

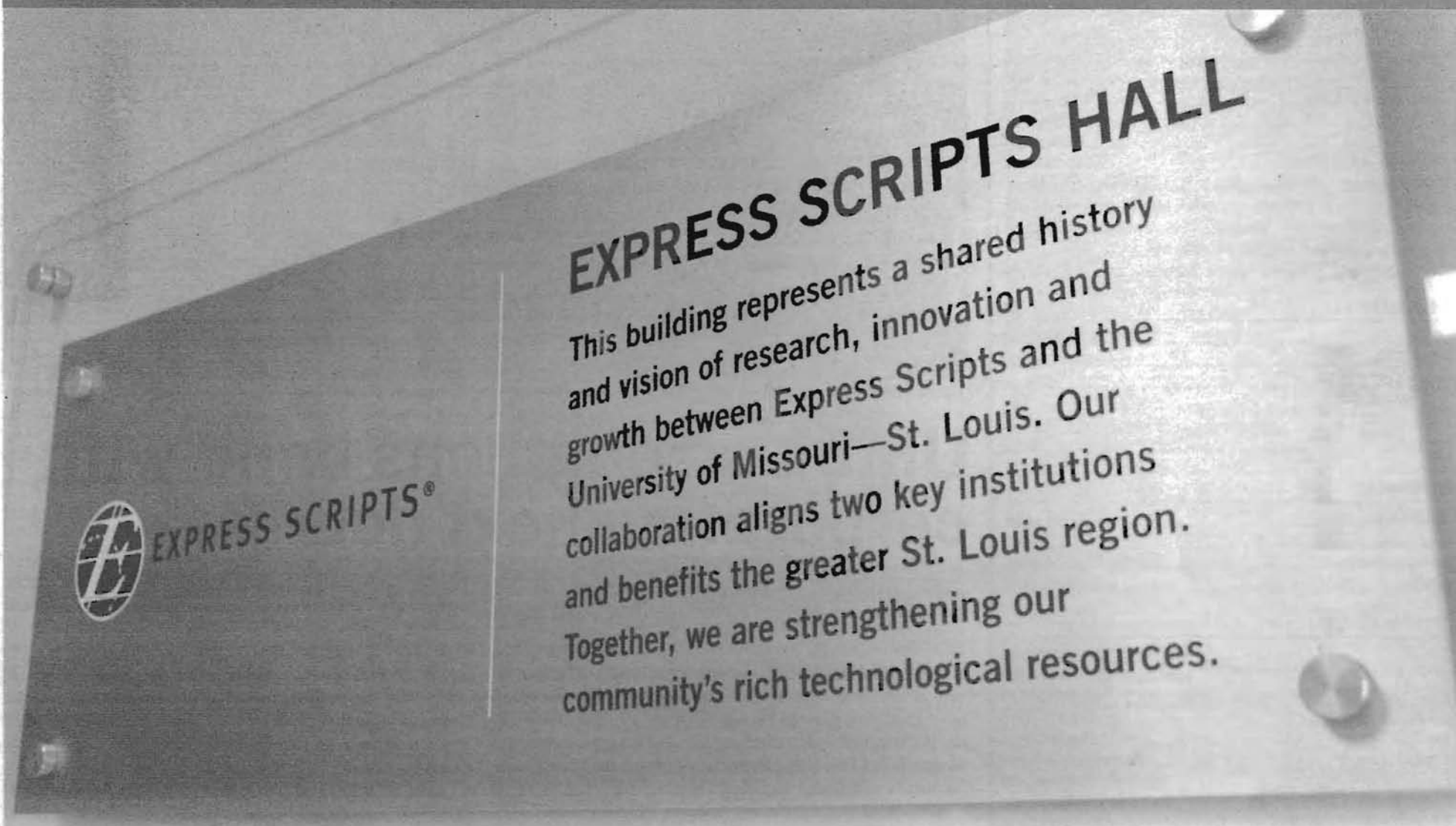
# The Current

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## UMSL TEMPERS BOND WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS

*University officials, faculty and students came together with executives to dedicate the newly-christened Express Scripts Hall*

BY RYAN KRULL

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# The Current

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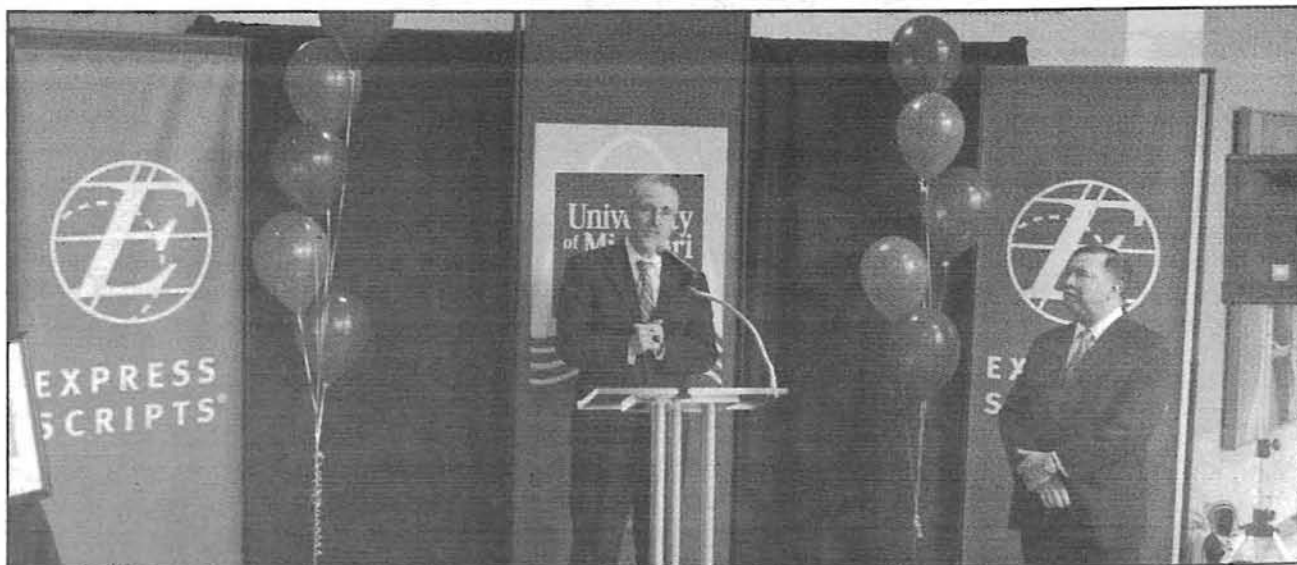
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## AFFILIATIONS



# News



Thomas George, Chancellor of the University, gives a speech Friday in Express Scripts Hall.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

## UMSL strengthens bond with corporation next door

**RYAN KRULL**  
 News Editor

Top officials from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, as well as faculty and students, came together with executives from Express Scripts on Friday, February 25 to dedicate the newly christened Express Scripts Hall. The event took place on the first floor of the hall itself, located between the Millennium Student Center Bridge and West Drive.

Chancellor Thomas George spoke at the event and said in his remarks that this was his first naming of a building ceremony in his tenure as the chancellor of UM-St. Louis.

George said it is fitting that Express Scripts Hall houses information systems and Information Technology Services, two fields that tie in closely with the Express Scripts business model of processing pharmaceutical claims and overseeing mail-order delivery of prescription drugs.

There is also a good deal of art work adorning the interior of Express Scripts Hall. "Express Scripts appreciates the artwork too," George said, "much of it is student done."

In 2005, when Express Scripts expressed interest in moving its headquarters right next door to UM-St. Louis, George said that "there was probably not anything more exciting than the prospect of Express Scripts coming to campus."

George went on to talk about the clash of cultures that took place as UM-St. Louis tended to move "at the pace or academia" while Express Scripts moved at the pace of "done yesterday." Eventually, the culture clash turned into a coming

together, George said, pointing out that both institutions are centered around the core principles of access, affordability and quality.

After the chancellor finished speaking, Express Scripts CEO George Paz said a few words. Paz, a UM-St. Louis alumni, said that having the building named after his company "means a tremendous amount to all 13,000 Express Scripts employees."

Paz said that giving to UM-St. Louis "is not just charity, it's an investment. An investment in the future."

The ceremony ended with the unveiling of the new lettering boasting the hall's new name, looking out over West Drive.

UM-St. Louis officials said in a press release that the partnership with the corporation next door stacks up with other well known similar pairings like Hewlett Packard and Stanford and Microsoft and the University of Washington.

Top officials on hand from both Express Scripts and UM-St. Louis were eager to compliment on the enthusiasm both institutions have for each other.

"We're really proud of the partnership with UMSL and honored to be recognized in this way," Express Scripts spokesperson Thom Gross, who was in attendance at the dedication, said. "UMSL trains future leaders and improves the quality of life in our community and we are happy to support that."

"This is symbolic of the extraordinary relationship that the University and Express Scripts enjoy," Martin Leifeld, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, said. "The naming of a building represents the many layers of the relationship that continues to grow and expand and I'm thrilled at the prospect of where it will grow and expand further."

## WEATHER

| MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. | SAT. | SUN. |
|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| 52   | 67    | 48   | 56     | 50   | 55   | 58   |
| 49   | 49    | 28   | 35     | 34   | 47   | 46   |

# International Business Career Conference encourages more international networking

**MINHO JUNG**  
Staff Writer

The third annual international business career conference presented by International Business Honor Society was held at the JC Penney Building on Friday and received positive feedback from all in attendance.

"I want to mention that this conference is totally done by the students," Betty Vining, Assistant Teaching Professor, said. "This is not a career fair. This conference [provides] a way of learning the best approaches to get jobs in international business."

Opening at 8:00 a.m., the JC Penney building started filling with students and volunteer workers who came for the career conference. Tim Nowak, executive director at St. Louis' World Trade Center, was invited as a keynote speaker that day. The event was kicked off by his speech about his international experience in his work field. "Unexpected events will happen in your career. But don't be panicked. Be flexible and be open-minded. New opportunities will come from it," Nowak said.

The conference gained momentum when the workshop programs began. Students were given an opportunity to choose two sessions, which were 40 minutes each, out of five different programs offered by experts on different international fields. The UM-St. Louis alumni panel workshop especially captured students' attention by sharing their hands-on experiences as a student before they got into their career with student audiences.

"I was one of these students not so long ago. I sat in the exact same seat most students are sitting [in] today. We also had alumni come to talk to us about how they felt in the real [career] world. That was one of the things that I enjoyed the most. [When I was offered the opportunity,] I thought it is a way to give back," Suyun Qu, UM-St. Louis alumni, said. "Long story short, getting involved in many activities on campus, got me a job. Get involved in school and out of school. There are tons of opportunities in school and volunteer opportunities outside of school and get close to your faculty members to see what advice they have. Put yourself out there."

