with their band on Tuesday at The Firebird.

WILLIAM KYLE / THE CURRENT

call and response chorus between Marcus and the rest of the band. The crowd joined in and shouted the lyrics as Marcus testified.

"Churchyard Cough" careened forward with violin, chugging guitar and crashing drums toward a chorus riddled with overtones of Flogging Molly and notions of drinking yourself blind on the Devil's brew. The plaid army crowd moseyed and ho-downed as they followed the Reverend Marcus to Hell.

Strawfoot closed with "Effigy," a dark song of self-indictment and buck-passing that fea-

tured a glass-raising chorus and band-wide vocals. The song caused the audience to cling to Strawfoot's coattails as they alighted from the stage. Their exit prompted the mumbled question: "Can we encore an opening act?"

With Strawfoot, the answer is a resounding yes. They butter-churn Americana, drunk-stop barnyard rock and have an 1800s luster to brew up a delirium-inducing musical cocktail that everyone needs to tipple. Catch Strawfoot around St. Louis before they blow-up and go national. **A**—William Kyle

Junip delivers everything fans want

After five years of waiting, fans of Junip can finally enjoy more of the music that they have been waiting so long for. Junip took an undetermined hiatus as front man José Gonzalez's own music took off. But now, Junip is back together and putting out music that is literally mind blowing.

The album, entitled 'Fields,' will not be released until September 14 but fans can still get a hold of the music before then. NPR Music is streaming 'Fields' for free.

This album starts off with a strong folk influence in the song "In Every Direction." Early on, lightly distorted beats drop in and almost trick the ear into thinking something else is playing in the background. This song is an excellent way to start off the album because it grabs the listener's attention almost instantly with its rustic romp.

Gonzalez's wonderful vocals mix perfectly with the

instruments in the second track, "Always." This acoustic piece is understated but never leaves the listener bored.

Keeping with the pace of the previous song, "Rope and Summit" features an organ and guitar with driving drum parts. All the separate pieces of this song combine to create a melody that flows wonderfully into the next. "Without You" starts slowly and gets heavier with rock beats that continue to reoccur throughout the rest of the album. Think acid trip meets modern day indie rock. "It's Alright" reinstates the pace and finds Gonzalez helming a beautiful melody that gets stuck in the listener's head. "Howl" bounces along in a danceable manner. The song is light-hearted despite the pulsing beats we hear driving the dance vibe.

"Sweet and Bitter" combines a wonderful '80s rap vibe with bongos. This is quite possibly the most inter-

esting song on the entire album, but definitely the weakest. However, the next song, "Don't Let It Pass" is another beautifully written slow song. The its lush melody and rhythm, sweet and calming harmonies this one will make the listener wish that Junip was actually in the room lulling him or her to sleep.

A continuance of fast paced drums can be found in "Off Point." Gonzalez's beautiful voice mixes with a techno-acoustic to forge an unforgettable melody. "Tide," the final song, is slow paced but features a Beatles-esque vibe. It starts off slow, but gets heavy toward the end with pulsing moog rhythms and drums. The song is a perfect fit for ending this album.

All in all, this is an excellent album that should be put in everyone's library. It is great for studying, relaxing, or even chilling with friends.

A—Janaca Scherer

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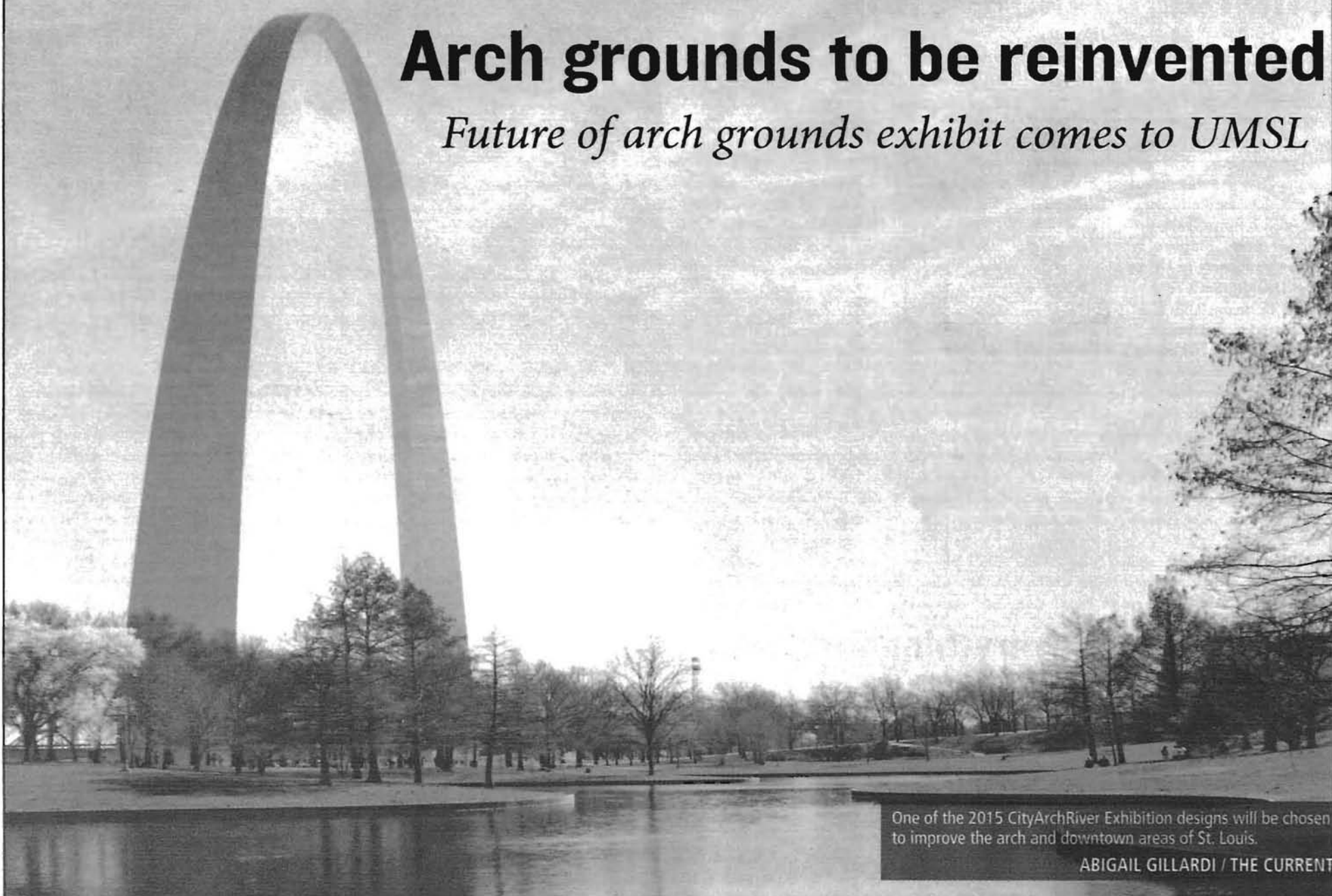
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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH!

