

The Current

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PROVINCIAL HOUSE DINING HALL

Provincial House meal rate hike causes friction

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The Current

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AFFILIATIONS



News

Provincial House Dining Hall upgrades, meal prices frustrate

BADIA EAD
Staff Writer

University of Missouri-St. Louis' residential students have been eager to try out Provincial House's newly constructed dining hall since its renovations began, hoping to experience a welcome departure from the previously outdated dining facility students have dealt with for years. Construction took place for the better part of the fall semester until it was completed and ready for use in mid-October. But students grew frustrated when they learned the previous rate of \$5.50 per swipe which covered an all-you-can-eat buffet-style meal no longer applied. Some meal prices did not just slightly increase, but rather doubled. Because the transition was made without enough advance notification details about the price change, many students who are on the meal plan show frustration as well as excitement about the change.

"Like most, if not all, students, I found out about the new price hike when I first went to the new dining hall. I was really surprised to find out that I was charged \$11.50 [for dinner]," Justin Hyun, sophomore, accounting, said. "It made me feel like I was kept in the dark. The least they could have done was to notify the residents beforehand."

Concerns have not gone unheard, especially by those who are in Provincial House every day and concede the facility is an upgrade, but believe the diners should be considered. After all, these changes mean nothing if the diners do not return.

"The way they set it up is really very nice, and it's very impressive. I think it's going to make it a little bit difficult to be flexible with pricing," Dean Bob Bliss, Pierre Laclades Honors College, UMSL, said. "But if we decide we want a catering facility for everyone on South Campus - faculty, staff, people on high salaries, people on low salaries, students especially - then if we want that kind of catering facility, then I think that pricing policy has to change."

UMSL held a town hall meeting in the beginning of October to allow students' opinions and concerns to be heard. Students say they were told there would be a price increase, but not how much that increase would be. They also voiced concerns about food and service quality in the new dining hall.

"We were looking forward to it. It's a great idea to have a kiosk like that. It's revolutionary in campus dining, but I don't think it's worth it. I'm upset I can't build my own salad. I have to order a salad from

McDonald's, basically," Sara Gerberding, sophomore, biology, said. "And the food didn't taste as good as you'd expect it to. The quality isn't what you'd expect."

Residential students are required to choose one meal plan for a contract. Hyun is frustrated he did not know meal prices would eventually increase when he chose his meal plan before the semester began.

"I came into the semester and did my meal plan budgeting in accordance to the previous [rate] per meal, so that I knew exactly how many meals I could eat

per week without running out of money by the end of the winter semester," Hyun said. "Now I do not know if I have enough money left to eat lunch or dinner every day until the winter break! They should not have implemented the change until spring semester when students could choose to change their meal plan."

On the other hand, Hyun concedes the recently renovated dining hall is quite a bit more visually pleasing and inviting than the previously unchanged dining hall had been to patrons. New features added regarding ordering food through the new system also received positive feedback from students and faculty alike since the renovations were completed.

"The revamped dining

hall has far superior interior designs and is actually a place where students would want to come eat and hang-out. The new place features a food-on-demand system where students order their food via touch-screen," Hyun said. But for Hyun, the whole issue concerning the transition comes back to the cost rather than anything else. "I believe that the food service did improve; however, it does not justify the substantial price hike that has been dumped on students," Hyun said.

For Dean Bliss, who eats and socializes with a certain group of students from time to time, the meal time discussions are also important.

"It's a group of (...) students who I've sort of gotten into the habit of eating with. Some of them are honors students, some of them are not. It's a very good group and I enjoy talking with them," Dean Bliss said. "We spent most of our time yesterday talking about Jane Austen, in fact, instead of about the food, which is how it should be."

Further discussion concerning the changes is expected to happen after taking into consideration students' opinions on the recent improvements. As these opinions are currently being vocalized, more changes may come.

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News at Noon brings up the issue of dark side of statistics

JOSEPH GRATE

Staff Writer

The monthly series, News at Noon at University of Missouri-St. Louis, held their second session for the fall semester on November 2, 2011. News at Noon is a collaboration between *The Current*, UMSL's Center for Teaching and Learning and the New York Times and is a part of the American Democracy Project. Faculty and students came together to discuss the misreading or data in public statistics, to eat free pizza and to come to realizations concerning a variety of views which are held by their peers across the campus.

The diverse crowd, from all educational departments, paid a visit to the SGA Chambers in order to be informed about the dark side of public statistics, and how these statistics may accidentally

confuse or even intentionally mislead their readers.

The presentation was led by William Winter, a research analyst at UMSL's Public Policy Research Center. The session started out with a handout of an article about the city of St. Louis' population shrinking exponentially in its internal sectors. Winter wanted to show how to take the data in its most essential sense, pointing out that some information may be correct but might still not reflect the truth in its entirety. "People generally just want the data; they want the facts," Winter said. "They're really stories. They're not just objective truth we are getting." People do just want to hear numbers, but that data can be used to uncover stories. It is this analysis of the numbers,

in order to gain a further insight into the trends of population growth and decline across the nation, as well as right here at home, which was focused upon.

Winter focused on St. Louis as the example for data. The article that was handed out represented data that supported a "decline," as Winter called it. However, looking at the data alone, there are many other stories that get neglected and overlooked. He pointed out that suburbs and other parts of the city did actually grow.

By comparing the data with maps and timelines, Winter brought up more useful questions. Some examples he showed were single residents starting to move into the city while families were moving out into the suburbs.

The discussion turned

to the flaws of our census. The census information in the city does not get turned in as often as the information from residents in suburbs. Also, he pointed out that population and regional change are constantly happening and are determined by a variety of factors: policies, transportation and preferences.

Part of the presentation was the support of 24:1, a community development initiative from St. Louis. Sabrina Baldwin, a worker for Beyond Housing, came to represent the organization.

"24:1 represents 24 communities working for one vision," Baldwin said. "In order to reach that vision we have aligned our work with 11 different impact areas."

Several examples of

impacted areas were brought up as well as how their issues come from that influence. One in particular strikes home in UMSL's neighborhood, Normandy. Normandy's school district is about to lose accreditation, according to Baldwin. Her concern is that with a poor school, families would not want to move in the area where the population is decreasing.

UMSL is involved with the 24:1 group already. Many classes involving social media and community relations have sprung up from 24:1 incentives.

One includes "UMSL student tutoring with a variety of organizations in Normandy's school," Peggy Cohen, associate provost for professional development and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, UMSL, said.

"Some of the after-school programs started from this initiative," Cohen said.

The objective was to prove that using data for discovering stories can lead programs, such as 24:1, to help build or restore a community. A growing community is beneficial according to Cohen. Cohen compared the community growth to Ferguson. "There's good stuff happening when good neighbors are moving in," Cohen said. "New neighbors get involved and support their neighborhood community."

The remaining discussion turned back toward reading data and comparing maps with numbers. The final note was a discussion about how the political scene has changed with the population for the past years.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Sarah Lowe

"What is your opinion about the Occupy Wall Street movement?"



"The protests have good motivation and intent, but they should be developing methods for solving their anti-capitalist ideologies if they want to succeed."

Andrew Repple
Communications
Junior



"The idea of protesting isn't horrible, but no one is offering a solution which makes the protest useless."

Allison Wollenberger
Spanish
Junior



"I believe OWS is full of people who don't know what they're standing up for. It's going to have negative repercussions."

Kris Kinsinger
Marketing
Junior

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 or written submissions.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE IF WE DROPPED 1,111 PING PONG BALLS OUTSIDE THE MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER?

1,111 BALLS
11:11:11 AM
111 PRIZES

THIS IS GOING TO BE HUGE!
AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF BALLS...

UMSL
BOOKSTORE

Tuesday, November 8

Bachman book series

From 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in Millennium Student Center and open to all. John Bachmann, Edward Jones senior partner and executive fellow at the UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium, hosts a book series each year, interviewing a book author on a timely issue in business.