Throughout the conference, participants were able to interact with organization executives, career professionals, and

UM-St. Louis alumni who already entered international business fields. The conference programs proceeded until 2 p.m. and finished with much positive feedback from the audience. "I think what I've really gained from this event are connections. I've gotten connections already with entrepreneurs that [I can] work with," David Alexander, event participant, said.

"We want other students at UMSL, around the St. Louis area and even from other states to get a chance to network. It is a great chance for students to get that networking and extra edge to hear directly from people like Tim Nowak," Carlos



Tim Nowak, Executive Director of World Trade Center, gives a speech as keynote speaker to international students about his international career experience on Friday.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Cuartas, a student project manager of the event, said. "This year, we have more people registered. We had over 300 people registered, including volunteer workers. All the corporations we have here are more than ever before. Now more companies are looking to expand internships. In that aspect, I'm really proud of it."

## Three departments lack permanent deans

**RYAN KRULL**  
News Editor

Right now, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is operating with three major dean positions not permanently filled. But given that recently announced budget cuts will not be as severe as once thought, it is likely these dean positions will be filled sooner rather than later.

Heading into fall semester last year, both the UM-St. Louis library system as well as the College of Fine Arts and Sciences were both being run by interim deans. That semester Charles Schmitz retired as the dean of the College of Education. He had served as dean since 1996. Last year, the the economic cli-

mate prevented UM-St. Louis from conducting a traditional hiring process to fill those vacancies.

"The decisions on when to initiate searches will be somewhat influenced by the magnitude of the fiscal year 2012 budget cuts, but there will be other financial and substantive issues involved, as well," Glen Cope, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said. "Because of the usual timing of these processes, we are likely to begin searches like these in a fall semester, so the decisions about when to initiate them will probably be made in the summer after we know the final budget numbers and have more information on other issues, as well."

See "DEANS" on page 4

## "What do you think about UMSL magazine?"



"The \$40,000 spent to produce this magazine is extremely small compared to the total dollars the University spends."

Seth Jiles  
Mechanical Engineering  
Senior



"I find the magazine is very useful in terms of keeping alumni updated and with providing info to potential students."

Greg Meger  
Business  
Graduate



"The magazine is crazy. I think UMSL would do better if they did not have one."

Earthia Klein  
Biology  
Senior

## "Is Bristol Palin the best standard for sex education?"

- From issue 1336

Like this editorial, I'm going back-and-forth on this topic. On the one hand, I appreciate the perspective demonstrated by comparing Bristol to RD Jr. and Chris Brown—it's one I hadn't considered.

On the other hand, however, this is a bit trickier. See, it's good to quit drugs and abusing other people—it's something you can overcome and put behind you—but how does that translate to sex and motherhood?

She can't quit being a mom; she'll won't be able to overcome it and put it behind her. Same goes for having sex—she can't overcome it and put it behind her unless she never has sex again for the rest of her life.

-Don D.

## Kenneth P. Thomas looks into the current investment policy problems

**MINHO JUNG**  
Staff Writer

In January, University of Missouri-St. Louis professor of political science Kenneth P. Thomas published the book, "Investment Incentives and the Global Competition for Capital." He has previously published two others, "Capital Beyond Borders: States and Firms in Auto Industries, 1960 - 1994" and "Competing for Capital: Europe and North America in a Global Era", in 1997 and 2000 respectively.

"Investment incentives are defined as subsidies given to attract investments to particular locations. It can also be called location subsidies." Kenneth P. Thomas, associate professor of Department of Political Science, said. "It is important for global competition for capital because it is one of the main measures government uses to attract investments."

According to Thomas' studies, many developing countries end up paying too much money for developments by giving too much investment incentives, although they are in a situation where they cannot even afford to construct necessary infrastructure. In spite of advantages of investment incentives, Thomas said, other opportunity costs should be carefully considered, especially in countries lacking basic public facilities and services.

Investment incentives have been widely used to develop the St. Louis area as well. St. Louis has been using not only state subsidies but also "tax increment financing" and "transportation development district" subsidies to encourage companies to invest into the area.

"According to a study by East-Way Gateway Council of Government, [in, The St. Louis metro area], they spent about two billion dollars in retails and basically reshuffle it around. At the end of that 17th year period, they only gained 5,400 more jobs in retail and metro area at the beginning of it." Thomas said.

The book, Investment Incentives and Global Competition for Capital, includes many case studies to help readers to understand the situation more visually. For the research, he visited Ireland, which is thoroughly dealt with as an example in his book, several times doing interviews with academics public policy makers and trading officials.

"Missouri needs to change laws that enable local governments to give subsidies because they are not going to stop by themselves," Thomas said. "What the European Union has done is put some caps on how much governments can give to the companies, and those caps depend on how rich the area is. I don't think it is feasible to the United States. But somewhere along the line is what we need to do," Thomas said.

Thomas has gained a reputation as an authority on international political economy, multinational corporations, and competition for investment and subsidies. The book, Investment Incentives and the Global Competition for Capital, has been praised by former New York Times tax reporter and 2001 Pulitzer Prize-winner David Cay Johnson. His plan for the U.S. book tour, which is scheduled in later this spring, is expected to bring positive school recognition to UM-St. Louis.

## BLOC draws full house to MSC Century Rooms

*Debate centered on philosophies of civil rights leaders*

**SHARON PRUITT**  
Staff Writer

Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. are known among most for their drastically different philosophies regarding the civil rights of Black Americans and just how those rights should be gained. Lesser known, however, is the fact that their agendas may not have been so different after all.

On Tuesday, February 22nd, the Black Leadership Organizing Council hosted a compelling event entitled "Malcolm X or Martin Luther King Jr.: Which Model Do We Follow?" During the event the strategies of both civil rights figures were discussed, both in regard to their lasting impact and the relevance of their philosophies to today's society and the place of Black Americans within it. However, during the course of the event, it became clear that there is much more to each man than what is being taught in schools during black History Month.

To kick off the discussion two short videos were shown: interviews of both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., during which they spoke freely about the other. The panel of esteemed speakers was then introduced by moderator, Dr. Priscilla Dowden-White: Kabir Muhammad, Montague Simmons, Rev. Starsky Wilson, and finally, special guest Dr. Ray Hagins. The panelists sat at the head of the MCS Century Rooms and spoke to - and with - a packed house of attendees. Though the debate largely consisted of a question-

and-answer session involving the panelists, near the end of the event the floor was given to audience members to ask their own questions and speak freely. More than a few in attendance stood up and actively engaged the panelists in passionate discussions, some of which continued in smaller circles even after the event was officially over.

During the event both leaders took their turns on both the pedestal and the chopping block. Despite the many differences of opinion, however, the event ran smoothly. One thing that seemed to be in agreement among the crowd, however, was the need for a more unified community among black Americans. "I'm leaving with a sense of pride. This is an excellent turnout. We are getting our unity back, our sense of self. Each one is teaching the other, in regards to where we should be and where we're going to be," said Rena Gee, sophomore, psychology/communication.

"We just want to inform people. Ignorance is not bliss. We just want people to get both sides and expand their realm of thinking beyond what the American educational system is teaching," said Aleshia Patterson, BLOC president.

"Which Model Do We Follow?" is the brainchild of former BLOC president Brittae Gray-Ross and follows another successful debate hosted by BLOC: last October's "Tea Party: Conservatism or Racism?"

"As long as we see a need [for these types of discussions], we'll keep doing it," Patterson said.

"DEANS" from page 3

Kathleen Haywood is currently serving as Interim Dean of the College of Education while James Richards serves as Interim Dean of the College of Fine Art and Communication and Christopher Dames as Interim Dean of Libraries.

Cope stressed that, "The interim deans...are doing excellent jobs in those positions."

Richards said that the search for a permanent Dean for the College of Fine Art and Communication has not yet begun. "Neither has a search started for a permanent Dean of Libraries", Dames said. There is currently a call for applicants for the dean position on the College of Education's website.

"We decided to search for one dean at a time," Cope said.

"The College of Education and College of Fine Arts and Communication have different financial situations, which was a factor in our choice of which to search for first."

In this era of austerity, a big part of the interim deans' jobs is keeping their departments budgets reined in and under control.

"Even before this current era of austerity, the UMSL Libraries have strived to reduce costs," Dames said. "The Libraries have purchased the Illiad interlibrary loan system. This product has allowed more efficient handling of this service and reduced the amount of staff time needed. These staff, have taken over other duties that needed to be covered due to re-

tirements. The Library staff has been very adaptable and has worked hard to make sure that we provide the same level of service despite the budget cuts."

"Despite the past and anticipated budget limitations, our programs have fared quite well," Richards said. "I am confident we will be prepared to adjust to reductions in funding while maintaining all essential aspects of our instructional programs, research and creative achievement, and service. This is significantly due to the talent, versatility, and cooperation of the faculty and staff."

# Sports

## Triton women finish year 10-17 after loss at Quincy



STOCK PHOTO / THE CURRENT

### CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team saw its 2010-2011 season come to an end Saturday following a 93-74 loss to Quincy University at the Pepsi Arena in the first round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

Quincy came into the game with a 24-2 record and the nation's No. 13 ranking, looking every bit like one of the best teams in the country when it jumped on UM-St. Louis right off the bat.

The Lady Hawks hit six of their first eight shot attempts and led 14-0, while UM-St. Louis missed its first seven shots, not scoring until the 14:30 mark.

Quincy led 46-29 at halftime and built its lead to as many as 22 points early in the second half, before a furious Triton rally cut the deficit to single digits.

Kaitlin Sweatman, freshman, secondary education, sparked the UM-St. Louis flurry with a short jumper in the paint. Then, after a Quincy turnover, Kelly Mitchell, senior, communications, drained a three-pointer that seemed to energize the Tritons.

Another Quincy turnover and a Mitchell offensive rebound, led to a three-pointer by Hana Haden, freshman, communications and Spanish, before Lady Hawk star Courtney Shuman answered with a layup for Quincy.

But Haden answered right back with another three-pointer. Normeka Holder, junior, psychology, added a free throw, before Sweatman drilled another jumper in the paint to make the score 60-52.

Unfortunately, that was as close as UM-St. Louis would get, as Quincy scored six straight points to build its lead back to 14, completely deflating any more Triton comeback hopes.

Quincy's Shuman led all scorers with 30 points and nine rebounds, while Mitchell led the Tritons with 21 points, including knocking down four of her nine three-point attempts.

Haden also drained four three-pointers in the contest, and finished with a career-high 18 points.

Saturday's loss brought an end to a tumultuous campaign for the Tritons, who lost starting point guard Kelly Carter, senior, elementary education, for most of the season due to a torn ACL injury back in December.

The Triton women also had two player defections during the season, when junior KeAmber Vaughn and sophomore Allie Hogan both abruptly quit the team.

