

The Current

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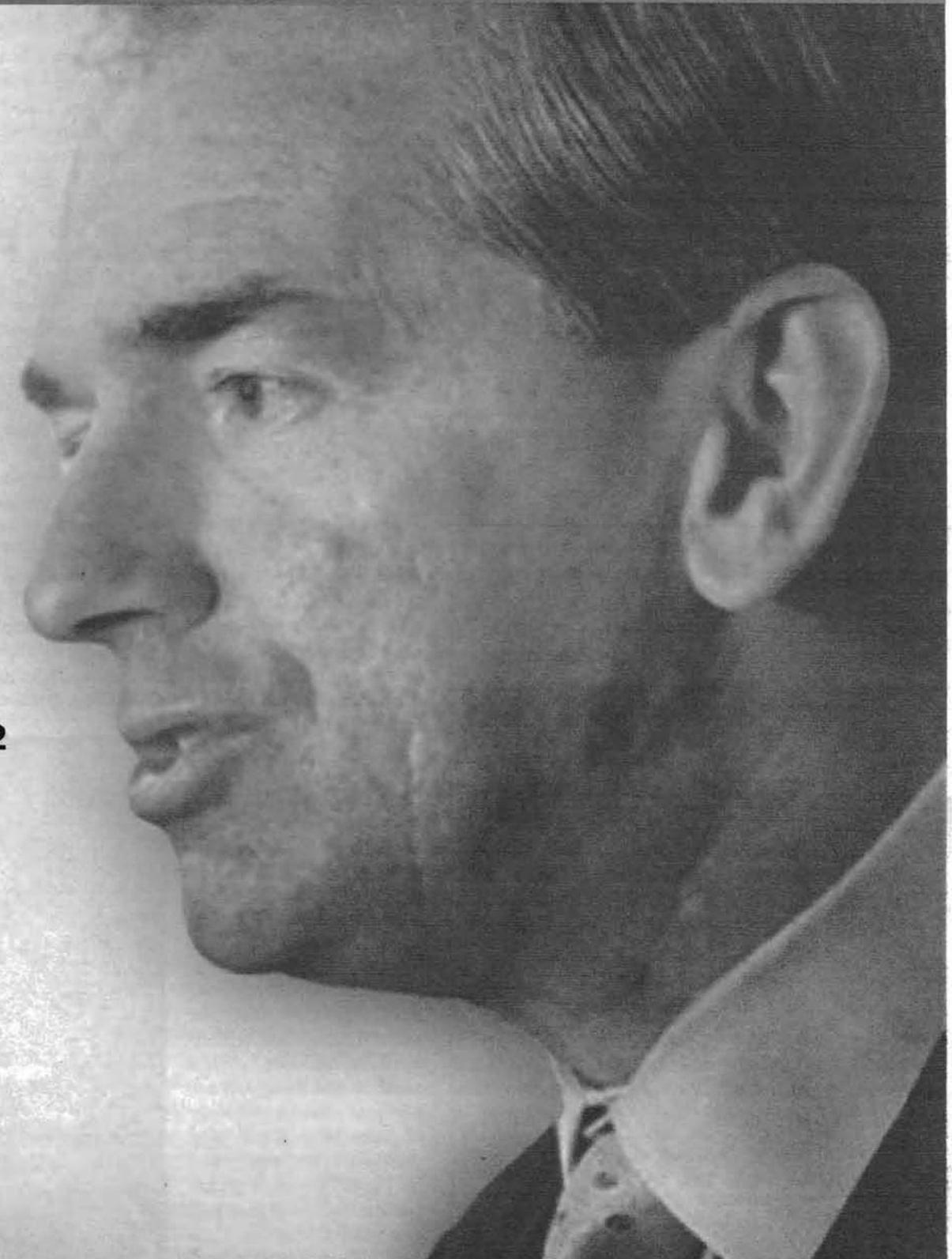
ISSUE 1332

UM PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

Gary Forsee unexpectedly resigns

By Ryan Krull

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The Current

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AFFILIATIONS



News

Forsee no longer UM president

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

Gary Forsee is stepping down as president of the University of Missouri System. He made the announcement on Friday, Jan 7 at a special UM-System Board of Curators meeting.

Forsee made public his decision to step down later that day in a system-wide email to UM faculty, staff and students. In the email he revealed the decision was made to focus on his wife, Sherry, who is recovering from cancer.

"After a long working career, LOTS of moves and working regularly from multiple locations, it is clearly time for us to get Sherry's next six months of treatment completed and to focus on our family and great friends," Forsee said in the email.

"While our priority going forward will be our family and Sherry's full recovery, you can count on our continued full support for this great public research institution."

Forsee has been system president since 2008. Stephen Owens, General Counsel of the University of Missouri system, has been named interim president while the search for a full time replacement is underway. When asked to comment, top administrators at the University of Missouri-St. Louis were unanimous in their praise for Forsee's tenure as system president as well as their sadness over his departure.

"I was certainly sad-

dened when I learned that Gary Forsee had decided to step down," said UM-St. Louis Chancellor= Thomas George. "President Forsee is recognized and respected statewide and nationally as a leader who strives to implement strategies to make higher education more efficient and effective. He is extremely interested in quality outcomes and that attitude has been reflective of the collective successes of the four UM campuses." The UM-System is comprised of the four campuses of the University of Missouri, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Kansas City and UM-St. Louis.

"President Forsee was the right leader for the UM-System at the right time," said Glen Cope, Provost and Vice

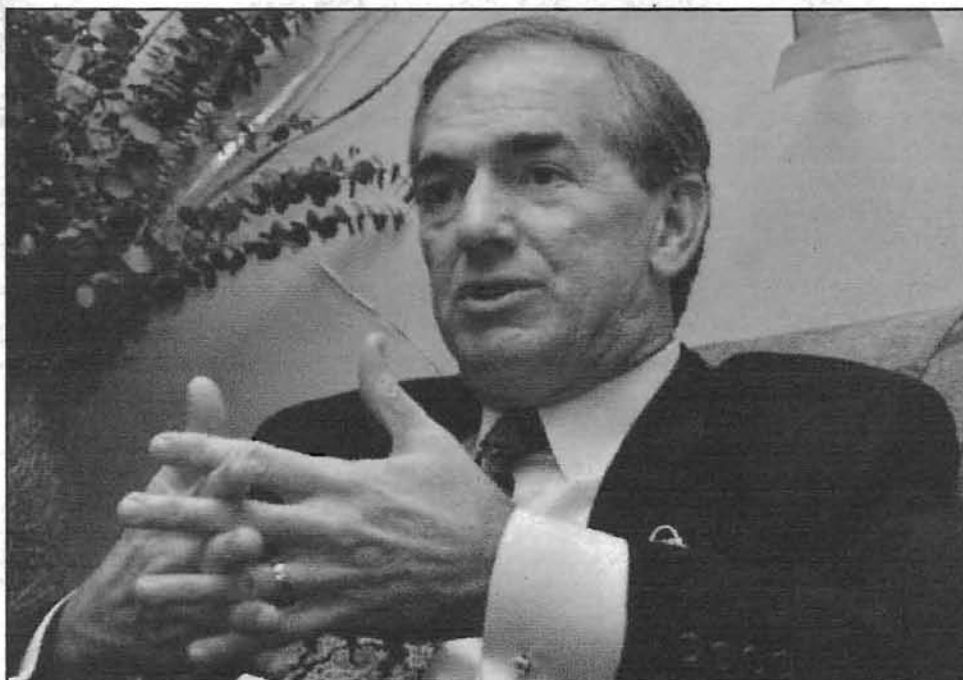
Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "He supported UMSL Campus needs in a very positive way. Whenever he came to our campus, he met with faculty, staff, and/or students and tried to learn everything he could about UMSL. We'll miss him."

A Kansas City, Mo. native, Forsee received a Bachelor of Science from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1972, then called University of Missouri-Rolla. Before becoming UM-System president, he was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Sprint Nextel Corporation, receiving many accolades from the business community for his leadership during the merger between the formerly separate Sprint and Nextel.

"President Forsee brought his exceptional business ac-

men to the university at a time that those skills were essential to the ongoing success of our campuses," George said. "Students in particular benefited from President Forsee's innovative approach. It was President Forsee who worked with [Missouri governor] Jay Nixon to forge agreements that held in-state tuition flat for two years. That level of commitment to students was unequalled nationally."

Forsee ended his farewell email with a direct message to the UM students. "Thank you for all that you do and for the many ways you make this a great university," he said. Forsee has also made clear that though he is stepping down he, "will continue to be a strong and loud advocate for all that you do."



PORTRAIT OF GARY FORSEE COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
39	40	36	31	26	20	31
28	35	22	24	4	14	15

UM- St. Louis encouraging a higher male minority graduation rate

JEN O'HARA
Features Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has been attempting to further increase graduation rates of male minorities. Compared to other groups, these particular demographics have a lower rate of completing college. Although UM-St. Louis has had an overall twenty-five percent increase in graduates, minority male students are still the least likely to graduate. This has been a national problem among most colleges for years.

"Male minority students face a lot of challenges in our society in general. They are least likely to finish a college degree, but they are also least likely to finish high school. They're most likely to go to prison—that's a lot of cultural things they have to overcome to earn a college degree," Alan Byrd, Director of Admissions, said.

Though male minorities have generally failed to graduate college at the same rates as white students throughout history, it has piqued interest in recent years.

"The problem has been camouflaged over the years because researchers have focused on the combined figures of males and females when looking at minority

persistence and graduation rates," UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George said. "Overall minority graduation rates have consistently gone up over that past several years which is good news. However, when the statistics are separated by gender, minority females are graduating at almost a two to one ratio over minority males."