Arch grounds to be reinvented

Future of arch grounds exhibit comes to UMSL



One of the 2015 CityArchRiver Exhibition designs will be chosen to improve the arch and downtown areas of St. Louis.

ABIGAIL GILLARDI / THE CURRENT

► JEN O'HARA

Features Editor

Last Tuesday through Thursday, designs for the "Framing a Modern Masterpiece" contest were on display at the J.C. Penney conference center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The contest was created to stimulate an idea of reinventing downtown St. Louis. It is similar to the contest held in 1947, which produced the lucrative St. Louis Arch art that has become a famous symbol of the city.

"It's to really make it more of an entrance, more elaborate, and more connected with the city and the river. Really make something more special out of it," Dr. Gina V. Ganahl, Associate Dean, Division of Continuing Education, said.

The international contest launched in December 2009. Now, the contest is down to five remaining finalists: Behnisch, MVVA, PWP Landscape Architecture, Foster and Partners, Civitas, SOM, Hargreaves, BIG and Weiss/Manfredi Team. The competition fell into three stages. The first stage was pri-

marily portfolios of the design team and idea of design theory. The second included competing teams that are able to execute their ideas and an interview with a jury. The competition lasted three months.

The finalists' designs vary from emphasizing and embellishing nature around the grounds to focusing on modern urbanization to accentuate buildings and technology advances. For example, the Weiss/Manfredi team design has plans in the making for a bike path and walking path, complete with landscaping on the Eads bridge. Another plan created by the Behnisch contestants focuses on St. Louis culture such as reinventing the river front—especially for concerts and festivals.

Most people are in agreement that the Arch grounds are in need of revitalization and are glad to see changes coming.

"I think it's a great idea. I think it definitely needs to be done. [We need to] make the east side more accessible, more useable, and to bring more visitors, locals and out-of-towners. A lot of it's not utilized. [We need to] kind of wake up an area that's dismal and torn apart. I'm really glad we had the oppor-

tunity to see all this," Laura Watt, graduate, education, said. Ganahl is in agreement as well.

"I think their assessment is right, that it doesn't do enough to tie. The current design does not do enough to tie the city in with the Arch. It is a landmark of our city, it's something we should be really proud of. I think we need to capitalize on that by making it more beautiful and more functional," Ganahl said. Those from volunteer services took advantage of the event as well and volunteered their time to learn more about the possibilities to come. "I thought it was a great opportunity for me to see the offerings and also I wanted to see how many people came. [As far as the contest goes], I like the idea of the wetland because it offers so many views of the riverfront and it incorporates more natural [scenery]," said Joanne Stremsterfer, volunteer services. The plan is to have the chosen design completed by the year 2015, which marks the 50th anniversary of the original Arch opening. The design winner will be announced on September 24.

The Local Tourist

St. Louis festivities and culture

Being lucky enough to have lived in both Europe and Asia and traveled to the many countries they comprise, it goes without saying that many celebrations have been observed; Mudfest in Korea, Oktoberfest and Fasching (Mardi Gras equivalent) in Germany, and all of the little wine and beer festivals in between. No matter where one is, there is always a reason to celebrate.



Suzzane Matthews

St. Louisans may not know it, but they have just as many reasons to celebrate here in St. Louis. It was shocking to learn that not only did no one at the University of Missouri-St. Louis attend, but also they had never even heard of the Festival of Nations; the one time a year when it costs literally nothing to go to Greece, Africa, Afghanistan, India, Mexico, China, Thailand, Germany, Israel... the list goes on. Guaranteed to put people into sensory overload, this festival has it all. Many cultures join together to delight others with the art, dance, music, jewelry, body art, clothes, games and traditions from their countries.

And the food – oh the food! The aromas that hung in the air were just enough to tickle taste buds and whet appetites, but not nearly enough to prepare attendees for the adventure ones taste buds were about to embark upon. I actually cursed my petite stomach for failing to fit more than six countries' cuisine in it at once. While all contenders were delicious, the champs of the day were the unparalleled tastes and textures of the Afghan food.

Feeling disappointed that it has passed already? Well this is just one of the many festivals available every month here in St. Louis. Feeling incredulous? Here is

proof: January holds the Centennial Beer Festival. In February, the St. Louis French Festival arrives. In March and April are Mardi Gras and the Blues Festival. May celebrates the Polish Festival, while June's festivities include the Taste and Art Festival. July celebrates our independence with Fair St. Louis, while August celebrates other nationalities with the Festival of Nations. September includes the Big Muddy Blues Festival. October, of course, brings Oktoberfest and November brings in the media with the International Film Festival. Finally, December displays the Snowflake Festival. Those examples just provide for one per month. There are many more. Every festival offers people a chance to broaden horizons and learn about different cultures. There is so much to do out there; it hardly justifies spending yet another weekend at a keg party.

So, now that everyone knows what is out there, hopefully it has inspired readers enough to give it a try. The Greek festival that is going on right now will give readers a prime opportunity to begin. Head down to Forest Park at Kingshighway and check out the amazing food and Greek dancing before it is too late. For fraternities, sororities and for Greeks there is no excuse!



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*Cash or Check Only

ABC brings Legacy to UM-St. Louis

Associated Black Collegians brings A Night filled with poetry and jazz

► **CATE MARQUIS**
Assoc. A&E Editor

"Legacy at UMSL," organized by the Associated Black Collegians of the University of Missouri-St. Louis was held last Thursday in the Pilot House. This event was ABC's fourth event for the group's welcome week.

"Legacy at UMSL is not just for African Americans. It is for anyone who loves music and poetry and is a great chance for everyone to mingle," Taylor Ray, ABC Event Coordinator, said as she welcomed guests and passed around the guestbook. As it turned out, over 70 people attended.

The dimly lit, art-filled atmosphere of the Pilot House completed the musical performances and poetry reciting of the evening nicely. The candle-decorated tables along with chairs and couches were arranged to make each guest feel at home. Finger food accompanied by tea or lemonade was set out for guests to snack on. The night started off with the musical per-

formances of a jazz group created through the Jazz Combo program at UM-St. Louis. The unnamed group included trumpet player Dustin Shrum, piano player Mark Pedigan, base player Nick Shea and saxophone player Kwanae Johnson. As the group played, ABC members introduced themselves to guests and thanked everyone for coming.