UM-St. Louis is hopeful the 2011-2012 season will be

much brighter, with several standout reserves coming back, including Haden and Sweatman, who both are expected to compete for starting positions next year.

The Tritons have also signed three high school standouts to join the program next year.

The three UM-St. Louis women's basketball signees include one local student, Kelsey Sikes of Timberland High School in Wentzville, and two out-of-state players, Alexis Lawrence of Bowling Green High School in Kentucky and Samantha Swarts of Faith Academy of Marble Falls in Texas.

Sikes is a 5'10" guard, who averaged 10 points and seven rebounds per game as a junior, while shooting over 40 percent from behind the three-point line.

Lawrence, a 5'7" guard, averaged 14 points, three rebounds and 2.5 assists per game as a junior.

Last season, she shot a sizzling 52 percent from the floor and sank 97 three-pointers while shooting 46 percent from behind the arc, including once knocking down a school record nine three-pointers in one game her junior season.

Swarts, a 6'1" forward, averaged 10 points, seven rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals per game last season. She is also a standout track and field performer, where she qualified for the state championship meet in the discus and shot put.

# Men's basketball loses GLVC first round game at KWC

**CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team suffered a surprisingly bad 41-point loss in the first round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament against Kentucky Wesleyan College last Saturday.

The Tritons battled all season long to earn the program's most successful season since 1991 and were the 7th seed in the 2011 GLVC Championship, but laid a proverbial egg in a 99-58 loss against the 6th seed Panthers.

KWC, which earned home-court advantage for Saturday's contest by knocking off No. 2-nationally ranked Bellarmine two Saturdays ago, jumped out to a quick, early lead, then extended it with an 8-0 run that made the score 26-11.

UM-St. Louis guard Gerald Fulton, junior, communications, was named to the all-GLVC First Team hours before the game after averaging nearly 22 points a game this season. He knocked down a jumper to briefly stop KWC's flurry.

But that is when the Panthers went into overdrive, outscoring the Tritons 26-10 the rest of the half to take a 52-23 lead

into the break.

Things only got worse in the second half.

With 12 minutes left, the Tritons were down by 32. With five minutes left, they were down by 38. When a KWC reserve made a layup in the final minute, UM-St. Louis could only walk off the court with one of its worst playoff losses in school history.

Fulton finished with a game-high 20 points for UM-St. Louis, while five KWC players scored in double figures led by forward Anthony Young's 17 points.

While the loss ended UM-St. Louis' season, KWC advanced to the quarterfinal round of the GLVC Tournament, which will be played at Maryville University's Moloney Arena this Friday, March 4.

The Panthers will play archrival Northern Kentucky, Friday at 2:30 p.m. The other GLVC quarterfinal will feature Drury University taking on Lewis University. The winners of those contests will play tournament top seeds Southern Indiana and Bellarmine on Saturday.

The winners of those games will meet in the GLVC Championship Game on Sunday, March 5, with a 1:00 p.m. tipoff. The Women's Championship Game is also scheduled for Sun-

day, and will tipoff at 3:30 p.m.

UM-St. Louis finished its season with a 16-11 mark, and was second in the GLVC West Division behind Drury.


Triton fans are hopeful that despite the stunning ending to this season, the 2011-2012 campaign might be even better.

The Triton men are only losing one senior, will bring back an all-conference player in Fulton, and at least two other potential all-conference players in forward Justyn Watkins, junior, communications, and guard Justin Hightower, junior, communications.

The Tritons also see bright futures for talented first-year players and sometime starters, Tanner Peurach, freshman, undecided, and Kevin Dwyer, freshman, undecided.

UM-St. Louis also still has some room for roster flexibility and could bring in as many as five or six new players next season.

The next NCAA signing period is coming up in April and UM-St. Louis expects to be a player among several top high school and junior college recruits.



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is holding a series of statewide public forums to hear your comments  
regarding the qualities desired in the next university president. Members  
of the search committee, the search advisory committee, university  
administration and the search firm will be on hand to hear public comment.

Monday, March 7, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
University of Missouri-St. Louis Millennium Student Center, Century Room

Meeting is free and open to the public  
Follow via Twitter from @UMPrezSearch

For continued information on the UM presidential search  
[www.umsystem.edu/ps](http://www.umsystem.edu/ps)

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John (Alex Pettyfer) practices using his newfound abilities.

PHOTO COURTESY DREAMWORKS

# 'I am Number Four' is an imaginary number

## MOVIES

The new sci-fi film, "I Am Number Four" aspires to be "Twilight" with aliens. Sadly, it does not even achieve that.

The story centers on hunky, humanoid alien, Daniel (Alex Pettyfer), who must change his name to John Smith and flee his tropical home with his protector/father figure, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), after his hands start to glow when the overly sinister Mogadorians kill one of the remaining members of his unnamed species. Daniel/John is the fourth survivor with special abilities. He and his fellow aliens can only be killed in sequence, for reasons that are never explained. They move to Paradise, Ohio, where Daniel-now-John fights Henri to attend high school. In school he befriends photographer Sarah (Dianna Agron, Quinn on "Glee") and nerdy Sam (Callan McAuliffe) and makes enemies with star quarterback Mark (Jake Abel). Eventually, John runs into the Mogs, as Henri

calls them, and Number Six (Teresa Palmer) shows up and uses her powers much more capably than John is able to.

The film is incoherent. The lighting in the action scenes is consistently bad and the special effects look cheaper than Edward Cullen's diamond-skin. None of the characters are developed enough to garner any sympathy from the audience and the plot feels more like a string of random events in one kid's life, which works for a quirky indie like "Napoleon Dynamite," but not in a film that wants to be the next blockbuster franchise. As for the cast, Pettyfer and Agron could have chemistry if their characters had personalities to begin with and all of the supporting characters are so one-dimensional that it is painful to watch. The most disappointing is Olyphant because anyone who has seen even two minutes of "Justified" or "Deadwood" knows that he is capable of an incredible performance, but here, he is stuck in a flat over-protective dad/Obi-Wan Kenobi hybrid role.

"I Am Number Four" is based on James Frey's and Jobie Hughes' "Lorien Legacies." Rumor has it Hughes wrote it to

Frey's specification as a franchise cash cow. The pair sold the film rights to Michael Bay who served as producer. Apparently, glowing hands and telekinesis are the big-budget movie industry's newest tropes, but audiences will have to wait and see if an extended franchise here will rival "Star Wars" or "Star Trek."

The movie's biggest problem in and of itself is a lack of world-building. The audience is supposed to accept John and Henri as alien fugitives with little to no explanation as to why their planet fell or what kind of species they are. The story gives no explanation for why the Mogadorians destroyed their planet or why they want to kill John and the other five survivors, only that they love to kill. Some science fiction, like the most recent seasons of "Doctor Who," can leverage this to create an air of well-crafted mystery, but in this film, it just feels lazy.

To put it plainly, "I Am Number Four" divided by imaginary numbers and wound up with shiny space junk.

**D-** - Mary Grace Buckley



COURTESY OF MARVEL/ CAPCOM

## Comic book enthusiasts' dreams come true in 'Marvel vs. Capcom 3'

### VIDEO GAMES

"Marvel vs. Capcom 3" hit shelves on February 15, to critical acclaim ten years after its predecessors. With improved graphics, gameplay schemes and, of course, a fully-fleshed roster, the newest title in this series has impressed fans worldwide in the past couple of weeks.

"MvC3" has plenty of good things going for it, to be certain. The new artistic style implemented is one referenced as a "moving comic." While the characters are fully rendered in three-dimensional models, one can not help but be reminiscent of the ancient "Amazing Spiderman" or "Iron Man" comics of days gone by when playing this game.

How does this impact characters from a typically more "realistic" game realm? It really does not have a negative impact, to be honest. Characters such as Dante and Albert Wesker, famous for appearances in two of Capcom's more visually-realistic titles, fit in perfectly, right alongside rivals such as Wolverine or the Taskmaster of Marvel acclaim.

The characters move and flow nicely as well, showing the immense amount of detail put into each character model by the developers on "MvC3."

Beyond the characters, the backgrounds for each stage are also beautifully rendered. If players get a chance to look away from the action of combat for even a split second, they will notice that the backgrounds are constantly in fluid motion, providing entertainment for those sparse taunting moments during combat.

The auditory section of this game is also astounding. Old school and new fans alike will be satisfied with this title, as every sound within the game can be adjusted to fit either a Classic or Dynamic style. This means the old school diehards will have access to their original "MvC" soundtracks, while gamers looking for something fresh are gifted a brand new, modernized track list and sound effect collection.

Beyond this, there is a Licensing system. The License is essentially each player's statistic card and claim to fame. Titles and emblems may be earned and applied for show and players' records for combat both online and offline.

The License also tracks trends of character use, as well as an overall map for how any given player typically fights with a graph.

Of course, there are collectibles for the perfectionist in every gamer. From the titles and emblems aforementioned on the License, to audio tracks and special artwork, "MvC3" provides players with ample reason to collect Player Points toward in-game rewards.

Each character used to win the main Arcade mode will also release his or her own specialized collection of artwork and audio tracks, encouraging specialists to diverge into new characters.

The control scheme has been a more controversial aspect of this game. The basic scheme is rather simplistic to begin with: down to forward and down to back movement commands combined with one of the four attack buttons, creates combination attacks and special moves.

Further combining these motions together can easily create devastating chains, some of which, when properly executed, are capable of swiftly defeating even a perfectly healthy opponent.

However, a Simple Mode was included, as well, and this has been getting some negative attention. It was meant to make the game more accessible to beginners in the fighting genre, but when a simple button press performs the same combo another player has to execute three commands to pull off, many online gamers get frustrated.

Overall, "MvC3" pulls through rather nicely with a solid A-: plenty of replay and action for fans and beginners alike.

A- -Matthew B. Poposky

## LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, February 18

### "INSIDE JOB"

This Oscar-nominated documentary should win the Academy Award, although that is not known as this is written. It is a well-crafted, hard-hitting, non-partisan look at the facts behind the Wall Street bail-out and the causes of the economic meltdown, with plenty of blame for both political parties. A must-see film.



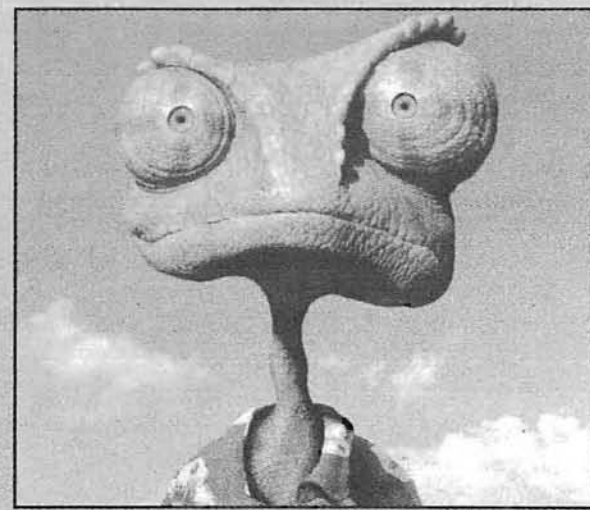
### "THE HOUSEMAID"

A searing South Korean drama that starts deceptively calm, about a young widow who accepts a job as a maid and nanny for a rich, ruthless family. Fabulous acting, compelling twist-filled story, and a gripping ending make it well worth reading subtitles for those who like psychological thrillers.