In the six year graduation rates for 2003-2009, females graduated at 53 percent, while males graduated at 41 percent. In another comparison, the majority race(s) graduated at 53 percent, while minorities graduated at 49 percent.

There have been a number of efforts to alter these statistics. According to Dr. Judith Walker de Felix, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, since UM-St. Louis is best in state for recruiting a diverse population, more goals are being placed in favor of all student success instead of focusing on closing gaps in rates like most other colleges. It is believed that by changing and reinforcing policies for all students, it will subsequently aid male minorities. In a letter sent by Chancellor George to UM St. Louis faculty, he states examples for faculty to follow such

as encouragement by professors to have students use campus resources or providing "timely and useful feedback" of assignments.

Another effort that has recently taken place at the University is the Access to Success program. Commonly known as "A2S," the nation-wide program encourages graduation rates among minority students.

Otherwise, UM-St. Louis does offer some specific support groups. "[There is the] Males of Color Initiative. What is happening now, is we meet each week on Wednesdays and we talk about everything. It's a confidential meeting, but we talk about everything from academics, to social life, to private life," said Derrick Freeman, Equal Opportunity Specialist.

The group also breaks from academics and takes time for socialization and bonding with activities such as basketball.

It is hoped that these methods will increase rates.

"I applaud the University for coming forth and taking the lead on this. It has been a problem for awhile but they saw fit to put some resources and some time behind it," said Freeman.

Students can now get help from home

Free online tutoring now available to UMSL students

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

Starting this semester, University of Missouri-St. Louis students will have free access to tutoring from anywhere an Internet connection can be found. The online tutoring service NetTutor is now available to all students and can be accessed via Blackboard. The NetTutor icon is located under the "Tools" tab on the sidebar of any course homepage on MyGateway.

Once in the NetTutor system, a student chooses between four areas of tutoring: tutoring for the Business College, math tutoring, science tutoring or world languages tutoring. There is also writing center tutoring through which a student can submit a paper for editing.

Within the four specific areas of tutoring, a NetTutor user can submit a question in the Q&A section of the site and receive a response no more than 24 hours later. Or a student can join a live tutorial and have an instant messaging dialogue with an online tutor. The instant messaging interface tries to be as much like a dry erase board as possible. Text can be written anywhere and copying and pasting a chart or equation from another document or site is relatively hassle-free.

For instance, a student can access the NetTutor's math live tutorial section and ask for help solving an equation with two unknowns. Afterwards, a tutor named Robert with a bachelor of science in computer science and math

minor from Radford University was immediately available to demonstrate and explain how to do so. The instant messaging portion of NetTutor is available seven days a week until 10pm. Questions for the Q&A section can be submitted anytime.

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Teresa Thiel is the individual responsible for identifying NetTutor and bringing it to UM-St. Louis students.

"We wanted to try online tutoring because we are offering more online courses, so online tutoring makes sense," said Thiel.

See **STUDENTS** on page 4

The UNDERCURRENT

by Yumeto Yamazaki

"What do you think of electronic cigarettes?"



"I think they might be a good alternative because the nicotine content is much lower. But at the end of the day any amount of nicotine is dangerous."

Scott Graydon
Psychology
Sophomore



"They are pretty cool, I guess. A healthier way to kill your lungs."

Darnell Scott
Communication
Senior



"It's good because it never does people harm."

Akiko Deguchi
Secondary Education
Graduate

"New Smoking ban policy to take effect Jan. 1, 2011"

- From issue 1331

Go figure. A bunch of non-smoking ignorant people complaining about something else. I understand not smoking inside anymore, but completely smoke free is [ridiculous]. One, if you don't smoke, you don't know what it's like. If you don't understand smoking, you have no right to say a thing about it.

That's just ignorance. If someone smokes it's no one else's place to tell them they can't walk up and down a street and smoke. I'm sorry, last time I checked we live in a FREE country, we pay taxes and if it's not illegal to buy cigarettes [than] it shouldn't be illegal for us to smoke them in certain places.

I'm very polite when and where I choose to smoke and do mind the people around me. This is just ignorant of the people who have nothing better to do then complain about everyone and everything else. After this takes effect what's the next thing everyone will find a problem with?!

-Kasey

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STUDENTS from page 3

"Also, NetTutor covers many subjects for tutoring, more than we currently offer in formal tutoring labs on campus."

As online counterparts to areas of academia become more and more common, tutoring has proven to be no different. Many companies in the education business, such as Kaplan, Inc. and Sylvan Learning, offer similar types of online tutoring.

Thiel says UM-St. Louis chose NetTutor because, "NetTutor tutors all work from a central tutoring facility where they have access to textbooks and help if they need it. They offer a wide range of subjects and have good hours. Also, their system works seamlessly with the Blackboard course management system we use. We also got a good price from them, so all those factors went into the decision."

Although Thiel was the one behind bringing NetTutor to UM-St. Louis, she is cur-

rently on a Fullbright Fellowship at the University of Leeds in England. Ronald Bieniek is the acting Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences, and is the one responsible for the implementation of NetTutor this semester. Bieniek is usually a physics professor at Missouri Science and Technology and that school's Director of New Faculty Programs.

"[NetTutor's] purpose is to increase student success," Bieniek said. "It's not just help. The idea is to take control of your success. Sometimes you need guidance or validation and this is the source of it."

Bieniek said that the decision to keep NetTutor available to students in the future will depend largely on how much it is utilized this semester.

Sports

Men's basketball picks up 10th win

Victory over Oakland City moves men's basketball to 10-5

CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

In sports lexicon, "all hands on deck" is phrase used by coaches when they feel a particular game is so important that no matter what the team's usual substitution pattern, every player on the team should expect to play, and play a lot, and last Saturday's men's basketball game was one such game.

Usually, "all hands on deck" games come late in the season, when a team is scrambling to clinch a playoff spot or trying to cinch a playoff win.

In a non-conference matchup at the Mark Twain Building against Oakland City University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team went "all hands on deck" and needed everything it got from every player on the team to pull out a 65-51 win over the visiting Mighty Oaks.

"We're always happy to get a win, for sure," Steve Tappmeyer, UM-St. Louis head coach, said. "I didn't think our guys came out with the sharpness and focus that we need. We've been fighting that all year really. So it's not exactly the feeling I wanted coming out of this game."

Starting swingman, Justyn Watkins, junior, communications, led the Tritons with 12 points, on four-of-six shooting, including a scintillating, two-handed dunk early in the second half that sparked a 12-3 run that gave UM-St. Louis a 45-31 advantage.

Teammates Eli Weigley, freshman, undecided, and Jamarcus Williams, junior, middle school education, came off the bench to add 10 points apiece. While fellow teammate Kevin Dwyer, freshman, undecided, also came off the bench and led the Triton defensive charge with 11 rebounds, four steals, and two blocked shots.

"We definitely had some guys that I think deserved to be able to get out on the floor and play," Tappmeyer said.

"Part of that was because of injury, but part of that was by design. We've got some spots where people aren't playing very well. So going to the bench is not just to appease those guys. We're pretty wide open about people establishing whose going to get minutes right now."

Oakland City never really got closer than that 14-point deficit. And when UM-St. Louis' Watkins drained a three with eight minutes left to make the score 55-37, both teams knew the game

was essentially over.

"It's good to get a win," Tappmeyer said. "But I wanted to come out of it feeling like we regained some confidence. I'm not sure we did. But we'll keep fighting."

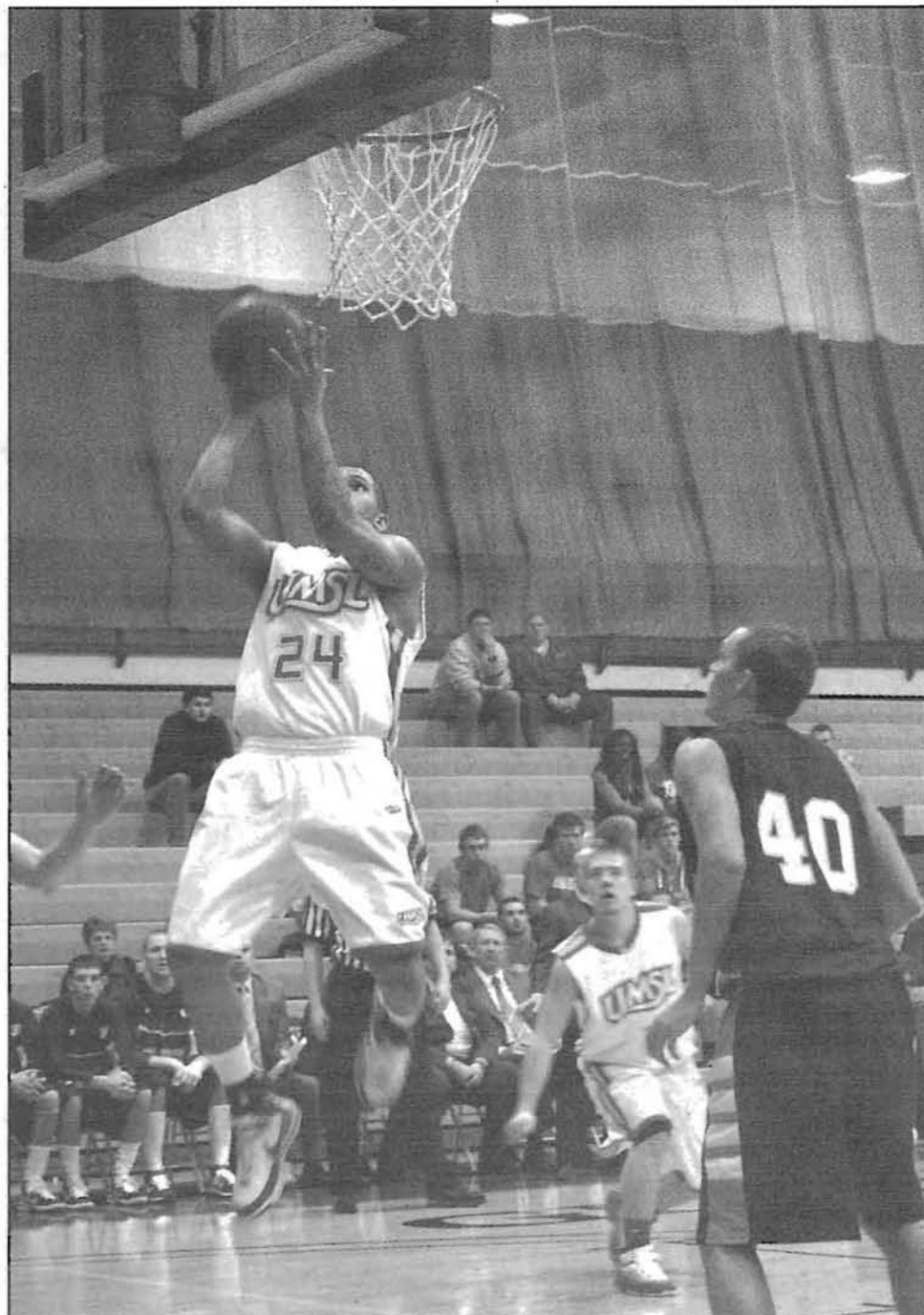
The victory ended a three-game losing streak for the Tritons, and raised the team's overall season mark to 10-5. UM-St. Louis also maintained its hold on first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division.