For more information, call Dr. Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

Wednesday, November 9

Gateway writing project - youth writing festival

From 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Located in J.C. Penney Conference Center and open to all. Students, please read the session descriptions and indicate your top three choices on your registration form. When you arrive, you will receive a registration packet listing your sessions. We will do our best to give you your top choices. Fee: \$20

For more information, call Mattie Lewis at 314-516-5655.

Monday, November 14

International students studying in America: let's talk

From 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Located in Millennium Student Center 225 and open to students.

In this workshop, you will meet other international students, discuss issues relating to adjusting to college and living in the U.S., discuss customs and language and learn how to manage stress of living abroad and learn how to succeed in American classrooms.

For more information, call Antionette Sterling at 516-5300.

Thursday, November 10

Operation send hope

From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located in The Nosh and open to all.

As a part of Random Acts of Kindness Week, we will be reaching out to those in need of encouragement and hope. Come make a card, write a note, or even draw a picture, and we will send that message of hope to those who need it most.

For more information, call Marissa Steimel at 314-516-5531.

Friday, November 11

UMSL Veterans Day flag raising ceremony

From 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Located at Woods Hall and open to all.

Join the Veterans Student Organization in commemorating Veterans Day and honoring our troops, past and present. We will conduct a time honored ceremony by raising the US National, State, and School Colors outside Woods Hall. Please join us as we celebrate our shared sacrifices and honor our fallen service members.

For more information, call Joseph Gomez (VSO President) at 314-516-4036.

As student loan debt hits trillion dollar mark, students worry about uncertain future of job market

RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

Forbes magazine recently projected that student loan debt in America will pass the \$1 trillion mark before the end of 2011 coinciding with this somewhat dubious occasion are a number of new changes affecting the student loan process, including a new executive order from President Barack Obama.

It has been widely reported that the average amount of a student loan debt that a graduating senior leaves college with is around \$25,000; a data set provided by University of Missouri-St. Louis' own Office of Financial Aid puts the number right at \$24,834. That number, however, is not

derived only from students who received federal financial aid for tuition. For instance, it does not include students whose families had robust savings and received no federal financial aid; nor does it include students who received comprehensive scholarships or grants. Nationally, only about 32% of students received no federal financial aid; Anthony Georges, Director of Student Financial Aid in the Office of Financial Aid, says that the UMSL student body is very close to the national average in that regard. According to Georges, the UMSL Office of Financial Aid processed \$138 million last year in

total financial aid and \$75 million of that was federal student loans.

Georges said that even though UMSL students are just as likely to take out student loans, the reasons for borrowing are often far more diverse than for tuition alone.

"We're an urban metropolitan university. Our students maybe work or are single parents or they're married, but they wear many different hats," Georges said. "Students who go to universities in major metropolitan areas will have a different financial need than students going to a different kind of institution."

Last year, Congress passed a law eliminating the role of private banks in the federal student loan program. But individuals who took federal student loans in which private banks had a hand have just gotten some reprieve from the White House in the form of an executive order signed by President Obama. Students paying back multiple loans are now able to consolidate them into a single payment at a lower rate. Also, the maximum amount that a person can be forced to pay has been lowered from 15 percent of discretionary annual income down to 10 percent.

But that executive

order is not the only development which is adversely affecting the student loan process to come out of Washington D.C. in recent years. To make matters worse, Congress has announced that the interest rate on federal student loans will double next year from the 2011-2012 rate of 3.4% to 6.8% starting with the school year beginning in 2012.

Georges said that with student loans a student is basically borrowing without any guarantees or estimation of their future earnings. The biggest problem facing students trying to repay loans is the high unemployment rate

among recent graduates. Many students are having trouble finding adequate employment and 6 months after an individual stops going to school, he or she has to begin repaying those loans no matter what, employed or not.

The concern over the nation's unemployment rate is a sentiment not lost on many UMSL students.

"I didn't really think too much about it when I first took out loans," Paul Cotton, junior, business, said. "My [older] brother did and it worked out well for him. But I'm thinking I'm probably going to be graduating into a much different situation than he did."

"Knowledge is power" conference talks about health disparity issue

The third annual "Knowledge is Power" conference brings awareness of breast cancer among African American women to the J.C. Penney Conference Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

MINHO JUNG
News Editor

The third annual Black Women & Breast Cancer Conference was held at J.C. Penney Conference Center on Saturday, November 5.

"The goal of this event is an education. [The purpose of the event is], through education, to empower women to have the right questions and right information about breast cancer [so that they can] ask when they go to their [medical service] providers." Margaret Barton-Burke, Mary Ann Lee endowed professor of oncology nursing, said.

250 people were pre-registered this year for this

annual health-awareness event, which is higher than the records of previous two years. From early in the morning, the J.C. Penney Conference Center was packed with people who want to know about how to prevent and survive this life-threatening disease for women. Many organizations from the St. Louis area participated in this event for the same purpose: building a healthy community for all women and tackling health disparities within the community. Participants provided information ranging from basic facts about breast

cancer to the service of a basic health condition check-up.

"The reason why I am here this year is that I think when I see anybody with the disease that can be prevented, I want to try to help with that," Bonnie Salih, RN, Health and Wellness Educator, said.

One of the primary focuses of the event is to raise awareness of health disparities concerning African American women and breast cancer. According to The Missouri Foundation for Health, the death rate in 2009 shows that a higher number of African American than caucasian

women die from breast cancer in St. Louis city and county despite that fact that the diagnosis rate of breast cancer for African American women is actually lower than that of Caucasian women.

"There is a high incidence of breast cancer among African American women and [white women]; but, more black women die from breast cancer than white women. That is the message we want to get out," Barton-Burke said.

Health disparities are inequalities that exist when members of certain groups have more benefits than

other groups. In relation to cancer, the difference could occur when a certain group of people shows higher mortality than others, or when a certain group has a lower survival rate than others.

"Incidence is when you first get the disease; prevalence is the disease that spread in the community; mortality is the death. Anytime if there is difference between [different racial groups], we call it disparities," Jade D. James, SSM Health Care, obstetrician/gynecologist said. "The disparity in terms of breast cancer is that when

black women get cancer, they tend to die from it. [Although] they do not get it as much [as Caucasian women], those who get it, they get diagnosed with it at later stages."

According to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the most common cancer amongst women in the United States. Also it is known as one of the leading causes of women's death in all races. Because there is no cure for breast cancer at this point, early detection from screening examinations is critical to surviving the disease.

UMSL professor looks at the benefits of home health care

Associate professor of social work describes the advantages of private healthcare in her study

DAVID VON NORDHEIM

Staff Writer

One of the most pressing financial concerns for families of special needs children stems from the decision between public healthcare programs and private home treatment. Dr. Shirley Porterfield, associate professor at University of Missouri-St. Louis' School of Social Work, has co-authored a comprehensive analysis of the monetary advantages of practicing home-based treatment with private physicians, an arrangement known as the medical home model.

This study, published online October 17 and in print last week, marked a significant accomplishment for both advocates of the medical home healthcare model and for Dr. Porterfield.

"This study has been far more high profile than any of the other studies I've worked on," Dr. Porterfield said. "There's a lot of talk about [the medical home model], and I think it's partly why the article got picked up."

Using the data acquired from the National Survey of Children with Special Healthcare Needs, Dr. Porterfield and her associates analyzed data from nearly 32,000 special needs children. Their analysis indicated that families practicing the medical home model

in conjunction with services from a family physician reduced their childcare costs by an average of 30 percent. According to the results of their research, medical home families also pay significantly fewer out-of-pocket expenses on their children's healthcare than families using public insurance, who often spend more than five percent of their household income on these same expenses.

"We did expect to see that the medical home would make a difference. What surprised us was the magnitude of the difference for families with private insurance," Dr. Porterfield said. "I think [the medical model] is the wave of the future; we know that it saves total costs and it saves money for families as well."

Although Dr. Porterfield's study was concerned primarily with examining the out-of-pocket expenses of special needs families, she also proposed several ancillary benefits to the medical home model, including a reduction in household stress and greater job stability for parents. Families who used private healthcare practices also had less difficulty getting doctor referrals to healthcare specialists, giving them better access to the individualized care their children need.