Soon afterward the event host, Louis Comphlication, arrived on stage and provided the audience a good laugh with his many jokes. He also laid down the law of how the night needed to work. "Rule number one is to respect the mic and everyone performing. Rule number two is no cell phones," Comphlication said. He then broke the ice for the performers by reciting a poem of his own about how he needed poets and poetry in his life.

Throughout the event Billy Williams worked on a painting, giving attendants a chance to watch art being created first hand. He also had several pieces of his work on site for sale, available to anyone interested. Curtis Finch and Amy Hilton led the listed

“ Rule number one is to respect the mic...”

- Louis Comphlication

performers with their duet of a gospel song. Following the duet were thirteen other artists performing a mixture of poetry and songs. One of the 13 performers was 18-year-old Idris Aziz who performed twice. His first piece was "Flight School" and the second was "Mannequin." Both appeared popular with the crowd; everyone snapped, the poetic clap, in appreciation. Another well-liked performance was Teddi B's serenade to Jasmine Cannon, ABC secretary.

Teddi B, called Ms. Cannon on stage, had her sit in a chair, and then both sang a song and he read a poem to her.

Concluding the night was poet Ignite, with a series of poems about her lesbian lifestyle and her social work career. Her pieces received many 'snaps' as well. It appeared everyone had a good time. "I appreciate ABC's endeavor to shine the light on black artists," Chris Campbell, event guest, said.

Game night proves rewarding for Associated Black Collegians

► **ANDREW SEAL**
Staff Writer

When the Associated Black Collegians organization hosts a game night, they go all out.

Last Tuesday, ABC hosted the second of its welcome events, its annual game night. The Pilot House and a portion of the downstairs of the Millennium Student Center were used for the event, host to a bevy of great classic games and a handful of newer ones.

For Monea Kimple, junior, information systems, victory tasted oh so sweet.

"I beat Brett Evans in NBA2k10!" she said. Evans, sophomore, business administration, the organization's Treasurer, merely shook his head with a smile.

ABC is an "organization that strives to promote academic, political, cultural and social awareness among black students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis," Taylor Ray, junior, music education, said.

Founded in 1968 at UM-St. Louis, ABC is the longest-running organization on cam-

pus. On top of that, the organization is well known.

"We're recognized both on and off-campus in the surrounding community," Sherie Phillips, junior, communications, said. ABC members note that there are a number of opportunities to participate in club events.

"Not only do we have great events like this all year," ABC president, Monica Tircuit, senior, information systems, said, "we also will have volunteer opportunities throughout the semester."

ABC also organizes an annual Divine Nine Step Show.

This year's game night was packed with board games, card games and video games as well. Some games were lent to ABC for the occasion by the Office of Student Life. Others were provided by ABC members. Charterwells provided the food for the event.

See **GAME NIGHT**, on page 13

Cy·ber·pho·bi·a

[n. An irrational fear and dislike of electronic and Internet communications and technology.*]

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Organization Spotlight

Hispanic Latino Association brings new energy to UM-St. Louis

▶ MINHO JUNG

Staff Writer

The Hispanic Latino Association is a student organization at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The organization has been established in order to promote the culture of Latin America, which ranges from language to salsa dancing.

"HISLA, the Hispanic Latino Association, is looking to raise awareness about [the] Hispanic community and hopefully trigger students' interest about Latin culture," Chantal Rivadeneyra, a vice president of HISLA, said.

HISLA has been offering many educational and social events including salsa lessons, zumba lessons, and language exchange.

"I have been the teacher of salsa and zumba lessons since I joined the organization three years ago. I hope many students can join us for dancing this semester," Rivadeneyra said.

Approximately fifteen students are currently involved in the organization. HISLA is

planning on promoting the group by offering various events in the hopes of recruiting more students this semester.

"Many students have signed up for our group because of [the] language exchange program we offer. We are planning on naturally promoting our group by arranging a variety of events throughout the semester," Rivadeneyra said.

The ambition of HISLA for this semester is to hold two events every month.

"I want this organization to be [a] strong organization which can reach and influence many students here at UMSL. To achieve [the] goal that I'm looking for, I'm ready to put all my efforts on it as a leader. This is my passion," Lidia Aponte, a president of HISLA, said.

According to a UM-St. Louis report, 536 non-immigrant students from 63 different countries currently attend UM-St. Louis.

"[The first time I came to America], this

group initially helped me to build relationships with many people, and now I want to help other students as the president of the group," Aponte said. Since UM-St. Louis has been well-known for ethnic diversity, many international students point out the importance of international student groups on campus and strong support from the school. "I'm from Costa Rica. I think, as an international student, having people who understand your background around you is really important," Mei Mey Segura, senior, music, said. Participants also join in remembrance of their culture, in addition to meeting those who share similar cultural backgrounds.

"I think remembering where I'm originally from is really important in terms of remembering who I really am. I'm from Mexico, by the way," Ana Laura Bolanos, sophomore, business, said.

According to UM-St. Louis statistics, 100 percent of Hispanic freshmen students en-

rolled at UM-St. Louis dropped out of school, failing to reach their second years in 2007. The total graduation rate in six years of Hispanic students at UM-St. Louis was also recorded 39 percent, which is the second lowest after Native American students.

"That was my biggest motivation of participating in this organization. Hispanic students need support. Although there are 600 Hispanic alumni in [the] St. Louis area, we did not have [an] alumni association when I joined the group for the first time," Lauren Masterson-Rodriguez, treasurer of HISLA, said.

HISLA has actively participated in many school events in the last two years. However, since many members are graduating this year, recruiting has been rising as a really important task for them to achieve this semester.

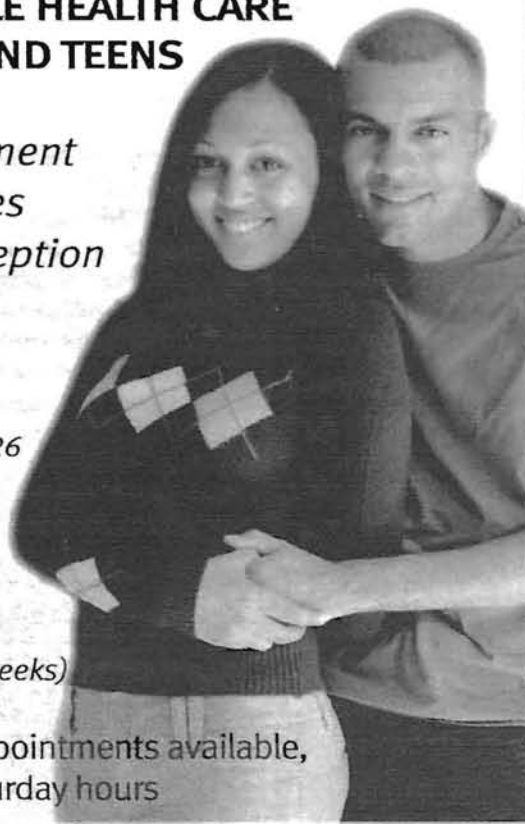
"I'm really excited to kick off this semester. Please come to Salsa Night," Aponte said.