Maintaining first place will be difficult task for the Tritons, who will not play another home game this month. This week, UM-St. Louis will play games at Illinois-Springfield and St. Joseph's.

Next week, the team will travel to Rockhurst and Drury.

UM-St. Louis' next home contest will be the team's showcase event of the season, the February 3 "Pack the Stands Night" game against Kentucky Wesleyan. That night, both the men's and women's teams will host games against the Panthers.

The women's game will tipoff at 5:30 p.m., with the men's game scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.



Ryan Lawrence, senior, criminal justice shoots for 2 points during the first period during Saturdays game.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

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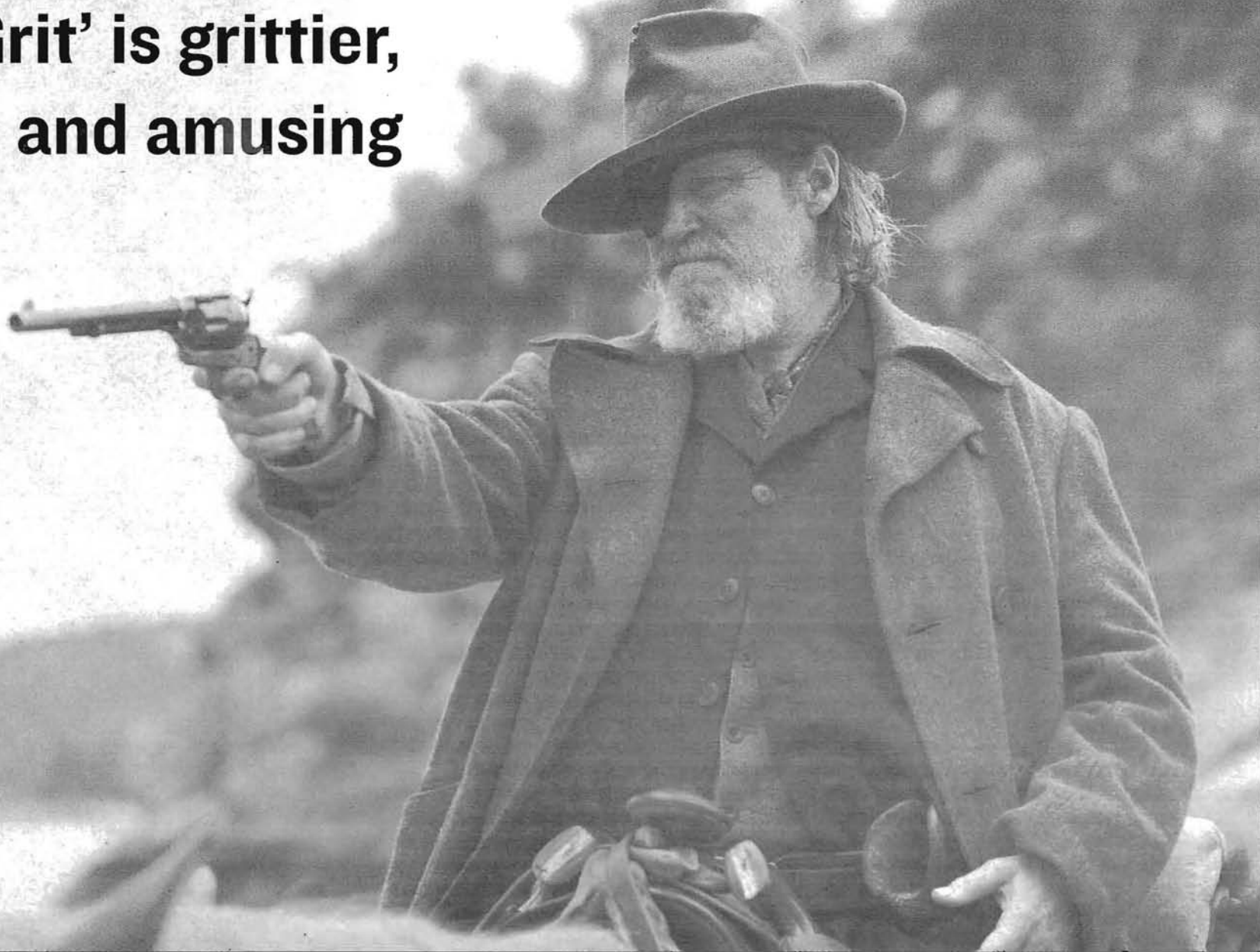
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'True Grit' is grittier, darker, and amusing



Jeff Bridges plays Rooster Cogburn.

COURTESY / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

MOVIES

Who knows what the Hollywood Foreign Press critics were smoking when they failed to nominate "True Grit" for best film, as the Coen brothers' film is one of the year's best. It tops most critics' top ten lists for 2010. One thing is certain: The Oscars will not make that same mistake.

Ethan and Joel Coen's "True Grit" is less a remake of the John Wayne movie than a fresh adaptation of the original novel. It is much closer to the novel, a far darker, grittier film. At the same time, the film is part comedy and part adventure, in true Coen brothers style. It is a great example of the Coens' best work.

Jeff Bridges plays Reuben "Rooster" Cogburn, a drunken U.S. Marshall who reluctantly signs up as bounty hunter for a tart-tongued, brainy 14-year-old girl named Matty Ross (an amazing Hailee Steinfeld), who seeks

her father's murderer, a man named Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin). But another bounty hunter, A Texas Ranger name LaBoeuf (Matt Damon), is on the trail of the same man for another bounty. Cogburn believes the hunted man has fled to the lawless Indian Territory, to join the gang led by outlaw Ned Pepper (Barry Pepper).

The film's sharp, witty dialog is immensely entertaining, as the various characters trade verbal jabs. Spoken in the precise, formal style of the 19th century Old West, it provides both comedy and period authenticity, combining the formality of letters from Ken Burns' Civil War documentary with a salty, brassy, brainy sparring of wits and wills.

In one scene, the young Matty goes to negotiate with Colonel Stonehill (Dakins Matthews), the owner of the stable from which her father's horse was taken by the murderer, and leaves the seasoned businessman shaking with fear of any future deals after her legal-

based verbal assault.

Coen brothers' films commonly combine dark comedy and violence with an off-beat sensibility but individual films tend to lean one way or the other, from the comic "Big Lebowski" to the grim "No Country for Old Men." "True Grit" is closer to the center of this continuum but leans more dramatic, with plenty of comic elements, often thanks to rambling talker Jeff Bridges, who provided comic magic in "Big Lebowski."

Young Hailee Steinfeld, as Matty, is astounding, a sure thing for a nomination for Best Supporting Actress and a likely a win. She does not play the sweeter character of the John Wayne movie but a hard-nosed, relentlessly strong-willed girl who has earned the nickname "the accountant" among hired hands on her family farm. She is bringing people to account for deeds as well as debts, with a steely will. At some point, drunken Rooster Cogburn, a man with a reputation

for ruthless determination and independence, recognizes a kindred soul.

Jeff Bridges as Cogburn is brilliant as well, playing a more comic, more garrulous Rooster. Once Rooster starts to talk, he rambles non-stop to a mostly silent Matty, who listens faithfully while always evaluating the righteousness of his actions.

Roger Deakin's photography is breathtakingly beautiful, adding a dark looming quality to their travels, while capturing the lonely majesty of the landscape. Many scenes take place under falling snow, in half-light, with everything in muted tones of gray and brown.

The Coens are masters at building tensions, and are in top form here. The film's big-sky scope means this is one to see on a big screen, at a theater. A Western fan or not, "True Grit" is a must-see film, one of the best of 2010.

A+ - *Cate Marquis*

'Tron: Legacy' is techno at its finest

MUSIC

Who would have thought that in 1982, Disney would actually be on to something when they created a movie so ridiculously awesome that it ended up being cool to be nerdy? But believe it or not, almost 20 years later, Tron followers are still going strong due to the release of "Tron: Legacy," the latest installment.