Since Dr. Porterfield's

research is focused chiefly on the families of children with disabilities, she acknowledges that the results of her study are not necessarily applicable to all families. In her future research, she aims to explore the possible advantages of the medical home in households without special needs and give a closer analysis to the role a parent's employment plays in the success of private healthcare.

Many health care professionals consider the medical home the ideal treatment situation for special needs children and the sort of private treatment described in Dr. Porterfield's study is already being implemented in several medical practices in the St. Louis area. Dr. Porterfield hopes that by applying tangible economic benefits to private healthcare, her study will increase the medical home's appeal to families and further promote its practice in the healthcare field.

"Ultimately, I think the medical home structure makes a lot of sense and probably should be expanded to more practices," Dr. Porterfield said.

Dr. Porterfield plans on conducting further research on the same topic. More discoveries are expected for the success in the field of healthcare.



Shirley Porterfield, professor of social work

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

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UMSL Police Report

10/31 - 1:30 p.m. - Provincial House. Officers responded to fire alarm sounding. It was caused by a malfunction in an exhaust hood in the dining hall.

10/31 - 11:56 p.m. - SSB. Officers responded to a sick case involving an UMSL

employee complaining of dizziness and severe stomach pains. The employee was transported to Mercy Hospital by ambulance.

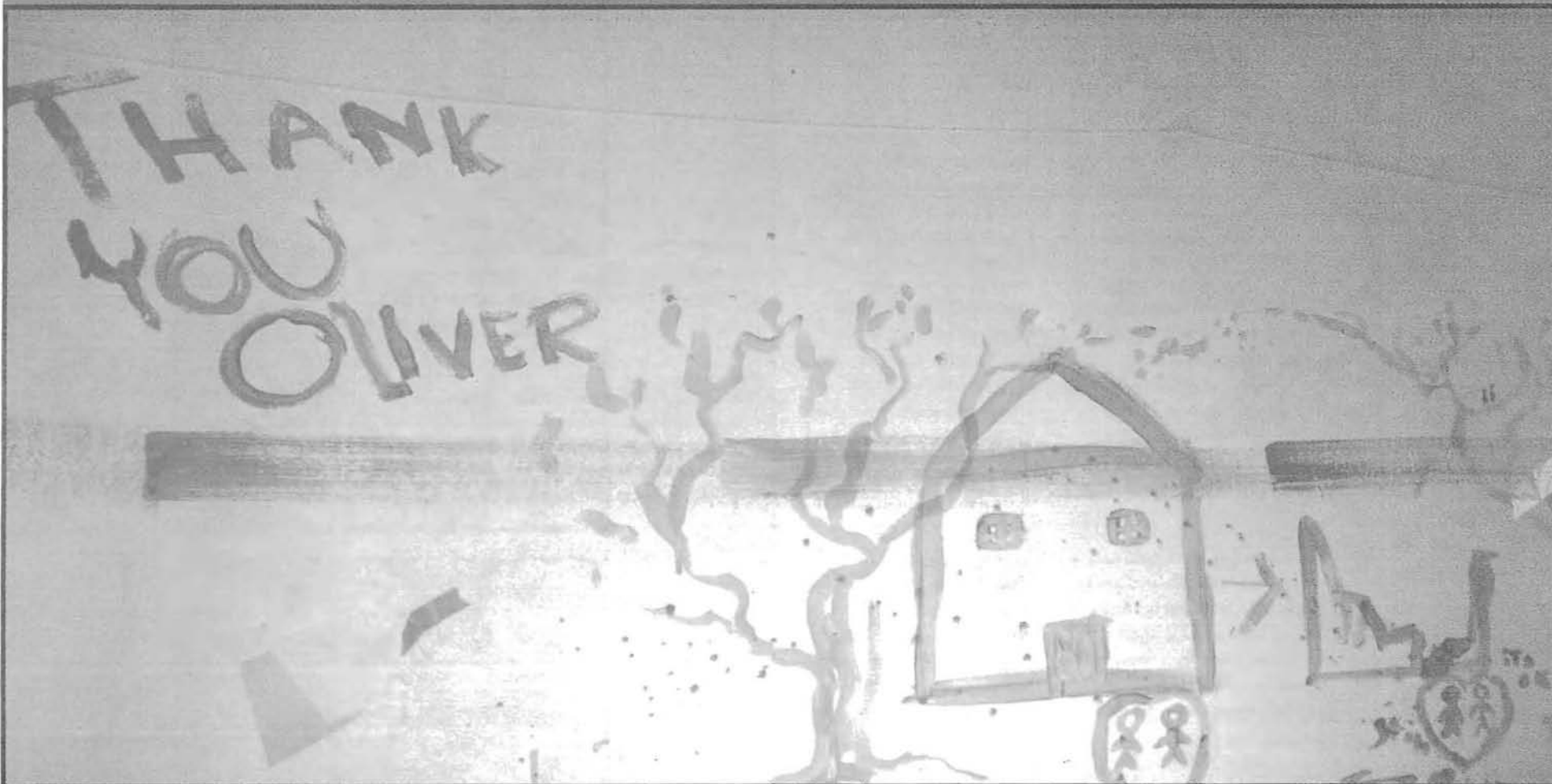
11/1 - 9:57 a.m. - Express Scripts. An officer took a report of a minor traffic accident in Express Scripts

parking garage number one.

11/1 - 11:45 a.m. - Health Services. A report was taken concerning a student who had accidentally fallen and hurt themselves at SSB.

11/2 - 5:30 a.m. A lost wallet was located and promptly returned to owner.

A&E



TASK creations are on display in Gallery 210.

JARRED GASTREICH / THE CURRENT

Gallery 210's 'TASK' exhibit reflects fun of Oliver Herring party

ART

ANGIE O'DELL
Staff Writer

The TASK exhibit at Gallery 210 is a phenomenon that must be seen to be believed.

The exhibit features many of the different participatory art projects created during Oliver Herring's TASK Party at the gallery on October 21.

Herring, a New York-based artist, creates participatory art including that which was created at the TASK Parties, which he has organized on various campuses. Herring takes the works created at the party, adds some of his own works and organizes it all

into an art exhibit. That free exhibit is now on display at north campus' Gallery 210, which is located next to the Metrolink station north of the Millennium Student Center. It runs through December 3.

Participants at a TASK Party draw from a box full of "tasks" written by other participants, complete the task, and then write down another task and put it into the box. From there, participants are encouraged to do more tasks. By the end of the night of a typical TASK party, one can see an exhibit developing.

With tasks posted all over the walls and videos of past TASK parties showing throughout the gallery, attendance was necessary in

order to see the exhibit in its full creation. However, visitors to the campus' Gallery 210 can still see the results.

Objects in the TASK exhibit can include anything, even albums such as "Saturday Night Fever," painted and taped on the walls. This reflected a task which asked students to "Make a VIP only section." The area is taped off and features items that a VIP section would have, such as albums, musical instruments and a microphone. "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game" appeared written across the wall. Also featured are a hand-made cardboard Nikon camera

and what appears to be film developing in trays.

One can see that participants really had fun in creating these items, which went on to become part of the exhibit.

Other "tasks" asked students to do things such as "Make a lightsaber and give it to a random person." One prop is a cardboard person with a sign stating that "This could be your boyfriend for the night for 25 cents." A half-eaten cookie taped to the wall reads "Eat ½ cookie only." Another task asks students to make inkblots and ask other students what they think of them.

A big part of the exhibit features a cardboard castle with a task taped to it which

states "Make red curtains for the cardboard castle" and then "Tear down the castle," "Destroy the castle" and "Fix the castle." Most interestingly is a cardboard ladder with a task that orders its owner to "Save the damsel in distress in the castle."

There seemed to be no limit to the different types of tasks which participants could be asked to do or how many of these tasks he/she might perform before the night was over. Involvement seemed to be a very big part of the TASK party, thus creating this enormous exhibit.