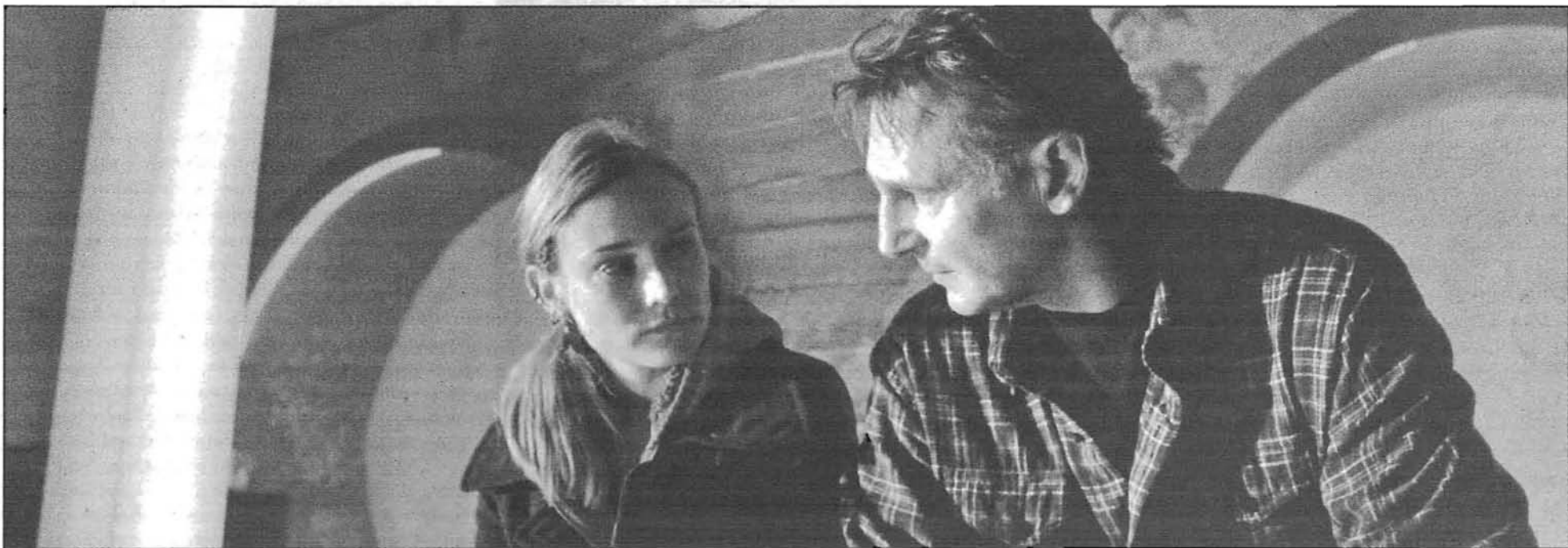
### "RANGO"

Johnny Depp provides the lead voice for this animated comedy about a chameleon in the Wild West.





# 'Unknown' mixes known tropes in Liam Neeson thriller



Diane Kruger Gina as Elizabeth Harris and Liam Neeson as Dr. Martin Harris in Dark Castle Entertainment's thriller "Unknown".

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

## MOVIES

Liam Neeson scored a surprise hit with last year's sleeper "Taken" and he seems to be hoping for a second lightning strike with his new film, "Unknown."

This well-crafted thriller about a man who wakes up from a coma to find no one knows him, not even his wife, is not quite up to that level, but "Unknown" still provides good popcorn-munching entertainment. Despite recombining ideas from other films, it keeps the audience guessing enough to be surprised by its intriguing premise and well-honed twists.

Research scientist Dr. Martin Harris (Liam Neeson) is visiting Berlin with his wife Elizabeth (January Jones) to speak at a scientific conference. Shortly after arriving, they get separated and the scientist is in a car accident that leaves him in a coma for several days. When he awakens, he remembers who he is but no one else, not even his wife, recognizes him. In fact, he finds another man (Aiden Quinn) has assumed his identity.

Having lost his identity and finding himself stranded in an unfamiliar country, Harris is faced with trying to untangle what is going on. He gets help from a taxi driver named Gina (Diane Kruger) and Ernst Jurgen (Swiss actor Bruno Ganz), a former member of the East German secret police, the STASI. Frank Langella appears as Harris' colleague back in America, Rodney Cole, the man Harris is hoping can confirm his identity.

This is a suspenseful film with an interesting premise. It reveals its secrets slowly and carefully, which keeps us hooked until late in the film.

Neeson's presence raises the profile for

"Unknown." Overall, it has a better cast than one might expect. The film's premise is intriguing, but there is a lack of originality in what is done with it. "Unknown" is directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who also directed the odd thriller "Orphan." This one is a far better film. It is entertaining and keeps the audience guessing; however, its sampling of other films eventually becomes apparent.

Ultimately, it is Neeson's film. He adds depth to his role, bringing considerable emotional weight and drawing us into the story, although the plot sometimes stretches beyond the believable. The wintry Berlin location adds to the mood and sense of isolation.

Diane Kruger may be familiar from her role as a spy/actress in "Inglorious Basterds." She is strong overall, particularly in scenes with Neeson. January Jones from the television show "Mad Men," on the other hand, is disappointingly flat as Neeson's wife. As a younger actor, Bruno Ganz set hearts afire in "Wings of Desire" and later chilled audiences as Hitler in "Downfall." Not surprisingly, both Ganz and Langella are memorable in their too-limited screen time. Certainly, more could have been done with Ganz's character.

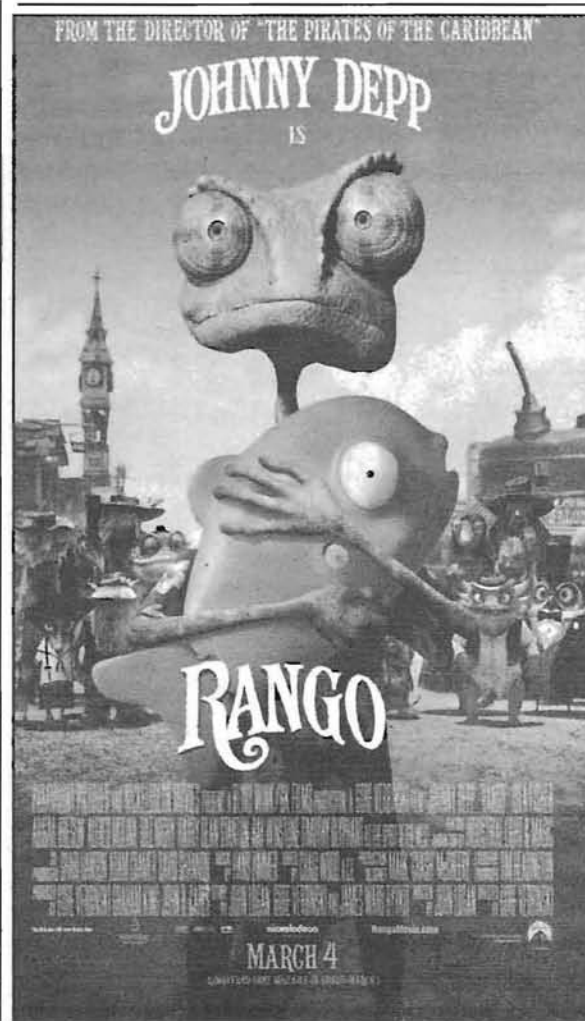
Even if it misses out on being something more, this is a serviceable, entertaining thriller. The cinematography is good and there are a few visually striking moments. The pace is satisfyingly quick and there is enough chase action to keep the blood pumping while the audience picks apart the mystery along with the protagonist. Harris never wavers in his confidence in his wife or his convictions, no matter how bizarre things get.

"Unknown" is not original high-art like "Inception" or blockbuster material like "Bourne

Identity." It is, however, entertaining, a rare enough thing in the movie wasteland that exists between the late Oscar-hopeful releases and the start of summer blockbusters. For those who like mystery thrillers or just have

to get out to beat winter blahs, "Unknown" is worth the time and money. No small feat in late winter.

**B** -Cate Marquis



The Current

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WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. Employees  
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[www.RangoMovie.com](http://www.RangoMovie.com)

# Features



Students, guests and officers of International Leadership House play games in the house on Friday night.

## Ihouse encourages a socializing melting pot

**ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Staff writer

On Friday, February 18, a large group of students crowded the lawn of a little house on a hill across from Benton Hall at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They stood in confusion as they debated how to enter such a house. Were they too early? Did they need a secret password? One of them was appointed the task of ringing the doorbell. Whether he would return back to them alive was uncertain, but it had to be done. He ran up the porch and positioned himself in such a way that if he had to make an immediate escape, he would succeed. To most, this scene would appear to be a little shady, but in actuality, these students were attending the International House Meet and Greet.

"They started [the program] because they feel that when the International Office is closed and there is nowhere for international students to call or ask questions from people, they can easily call this place which is sort of open 24 hours," Gifty Aryeetey, graduate student, business, said.

If international students have not yet arranged for

a place to stay, they can call the Ihouse. For the first evening of arrival, the Ihouse offers students a room and helps them find residences on campus. The program also seeks to introduce international students to an on campus social life. They have already started contacting campus organizations and are also open to clubs wanting to use the Ihouse for their meetings. The Meet and Greet was just a stepping-stone for the new program.

"I saw the invitation on Facebook and my friend told me that there would be an event here and that I could meet a lot of people," Ya-Ting, senior, education, said.

Ting also mentioned how she saw this event as an international meeting and was looking forward to meeting people from different countries.

"I work with a girl who lives here and she told me about it and I thought it was interesting," Yuki Takashima, senior, accounting, said. "I have never done anything like this before."

For Jina Kim, senior, international business, the function was not just about socializing, but also a networking opportunity.

The night kicked off with the introduction of the Ihouse officers. They are all current graduate students of UM-St. Louis and they demonstrate the mix of culture the Ihouse has to offer. Gifty Aryeetey hails from Ghana, while business graduate student Zheng Zhang and accounting graduate student, Hui Min Ma, both represent China. The fourth officer, who was unable to attend the event, was MPPA graduate student, Darmawan Triwibowo of Indonesia.

Together they stood before their guests and started an icebreaker so the people in the room could become acquainted. Each person was to tell a lie and two truths about him or herself. This gave the guests a laugh as they played off the cultural stereotypes they usually get around the world.