The movie "Tron: Legacy" was released on December 17, 2010 and was ranked #1 at the box office during its opening week. Aside from dazzling light displays, interesting 3-D effects and the ever wonderful Jeff Bridges returning, possibly the most interesting thing is the soundtrack.

Released on December 6, 2010, the soundtrack, which is aptly titled "Tron: Legacy,"

delivers just as much originality and spunk as the movie. Composed by the techno duo of Daft Punk, "Tron: Legacy" delivers everything a soundtrack for a movie about nerdy computer stuff beyond normal people's comprehension level should.

The album, simply put, is a beautiful marriage between the best parts of techno music and the beautiful arrangement of a string orchestra. It is amazingly cohesive and a wonderful and enrapturing listen on its own. While it cannot really be expected to be played at a rave (it is way too calm for that), it makes an excellent chill or study album.

Perhaps the easiest way to sum up "Tron: Legacy" would be the song simply titled "TRON Legacy (End Titles)." The song has little influences from almost every other song on the album.

Starting off heavily influenced by driving drumbeats and adding the guilty pleasure of the main recurring theme throughout the movie and soundtrack.

Another fast paced song to check out is "Derezzed." It is the only song on the album that one would actually expect to find on an album by Daft Punk. This song will quickly have listeners nodding their head and wishing that it lasted longer than the insanely short 1:40. With the exception of "Derezzed," the album is extremely calming. While many listeners would expect that sort of tone to be boring, it quite the opposite.

While the tracks don't really have any throbbing beats or insanely catchy melodies, they are still beautifully composed and completely understated. "The Son of Flynn" is an excellent example of this. The song really is not any-

thing special, but despite the complete lack of techno impulses, it is still intriguing.

Those looking for the next big thing in the techno world probably will not appreciate the stylized composition of most of the songs. Listeners who have bought soundtrack albums before will not be disappointed in the slightest. "Tron: Legacy" is a true masterpiece that combines not only the emotions the movie needs to convey but also the musical stylings of the composers.

Daft Punk did an absolutely outstanding job composing what could possibly be one of the best soundtracks that we will hear for a while. Mixing the best of orchestrated soundtracks and addictive techno, it would not be surprising if we saw more of this from them in the future.

A+ -Janaca Scherer

'Cataclysm' brings new experiences to 'World of Warcraft'

VIDEO GAMES

After preventing an insectoid empire from swarming over the planet, the heroes of Azeroth went on to thwart the imminent invasion of the demonic Burning Legion, and with the release of "World of Warcraft: Cataclysm," we can expect further trials.

After the Burning Legion, the Lich King, one of the greatest villains the world has ever known, stirred from his icy perch atop the Frozen Throne. Despite all odds, the heroes of the Horde and Alliance were triumphant.

Once again, the world of Azeroth is in danger. The ancient dragon, Deathwing, has returned, exploding from his slumber beneath Azeroth. His presence has warped and twisted the once-familiar landscapes of Kalimdor and the Eastern Kingdoms. "World of Warcraft's" third expansion, "Cataclysm," came out in December. Created by Blizzard Entertainment, "WoW" is the most popular MMORPG in the world, with over 11 million active subscribers. Besides the usual expansion basics— more zones, more gear, a higher level

cap, and so on—"Cataclysm" brought with it a patch that literally changes the way "WoW" is played.

"The Shattering," also known as Patch 4.0.3a, was released a mere week before "Cataclysm," and it altered the landscape of Azeroth in a dramatic way.

Mountains rose and fell, the seas churned, and all over the world, cities were damaged or even outright razed to the ground.

"The Shattering" actually included the bulk of "Cataclysm's" changes. Blizzard completely redesigned and revamped nearly all the level 1-60 zones, creating a compelling and engaging storyline for players both old and new. Several race and class combinations never before possible, like Dwarven Shamans or Tauren Paladins, were suddenly playable.

"Cataclysm" itself is really only an expansion necessary for players at the max level. It introduces two new Player versus Player Battlegrounds: Twin Peaks and The Battle for Gilneas. A new world PvP zone, Tol Barad, was also added.

See **WOW**, on page 9

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, January 21

"No Strings Attached"

Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman star as friends with benefits in this Ivan Reitman comedy.



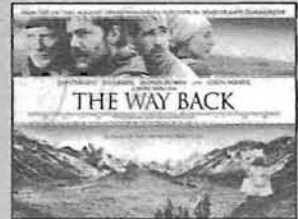
"Summer Wars"

(Plaza Frontenac only)

An imaginative Japanese animated fantasy, focused on a teen math genius with a summer job with the family of a girl he has a crush on. Directed by Mamoru Hosoda, the film won the Japanese Academy Award for animation.

"The Way Back"

Jim Sturgess, Ed Harris and Colin Farrell star in a drama directed by Peter Weir ("Gallipoli," "Truman Show," "Witness") about WWII prisoners escaping from a Soviet gulag, based on the cult novel "The Long Walk."



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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, JANUARY 21



'Blue Valentine' packs romantic blues

Michelle Williams as Cindy in Derek Cianfrance's *Blue Valentine*. COURTESY / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

MOVIES

The Sundance hit "Blue Valentine" features two of today's hottest young actors, Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams. This emotional drama earns kudos for being a serious effort, although the story about a disintegrating marriage is familiar from previous films like "Scenes from a Marriage."

"Blue Valentine's" casting has generated a great deal of interest but anyone hoping for a more romantic story may be disappointed by this sorrowful tale. While the sequences about the characters' unraveling relationship are more slice-of-life, and even pedestrian at points, the film's flashbacks to their young love have some truly magical moments,

so much so that viewers may wish more of the footage lingered on that time.

This is not a happy movie and often not easy to watch. This is definitely not a date movie.

Michelle Williams and Ryan Gosling play Cindy and Dean, a young working-class couple raising a young daughter outside a small rural town. Dean is a hard-drinking house painter whose childish goofy behavior with their little girl (Faith Wladyka) irritates his wife, a nurse who feels forced to always play the grown-up. Yet Dean clearly dotes on the little girl and is settled in his life.

The circumstances around the missing family dog hints at strains on the family's ability to cope. Over the next few days, their lives unfold,

interspersed with flashbacks to how they met and married, in touchingly romantic vignettes that contrast sharply with the grim realism of their present. Why their marriage is coming apart, if one is more to blame and how their different backgrounds laid the foundation of that break are slowly laid bare to viewers.

It is really all about the acting. Ryan plays a more likeable character, a strait-forward romantic, who is comfortable drifting through life. William's Cindy is haunted by her toxic family, thwarted ambitions and own self-esteem issues. When they meet, Cindy plans to become a doctor while Ryan has not finished high school, yet he seems to brim with creativity and potential. In scenes of their later life, tensions and even hostility rend the air. There are

sex scenes but rather than being romantic, there is an underlying tension of unspoken resentments. The characters created are completely convincing although their choices are sometimes frustrating, much like real life. More and more, they seem locked in a dance of making each other miserable.

This film is the kind of emotionally-charged story that actors relish playing, where they can flex all their acting muscles, explore all the nuances and shed all restraints in toe-to-toe confrontations. Williams and Gosling generate plenty of sparks, and really do get to show off their acting gifts. Yet this is the kind of artistic dramatic exercise that appeals more to other actors and writers (and maybe some film critics), than to many audience members.

Beyond re-living one's own bad break-up experiences, the film offers no social commentary and little to viewers beyond personal conflict. Some will find its painful explorations a bit too much, especially if they were looking for something more traditionally romantic.

However, there is far more charm in the youthful flashback sequences. One nighttime scene in particular is nearly unforgettable, when Williams tap dances as Gosling sings in front of a shop doorway. The whole performance is moving and heart-breaking in its romance.

"Blue Valentine" has a certain unevenness to it, yet fine acting and flashes of searing emotion still make it worth the money.

B -Cate Marquis

WOW, from page 8

Five huge new zones (Hyjal, Vash'jir, Uldum, Deephholm and Twilight Highlands) were created to facilitate the new level cap of 85. The new areas are as vibrant and engaging as their new 1-60 counterparts. It is merely a shame that to get to them, players have to slog through old content during levels 60-80 (though to be honest, the Wrath of the Lich King content is not too bad).

The purchasable Flight Master's License will allow characters to use their flying mounts in the skies of Azeroth, opening many new avenues and routes. No longer do cities have to be attacked on the ground—to the skies!

Archaeology, the new secondary profession, helps lore junkies get their fix. It is very time-intensive, though, so be forewarned (much like real archaeology). The rewards, many of them bind-to-account (meaning usable across different characters) are worth it, though. It just takes a very long time!

All primary professions have had their possible skill raised. Players will have to work hard to raise their skills up in order craft new armor, weapons, materials and spells.

"Cataclysm" players also get access to two news races: the wolf-like Worgen for the heroic Alliance and the crafty Goblins for the mighty Horde. Each race's starting zone is so well-made

and lovingly-crafted that they simply must be experienced.

In short, "Cataclysm" is the absolute best expansion that Blizzard has ever released for the "World of Warcraft." Not only does the new 80-85 content offer old players a reason to return to Azeroth, but the redesigned and streamlined level 1 to level 60 experience makes easing new players into the game so much easier. "WoW" has always been a blast to play, but with "Cataclysm," Blizzard is firing on all cylinders.

A -Andrew Seal

Features

The Ferguson Files

The city of Ferguson in a nutshell

JEN O'HARA
Feature Editor

The City of Ferguson is just a heartbeat away from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, so it is no surprise a number of students and faculty members spend time wandering the streets of the city. On the other hand, Ferguson is still a

mystery for others.

The City began in the 1850s as a train stop. William B. Ferguson sold a section of his farmland to the railroad and what became known as Ferguson station brought bustling growth to the area. At the end of the 19th century, the stop became popular and the area's population increased dramatically.