The TASK exhibit spans two rooms. The party results are in the first one, while the other room features

videos of college students acting crazy in a hotel room and doing various poses on beds. Chairs are set up for people to sit down and watch. Also, a video of a guy dancing with a chair can be seen on a television in the main exhibit room.

Various TASK Party participants drew all kinds of things on the walls and wrote different messages. A giant mirror bore the message "Thanks Oliver." "I have 2 papers due on Monday but this is much more fun" was another message.

TASK Party attendees seemed to be having a good time performing tasks, and gallery visitors can see the creative results at this great exhibit.

Hypnotic jams and emotional meltdowns at Dex Romweber's Meat Puppets concert

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

The pivotal moment of the Dex Romweber Duo's set came when frontman Dexter Romweber began rearing into a concert-goer who had the audacity to hold a conversation during his guitar solo. In an only half-joking diatribe, Romweber blamed his audience for relegating him to footnote status, confessing to his listeners that the key to success in his field is to be as snotty, nasty and "f**cked up" as possible, and once he began to mature his approach, the crowds dwindled.

Shortly after, Romweber indulged in another memorably protracted rant decrying Jack White's status as a pop icon, implying that White simply rode the coattails of the garage rock revival to which Romweber himself made an excellent (if criminally overlooked) contribution as the leader of the Flat Duo Jets. He was also quick to remind the audience of his forlorn merchandise booth, which he admitted he did not really care if the crowd patronized or not because he would not see a cent of it.

As distracting as this midlife crisis in-the-making was, it somehow seemed wholly appropriate to the tenor of the knowingly-austere performance, which, given the modest accoutrements of The Old Rock House and the dynamics of this stripped-

down two-man-band ensemble, was strangely elegant in its rock & roll simplicity.

In fact, Romweber's cowed and irate on-stage persona was so entertaining, it was almost tempting to overlook the music itself, which would certainly have been an injustice to his performance. Whether or not Romweber admits it, he remains an excellent entertainer, and his ragged tribute to the golden age of rock & roll, culled from both original material and covers of obscure rockabilly nuggets from his most recent release "Is That You in the Blue?" sounds even more immediate and electrifying live than it does on record.

And as if this performance was not bizarre enough, the Old Rock House originally promoted the event as a costume contest, meaning one banana, one chicken and a group of women apparently dressed as the cast of "A League of Their Own" were all privy to the spectacle, all mutual parties to the audience's collective bewilderment over whether Dex's profound desperation was genuine or shtick.

Not to further marginalize the already browbeaten Dex, but the undisputed stars of the show were his tourmates, the Meat Puppets. Even though the group hit their creative peak nearly three

MUSIC

decades ago and is usually best remembered as one of the many bands Nirvana covered on their MTV Unplugged special. The deftness of these seasoned veterans was nothing short of stunning. Their manic, countrified breed of hard rock — a style they pioneered as "cowpunk" — sounds just as dynamic and imaginative now as it did on their legendary 1984 release "Meat Puppets II," the landmark of their lengthy career.

For the most part, the Meat Puppets played an eclectic mix of both old and new material, transforming favorites like "Plateau" and "Oh, Me" into gleefully indulgent rave-ups through the largely improvised interplay of lead guitarist Curt Kirkwood and bassist Cris Kirkwood. Their show-stopping rendition of "Lake of Fire," their best known song, delivered the undisputed highlight of the evening, transforming the little damnation ditty into a nearly 10-minute psychedelic dirge of feedback galore.

Between the Meat Puppets' instrumental firestorm and Dex Romweber's punch-drunk confessionals (he really misses cocaine) the Old Rock House delivered memorable performance, to say the least.

Grade: C+

LATEST + GREATEST

New Movies Calendar

Opening Friday, November 11 (subject to change)

ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

This ten-day annual event is the cultural highlight for cinema buffs, with previews of Oscar contenders, festival circuit award-winners and big buzz films from fests like Sundance and Toronto, plus shorts, documentaries and films from around the world. At Tivoli, Plaza Frontenac and other venues, Nov. 10-20.

J. EDGAR (everywhere)

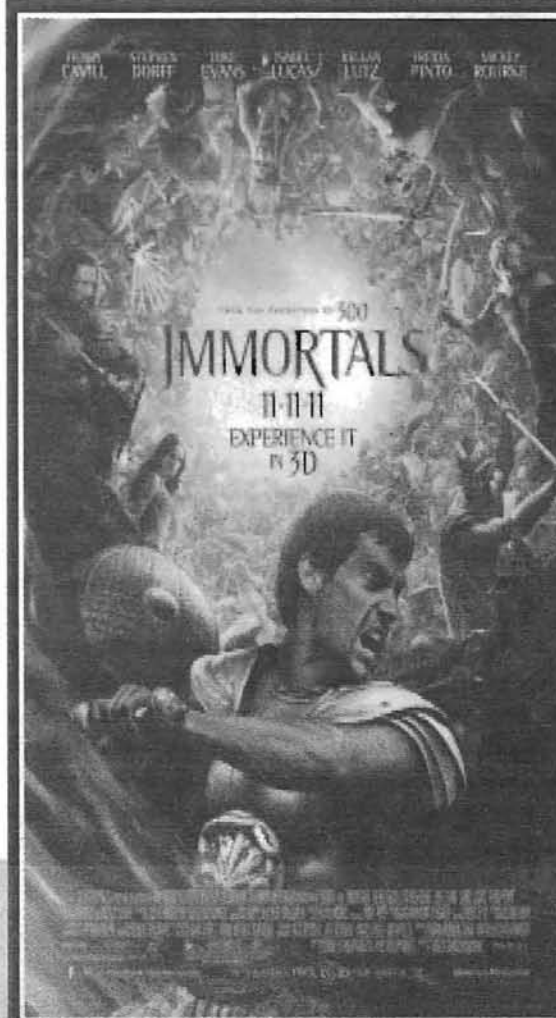
Clint Eastwood directs this sweeping historic bio pic about J. Edgar Hoover, legendary founder and feared head of the FBI. Hoover is played by Leonardo DiCaprio, with supporting roles filled by Naomi Watts and Judi Dench.

LIKE CRAZY (everywhere)

A Sundance award-winning indie drama about a young American college student (Anton Yelchin) who falls for a British student (Felicity Jones), in a contemporary on/off romance. Directed by Drake Doremus.

IMMORTALS (everywhere)

Greek gods battle it out in this action fantasy, starring Eryk Cavill, Mickey Rourke and John Hurt. Directed by Tarsem Singh ("Constantine").



RELATIVITY The Current

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TheCurrent-Online.com

L-r: Beat Takeshi and Kippei Shiina in *OUTRAGE*, a Magnet Release.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNET RELEASING

St. Louis International Film Festival, Nov. 10-20, debuts with 'The Artist,' plus Oscar buzz films, award-winners and more

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

The St. Louis International Film Festival, one of the area's premier cultural events for film-buffs, starts Thursday, November 10. SLIFF offers previews of some major releases, Oscar hopefuls, festival circuit award-winners and a rare chance to see outstanding shorts, documentaries and films offering a glimpse into cultures from around the world. This article will offer a glimpse of the program highlights from SLIFF's first weekend.

As always, SLIFF offers a number of focused film programs called sidebars and a number of film-related events. The films are shown at Landmark's Plaza Frontenac Cinema, The Tivoli and other locations and run daily through November 20.

Some films get a second showing, but many are screened only once. Festival programs with descriptions of films, screening times and ticket information are available at the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac Cinemas and online at www.cinemastl.org.

The festival kicks off Thursday November 10, with an opening night cocktail party and screening of "The Artist," which stars home-town boy John Goodman, at the Tivoli Theater. This silent-movie-themed major release is opening here early next year. The party admission ticket includes Stella Artois beer, Purus vodka and appetizers from Pasta House and the screening.

Other major release and Oscar buzz films debuting locally the first weekend include "Coriolanus,"

"I Melt With You," "In Darkness," "Shame" and "We Need to Talk About Kevin."

Ralph Fiennes' directorial debut "Coriolanus" is an adaptation of Shakespeare's play about an ambitious Roman general, which stars Fiennes and Gerald Butler.