The Ihouse provided their guests with refreshments and to satisfy the wide array of cultures present at the event, pizzas were ordered in chicken, beef and veggie, along with the basics.

The rest of the night was filled with more party crashers and games such as "Catch me if you can" and "Guess who I am." Students eventually broke off into their own private discussions.



Students closing their eyes for the game played in International Leadership House.

PHOTOS BY ZHENG ZHANG / THE CURRENT

# think BEFORE YOU DRINK

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|  |   |
|--|---|
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|--|---|

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**MOST UMSL STUDENTS HAVE 0-4 DRINKS PER WEEK**

## Faculty Profile:

# Monaghan shares theatre passions with students

**JANACA SCHERER**

Staff writer

Professor Megan Monaghan, a lecturer for the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies, lives for theatre. If she is not teaching the subject on campus, at either the University of Missouri-St. Louis or Saint Louis University, she is working behind the scenes as a voice coach or dramaturge.

Monaghan received her bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, leaving with a major in Philosophy and a minor in Theater. From there, she continued on to the University of Texas at Austin to receive a Masters of Fine Arts.

Before coming to UM-St. Louis, she spent time in the glitzy city of New York. For almost 15 years, she worked in the professional theatre world,

"I directed plays, worked with playwrights the way a book editor works with a fiction writer and looked for new plays for my theatre companies to produce," Monaghan said.

However, she was not stuck in New York City. Multiple job opportunities allowed for her to travel around the United States, from Austin, to Minneapolis, southern California.

Upon her arrival at UM-St. Louis last semester, Monaghan took up teaching a popular Non-Western Theatre class. During the production of "The Crucible," Monaghan played an important role in helping the actors develop their British accents.

"Everybody worked hard on the dialect, including one student who played a character from Barbados," Monaghan said. She played an important role behind the scenes of "The Crucible" as well.

"I also served as the production's dramaturge, so I worked on the audience's welcome to the show; writing an essay for the program, developing a study guide for a special high school performance, curating a panel of UMSL scholars discussing the themes of the play, and working with UMSL students and faculty to create the visual display in the lobby," Monaghan said.

Monaghan's passions shine through in her teachings as well. Her classes feature an enthusiasm that students cannot help but learn from. This semester, she is teaching Fundamentals of Acting and Fundamentals of Voice and Diction at UM-St. Louis. At St. Louis University, she is teaching an Acting I class

specifically geared towards non-theatre majors.

The rewards Monaghan receives from teaching are always the same.

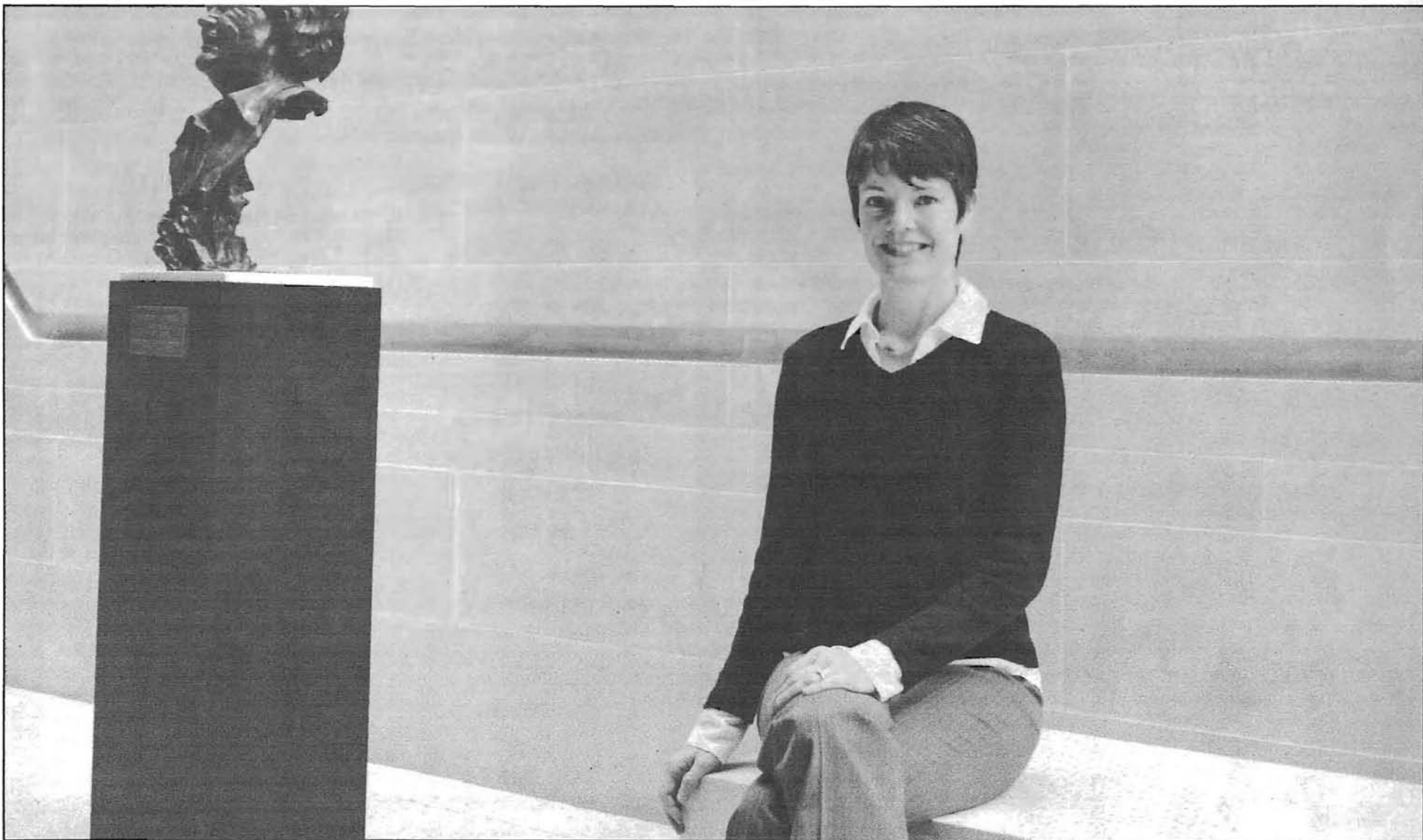
"I love the moment when students start to feel mastery of the material. ... No matter what the course content, that moment of new understanding is always a joy to see."

She has high hopes for all of her students too.

"I hope they grasp the ways a society shapes the theatre of its time, and how performance shapes society – often by creating a place where 'outsider' voices can make themselves heard. In the performance classes, I hope my students grasp the hard work of acting but also discover how fun and rewarding it is."

Monaghan, however, has an upper hand on many of the professors on campus. She is currently engaged, to a fellow teacher at UM-St. Louis, Tlaloc Rivas, who also shares her theatre passions.

"This opportunity puts us in a great position to support each other's work, whether that's working on an UMSL show together or substitute teaching for each other when one of us goes to a conference or out of town to work on a play," she said.



Megan Monaghan, from the Theatre and Dance department, at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

## Student Profile:

# Coretta Scott King; The gentle inspiration

**JEN O'HARA**  
Features Editor

Behind the famed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a quiet, lesser known activist of the time. Coretta Scott King was born in Perry County, Alabama to Bernice and Obadiah Scott. Because segregation was still alive and prevalent, while Coretta was growing up, she was forced to go to an all-Black school. This meant she was forced to walk six miles, back and forth from home. Meanwhile, white students were driven in buses to nicer facilities. Upon entering high school, Coretta found a strong interest in music. With encouragement from teachers, she decided to pursue a musical career. In 1945, King graduated as valedictorian from Lincoln High School. Because of her achievements, she received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

At college, she her interest in music continued and she dual majored in music and education. Being the first African-American education major at the college proved difficult. The education major required a two-year internship, one at a public school and one at a private school. The Ohio public school

district the students were required to intern at refused to allow King to teach at their schools. Instead, she was offered the alternative of interning at the private school for a second year. Despite the fallback, this discrimination event triggered the civil rights activist within. She joined the college's NAACP chapter and became an active member. After Antioch, King went to Boston to continue her music education. It was there that she met her future husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They were married in June 1953.

Coretta finished her degree at the New England Conservatory. When Dr. King was offered a position as pastor in Montgomery, Alabama the couple moved and found themselves in the midst of the Civil Rights movement. When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus and was arrested, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. organized a boycott with his wife and the African-American citizens of the city. Coretta began shining in her leadership as the organizer and planner of a number of boycotts.

King also created "Freedom Concerts." Because of the demands of being a pastor's wife, mother and a leader of the Civil Rights movement, her musical talents were put on the back

burner. These concerts raised funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Civil Rights movement. They included poetry, songs and narration to describe the Civil Rights movement. King led and participated in these concerts all across the country. As the years and battles went on, King was frequently asked to speak. For example, she spoke at a service in London and served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate.

In April 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Channeling her grief and anger, Mrs. King tackled her husband's dream. She built the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in her husband's memory, established the Full Employment Action Council and led the largest demonstration Washington had ever seen on the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington. She also worked to establish January 15 as a national holiday in honor of her husband's memory.

She remained active in racial justice, in addition to supporting the education of AIDS and gun violence prevention. Although she passed away in 2006, she remains a gentle inspiration for many.

# Litmag

## Publishes April 18, 2011

*LitMag is a student produced literary magazine aimed at giving a UMSL students a creative writing outlet.*

### Submission Information

- Hard copy submissions go inside green LitMag box outside Lucas Hall 485
- Send E-Mail Submissions to  
**Submit\_2\_litmag@yahoo.com**
- **Deadline: 3/4/2011**

### Submission Guidelines

- No Identifying information on submitted work
- Submit work with cover sheet including: Name, Phone number, E-mail address all work must be previously unpublished
- Prose word limit: 20 pages, 5-6 per work
- Poem page-length limit: 10 pages total, 3 Max.
- Artwork number limit: 5 / All Genres

# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### Defense of Marriage Act declared unconstitutional

The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, is an American precedent which prevents the occurrence of same-sex marriages across the country.

In the past week, President Barack Obama's administration has decided that part of DOMA is unconstitutional.

Obama has ordered the Department of Justice that under the Equal Protection Clause within the Constitution, that any law forbidding the union of a couple based solely upon that couple's sexual orientation is against the very basis of the Constitution. And as such, the DoJ should not defend it.

United States Attorney General Eric Holder said the decision was based in part on "congressional debate during passage of the Defense of Marriage Act that 'contains numerous expressions reflecting moral disapproval of gays and lesbians and their intimate and family relationships - precisely the kind of stereotype-based thinking and animus the (Constitution's) Equal Protection Clause is designed to guard against,'" according to an article on huffingtonpost.com.

Naturally, such a decision is only going to lead to even further controversy over the competence of Obama's cabinet.