Demographics at a Glance



Population: 22,406

- Caucasian/White : 44.7%
- Black/ African-American: 52.4%
- American Indian: .1%
- Asian: .7%



Marital Status:

- Never married: 32.7%
- Married: 43.9%
- Divorced: 12%



Employment Status:

- In work force: 65.8%
- Unemployed: 60.8%
- Employed: 4.8%



Household Income:

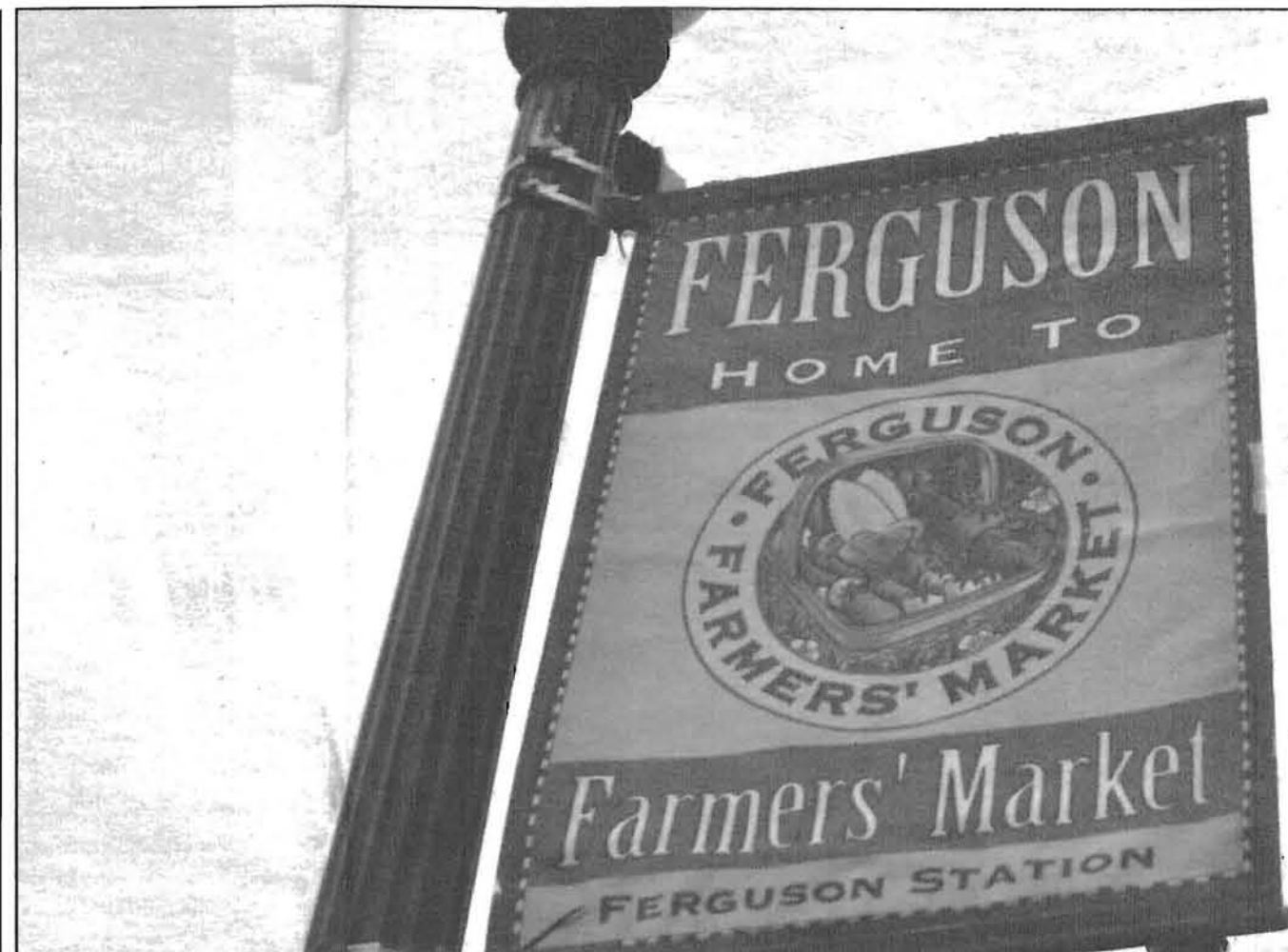
- Less than \$10,000: 8.1%
- \$39,000- 49,000: 19.1%
- \$100,000-\$149,000: 5.1%
- \$200,000 or more: .7%

*2000 Census

Retail in Ferguson

Ferguson has dozens and dozens of shops, from the more well known such as Walgreens, to small town shops like I am That I am Salon. Here are a few samples of what to find:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Design Alternatives | 15 S. Florissant (314)524-4948 |
| O'Neil's Markets | 248 S. Florissant (314)428-2100 |
| Happy Go Lucky Daycare | 497 Airport Rd. (314)524-8155 |
| The Fitting Room LLC | 48 S. Florissant Rd. (314)565-6192 |
| Raindrop Flowers | 258 S. Florissant (314)521-9100 |
| Painted Effects Studio | 485 Airport Rd (314)524-1264 |
| Benton's for Hair | 102 S. Florissant (314)524-6777 |
| Exotic Trendz | 206 S. Florissant (314)524-4888 |
| Finest Fashions & Beauty | 605 S. Florissant (314)521-0200 |
| I Am That I Am Salon | 975 S. Florissant (314)428-0004 |
| Latecia's Salon & Barber | 1028 S. Florissant (314)521-3180 |
| Romero's Barber Shop | 920 S. Florissant (314)524-8400 |
| Taste of Honey Salon | 303 S. Florissant (314)522-2333 |
| The Teakwood Shop | 117 S. Florissant (314)521-9199 |
| Total Being Day Spa | 409 S. Florissant (314)524-9091 |



Things to Do

Ferguson Farmers Market

For a good chunk of the year, Ferguson Farmers Market is open. Experience music, special events, cooking demos and, of course, the food!

May-October

The Challenger Learning Center: Ever dreamed of being an astronaut? The learning center simulates astronaut experiences using NASA mission simulators. 205 Brotherton Lane, (314)521-6205

The Whistle Stop

What used to be a train depot is now a restaurant and museum. Travel over here to learn more about Fergusons' history and a bite to eat. 1 Carson Road, (314)521-1600

Ted Jones Bike Trail

For the athletes, a 2.2 bike trail runs through Ferguson. It connects to 13 miles of other trails that flow through other parts of North County, and runs under highway 70.

Discover the History

Since Ferguson has been around for a couple of centuries, Ferguson has flowing history. Tours can be found throughout the town, as well as historical buildings.

GOOD EATS

Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant

Vincenzo's Italian is the perfect place to fill pasta cravings with a homey feeling. 242 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson MO 63135
(314) 524-7888

Free Range Cookies!

Ferguson hosts one of the few gluten free bakery stores in the St. Louis area. Come try gluten free breads and cookies! 425 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 882-0163

Maid-Rite

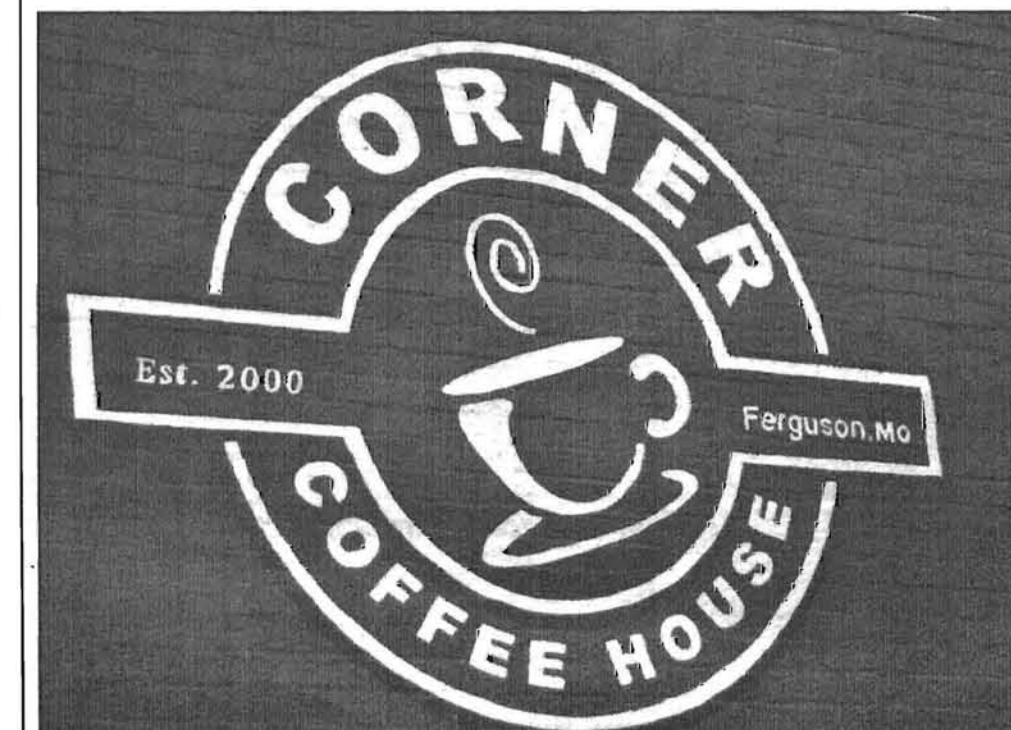
For those craving an all-American meal, try Maid Rite. They have been serving special seasoned hamburgers, hot-dogs, fries, pizza and more in a diner setting since 1926. 25 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 524-9100

Corner Coffee House

Soups, sandwiches, and salads- and of course, coffee! 100 N. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 521-4600

Hill Brewing Company

Visit one of the newer additions to Ferguson and sample the Hill. The brewery serves a wide range of food from burgers, to jambalaya, to steak kabobs. Fresh, homemade brew is a large part of the brewery's appeal. 418 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 521-2220



The spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

MINHO JUNG & ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the last day before school re-starts for University of Missouri-St. Louis students but, sadly, many students just celebrate the extra day off and do not contemplate the true meaning of the holiday.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. King who was a prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement.