"Shame" is a story of sexual addiction, from the British director of "Hunger," Steve McQueen. The film has garnered some of the strongest critical reviews of films on the festival circuit.

Director Mark Pellington's "I Melt With You" stars Jeremy Piven and Rob Lowe in a tale of a reunion of 40-something year old friends that spins out of control.

The highly-anticipated "We Need to Talk About Kevin" focuses on a mother confronting the aftermath of her teenaged son's killing

spree, starring Tilda Swinton and John C. Reilly.

Film-goers might want to wait until these major releases return for a regular theatrical run but this may be the only chance to see some of the hottest films on the festival circuit.

Among these is "Tyrannosaur," a searing drama directed by Paddy Constantine about a man consumed by anger.

Among these treats are John Landis' "Burke and Hare," a British comedy starring "Shaun of the Dead's" Simon Pegg and Andy Serkis ("Lord of the Rings" Gollum). Others to consider are the comic "Circus Columbia," "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same" (need we say more?), "Run Lola Run" director Tom Tykwer's "3," "Radio Free Albemuth," which was inspired by a

Philip K. Dick science fiction novel and Japanese writer/director/actor Takeshi Kitano's gangster film "Outrage."

Other films with festival awards and critical praise playing this first weekend are "Dooman River," "Little Sparrows," "Norwegian Wood," "Pig" and "Suddenly, the Film."

There are also some remarkable local films featured opening weekend. The gritty, moving dramas "Joint Body" and "Bedlam Street" show how much local filmmakers have grown. There are fascinating local documentaries as well, like "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth." "Give a Damn?" a documentary in which some naive young St. Louisans set out to experience real poverty, has been a hot discussion topic.

There are many important

documentaries, including "The Interrupters," about a group of people in Chicago trying to break the cycle of urban teen violence.

The festival also offers special events beyond the opening night party. Aspiring film-makers might want to take in the NFF Coffee with the Filmmakers Saturday morning, November 13 at 10 a.m. at the Tivoli. Animation fans will be interested in An Evening with Bill Plympton, a chance to hear the groundbreaking animator speak, on Friday, November 11, at 7 p.m. at Webster University's Moore Auditorium. There is also a Bill Plympton Master Class on Saturday, November 12, at 1 p.m. at Webster University's Sverdrup building.

Next week, *The Current* will delve into the big films featured in the second week.

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Dance St. Louis presentation of high-flying "Billy Elliot" thrills patrons at Fox Theater

CATE MARQUIS
A & E Editor

THEATER

The movie "Billy Elliot" was a heart-warming hit about a Scottish boy in a mining town who discovered a gift for dance. Director Stephen Daldry set that unlikely story against the backdrop of the real-world 1980s coal miners strike, in which British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher broke the union and dismantled the British coal-mining industry.

The whole history was spelled out in a poster displayed in the lobby of the Fox Theater, which is running the hit Broadway musical version of "Billy Elliot" through November 13.

With music by Elton John and choreography by Peter Darling, "Billy Elliot" is a highlight of the Fox season, presented by Dance St. Louis, the area's wonderful dance presenting organization.

The story takes place in Northern England, where coal mining had dominated the economy for hundreds of years. Despite the serious backdrop, the musical was funny, heart-warming, thought-provoking and drenched with great dancing. The role of young Billy Elliot is so daunting that four boys share it, rotating performances throughout its run. On the night this reviewer saw the show, November 2, the role was played by Lex Ishimoto, who did a bang up job of both acting and dancing, particularly the dancing.

Billy Elliot lived in a tiny mining town with his Dad (Rich Hebert), his older brother Tony (Cullen R. Titmas) and his somewhat confused, foul-mouthed Grandma (a delightful Patti Perkins). Both Billy's father and brother were miners who were debating going on strike

over Thatcher's draconian policies. The whole family was struggling after the recent death of Billy's mother (Kat Hennessey) who appeared in dreams to twelve-year-old Billy on occasion.

Billy's father sent the boy to boxing lessons at the local community center but a misunderstanding one day threw Billy into an all-girl ballet class taught by wisecracking Mrs. Wilkinson (Leah Hocking). The teacher saw an unexpected spark of talent in the boy, who kept coming back because he preferred it to getting pummeled at boxing class.

Dance highlights of the first act included the openers with the full company, "The Stars Look Down," on the eve of the year-long strike. "Shine" featured the girls of the dance class in a very funny bit. Billy and his colorful friend Michael danced the joyful, campy "Expressing Yourself."

The musical was funny in that dry sarcastic British way but the coming of age story, the idea of an unexpected gift and the tragic miners story gave a dramatic undermining that makes this production soar.

Soaring of another sort is a highlight of the second act, when Billy's growing love of dancing and the chance to transcend his working class life sparked his imagination. The second act opened with a wonderful dance, set to the music of Swan Lake, with young Billy and an older dancer who may be his future self. Both imagination and Billy himself took flight in a well-executed wire work, an effect that was both beautiful and startling, and offered the show's highlight. While comedy was the focus of the

first act, dance dominated the second.

Another highlight of the second act was "Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher," with the whole town poking fun at the despised Prime Minister in cheeky style.

The production's set served several purposes but was always convincing. Fantasy sequences, including a flight of fancy with Billy's goofy cross-dressing friend Michael, took place before a sparkly curtain. The role of Michael was shared by Ben Cook and Jacob Zelonsky, who turned in a high-energy, winning comic performance that charmed the audience.

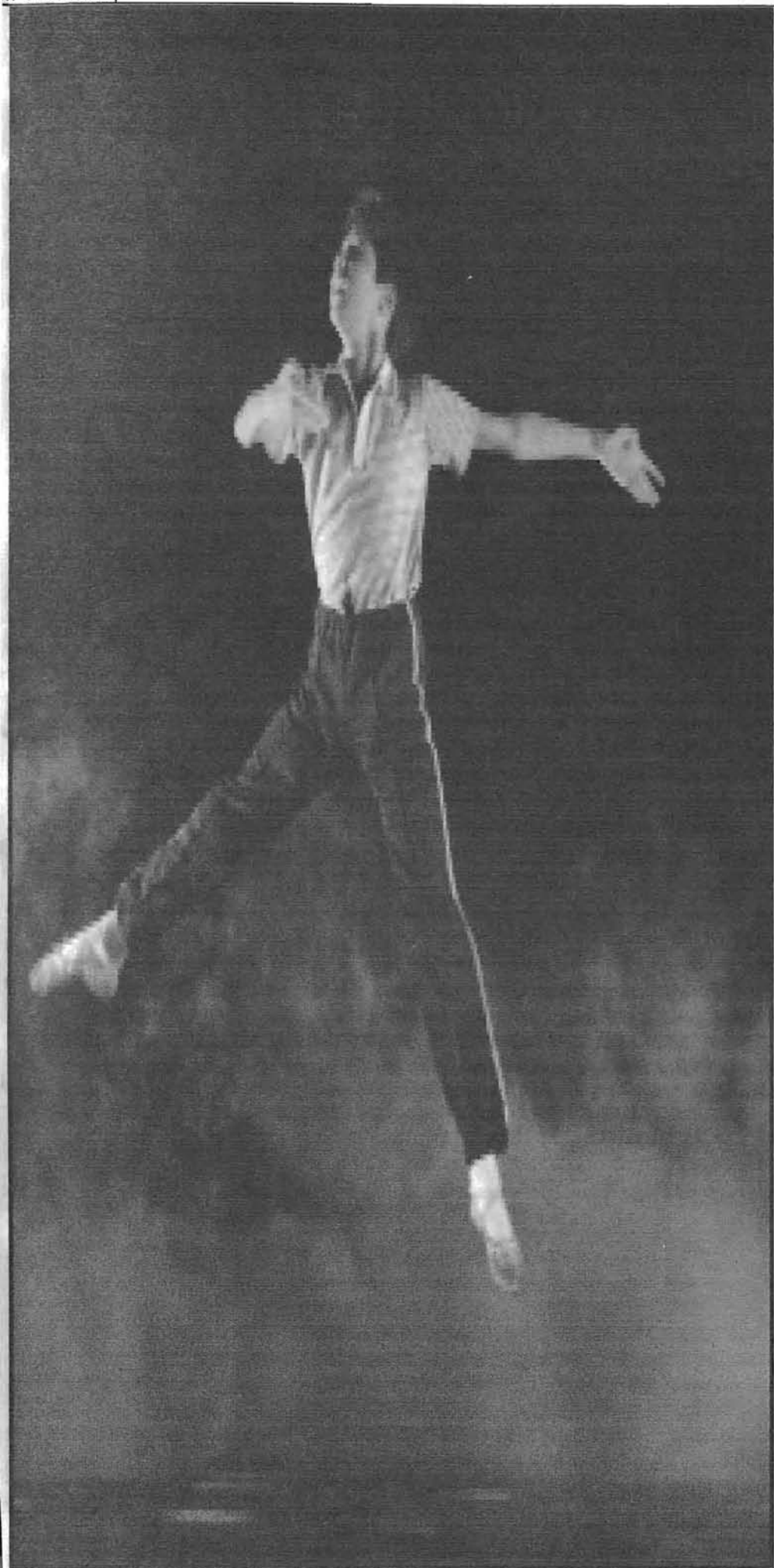
Although Billy's class studied ballet, the dance numbers mixed ballet and contemporary dance, in a series of energetic and appealing numbers. Elton John's music was good, although not as memorable as the dance numbers.