What should be paid at-

tention to is the fact that Obama, who is so often called a failure by the right wing, as well as a mistake, and an 'evil socialist,' has managed to accomplish something very few presidents have managed in the past.

Indeed, despite the fact that it was President Clinton, a Democrat, who signed both DOMA and Don't Ask, Don't Tell into law, Obama has dismantled one law and is in the process of another.

DADT, for example, started out as an earnest effort to try and allow any citizen of any background, whether they be homosexual or heterosexual, to serve in the armed forces.

Over time, though, it turned into an oppressive law that many felt restricted homosexuals, keeping them permanently in the closet. If an armed forces member revealed themselves as gay, their commanders would have the ability to discharge them through DADT.

Obama, through actual knowledge of the principles upon which this country was founded, helped determine that an act passed through Congress is actually unconstitutional, and has refused to support said act, all in the name of true democracy.

In a country where homosexual couples are constantly

harassed and repressed, and treated unfairly in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts, this is truly a great step forward for true democracy and equality.

Couples' inheritances should not be based upon sexual orientation, and neither should the dispersal of benefits or assistance following a spouse's death. However, these are all situations which gay and lesbian couples have faced for over a decade due to DOMA.

Obama's recent decision to no longer support DOMA is one of the greatest moves towards true democracy this country has seen recently.

The United States is a cultural hodge-podge of various cultures, ways, and religions. We are Irish, German, African, Polish, French, English, Swiss, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and every country under the sun. We are straight, we are gay. We are Americans.

Here is to hoping that Obama will continue this trend of true equality for all. After all, "all men are created equal", right?

*Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Andrew Seal, Ryan Krull, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Cederic Williams, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft.*

## SEAL OF APPROVAL

### Time for "Firefly" to return

As a rule, resurrections can be a very tricky thing. Particularly when concerning television shows.

When a TV show dies, one of two things usually happens. If it was not a popular show, it will fade into memory. Maybe it gets a DVD release; maybe not.

Maybe Disney does not bother to release any DVD seasons after the first three, and by doing so damns "Boy Meets World" to a sad, sad fate. Still kind of bitter about that, but thankfully, Lionsgate is remedying the situation.

If the show was popular, perhaps it will get a sequel series or a spin-off, like in the case of "Battlestar Galactica" and its spin-off "Caprica." Otherwise, it is basically guaranteed a DVD release, and to still be popular years after its ending.

Others, like in the curious case of "Family Guy", will be killed off by Fox, only to be brought back three years later. The same goes for "Futurama": Fox canceled it in 2003, got some new direct-to-DVD movies in 2007, and then new episodes and seasons in 2010.

But a conversation on cancelled and killed TV shows simply is not complete without mentioning the king of all shows canceled before their time: "Firefly".

"Firefly" was a science-fiction/western show created by Joss Whedon. It ran for a short six months back in 2002, before Fox canceled it (sensing a trend here?).

Though it was only 16 episodes long, it was a masterful space opera, the likes of which has not been seen since.

The dialog featured the snappy, smart humour that is a staple of Whedon shows (like Buffy and Angel), and the series was well-scripted and well-shot. The show revolves around a cast of misfits and their Firefly-class ship, the "Serenity".

It was doomed from the start: Fox aired the episodes out of order, and even canceled the series before all episodes had aired.

For all intents and purposes, it was just another canceled Fox show in a long list of cancelled Fox shows. Except that it was not. "Firefly" would not die so easily.

Despite its short run, it amassed a legion of loyal fans who called themselves the "Browncoats". Once the series came out on DVD a year later, the ranks of the Browncoats swelled, and has continued growing as more and more people are indoctrinated to the greatness that is "Firefly."

DVD sales of the series was so strong that in 2005, a movie sequel was released, called "Serenity" (after the ship). Sadly, despite Browncoats throwing their money at theaters, it still performed poorly.

Ever since then, fans have been waiting patiently, for something --anything-- to happen. Now, it looks like something may.

Two weeks ago, Nathan Fillion (who played Captain Mal Reynolds on the show)



Andrew Seal

tweeted that if he ever won the California State Lottery, he would take \$300 million, buy the rights for "Firefly" from Fox and produce more episodes.

While this may have been a jest, the Browncoats took it as something to rally around. Even two of the former writers for the series chimed in: "For what it's worth, I've told him I'd drop what I was doing and follow," said Jose Molina. Jane Espenson said that "I'm there, if needed."

Even international best-selling author Patrick Rothfuss (who wrote "The Name of the Wind") has pledged some of the profit from his upcoming sequel towards helping Fillion and fans purchase the rights.

The fans are ready. The writers are ready. The time seems ripe for "Firefly" to return. Here is hoping that Fox will be willing to sell the rights.

As the old saying goes: there is a trick to resurrection: you just have to have faith. *Andrew Seal is Editor-in-Chief for The Current.*

## What do you think?

Let us know at

[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

## SCIENCE MATTERS

# UMSL economist Kosnik, movie star Portman join

Dr. Lea-Rachel Kosnik, associate Professor of Economics at University of Missouri-St. Louis and several other scientist mothers have teamed with movie star mother-to-be Natalie Portman to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to set the highest standards for limiting mercury pollution in the atmosphere.

Kosnik, a microeconomist, is an expert in hydro-power and the economics of alternate energy. She is also a new foster mother. The other scientists, who are also mothers, joining her in this request have expertise in the fields of climate science and environmental health. The letter, with the other scientists' names and information on them are posted on Kosnik's website [www.umsl.edu/~kosnikl](http://www.umsl.edu/~kosnikl). The request was sent in conjunction with Environmental America and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

EPA has been in the process of drafting new standards on limiting toxic air pollution, including mercury, from coal-fired power plants and large industrial facilities. The letter includes a mother-to-mother appeal and was sent to EPA head Lisa Jackson. In part it reads "we urge you to make these new standards as strong as possible to protect children across the country for generations to come."

Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin. One in six women in America have enough mercury in their system that it could harm their unborn child if they became preg-

nant. Exposure to it in utero carries a risk of developmental disorders, learning disabilities and lower I.Q. to the developing fetus. By far, the greatest source of mercury pollution in the U. S. atmosphere comes from coal-fired power plants. The second highest is from other industrial sources, called boilers by the EPA. On Thursday, February 23, the EPA announced its new rules to limit air pollution from industrial sources, called "Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology." The new rules for coal-fired power plants have not yet been announced.

The standard for mercury pollution just announced does not meet that highest standard that was requested in the letter. The Union of Concerned Scientists described it as "modest in comparison to the standard proposed last April."

Although environmental groups express disappointment in that the ruling was not more stringent, the new standard is an improvement and many have counted it as both a good outcome and a fair compromise for business, which sought flexibility for smaller operations. It could have been far worse, given the overwhelming influence of industrial lobbying and their massive amounts of funding.

Clearly, mercury air pollution is a public health threat. Yet the public health interest, what will benefit the country as a whole and the greatest number of people in this country, increasingly takes a place behind the wishes of



Cate Marquis

large multinational corporations. A reasonable amount of restraint on industrial pollution is more likely to provide economic benefits and jobs in this country, as plants are refitted to meet new standards, than any real harm to a company's profitability. Arguments that clean air regulations hurt business often come with hints that permitting pollution creates jobs, although it omits that the jobs created are likely to be in other countries. The public health costs of pollution need to be part of the equation in weighing the pros and cons.

Yet increasingly, under our pay-for-access political system, only the wishes of large businesses are heard in public policy matters. Since the Supreme Court has equated money in politics with free speech, it means those with the most money get to shout down all other views, no matter what is the best for the country. It is better that both sides get to speak and the whole picture considered.

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

## POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

# Lend a hand for mankind

Bystander effect. Ever heard of it? Essentially, it is the prominence of a very disturbing train of thought. "Oh, that is horrible! How can they DO that! Well...it is not hurting me...guess I can go about my day..."

Seriously people...seriously?! Yes, this is intentionally linked to last week's article, and yes, they are similar topics. This is largely the point of the past two weeks.

Our country is FULL of situations like this. How often is it said that in a large city like New York or St. Louis even, a horrendous murder or robbery occurred. Now, say this robbery or murder is not of the armed sort, and SEVERAL passerby notice what happened. How do we know they saw? Well, they say so on Fox 2 News proudly enough that "I saw that man strike her!"

Why did you not take a moment and, if not help the woman yourself, possibly call for help? Bystander effect is one of the most disgusting impacts of human ego-centralism, and is something which has developed further in the United States than nearly any other country in the world.

Take a moment and think about the history of mankind. Truly think about it. Sure, competition may have driven human history for the past several hundred years: ever since we, as a race, reached a point of OVER-PRODUCTION! However,

if a true look is taken at the MAJORITY of human history, it is evident that humankind only evolved and progressed to the point we are at today due to COOPERATION: assisting one another, protecting one another, and working together towards a common, better goal.

Bystander effect is a direct result of the mindset "if it does not hurt me, why should I care." Well, here is the answer everybody is looking for: if we ignore each other's needs on a daily basis as we have been doing for centuries now, we will eventually collapse!

Mankind functions as a well-oiled machine, with several key components working together towards a common goal. Oh, we may compete with each other daily, and in America, "Might" really does "Make Right." However, despite all of this competition, "no man is an island" still rings true today, and no man can truly progress in this world without assisting others, and being assisted, himself.

As usual, Bystander Effect is simply a stepping stone to the true goal of this article. The situation does not have to be as dire as seeing another human being beaten brutally in the streets. Just assist each other from time to time!

Build each other up. If free time seems to be in abundance, go down to a local soup kitchen and truly give back to the society which has



Matthew B. Poposky

done so much to build up what we rely on and take for granted everyday. America, and humanity in general, do not function because one man is able to walk down the street wearing a \$6000 tie.

Rather, the entire culture of mankind functions as well as it does simply because we work together. The world is so terrified of an apocalyptic ending, but honestly, if we continue along the path we are currently on, no apocalypse will be necessary. No explosion of the sun will curb our existence.

No, we will simply destroy ourselves. We will allow those who truly care for naught but themselves to overrun our race, and the entirety of humanity will vanish due to ego-centralism, rather than some physical catastrophe.

So, the point? It really is simple, people: help one another. Give back to the world from time to time. It really helps.

*Matthew B. Poposky is a Staff Writer for The Current.*

**Does science matter?**  
Let us know at [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

**We agree with Matthew.**  
**Do you?**  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

# Point/Counterpoint



*Are video games more harmful than we think?*

## Video games are more helpful than you think

When Jane McGonigal appeared on "The Colbert Report" a few weeks ago to promote her new book about the benefits of video games, the moral guardians, like Mothers Against Videogame Addiction and Violence (MAVAV) and notorious attorney Jack Thompson, probably got worried.