"Honestly, I did not pay much attention to the meaning of the holiday. Besides, it seems like only few people actually know and celebrate the day," Yoongyu Lee, freshman, education, said.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. Although he was born into a high class African-American family, he had to face many racial issues throughout his childhood. This led him to be a leader of the civil rights movement. During his time, racial segregation and dis-

crimination against African-Americans were pervasive in American society, especially the southern areas of country where Dr. King was born and raised. Voting rights for African-Americans were at the heart of the movement. Even though African-Americans' voting rights were protected by the United States Constitution, they were often prevented from voting by systematic blocks. The efforts against this discrimination eventually resulted in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

He devoted his entire life to engaging in civil rights issues, arranging and conducting numerous campaigns.

"The most remarkable part of the campaigns was that all the campaigns he led pursued the spirit of non-violence. I think that was the most effective way to preach the idea of equal human rights and the best way to teach people [to] love one another," Jia Chin Lin, graduate student, business administration, said.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, at the age of 39.



On Monday Jan 18, a lot of volunteers get up very early to register for the public service on MLK day in UMSL MSC.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Dr. King's main legacy was that he paved the way for equal opportunities for all American citizens regardless of racial background. In other words, what he did through his whole life enabled more Americans to reach their potential. Even after his death, his values of non-violent resistance have profoundly influenced other political resistances from a one-man demonstrations to big scale rallies.

To honor Dr. King and his contributions, former president Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday on November 2 in

1983. The holiday was named Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 20, 1986. Finally, former president George H. W. Bush assigned the observance to the third Monday in January of each year.

"I think that Martin Luther King Jr. Day should be the day people serve others who are disadvantaged in our society. There are still so many people struggling ... because they are somehow disadvantaged," Michael Stott, sophomore, computer science, said.

Awarding the good work of good people

DEMARKO TIMMONS
Staff Writer

Professor Marvin Berowitz has recently been awarded the Good Work Award by the Association for Moral Education. He received the award



Dr Marvin spends most of his career in education.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

because of the hard work and dedication he puts into his profession.

The Current: Can you give us a little background information on how you became a professor at the University of

Missouri-St. Louis?

Marvin Berowitz: I trained as a developmental psychologist and my focus was on children's moral development but I was very interested [in] how parents and schools affect the development of morality in kids. When the job for the Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education was created at UMSL, I was approached about moving here.

TC: What are some of your job duties working at UM-St. Louis?

MB: My job duties working at UMSL include teaching graduate courses in character education, co-leading at the Center for Character and

Citizenship and running the Leadership Academy in Character Education. I also work with an organization called CharacterPLUS, which helps train educators in character education. Finally, I advise doctoral students studying character education.

TC: What accomplishments have you achieved in your life so far?

MB: I survived to be 60-years-old. I got a teaching position at UMSL, which is very special to me. I received my PH.D. in developmental psychology in 1977. I have been married for 37 years and [have raised] a son who goes to UMSL. Other accomplishments include, creating the Center for Character and Citizenship, winning a lifetime

achievement award from the Character Education Partnership and recently winning the Good Work Award from the Association for Moral Education.

TC: Can you explain more about the Good Work Award that you received?

MB: The organization that awarded it is the Association for Moral Education; the Good Work award was created for people who are using their profession to do good work in the world. It's only the second time that they have given it out.

TC: Can you tell us about the organization?

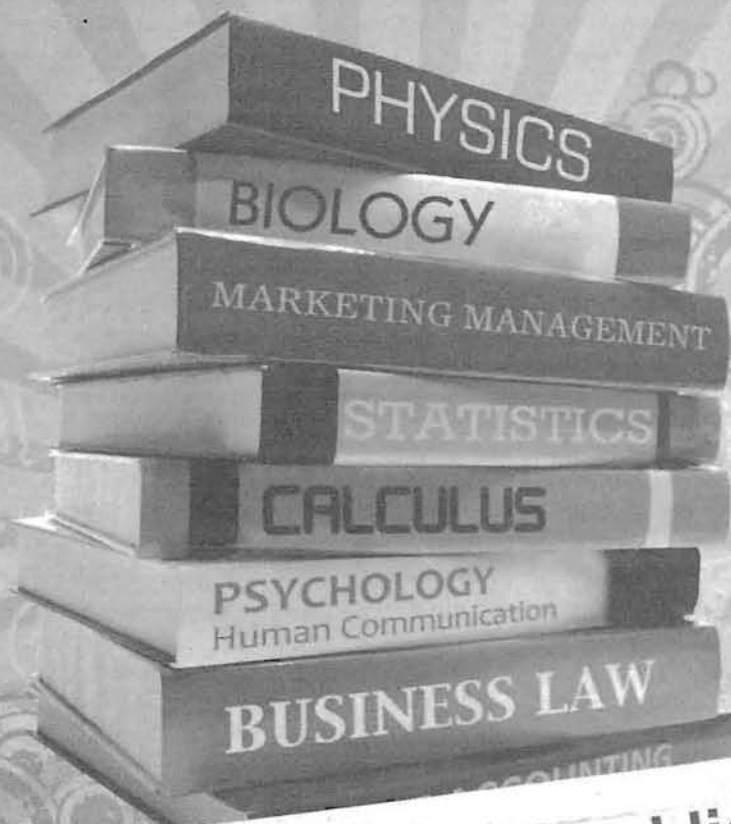
MB: The Association for

Moral Education is an organization of scholar professors from all around the world. It is also known internationally for the study of moral education and moral development. They mostly focus on the scholarly study of these topics. The Good Work Award is an award that recognizes people who are applying such knowledge to improve the world.

TC: What inspires you to continue your in dedication to education?

MB: My mission is to "make a better world." In order to make a better world, we must make better people.

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Opinions

OUR OPINION

Censorship on a classic

Since the beginning of the written word, censorship has been under debate; do we hide words, events, ideas that could be deemed offensive? The latest in the saga, a novel that has personal connection to Missourians, has been in the spotlight. The classic "Huckleberry Finn," written by Mark Twain, is undergoing a revamp.

Twain, labeled a radical in his time and a genius in ours, wrote stories of what Missouri and the 1800's were like. Twain captured everyday living, so included in his book is the language of the time. A publishing company in Alabama, NewSouth, has decided it would be best to release an edition of Huckleberry Finn that will change what is deemed today as derogatory terminology into "more acceptable" terms.

So, instead of the character of "Injun" Joe, it will now be "Indian Joe", and instead of the term "half-breed", it will now be "half-blood." And of course, the most controversial of the languages, the word "nigger" will be changed to "slave."

First of all, if the purpose

behind these changes is to offend fewer people, "Indian Joe" is just as offensive to some because Joe is a Native American, not someone from India. In addition, "half-breed" does not sound much better than "half-blood."

Another sticking point is the word "nigger." In this day and age, the term is offensive, however, the word was also a common expression one hundred and fifty years ago, just as "injun" and "half-breed" were. Though the meaning has changed over the years, back then, it was an acceptable part of everyday vocabulary. There are claims that Twain was a racist for using these words, but the entirety of "Huckleberry Finn" proves just the opposite.

The words "nigger" and "slave" are different, so those who read NewSouth's version might come away with a completely different meaning of the book.

In 2008, Suzanne La Rosa, co-founder of New South interviewed with the Courier Journal. In this article, she explains the mission of NewSouth publications is to re-

lease books filled with culture and history. La Rosa makes comments such as, "we want books that open a window to a culture" and "I love stories about communities, especially when you don't know much about them." It seems to be a tad counterproductive because taking out these words and beliefs would alter a culture and a history.

Also, the common idea, "we learn from our past," will not hold true. How is the present, or anyone in the future, supposed to learn if things like language are altered throughout time to appease minds?

Imagine a century and a half from now, when events and beliefs that hold true today are just simply "the past." Would we want our way of living minimized or changed by future generations just because they do not think it is right?

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

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Ted Williams highlights America's homeless issues

By now, nearly everyone has heard of Ted Williams, the "homeless man with the golden voice."

For those few who do not know, Williams was "discovered" earlier this month by a videographer from the Columbus Dispatch newspaper. A former soldier, Williams served three years before being honorably discharged. He went to school for voice acting and worked for a radio station until drugs and alcohol destroyed his life, leaving him homeless and penniless.

A video of Williams by the side of a road showing off his dulcet tones for spare change went viral on YouTube, garnering the attention of the mainstream media, which went absolutely bonkers for him. As of this publication, Williams has appeared on the "Dave and Jimmy Show" on WNCI, twice on "The Early Show" on CBS, "Today" on NBC, "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" on NBC, "The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell" on MSNBC as well and appeared on multiple days on "Dr. Phil" on CBS.

Job offers quickly flooded in; Kraft Foods hired him to do a voiceover, and the Cleveland Cavaliers offered him both a job and a house. MSNBC has already hired him to provide voiceovers for their network for the foreseeable future.

What is surprising is just how much media coverage Williams is receiving. Why are these media outlets go-

ing crazy for him? Is it his sordid tale? Is it mere novelty? At one point, there were network executives actually fighting over what networks Williams would be appearing on.