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GAME NIGHT, from page 12

On hand were classic games like Jenga, Twister, Candy Land, Battleship, Operation and Scrabble. For the more enterprising, giant chess and card games like Hearts and Spades were on offer as well.

Set up on a projector in the Pilot House was an Xbox 360, providing players options like Marvel vs. Capcom 2 and Halo 3: ODST.

"My favorite game? Spades is the only thing I've played all night!" Ray said as she and her spades partner won another hand.

The annual game night is used as an ice-breaker for students at the beginning of the fall semester.

"It's so new members can get to know us

and have a great time doing so," Tircuit said.

As well as the game night, ABC also hosted events last week like an ice cream social on the Millennium Student Center's patio on September 2, a movie night in Oak Hall last Wednesday and a pool party at the University Meadows pool last Friday night.

All of those events are leading up to ABC's first General Meeting on September 16, in century room C at 4 p.m..

Tircuit encourages all students interested in ABC to come to the general meeting on Thursday, even if they were unable to attend any of the earlier events.

"We'd love to see you there," Triscuit said.

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Opinions

OUR OPINION

Cash for kids:

Boosting enrollment by offering cash incentives

What are some of the reasons why elementary school students should be in enrolled in school? Most would give the reasoning that it is to prepare children for their future, to make them functional citizens in society or maybe even because it is a law. The answer for some parents residing near Jefferson Elementary School in north St. Louis City may soon be, in order to receive cash incentives.

Urban Strategies, a non-profit organization based out of St. Louis, is offering cash incentives of up to \$300 per child for new enrollees at Jefferson Elementary. There are a few stipulations: the money must go to students who were not enrolled at Jefferson Elementary last year, the students that receive these incentives must keep a nearly spotless attendance record and cannot receive any out of school suspensions and the parent of the child must attend at least three PTO meetings during the school year.

As we know, St. Louis Public Schools have had a tough time meeting Missouri education requirements in the last decade, many have even been forced to shut down due to failing test scores, poor attendance and lack of adequate funding due to the previously men-

tioned hardships. It has been a vicious cycle that has left many young students feeling abandoned. The fact that Jefferson Elementary is offering cash for enrollment is not only alarming from a moral standpoint, competition between adjacent schools is vital to success in schools. In St. Louis City, there are various public schools, along with charter schools and magnet schools. When students and their parents are given the choice on where to attend school, it forces each school to try to "raise the bar." Fostering this competition between local schools makes each and every one of them a little bit stronger of an institution. With Jefferson Elementary handing out cash for student enrollment, local schools have no motivation to try to better their academic programs in order to attract local students.

What message are we trying to send our youth? Where has the value of education itself gone in our society? Education is a privilege that many of our ancestors would have been honored to have and now we have to literally pay children (or their parents) to attend school. How is a high school student supposed to value their education and be motivated to continue in a

post-secondary institution when they know that their parents chose a school for them based on a few hundred dollars? By paying parents to enroll their children in a particular school, we are removing the stress on the importance of intrinsic motivation for success. Our St. Louis Public Schools are suffering, and instead of using donated funds to better the education of students, it is being used to lure in new enrollment. This money could be spent on books, technological equipment, more experienced teachers, or even just to better the breakfast and lunch programs in St. Louis City schools. These incentives will only work as a band-aid for a more deeply rooted issue. It is a simple cycle, if a school performs well they will receive more federal funding. St. Louis Public Schools need to avoid looking at this as a short-term fix. Instead, administration and parents must look toward improving the quality of St. Louis Public School education in the long-run.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Sequita Bean, Gene Doyel, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Michael Frederick, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft.

WHAT'S BEAN HAPPENING?

Social networking is bad for society

A few weeks ago, Hadly Jons, a Michigan juror was removed from a jury for posting the trial results on Facebook before they were reported to the defendant in court. Even further, Jons proclaimed the defendant was guilty to her Facebook friends before the court heard the defendant's side of the case. The 20-year-old juror posted on the site, "It's gonna be fun to tell the defendant they're GUILTY." The Facebook post was ultimately found by the seventeen-year-old son of the defendant's lawyer.

While there was speculation that she would be charged with contempt of court or even some jail time, the judge subsequently made her write a five page essay about the constitutional right to a fair trial and ordered her to pay a \$250 fine.

The problem with this case is not only did the juror speak about the case outside of court, but she posted information about the case to all of her Facebook friends. Ignorance cannot be claimed in this case because every

juror selected to be on trial takes an oath to retain confidence in all court proceedings.

What is it about Facebook that makes users think that they can share any type of information, regardless of the way it makes them look, or even more importantly—the law? The say or do anything countenance of Facebook has cost individuals way more than the \$250 Jons had to pay. In some instances people have lost their employment, their relationship or in Nathalie Blanchard's case, people can even lose their health insurance benefits.

Blanchard, who was on sick leave from her job at IBM for depression, lost her benefits because her insurance company saw uploaded pictures of her on Facebook having fun.

What we have on our hands in our society today is a massive social networking subculture where there are very few moralities and a vast amount of absurdities. In Jon's case, social networking proved to be a detriment,



Sequita Bean

but in Blanchard's case her privacy was violated. Just as it is not okay for jurors to post guilty verdicts in their status updates, it is not okay for employers, schools and insurance companies to base judgments on an individual based on their Facebook profile.

Having a social networking subculture in our society is a liability to everyone. Since social networking is here to stay, consumers need to be more mindful of the things they post and there needs a level of respect for other people's privacy.

Sequita Bean is Editor-in-Chief of The Current.

**DO YOU AGREE WITH SEQUITA?
DO YOU DISAGREE?**

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SEAL OF APPROVAL

Free speech can go too far

The right to free speech is a curious one. The United States is one of the few countries in the world that grants its citizens that specific right.

The same right that allows people to criticize their own government also allows detestable bigots like the Westboro Baptist Church to spread their message of hate and intolerance across the nation.

It also provides for free press and guarantees free public expression of opinion (much like this opinion column). Sadly, this free speech right can also be abused.

Take Reverend Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center, for example.

He is more popularly known as the pastor who wanted to burn copies of the Quran last Saturday to protest both Islam and the construction of Cordoba House in New York City. Jones is one of the seemingly growing number of Americans afflicted with Islamophobia, an ailment otherwise known as the inability to differentiate radical extremist Islam with mainstream Islam. For comparison, it is like someone saying that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ must be Catholic.

This rampant Islamophobia has to stop. The terrorists and insurrectionists our troops are battling overseas are not the same as the Muslims living among us. Every religion has its fringe believers and crazies—just look at the Westboro folk for example.