The cast excelled in both acting and dancing. Among performance treats in supporting roles was Patrick Wetzel as Mr. Braithwaite, Mrs. Wilkinson's musical accompanist. His rubbery-limbed yet astounding performance in "Born to Boogie" was both hilarious and jaw-dropping.

Among the the most moving production numbers in the show was "Solidarity," a fist-pumping pledge to unity by the striking miners.

The miners strike lasted a whole year, when the union collapsed. The show concludes with the full company's moving "Company Celebration."

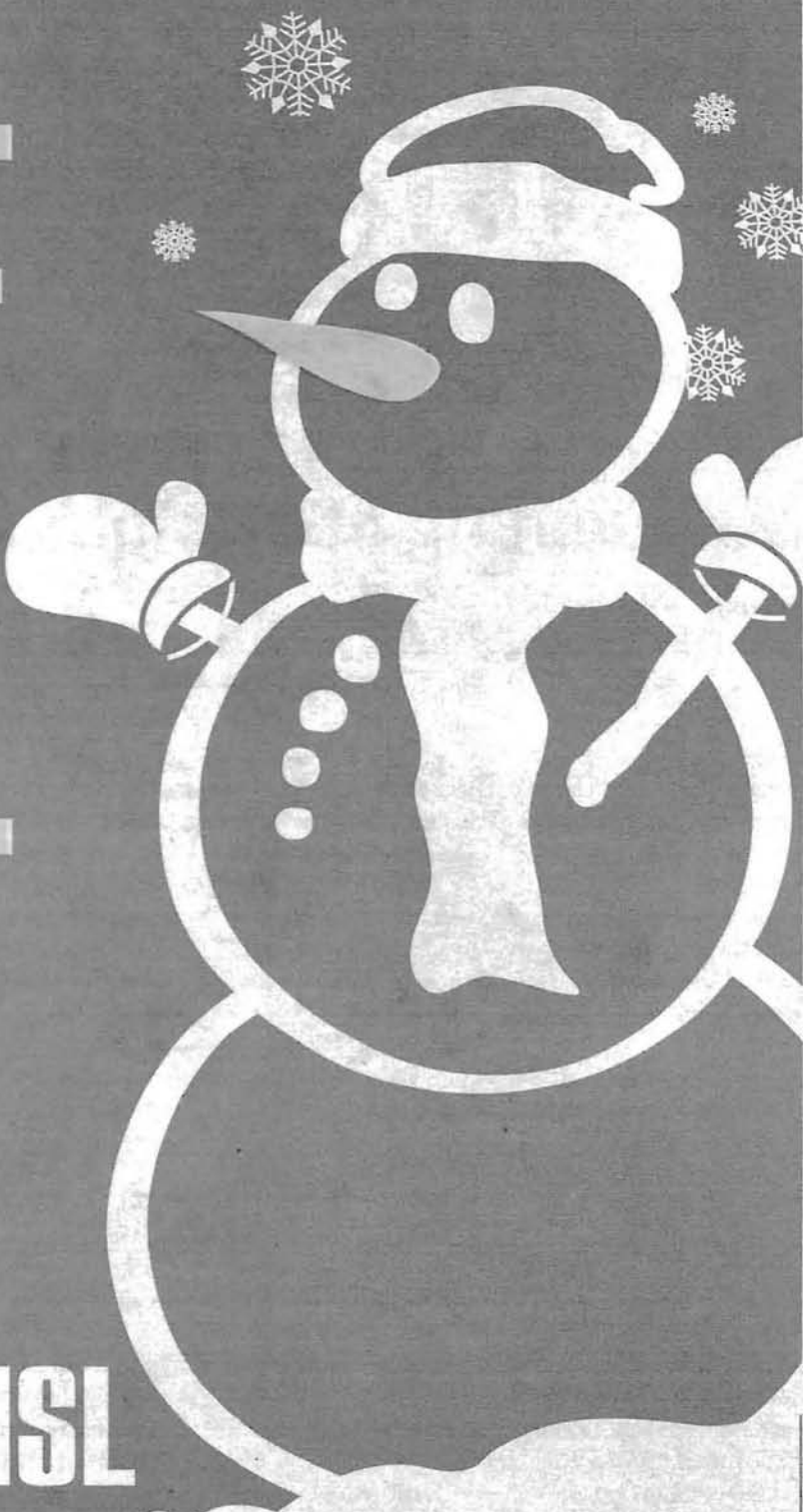
"Billy Elliot" offers far more than humor and dance, with an underlying topic that resonates even today.



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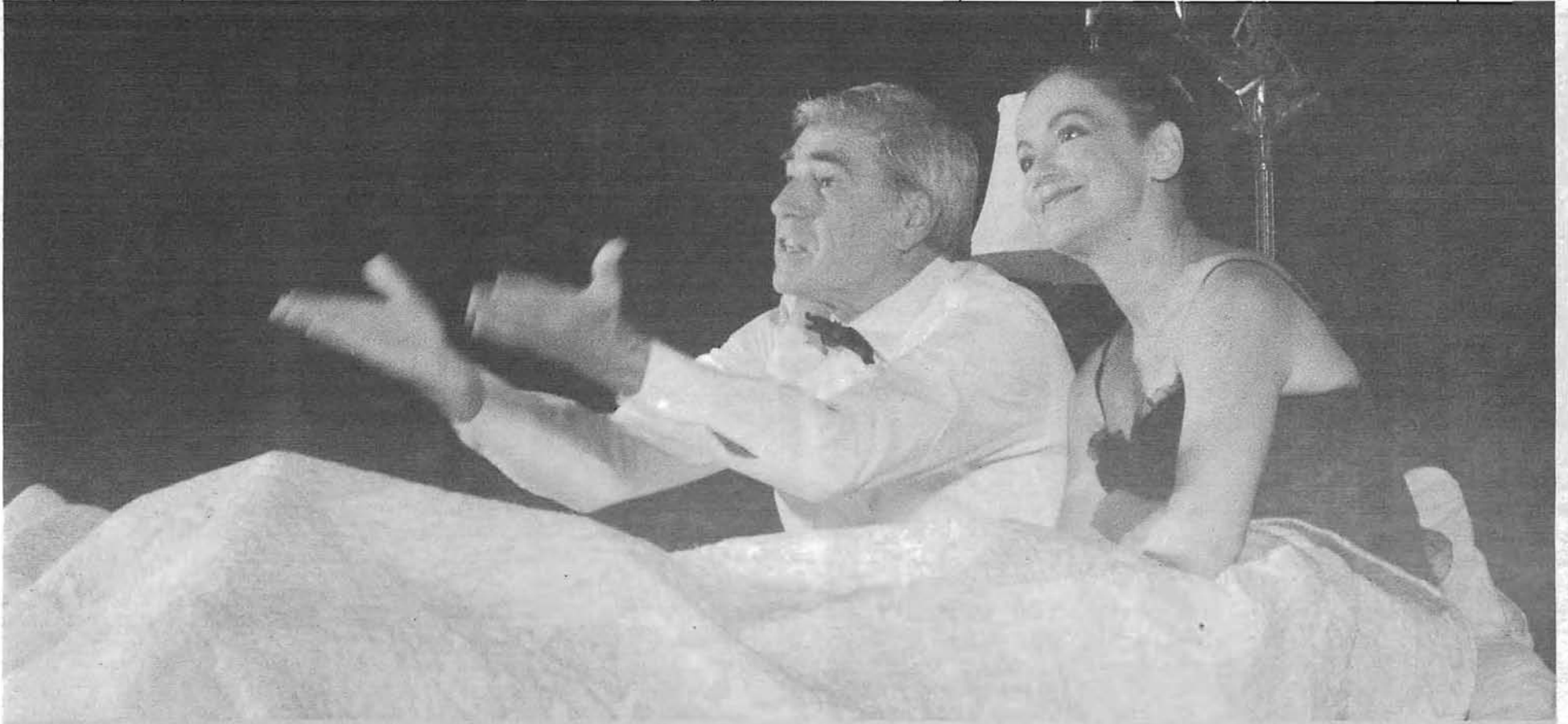