More and more is coming out about Williams' past—such as the fact that he has been a deadbeat dad for years and has seven daughters and two sons. He claimed he had been sober for two years, but he has recently admitted that he has begun drinking again due to the sudden celebrity.

Here is the problem; the media has championed the story of Ted Williams' rise to notoriety as a "feel-good" story, one to offset the constant barrage of bad news heard every day. It is a kind of group panacea to the daily list of kidnappings, shootings, and killings rattled off by local anchors.

But by placing the hopes and expectations of an entire nation onto Williams' shoulders, the pressures put upon him have pushed him to drinking heavily again. By feeding off the tale of his redemption, the media is setting up Williams for an even bigger fall.

So why is Williams so special? It is as if people are shocked to discover that a homeless person is just like them. Imagine that, a homeless person that's actually a person! What isn't realized is that every homeless person is just that—a person.

There are thousands of homeless people in America. The AHAR—Annual



Andrew Seal

Homeless Assessment Report— from 2008 puts the amount at somewhere around 1.6 million people and that number has only grown since then.

There are dozens of groups that do great work for the homeless, from major groups like Goodwill to local churches and aid groups. The issue is that there is just not enough help.

Where is the media frenzy over the rest of homeless population? Sure, not every homeless person has a voice (or a past) like Ted Williams, but that should not and does not matter.

It seems as if people are merely resigned to the fact that America has a major homeless issue. But Ted Williams is living proof that with a little kindness, and a little good will, people can get back on their feet if they are given a chance.

It is time that America's homeless population is given a chance. Think about what you can do to help.

Andrew Seal is a Opinions Editor for The Current.

What do you think?
Let us know at
www.thecurrent-online.com

SCIENCE MATTERS

Climate change exhibit at St. Louis Science Center

There is a climate change of sorts underway at the St. Louis Science Center, as demonstrated by a new special exhibit.

"Climate Change" is an excellent, just-the-facts exhibit exploring the science of global warming and climate change, its impact on the planet and what we can do.

This new exhibit is a follow-up to the outstanding 2010 exhibit on Charles Darwin. That attractive, comprehensive, multi-room, multi-media exhibit covered the whole of Darwin's life and work on evolution and natural selection, including the historical context of the publication of his theories and our nation's ongoing sociopolitical debate on evolution.

This pair of engaging yet serious science exhibits signals a climate change of sorts for the St. Louis Science Center.

For many years, our Science Center seemed more a children's museum with a safely sanitized science theme, rather than museum for anyone who loves science. There seemed to be little to interest adults and a kind of determination to avoid anything that could be remotely controversial or challenging—even that bedrock of biology, evolution.

Now the Science Center seems to be breaking free of this narrow restraint, with a new willingness to present science exhibits to engage both children and adults.

The new, free "Climate Change" exhibit, displayed in the Exploradome, focuses on the scientific facts. It is a handsome, interactive, multi-media exploration of the subject. The visually-dynamic displays illustrate the various points in an engaging and clear manner, offering accessible science information to both adults and kids.

Refreshingly, the large exhibit begins with coal—what it is, how it was formed and the role it played in the Industrial Revolution. The choice is important, given coal's importance in the earliest years of industrialization. Long before anyone talked about climate change, people were aware of the environmental impact of coal and began to search for cleaner alternative fuels.

The exhibit includes an excellent large graph illustrating the parallels between industrialization, CO2 levels and temperatures. It offers information on how climate and weather differ, on the greenhouse effect, on atmosphere, solar radiation and the oceans. It explores the range of changes already observed, the historical climate evidence and changes predicted for the planet as it warms. The exhibit also offers suggestions to mitigate one's carbon footprint and a comparison of various energy sources.

The exhibit is colorful and well-arranged, making a visit both engaging and informative. There are several interac-



Cate Marquis

tive displays and several short videos, with seating provided. The exhibit engages all the senses with graphics and maps, written materials and spoken presentations. The general-audience exhibit includes information aimed at a variety of ages and knowledge levels, so there is plenty to engage those with more knowledge on the topic.

In addition to this strong, special exhibit, the Science Center is showing a new science focus in its choice of Omnimax films. "IMAX Hubble," on the Hubble Telescope and a new film on sea reptiles of the Age of Dinosaurs, "Sea Rex," are refreshingly science-based, an enormous improvement on "The Legends of Flight," which was simply a long advertisement for Boeing that has little to do with the history of flight.

How delightful it is to see the St. Louis Science Center reaching beyond the middle school years and expanding its science education mission.

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

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

When idiots gather, the world will end

"We're all going to die in 2012!" Sound familiar to anybody? Well, it really should, since ten years ago, a similar scare popped up. The turn of the century saw massive increases in spending and stockpiling of pointless freeze-dried rations and toilet paper.

Some families even installed bunkers under their houses to protect themselves from the computer-based apocalypse. If the readers will remember, nothing happened!

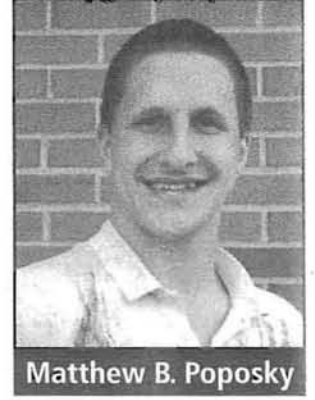
Now, granted, the Mayans have predicted several things successfully. However, most of their predictions have been heavily based upon natural occurrences. A draught will occur?

Anybody with basic knowledge of aquatic systems could make that claim. A civilization will rise? This is basic history, even in the past. Civilizations rose and fell all the time. The really funny part about this fear is that most people do not even understand how the Mayan calendar system works. Most people are afraid because the vague claims made by Mayan predictions have come true, and thus, since the Mayan calendar stopped at 2012, this must mean the world will end or change forever. However, researching their calendar system will illuminate that the calendar ending on December 21st, 2012 was actually a calendar planned for over 5000 years in the

future.

How many people in this world can honestly say that, given the technology and knowledge of the Mayans, they would have even made that much effort? Planning ahead, using basic star-reading and religious predictions, by over 5000 years seems a daunting task, and it is astounding the Mayans made that much effort. Honestly, most people would not be willing to continue making calendars even this far, much less further. Quite frankly, the Mayans' ending their calendar in 2012 simply signified the end of one 5,000 year cycle, and the beginning of the next. In addition to this, there are few upcoming massive geological/astronomical events that scientists have found to possibly support this theory. One is an impending tilt in the Earth's magnetic field. This has already begun, and is a process which usually takes a few hundred years to complete itself. It is also a process which has occurred in the past and certainly has not destroyed the Earth in those instances.

Honestly, this constant fear of the Earth's destruction has gotten a bit ridiculous. If the Earth is going to come to an end anytime soon, it will not be due to some vague prediction by an ancient civilization. It certainly will not be caused by said civilization deciding they were through with making calendars by hand 5000 years in advance.



Matthew B. Poposky

What will cause an early demise of mankind? The people who buy in to this crap.

Mankind has a tendency to fulfill their own prophecies. Prophecy is nothing but a prediction, much like a horoscope or palm reading. There is no real science, no real fact, involved in the process. It can be entertaining, but it is each individual who decides what to do with this "information."

Now, say a massive group of people decide the world will end on 12/21/2012? Yeah, the world may end then. Not because of some Mayan prediction and not because the Mayans got sick of writing, but because modern man is so obsessed with proving prophecies as legitimate that somebody presses the wrong buttons, pulls the wrong triggers, or insults the wrong group, and causes mass pandemonium.

Get a clue, people. The world will not suddenly end in 2012!

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

Does science matter?
Let us know at thecurrent-online.com

We agree with Matthew.

Do you?

www.thecurrent-online.com

Point/Counterpoint



Is the removal of red light cameras a good idea?

Keep the traffic cameras

Red light cameras have a purpose: they are meant to help control traffic when actual officers cannot keep watch. Police forces have only so many officers at their disposal, and thus, it is necessary to somehow enforce the laws whenever a human officer cannot be nearby.

There has been controversy over red light cameras since their inception in 2005. According to Mayor Sandy Lucy, quoted on Siltoday.com, most citizens seem to side with or against the cameras based on whether they have received a ticket from them. But are there not more important factors to consider when implementing safety procedures? Washington, Missouri has two cameras they plan on removing come March, both placed along Highway 100. One is at the intersection of Highway 100 and Route A, and the other intersects 100 at Route 47.

According to reports by American Traffic Solutions and the city itself, the camera at the Route A light alone managed to cut accident-induced injuries by fifty percent. While the number of actual accidents may have only dropped by 17 in the past three years, this proves that the cameras are hav-

ing a positive impact: fewer injuries mean that serious accidents have drastically reduced.

In addition, both sources cite that most accidents were caused by incidents which even an officer would likely not be able to prevent, such as cars following too closely coming up on a light. With or without cameras, with or without an officer, cars following too closely will collide. The cameras have had a positive impact in that they have prevented serious accidents from occurring.

Other advocates of the cameras' removal cite how the revenue from these cameras has mostly gone to ATS, rather than the city itself: as much as 91%, to be precise. Granted, this is not a pleasant statistic. However, anybody familiar with business knows that this is how outsourcing works. When a job, such as the safety of a city, is handed over to an outside company, a contract is drawn up. The city knew from the beginning how much of the funds coming in from citations and tickets would be given to either party, and so this complaint really ought not to have been made in the first place. The ATS also cites that, accord-

ing to their records for these two lights alone, citations have dropped nearly 70% in the past year alone. In 2009, 2,095 red light citations were handed out based on traffic violations caught on camera. However, in the previous fiscal year, only 743 citations were given out. Thus, these red light cameras, while not perfect, are certainly having a positive impact. Serious accidents have sharply declined, and citations have dropped as well.