A recent poll shows that

despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, 18 percent of Americans think President Obama is Muslim. Here is the better question: even if he was, why would it matter?

Jones' case of Islamophobia reached critical levels and he thrust himself onto the national stage last week, proudly declaring that he was planning on burning an entire global religion's sacred text merely because he could and because he thought it would prove some kind of point. Sadly, Jones is the worst kind of Christian—the kind that believes that his way is the only way. His kind does not acknowledge that there are many different truths in the world; or that, by the way, Muslims believe in the same God as Christians and Jews do. In fact, there's a specific passage in the Quran that references the "People of the Book" (Christians and Jews), declaring that they are to enjoy protected status in Muslim countries. These people, called dhimmi (for "protected people"), are freely allowed to practice their own religions within a Muslim country. Dhimmi also are not held to the same standards as their Muslim neighbors, such as the prescriptions on pork and alcohol. So, while it is entirely within Jones' right to burn copies of the Quran, is it a morally and spiritually right thing to do? Islam is an ancient, established religion. It is not like Jones wants to burn copies of "Dianetics."

For one, the burning



Andrew Seal

would certainly and immediately danger American troops overseas. In light of this, not only has the Pentagon issued a warning, but also Interpol and the Vatican as well.

Traveling American citizens would also be at risk from this foolish act of misdirected anger. If Iran is willing to imprison innocent hikers like Sarah Shourd, imagine what that highly religious country would do if Americans were openly disrespecting their holiest text!

What it comes down to is this: the Quran is a sacred text that deserves as much respect as the Bible and the Torah. It should not be burned ever, much less for a misguided protest.

President Obama said it best, "We are not at war against Islam." Moreover, we are fighting against those that have "distorted Islam." We should be working with mainstream Muslims like Imam Rauf, not against him.

Andrew Seal is a Staff Writer and columnist for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Proposition B will help Missouri's canines

Do your dog a favor this upcoming midterm election and vote yes on Proposition B in November. Sponsored by the Humane Society of Missouri and Missourians for the Protection of Dogs, Prop B seeks to stop the animal cruelty practices that have become the status quo among far too many dog breeders in Missouri. Specifically, if passed, Prop B would set minimum standards for housing, food and veterinary care within breeding operations and would limit a breeder to owning no more than 50 breeding dogs.

Of course the state's dog breeders are crying foul, saying that Prop B would force nearly half of the state's 1,477 licensed breeders out of business. And, frankly, that is the best thing it could do. A lot of these breeders need to find a new business anyway.

The number of dog breeders in this state is completely unnecessary. There are more than enough canines running around; in fact, shelters are overcrowded. Breeders exist primarily to fulfill the whims of unqualified owners who are often looking for a status symbol, not a pet.

Dogs have become the hapless victims of our country's conspicuous consumption society. Just as a shopper is willing to pay a lot more for a piece of fabric printed with the words Armani Exchange, families choose to pay hun-

dreds of dollars for designer dogs and en vogue purebreds rather than rescuing a mutt from a shelter for practically nothing. And not to mention the increases in demand for a specific breed are based on idiotic factors like which canine wins the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show or, dumber yet, the type of pooch Paris Hilton carries around in her purse.

Choosing a purebred over a mutt is not inherently bad, except for the fact that dogs in shelters are often euthanized if not adopted. Everyday dogs in this state pay the ultimate price just because they are not the fashionable breed.

The idea that dogs should be designed the same way as cars has meant profit for breeders and misery for countless puppies. Recently 108 dogs, including Cocker spaniels, poodles, shih tzus and Cavalier King Charles spaniels, were rescued from a puppy mill in Jefferson County. The animals were afflicted with a variety of illnesses resulting from malnourishment and being contained four to a pen in 2-by-2-foot wire cages.

Most people are against government overregulation, especially when it forces people to shut down their businesses. But certainly when the product being peddled is a sentient being, man's best friend no less, a different set



Ryan Krull

of parameters needs to be applied.

Fortunately, the chances of Prop B passing are looking good. Despite being opposed by the Missouri Farm Bureau and the Missouri Pork Producers Association, anti-Prop B groups have only managed to raise a little over \$12,000. More than half a million dollars has been raised in support of the measure, thanks in part to public fund raising done by Tony LaRussa and Senator Kit Bond's wife, Lisa.

On another positive note, a lawsuit aimed at removing the proposition from the ballot was thrown out of court over the summer. But just because it has managed to stay on the ballot does not make it law. So this November 2 vote yes on Prop B, even if you are more of a cat person.

Ryan Krull is a Staff Writer for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com


Point
Counterpoint

Should the healthcare bill be repealed?

Yes: Health care reform bill poses more harm than good

Health care reform has been on the mouths and minds of Americans for the last few years now. As we know, President Obama's Health Care Reform Bill passed in late March of 2010. Since it has passed, the criticism has been prevalent across the board from both parties—and rightly so.

The most alarming fact about the Health Care Reform Bill is the effect that it is posing on Medicare. Medicare and similar programs are expected to see more than \$500 billion in funding cuts at a time where over 70 million baby boomers are predicted to become eligible for the program in just the next 10 years.

There is also the inevitable setback of cost to support the Health Care Reform Bill. At a time where the United States is struggling with a deficit of over \$1 trillion dollars, the American people are now being forced to cover the health insurance costs of others. Built on capitalistic ideals, the United States has always been seen as a place to work hard for your earnings. Those who strive are said to be rewarded. That being said,

according to CNN Money.com, high income families will be seeing around a 0.9 percent jump in their Medicare taxes. For those of you who enjoy numbers, this takes the income percentage paid for Medicare taxes from 1.45 percent to anywhere between 2.35 percent to 3.8 percent for families earning over \$250,000 annually.

Businesses will also suffer due to the new implications of the bill. The legislation states that employers will now be stifled by fines for each employee if not providing affordable and adequate medical coverage for workers who would qualify for subsidies to purchase insurance out of their own pockets.

The medical industry itself will also see many new stipulations and financial hardships after the passing of Obama's Health Care Reform Bill. One strives to be a doctor with the hope that his or her schooling will pay for itself. Under the new reform plan, primary care physicians are likely to see pay cuts and higher burnout rates. Medical device makers and drug manufacturers are expected to see sizable new fees in or-

der to pay for government health care; this is not to mention fees that long standing insurance companies will face.

For the patient, which is what the majority of us students are and will be in the future, the new stipulations for medical providers will be passed down to us in the form of longer waiting times, more bureaucratic "red tape" to cross when filing claims and possibly even higher rates and co-pays.