Those are the people who insist that violent video games cause acts of violence, like the 1999 Columbine massacre, and that nothing good can ever come from them. While no study has ever directly linked violent acts with playing violent videogames, these folks might be just a tiny bit right.

A new study from the Yale School of Medicine showed that teenagers who engage in "problematic gaming", usually video game addiction, are much more likely to develop drug, alcohol, depression, and behavior problems. However, the anti-game folks are not quite as right as they thought, since these "problematic" gamers only made up 5.8 percent of surveyed boys and 3.0 percent of surveyed girls out of a total of 4,028 surveyed teens.

Over 50 percent of the teens who played video

games (76.3 percent of boys and 29.2 of girls), played a majority of them in moderation. These moderate gamers were far less likely to develop drug and behavioral problems than the "problematic" addicts.

Also, East Carolina University's Psychophysiology Lab and Biofeedback Clinic recently conducted a study where they made 60 depressed participants play games like "Bejeweled" and found that among the participants, the puzzle video games reduced their depression by an average of 57 percent.

Were these individuals playing puzzle games all day, every day? No. But again, video games in moderation may not be so problematic.

Finally, video games may be beneficial for families. A study from Brigham Young University showed that playing video games brought fathers and daughters closer together. However, the same was not true for boys. Because they play more video games, often with friends, they see it as a socializing activity they would prefer to do with peers, while girls are more solitary gamers, making the father/daughter in-

teraction more special.

The researchers could only study father/daughter interaction during video game play, because very few of the mothers in the surveyed families played any video games. But the correlation is still very interesting and a nice positive piece of news about something the media and some activist groups love to tear down.

Are video games good for people? Apparently so, according to the studies made, but only in moderation. Too much of a good thing is always bad and not exclusive to video games, so addicts should probably try to seek help. Perhaps anti-video game activists should focus on helping those people instead of trying to bring down the gaming industry.

A game like "Bejeweled" or "Tetris" can be calming in its simplicity, giving the player time to think and de-stress. And lots of things done as a family may be more fun than when done alone. Maybe the question is not whether video games are good for people, but instead: are these benefits really that surprising?

## Video game fanatics need help

The next time your child, niece, or nephew wants a video game, buy them a book instead. At least a book will not turn them into the living dead.

Back in January of this year, MSNBC.msn.com reviewed the results of a 2 year study done by Reuters Health on more than 3,000 children in Singapore that stated that one in ten children turned out to be video game addicts. The researchers of the study found that these children became more anxious, depressed, their social phobias became worse and they exhibited behavior problems.

Those sound like great qualities for a child to have. The study was done on elementary and junior high school students and yet they are already experiencing the issues of depression.

What will happen to them mentally in the adult years? Will they be that overweight, antsy individual in the hoodie that only leaves their house at night to go to the convenient store to buy Cheetos and Twinkies? Because of the lack of activity, the answer is yes.

Extreme gaming can con-

tribute to obesity. With your basic game (because let's face it, not every game is an exercise game: nice try), the player is only moving their wrist and maybe an arm. That definitely can work off a couple of calories.

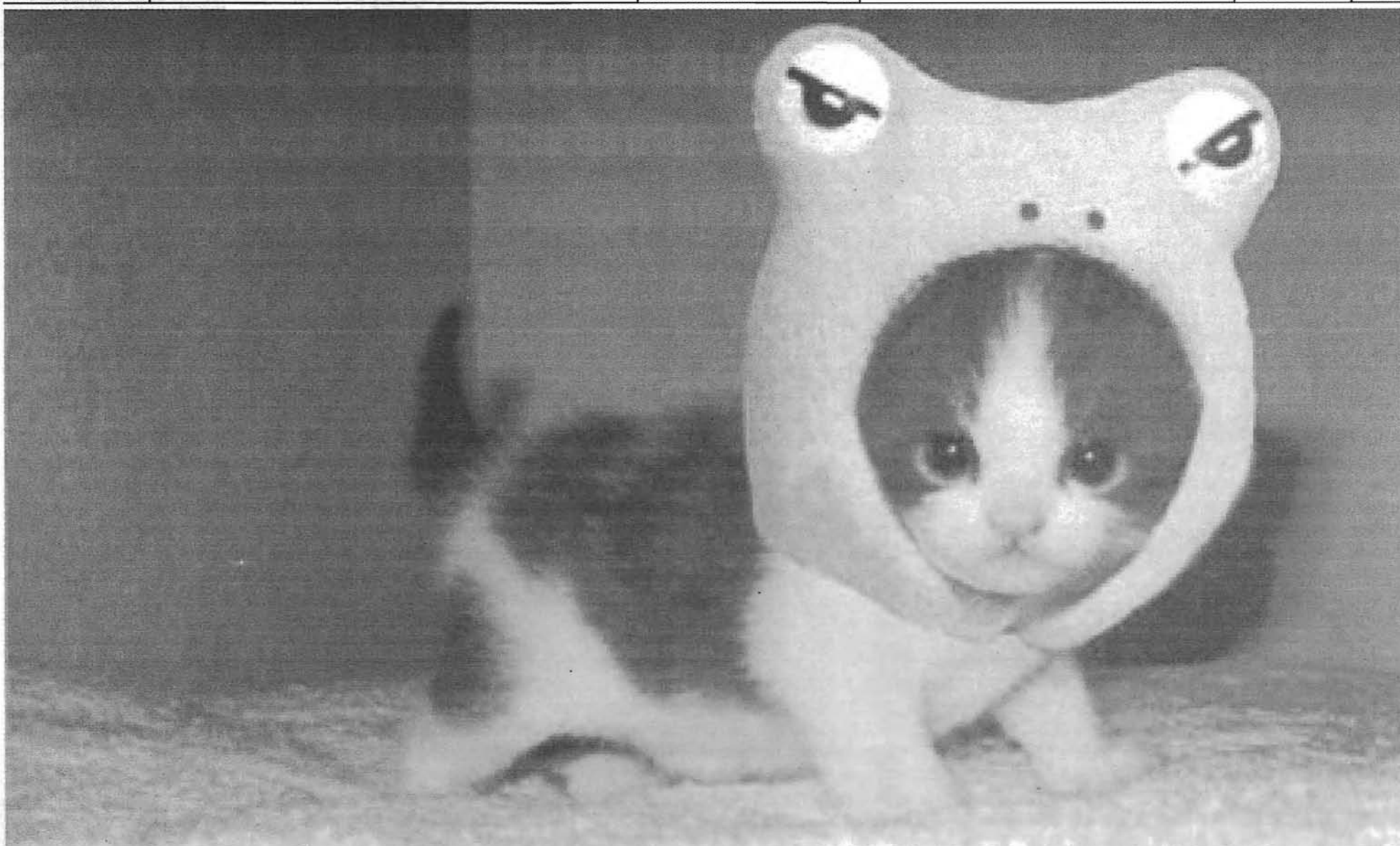
This extreme gaming problem is only another reason why schools need to hold on to their Physical Education programs. When children hear physical education they only think of chin ups and running, which of course is a turn off, but if the schools would offer other physical options such as dance or swimming, it would at least get the kids moving again. One looks outside on the weekends and sometimes there is not a child in sight.

Why is this? They are not outside playing because they are in their rooms conquering castles or buying fake plants for their fake farms. What is sad is that an excessive gamer would probably be willing to learn a made up language from a Lord of the Rings video game than learn an actual language in school. But, who needs English when you do not socialize anyway.

Other outlets in the entertainment business see that

the gaming industry is doing better than most so they are partnering up. Now, everything is on Wii. In order to play a game you have to first purchase a Wii. (And in return, it will most likely be evolved into something better and more expensive. We have all seen the evolution of the Nintendo.) Glee has a Wii game, movies have been made into Wii games (because just watching it is not enough), soon we will be able to experience concerts on the Wii, (Oh, I forgot about Rockband).

Also during the study, the average child claimed to play up to 20 hours a week in video games. Around ten percent of the boys in the study turned out to be extreme gamers while only around 4 percent of the addicts were girls. Not that these statistics are surprising one would believe it to be much higher. It does raise the question: why are boys usually the most likely to become game addicts? Could it be that video game companies are really marketing to the men? What is it that makes a video game more satisfying than reality?



# Are you this cute?

If so, you might be able to get a great job with **The Current**.

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Assoc. Features Editor  
Illustrators  
Page Designers  
Staff Photographers

No experience necessary!  
Reptiles from the Cretaceous period are encouraged.

Job descriptions and how to apply at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment/](http://www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment/)



# Puzzles

## CURRENT HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You will find a large golden duck on friday. For reals, yo. Probably should not pick it up.

**LIBRA**  
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You will get extremely bad service at all the places you eat, at except when you tip well. I think that could be a sign, maybe.

**TAURUS**  
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taurus, you may be named after the Ford vehicle of the same name, but you are not nearly as reliable or as affordable. Or as pretty.

**SCORPIO**  
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

This up-coming week-end, you will get a ton of colorful beads just for doing something you do every drunken weekend. Lucky you!

**GEMINI**  
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Recently, your twin found a techno cd. You think it's going to be painful to humanity, but of course it is sweet and a dance party ensues.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You can't stop thinking about how many times your girlfriend has slept with all your friend. This week, cry louder: people love to hear it.

**CANCER**  
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

You can not keep holding that popsicle all week; the sugar and artifical strawberry flavors are going to get on your face sometime.

**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You caught your face on fire last week: This Monday, wake up early and run till you pass out from dehydration.

**LEO**  
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

On Monday, put your hand in your pocket. You will find the last missing piece of the puzzle you've been eating.

**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

The earth is moving in line with Venus in a few months. That means you should buy a new Chevy pick-up!

**VIRGO**  
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

What a stupid weekend, could it have been better? Yes, but don't let that stop you from partying it up all week in celebration.

**PISCES**  
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Where is your sock? You can not find anything this week. The only option is to follow the cat next door, she takes them and you know its.