This seems more like the city of Washington is more interested in bringing in more personal revenue than that they are concerned with the overall effectiveness of the cameras in question. The city has attempted to cite that overall accident numbers have not dropped much, but the cameras have still managed to accomplish two of their three goals.

If the main complaint is incoming revenue, then the city of Washington really ought to make an effort to rewrite the contract, rather than flat out dropping it. When citizens realize the cameras have vanished, they will likely return to their previous reckless driving.

Remove the traffic cameras

In a rousing victory for logic and decency, Washington, Mo. has announced that in March, it will be removing two red light cameras from its stretch of Highway 100.

Just in case anyone has not been paying attention, red light cameras are cameras that electronically surveil intersections, ensuring anybody who runs a red light receives a ticket a few days later in the mail. Their presence at intersections has nothing to do with accident reduction or safety, but everything to do with being a turn-key way for a small municipal government to make money off people driving by in a hurry.

A 2005 Virginia Department of Transportation study found these red light cameras to actually be a hazard. Although the cameras did decrease the number of accidents caused by red light running, they actually increased the number of rear-end crashes as well as the total number of accidents at the intersection.

Th findings in Virginia held true in Washington, Mo. as well.

"It is my opinion, the three-year red-light camera program has had little, if any, impact on the overall safety of the two intersections," said

Kenneth Hahn, the police chief of Washington.

Even more appalling than the blatant municipal money grab behind red light cameras is where that money actually goes. \$534,000 in fines has come in from these cameras over the three years these they have been in place in Washington.

But, according to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, over 91% of that revenue goes to American Traffic Solutions, the company that installed and maintains the cameras. It doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that traffic cameras are just a massive money funnel, stealing from local Missourians and giving to American Traffic Solutions, headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Washington is not alone in removing these types of cameras. Charlack, Mo. is taking down the cameras they installed on a stretch of Interstate 170 that runs through their small city.

Their decision to do so comes after the Charlack Police Department was criticized by MoDot for not providing enough actual human oversight of the cameras.

The only difference between Washington and Charlack taking down the cameras

is that Washington has done because it is the decent thing to do, whereas Charlack has been pressured to do so by MoDot and public opinion.

The wave of anti-traffic camera sentimentality is likely to only gain more steam in the coming months. The Post Dispatch reported on January 8 that The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be making dealing with red light cameras a priority when the legislature convenes later this month in Jefferson City.

If history is any guide, legislation concerning red light cameras coming out of the capital is going to be decidedly of the 'get rid of them' persuasion. A bill to do so was proposed last year.

One legislator, Republican State Senator Jim Lembke, even went as far as to encourage his constituents to just ignore any red light camera tickets they receive. And until other areas of the state wise up like Washington, that is exactly what people are going to do.

Have something on your mind this week?

www.thecurrent-online.com

Comics

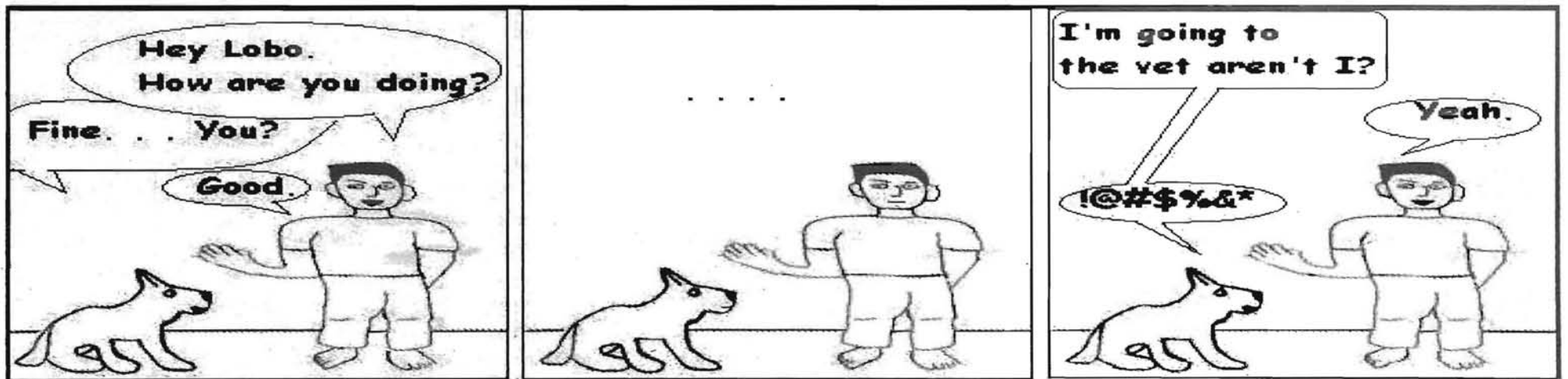
Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



Question Marks by Stephen Peterson



Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



Puzzles & Classifieds

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

This week is going to be cold. You have been trapped in a large storage freezer since New Years. Eat your fingers for warmth.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Early in the morning every day this week, your dog is going to ask for something ridiculous. Just throw it out and get a new one, they breed like rabbits anyway.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taurus, you normally go to the bathroom to steal toilet paper and then fall in a large puddle of piss. Make tonight different and go power walking wearing that new shirt you bought. You are sickening.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

People hate your company. You bring a horrible perspective to every conversation you interrupt. Try Satanism this week.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Recently your twin gave you a pill and the laser beam is almost done slicing your face off. You have completely failed at life.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Wake up, then eat, and then take a shower. That is what this life of yours is going to be like until you get up and do something. Why are you such a lazy human?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Check your breast today and tomorrow, because you never know when your own sign might attack. Let a friend help with the exam... and take pictures for your doctor while you do it.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You're so tired, oh so very tired. How do you put up with all of the idiots you work with? You do not know but if it keeps happening the sh*ts gonna hit the fan!

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Mrs. Kaufman put you in time out because you showed your wee wee to Samantha. Yeah it is weird looking but no one, I mean no one wants to see that thing.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Let's get this straight: we never found any weapons of mass destruction, so why are we in Iraq and why don't you do something. Jerk.

VIRGO (AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

This week, you are going to look beautiful. Eat healthy and sleep well because you are going to be exhausted from all the lovely compliments.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Stop eating fish! You are allergic. Also don't let people talk down to you. You should talk down to them, in their face.

CURRENT WORD SEARCH

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

Activist
Alabama
Birmingham
Boycott
Civil
Correia
Dream
Equality
Freedom

Hope
King
Lincoln
Luther
March
Martin
Memphis
Montgomery
Morehouse

nonviolent
Peace
Protest
Rights
Speech
Voice
Washington



**1.27
OSL OPEN HOUSE**

2:32pm | 366 MSC
Get involved



**1.31
BLOOD DRIVE**

10am-2pm | Century Rooms, MSC
Give a pint, save a life



**2.1
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OPENING**

6:30pm | JC Penney Auditorium
Celebrating the start of Black History Month



**2.3
PACK THE STANDS**

5:30pm | Mark Twain Gym
Men's and Women's Basketball



**2.8
COREY CIOCCHETTI**

7:00pm | JC Penney Auditorium
Chasing Authentic Success



**2.18
LEGEND SINGERS**

7:00PM | Touhill Center
Black History Month Performance



**4.20
MIRTHDAY**

All day | UMSL Campus
Spring carnival and concert



**4.25
STUDENT LIFE
LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

6:00pm | Century Rooms, MSC
Celebrating student leadership



**4.29
RELAY FOR LIFE**

6:00pm-6:00am | UMSL campus
A walk to fight cancer

GET A
[STUDENT]
LIFE >>

What's Current

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



Volunteers are sitting in the MSC hall, 3rd floor. Different groups which will serve different areas in Normandy.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Free Wellness Classes This Week

Campus Rec's aerobics and wellness classes are free this week, JAN. 18-22! Drop by the Mark Twain Rec Center and check them out. When you experience the great benefits, you'll want to register for the rest of our Winter/Spring classes that run through May 7. Certified fitness instructors teach classes such as Spinning, Cardio Pump, Core Fusion, Pilates, Stretch & Tone, Turbo Sculpt, Yoga, Water Exercise Training, Zumba, and more. Register for classes at the Campus Rec Office, 203 Mark Twain, 516-5326.

UPB: Be Happy Day

Come on out to the MSC Bridge to tell us what makes you happy. We want to see your happy faces after a long winter break! For more information contact Jaime Wacker at 314-516-5531.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Winter Expo

From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the MSC Rotunda, Come on out to the Winter Expo to see what the organizations have in store for the you and the up and coming semester! For information contact Jaime Wacker at 314-516-5531.

Thursday, Jan. 20

UPB: Winter Carnival

At 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located in the 3rd floor Rotunda MSC. Open to all. Come on up to the 3rd floor rotunda MSC for the Winter Carnival! You will have tons of friends with your old friends and your new classmates! For more information contact Jaime Wacker at 314-516-5531.

Pop Manifesto Closing Party

At 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Pilot House / Gallery Visio, Open to everyone. There will be light refreshments, live DJ, and live art. This event is free and open to the public. For contact information, call Stephanie Sivils at 314-516-7922.

Friday, Jan. 21

UPB: Get Chilly TV Dinner

From 6:00 p.m. to 11:55 p.m. located in Oak Hall, Open to all. Come on by Oak Hall and watch some of your favorite TV shows! For information contact Jaime Wacker at 314-516-5531.

The Basics of Writing a Business Plan

From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. located at J.C. Penney Conference Center. Open to all. Create a business plan that appeals to lenders in substance and appearance. This workshop goes step-by-step through each section and offers a tool to help with the financials. For information contact Alan Hauff at 314-516-6121.