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Lex Ishimoto as Billy dances the Dream Ballet, in "Billy Elliot the Musical," the Dance St. Louis presentation now on stage at the Fox Theater.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL ROSILOW



French actors Andre Nerman and Yannick Rocher perform "La Peur Des Coups" in the J.C. Penney Auditorium Thursday night

NIKKI VAHLE/THE CURRENT

"An Evening of French" with André Nerman and Rocher

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

Thursday, November 3, "An Evening of French Drama" was presented in the comfort of the J.C. Penney Conference Center Auditorium at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Presented as two one-act plays, what made this performance different was the fact that it was performed completely in French.

The entertainment was supplied by French actor, director and singer, André Nerman and French trained actress, Yannick Rocher, who played husband and wife in the first play, written by George Courteline and entitled "La Peur des Coups". The play involved a man and a woman who returned from a party only to argue about the attention that the wife had gotten from a young military officer. The second play, "La Voix Humaine" (The Human Voice), written by Jean Cocteau, situated itself around a heartbroken

woman and her conversation with an ex-lover on the phone. Her suppressed emotions revolving around the matter were expressed as the line began to disconnect.

The event was a collaboration between many organizations in the St. Louis area, including L'Alliance Française de Saint Louis, AATF Greater St. Louis Chapter, International Studies and Programs, Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Languages, and UMSL.

Audience member Alaina Appleby, who is familiar with the L'Alliance Française in Dallas, Texas, found out about the event after seeking out the St. Louis chapter after she had moved here for work.

"French is one of the most international business languages and St. Louis is a pretty good international city with a large French slant so it seems like it would

go hand in hand," Appleby, said.

Anne-Sophie Blank, associate teaching professor of French, UMSL, was said to be one of the figures in organizing the event. With the help of her longtime friend, Dr. Jean-Louis Pautrot, professor of French and Modern & Classical Language, St. Louis University, and the support of several organizations, she believed it to be easy to coordinate.

"I came on board a little bit later because [Blank] needed someone to help her with the actual details of the space that needed to be gotten, lighting, sound and all those kinds of things," Terry M. Marshall, senior coordinator, E. Desmond Lee Global Ethnic Collaborative Center for International Studies, said. He also dealt with the publicity and ticketing aspect of the show. Marshall was able to get word out for the event

by distributing promotional postcards among all of the organizations involved in the program, with hopes that they would mail them out to all of their constituents. He also distributed a flyer through email which eventually reached out beyond the borders of the United States.

"We had a lot of people who were interested in Europe and France. So we pretty much covered the metropolitan area as far as Francophiles are concerned," Marshall said.

His statement was confirmed by the line of attendees lingering outside of the auditorium, waiting to purchase a ticket to the show. Students from other universities in the St. Louis area made up the majority of the crowd. A large number of St. Louis University students made it out to the show for class, along well as college students from the city of St. Charles.

"I am interested in French because nobody speaks it. Everybody speaks Spanish. I like to be different," Teresa Downing, senior, elementary education, Lindenwood University, said. "It has been ten years since I have spoken French so I figured that I would come out and see it."

As the event came to a close, those in attendance gathered in the hallway to discuss what they had just witnessed. Others stayed behind in the auditorium to speak with the actors, who were open to discussion while they tore down their set. The female lead in the show, who has appeared on stage in both Paris and London, expressed her feelings about working in the United States.

"I love it because the [American] public is different from [the] French public. American people are very enthusiastic and so it is kind of a challenge to play

abroad," Rocher said.

Rocher's acting partner and boss mentioned how he had started his American acting career 20 years ago in St. Louis and California, where he worked for various companies and made a number of connections along the way. "I find it very interesting to bring French plays, for French communities and students, for American Francophile who like French culture. I have been doing that for ten years now, and every year I come with a different show. Totally French, ... sometimes with a little bit of English to open to other audiences," Nerman said.

Blank, who is not usually a Courteline fan due to his weak portrayal of women, ended up liking the comical play "La Peur des Coups" because for the first time the male was depicted as the ridiculous one in the relationship.

Students of Service give children of community a safe Halloween

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

It was a relatively normal Saturday morning on the University of Missouri - St. Louis campus on October 29 - normal except for the trio of costumed kiddos and their parents headed for the UMSL south parking garage and Students of Service's Trunk-or-Treat event.

A witch, a skeleton and a ninja were headed for a table full of smiling UM-St. Louis students outside garage's the entrance. They invited parents to fill out a photo release and gave the kids an orange ticket. If the kids presented the ticket at the end of the event when they left, then they would receive a goodie bag on top of all

the candy they had already collected.

Inside, there were 11 vehicles lined up along with about 25 students representing various organizations on campus. The first vehicle was run by a couple of criminology grad students and the kids had to work a little bit to get the candy from that trunk. There were small plastic pumpkins to toss into larger plastic pumpkins. Each child got a piece of candy whether or not they succeeded. A small boy expressed doubt about whether or not he could make it and was actually the first to do so.

"We are doing it for the kids. Plus, we get to eat

the leftover candy," James Pegram, sophomore, biology, said. He echoed the sentiments of many of the volunteers. Pegram's trunk was covered with spooky decorations and one of his fellow representatives from Alpha Pi Omega was dressed as a grim reaper-like statue, but he said that so far none of the kids had been fooled. It would seem that, in the daylight, it is much harder to put one over on a child.

There were representatives from Greek Life, Black Leadership Organizing Council, Minority Student Nurses Association, PRIZM and the organization that sponsored the event, Students of Service.

"Last year there were only seven cars. We're happy that more people could be involved and hopefully next year even more come to help out. We'd really like for people to learn what Students of Service is all about because we're a relatively new organization," Ashley Latimore, sophomore, criminology, said.

At one point, a very young child dressed in a giraffe costume and her mother made their way down the aisle of cars. Everyone oohed and aahed. It seemed Trunk-or-Treat had already accomplished one of its goals: to provide a safe Halloween experience. It would be hard to

imagine this little kid in the chaos of Halloween, let alone the scary costumes and sugar-loaded older kids running around without supervision.

"This is a nice little thing; it didn't take too much planning. And I really love Halloween," Michael Mannino, sophomore, chemistry, said. He was giving out candy for Sigma Pi.

It was not only clubs participating though, so do not let that stop interested parties in the future. The Center for Teaching and Learning shelled out for the candy and sent their graduate assistant, who had also received a grant from Students of Service,

to be their ambassador. Keep that in mind next year when the opportunity arises to participate.