And last but not least, is what seems to be most on the minds of young single people (such as UM-St. Louis' main population.) What is happening with this health care mandate? As Americans, shouldn't we have the freedom, the liberty even, to choose if we want to be insured? If we are young, healthy and broke shouldn't we be able to choose to take our chances? The health care mandate orders each individual to have some sort of health insurance coverage, thank you President, but that is a choice that I think we can make on our own.

No: Repealing Obamacare is a knee-jerk reaction

If you are reading this there is a good chance you have already been helped by the recent reforms in healthcare. This is despite the fact that Republicans heavily criticized the measure for not kicking in for another five years. Because of those obstructionist Republicans, Obamacare just barely squeaked out of the Senate and into law; it would be very, very foolish of us to repeal it right now.

In this tough economy, jobs and the healthcare benefits that come with them are not exactly sitting right there and waiting for a student to graduate. So it is likely many grads will be wallowing in part-time labor for a few years before beginning a career.

Now, thanks to the President, at least you can have access to healthcare until that right job comes along. Repealing the reforms means you or one of your classmates is going to have gaps in coverage after finishing school but before finding a job.

It is true that public opinion is not in favor of the healthcare reform laws passed. But it is likely that those numbers are actually a reflection of the public's un-

derstandable disdain for the partisan bickering that is all too common in Washington and was especially pervasive during the debate over healthcare reform.

But the fact of the matter is, whenever opinion polling is done on the specifics of the law, the public is overwhelmingly for it. 86 percent of Americans agree it should be illegal for health insurance companies to disqualify someone due to a preexisting condition. 72 percent think private companies should legally have to provide healthcare coverage for their full-time employees.

Possibly the most controversial aspect of the bill is the provision that forces everyone to have some sort of health insurance. Now this puts a bad taste in some people's mouths, but it is being blown way out of proportion by the far-right. Is it so outrageous to ask a person to have minimal insurance just in case something really terrible happens? Is it not a better idea for that person to pay a small sum every month instead of risk having to go bankrupt fighting an unexpected illness?

Republicans are just demagoguing this issue, and frankly doing a pretty good job at it. There is a lot of misinformation out there about this reform and, as with any major change, a lot of anxiety.

The right is playing to people's fears and worries just to attract votes, not because they truly believe Obamacare is somehow going to cause the end of the world as we know it. Look at it this way: the Republicans want to repeal Obamacare, but then what? What is the GOP's next step? They do not have one. Their party is flying by the seat of its fear-mongering pants. They have no long-term plan for the American people, just a short term one that will help their candidates win elections.

Repealing Obamacare now would be just a knee-jerk reaction, a whim. How often in this country's history has following whims proved a good idea?

What do you think?

Let us know at thecurrent-online.com.

St. Louis sucks. I'm moving to Chicago.

Time and time again, St. Louis is passed up in the musical world of touring. Tour after amazing tour, we are skipped over. While cities like Chicago and Kansas City smile smugly and get the best of the best. Driving right through our city, why would not they want to stop, have a beer and maybe play a song or two? But no, they do not like us at all. They feel the need to tease our ears by playing just out of our reach. So why is it that all the national touring acts feel a need to skip over the 'Lou? They drive right past the Arch and our plentiful music venues to continue playing in other cities that do not seem like they are any better than us. What makes Chicago so special or Kansas City for that matter?

First off, our lack of a "scene" definitely causes some issues with national bands. What exactly is a scene? A strong music following. All those kids who wear nothing but band tees and constantly have head phones plugged into their ears are not enough. If the mainstream listeners want to see their big name bands come play at the Pageant, then they

need to go see smaller shows. Even going to see a band they do not even know and dragging along their girlfriend or boyfriend it is possible to bring bigger acts to St. Louis. But do not forget about the local bands, they need a little loving too. Almost everyone knows someone in a band, so why not make them happy and go to a show? By doing them a favor, the music scene gets a big boost too. By supporting their band, no matter how crappy they may actually be, the scene will be getting the benefits. St. Louis needs to come to terms fast with the fact that we have tons of wonderful music just floating around us. We have the means to provide for all of St. Louis' performers, but we just do not. Perfectly good venues are closing left and right (anyone else remember 2¢ Plain) because no one shows up. Local bands fizzle and fade away because they have nowhere to play. After seeing local acts die, national ones just stray away to stronger scenes.

Stronger ones like Chicago, Cleveland and even Milwaukee. What do these cities have that we do not have? The



Janaca Scherer

following! Bands like Four Year Strong, Matt & Kim and A Day to Remember either have or will be in the near future skipping over St. Louis. It is nothing short of depressing. A little bit of St. Louis' musical heart dies every time we get skipped over. Anyone with any musical sense will get out of St. Louis, as fast as they can. Move to one of the big music cities like Chicago and never look back. With tons of music to keep even the most avid listeners busy, one will never get bored with the live music around him or her. After seeing a new band every night, it will be hard to think of why you ever stayed in St. Louis so long.

Janaca Scherer is a Staff Writer for The Current.

Like us on Facebook and receive a movie pass.

facebook

Totally freakin' sweet!

-The Current

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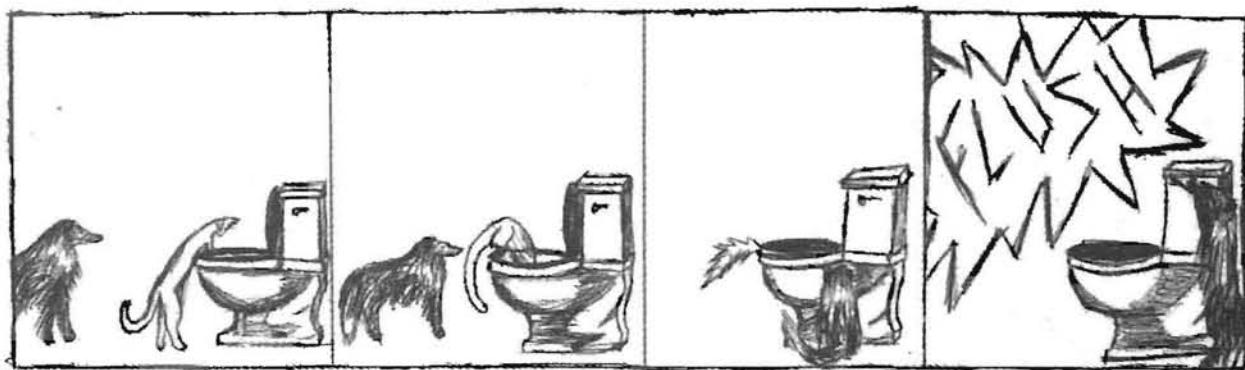
CAN YOU DRAW?

ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?