## CURRENT WORD SEARCH

# Oscar Nominees

U L E L J N O I T P E C N I Z Z U J  
 L U F F L U C C A G D U M U I Q U V  
 J X C T C F G W M E Z C F K A H F C  
 U Z Q Y V E Q V C P J G S E O L Y R  
 V E P Q S C A N F U L W F H H W B S  
 T H G I R L L A E R A S D I K E H T  
 S A Y P Y D W J T F Z N H I U C N R  
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 1 2 7 H O U R S X B L A C K S W A N  
 H V X I R V T O Y S T O R Y 3 T M G  
 O K R O W T E N L A I C O S E H T K  
 N H F T H E K I N G S S P E E C H

Alice in Wonderland

Black Swan

Inception

The Fighter

The Illusionist

The Kids Are All Right

The King's Speech

The Social Network

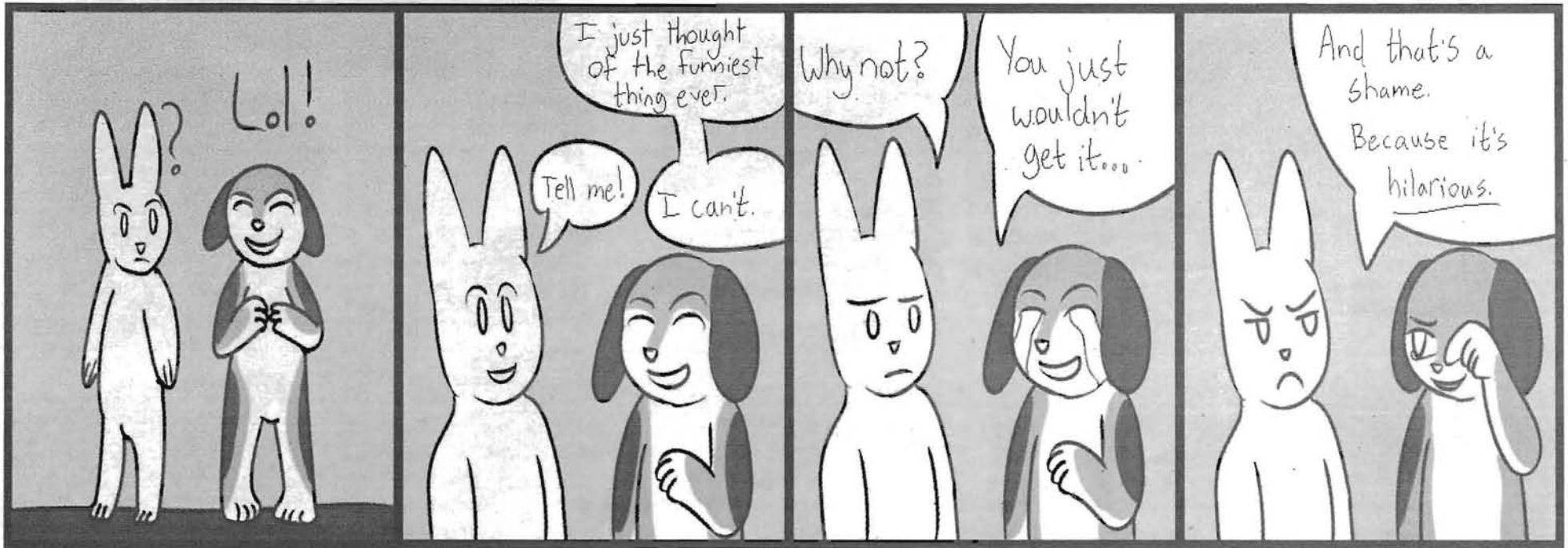
Toy Story 3

True Grit

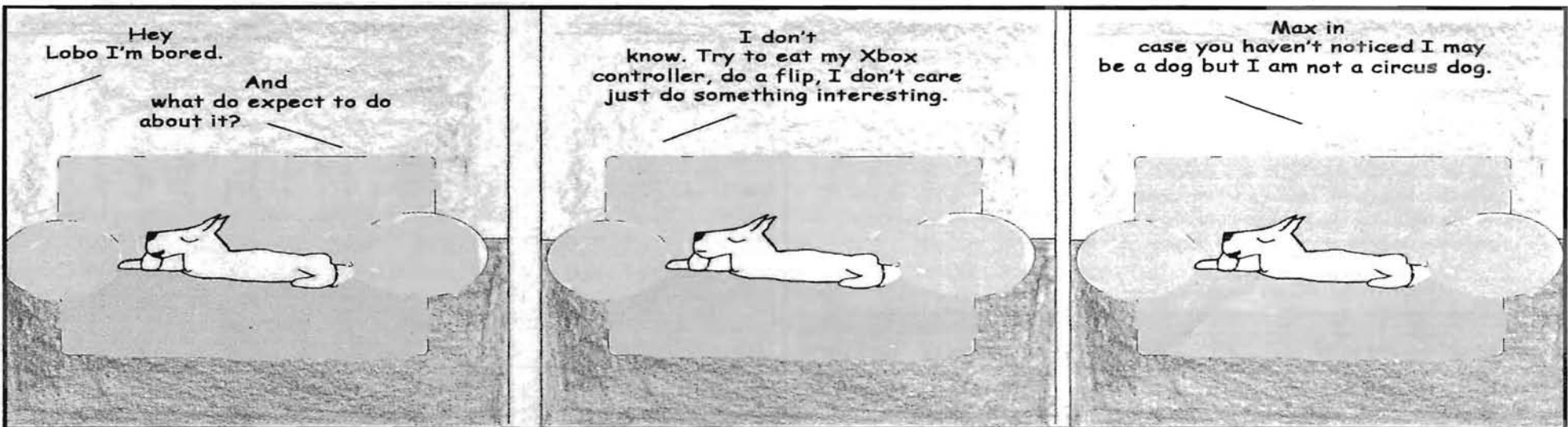
Winter's Bone

# Comics

## Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



## Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



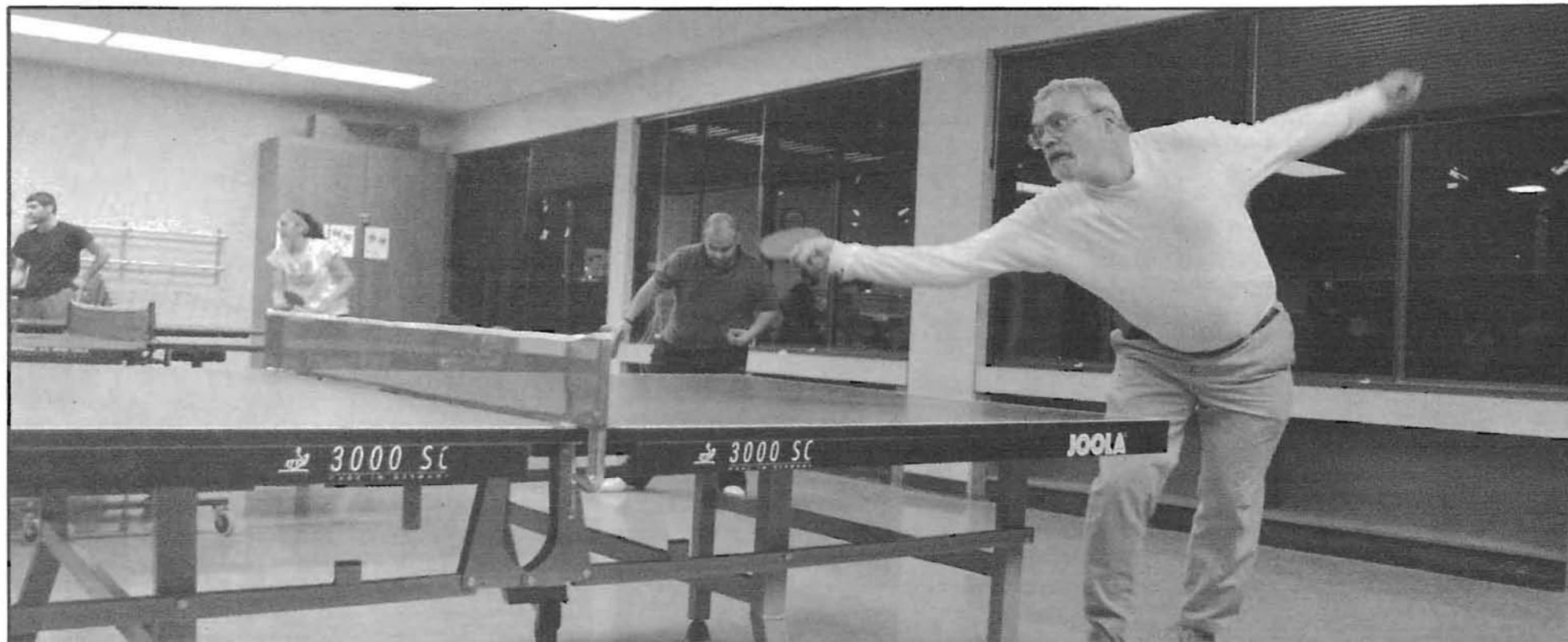
# The Current needs cartoonists

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.

OR YOU CAN E-MAIL US AT [THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU](mailto:THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU)

# 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](mailto:thecurrentads@umsl.edu), with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions.



Jim Jordan, UMSL staff member, swings the paddle in the Table Tennis Tournament on Tuesday in the Mark Twain Building.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

## Monday, Feb. 28

### Disney Program Presentation

From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., located in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to all. Start building your résumé and preparing for your future career. The Disney College Program gives you the opportunity to take college-level courses for credit, network with Disney leaders, audition for entertainment roles and enhance your marketability in today's job market. Presentation attendance is required. For Information, call Career Services at 314-516-5111

## Tuesday, Mar. 1

### Lobby Day To Jefferson City

From 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. located in the Nosh. Open to all. Join ASUM in a Free trip to the capitol! Free food, t-shirts, and transportation to come talk to your legislators about issues that matter to you. Sign up in Student Life or contact Melissa Alper at [mdaz72@umsl.edu](mailto:mdaz72@umsl.edu) Remember: Road trips are better with friends, Bring one along! For information, call Melissa Alper at 314-680-5234

## Thursday, Mar. 3

### Bowling & Pizza Party

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., located at North Oaks Bowl, 7125 Natural Bridge Road, open to all. Campus Recreation's bowling party is tonight, pizza & fun provided! Best of all, it's free! Call your friends! advance registration necessary. So hurry, space is limited! Register in the Rec. Office, 203 Mark Twain, or call Susan at 314-516-5125 by 5:00 p.m., Wed, March 2.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH

MARCH 2011

THE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

## WEEK ONE

FEB 28 - MARCH 4  
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS  
THE CATHOLIC COALITION  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
SPEAKER  
MARCH 1 7PM AT CNC

## WEEK THREE

MARCH 14 - 18  
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS  
CLOTHING DRIVE  
MARCH 14 11AM-2PM IN MSC BRIDGE

## VOLUNTEERING AT

CITY SEEDS  
MARCH 4 11AM-4 PM  
(MEET AT CNC)

## HOMELESS OUTREACH

SPEAKER  
MARCH 15 7PM AT CNC

## WEEK TWO

MARCH 7 - 11  
HUNGER AWARENESS  
SOUP LINES IN THE NOSH  
MARCH 7 & 8 11AM-1PM IN  
THE NOSH

## SHANTYTOWN

MARCH 16 6PM-8AM ON MSC PATIO

ST. LOUIS AREA  
FOODBANK SPEAKER  
MARCH 9 7 PM AT CNC

## WEEK FOUR

MARCH 21-25  
IMMIGRATION AWARENESS  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
SPEAKER  
MARCH 22 7PM AT CNC

HUNGER BANQUET

ANTE UP FOR IMMIGRANTS  
POKER TOURNAMENT