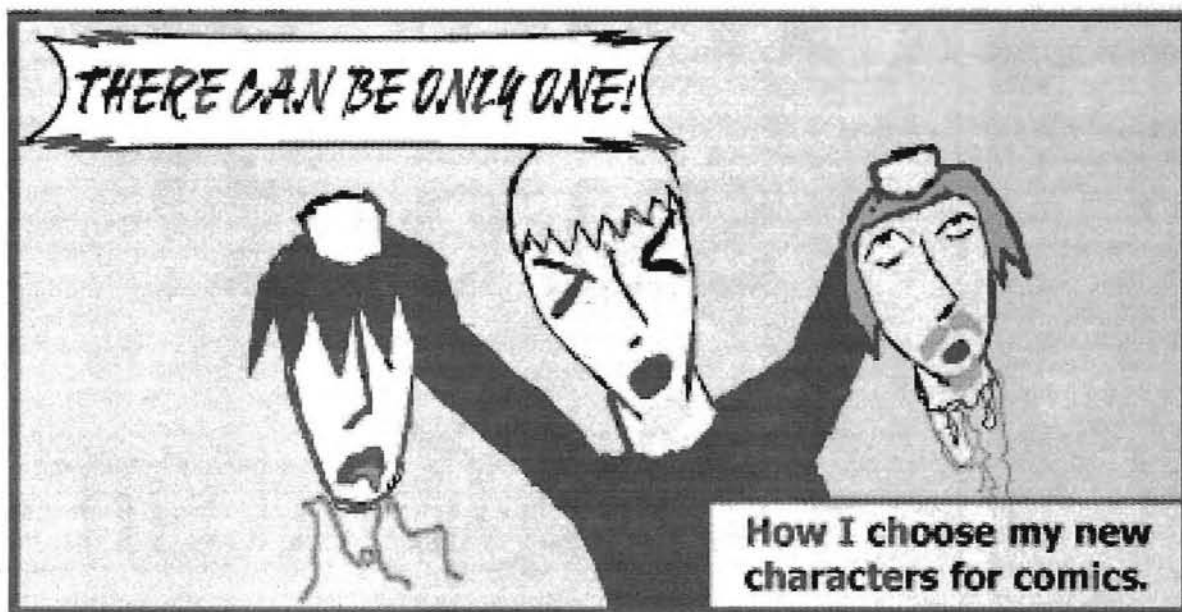
IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP, ALSO.

YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

Dave and Nike by Grace Searle

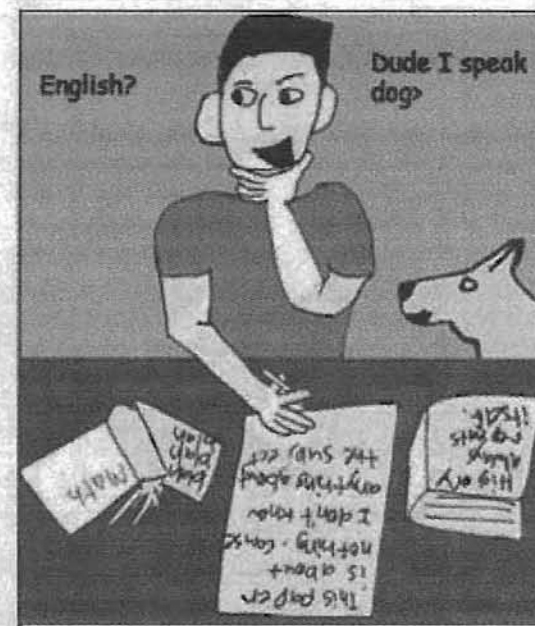
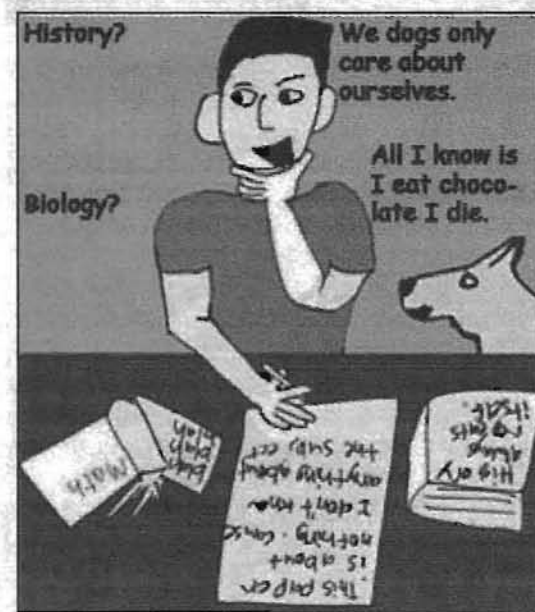
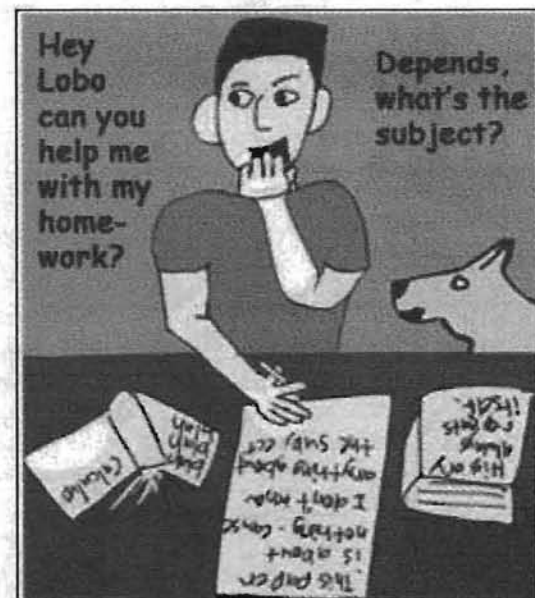


They teach that? by Sam Kayser



Comics

Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

Brave new world

Across:

- 1. a speech or dramatic monologue
- 4. calling forth
- 5. a condescending attitude
- 6. gullible
- 9. to hand down
- 13. tireless
- 14. something that appears to be false but is true
- 15. savagery



Down:

- 2. overflowing
- 3. full of life
- 7. being in the early stages of development
- 8. surpassed
- 10. having characteristics of an ideally perfect place
- 11. an essential element
- 12. a hole or opening

Plants and trees

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

- PLANTS
- PISTIL
- STIGMA
- ROOTS
- TRUNK
- CRABAPPLE
- TREES
- OVULES
- PETALS
- STEM
- BRANCHES
- SEPALS
- STAMEN
- POLLEN
- LEAVES
- FRUIT

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Demands on your time escalate the 13th to 15th and joining it the 14th is a more emotional overtone that may bleed into decisions and perspectives, especially where children, sexual conduct and health/welfare are involved.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Romantic love appears very interesting this week with high growth potential likely, especially in newer matches involving Cancer, Sagittarius, Virgo, Pisces, Aquarius and other Scales.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Challenges the 13th appear to be emotional clashes, especially with/over Scorpio, Sagittarius, Virgo, Pisces, Cancer and any health, food or nutrition issues and fears/disagreements over spending/finance.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your impulse lag time may shorten dramatically this week and you could easily be prone to knee jerk, over react or come on too strong in your haste to solve, serve or prevent. Spending may go on the rise the 14th.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Romance may swing from one extreme to the other early in the week and an on again off again status could surface for some Twins, especially those paired to signs like Sagittarius, Virgo, Pisces, or other Twins.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Cooperation is good the 12/14th but BEST the 18/19th. Call a family discussion/meeting, inform them, maintain a command central keep everyone on the same page with any big events scheduled.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Romance does very well this week with single Crabs fairing BEST, especially with introductions through coworkers and friends. Capricorn, Virgo, other Cancers and Scorpio may be candidates with success likely.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

They seem to hear you best the 13th, respond you to the quickest the 14th and 17th and may be the most needy the 15th and 19th. Your patience may wane near the 16th and again the 18th.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Cooperation is poor near the 13th when emotional misunderstandings are likely, especially with Sagittarius, Scorpio, Cancer, Aquarius and Libra members. Forgiveness appears necessary.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Romance does very well IF there are cleansing discussions should any controversy or insecurity issues surface. Address needs quickly if/when you sense a partner is having issues. Do NOT stall on this one. It comes with my highest warning.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Several pieces of good news from or about members is likely this week, especially near the 14th and/or 17th. Financial growth and/or the, end of a financial problem are likely topics for celebration.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Romance does well this week for the single Fish and there are strong upgrades likely for those growing newer relationships. A breath of fresh air the 15th may carry strong, constructive energies, especially with other Fish, Libra and Taurus.

What's Current

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

Monday, Sept. 13

Job Fair Success for International Students

From 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., a seminar for international students pursuing employment and interested in the September 24 Fall Internship & Job Fair will be held in SSB 133. Students will learn to successfully manage their job search at the job fair and effectively communicate to potential employers your work eligibility/status.

Tuesday, Sept. 14

Get The Job!

From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., a class in which students can have their resumes reviewed as well as gather information intended to improve interview success will be held in MSC Century Room C. Students can also learn about business and email etiquette and social media as it relates to the job search. Lunch will be provided.

Wednesday, Sept. 15

Employer-led Interviewing Skills Workshop

At 2p.m., Northwestern Mutual Financial Network will hold a class in MSC 225 about interviewing presented by actually doing the interviewing: employers! Students are invited to discuss how to improve your interviewing skills and learn a few techniques at the same time. Pre-register at: careers.umsl.edu

Thursday, Sept. 16

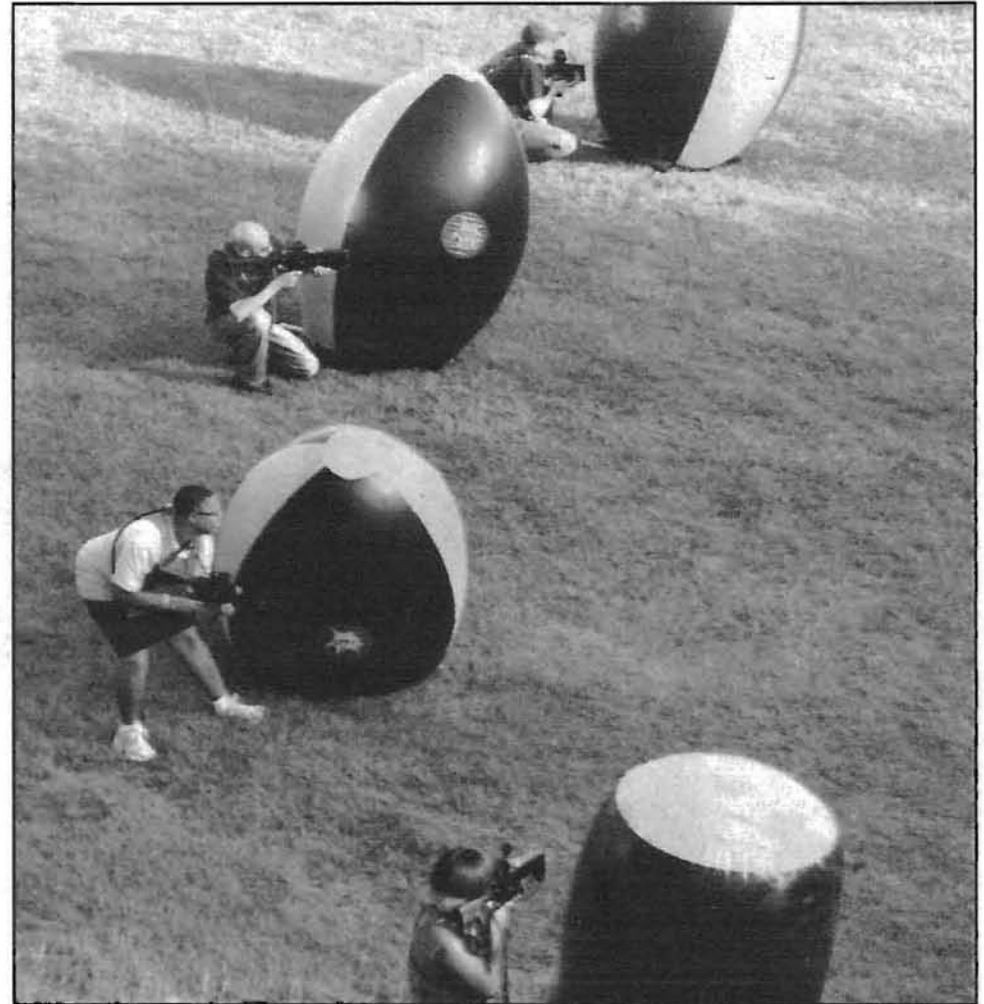
Winning the Battle on Procrastination

From 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., a workshop to help students learn to avoid falling into a cycle of procrastination will be held in 225 MSC (Center for Student Success - Conference Room.) This workshop will illustrate the steps and techniques to become a person who does NOT procrastinate. For more info, contact Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Friday, Sept. 17

Great Gateway

From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., William Rogers, associate Professor of Economics, UMSL will hold a seminar about the "Current State of the Saint Louis Housing Market" in 212 CCB. For more info, contact Dr. Dinesh Mirchandani at 314-516-7354.



Students shooting from behind protective "shields" during the Laser Tag event on Wednesday in front of the MSC.

ZHENG ZHANG / THE CURRENT

**SOMETIMES IT'S OKAY TO LET
STRANGERS TALK TO YOU.**

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