In the end, 75 children benefited from the Trunk-or-Treat philanthropy held in front of the Millennium Student Center. Not only were the children of the community given the opportunity to get a head start on their annual candy collection, but they were also able to observe future leaders in the making and the expectations held of such persons. Maybe, by observing such role models, a.k.a. "cool college kids," they will feel inspired to follow by example and make something more of themselves.

Professionals gather at UMSL to discuss Science in the City

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28, the University of Missouri - St. Louis played host to the 17th annual Center for the Humanities' "What Is A City?" conference. Held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, this year's theme was "Science in the City." The conference focused on St. Louis' use of scientific knowledge to enhance its own city. It has a lot to offer its citizens in the way of knowledge of science and how it functions in the world, but what about right here in our city?

According to <http://www.umsfce.org>, "Like many cities, St. Louis has exceptional assets involved in scientific research and education, such

as the Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Science Center, and several universities."

On Thursday, the conference held a presentation on the Missouri Botanical Gardens, entitled "Science Needs a Hollywood Agent (and other simple steps toward an environmentally literate citizenry)". Geoffrey Harpham, director of the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, did a presentation on "What the Humanities Can Tell Science That Science Could Never Have Figured Out On Its Own - and Vice Versa." There were representatives from an array of universities other than UMSL, including

Washington University, St. Louis University, Michigan University and Arizona State University.

About 50 people were in attendance Friday morning. A light breakfast buffet welcomed the guests along with assorted juices and, of course, coffee. The first speaker, Carole G. Basile, dean of the College of Education, gave a presentation entitled "Access to Life's Possibilities—An Ecological Model for Becoming Informed and Sustainable Citizens." A key phrase of this talk was "life long, life deep and life wide" and it had to do with a constant state of learning throughout an entire lifetime.

"We have to think bigger,

about the kinds of programs, about the kinds of things we do, about the way we think," Dean Basile, said. "If we want kids to start thinking scientifically, if we want them to think about technological advance, if we want them to be the workforce of tomorrow and think about our economic development; if we want them to be sustainable citizens in order to have sustainable environment, then we have got to think about what are those things they need to have access to in order to get there."

Basile also mentioned that in this age of technology, more people should know how to use their technology for informed, life-long learning.

When she was finished, there was a short break to give individuals a chance to discuss Dean Basile's presentation. Then it was on to "Conservation Medicine in a Changing World" presented by Sharon L. Deem, director of the Institute for Conservation Medicine, St. Louis Zoo.

"The zoo animals are really being used as sentinels in the cities to help monitor some of the disease problems that we, that humans, can also get," Deem said. "The transdisciplinary field of Conservation Medicine requires scientists and non-scientists alike to work together so we may develop solutions for the global challenges which threaten species

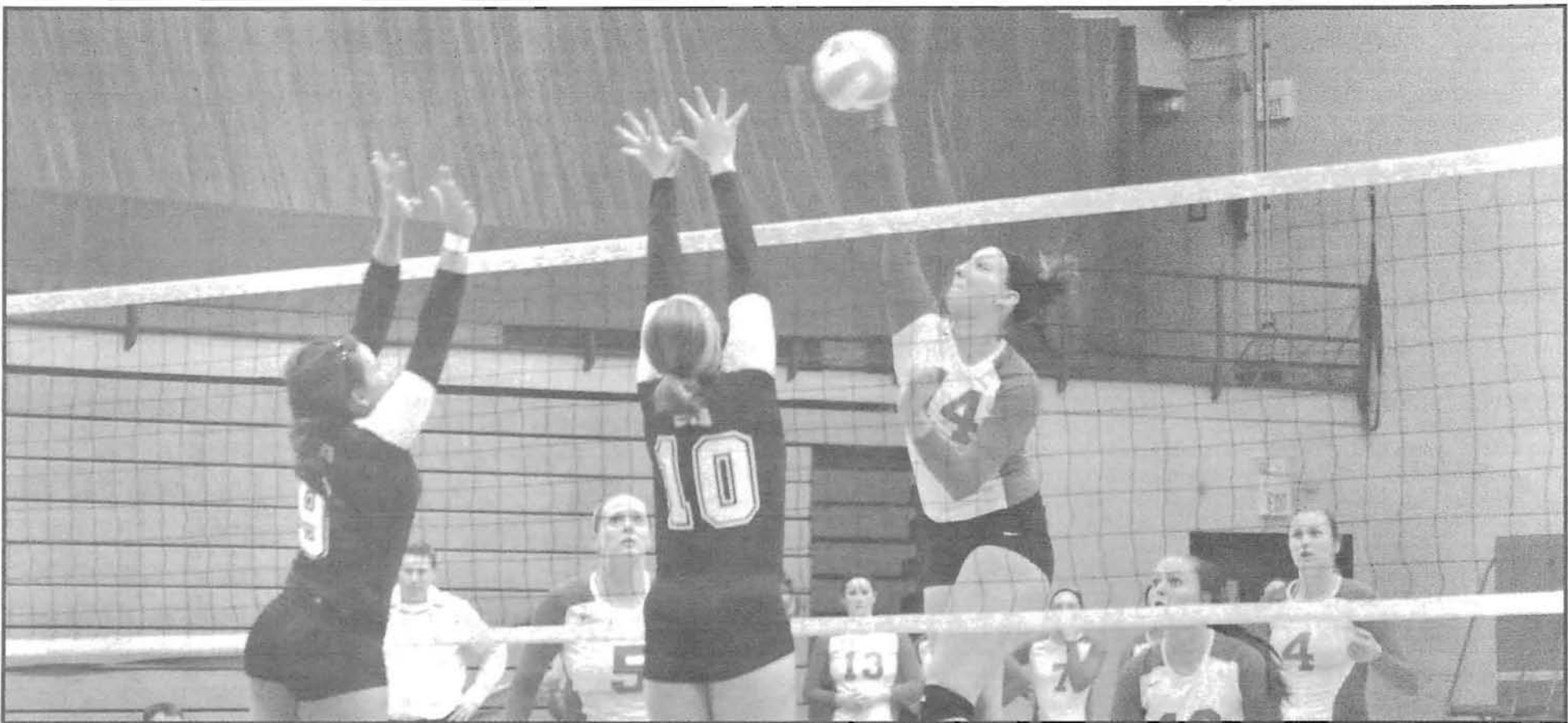
survival and the health of humans, animals and ecosystems as the human population crosses the 7 billion mark."

The conference was very thought-provoking and although it required registration, it was free to anyone who wanted to come. The attendees were asked only for canned good donations to support a hunger relief organization.

According to <http://www.umsfce.org>, the purpose of the conference was to "offer a unique opportunity to discuss the future of science, education and cities as integral to the dynamics of contemporary life, from a humanities and liberal arts perspective."

Read The Current

Sports



Weslie Gaff, senior, accounting, jumps to spike the ball for a kill against Illinois - Springfield on Friday, November 4, in St. Louis.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Seniors lead the way on senior night, win two straight games

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis had two conference games at home remaining on the schedule, where they looked to gain momentum heading into the post season. The team had been very hot heading into these games, winning five of their last six games. The first home matchup was against University of Illinois - Springfield, who the Tritons handled on the road 3-1 in September.

It was senior night, and the seniors wanted to make a strong showing in front of the home crowd on Friday night. The Tritons earned the first two points of the night, but Springfield rallied back quickly in the first set and gave the Tritons a hard time early in the

game. After a service ace by Jennie Manis, junior, business management, the Tritons had a 5-2 lead. But after four straight attacking errors, the Tritons were down 6-5. After a few kills, UMSL committed three more attacking errors, and Springfield led 11-9. UMSL called a timeout after this to regroup. These errors may have put Springfield into the game, but they also caused the Tritons to recollect mentally and sharpen up their fundamentals for the rest of the night. After the timeout, the Tritons outscored Springfield 16-7 en route to taking the first set 25-18.

In the second set, UMSL came out firing and took a quick 6-0 lead, Springfield's

first point of this match came on a service error by Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications. UMSL shored up a hot start to this set by going up 12-5, but Springfield did not go quietly. Springfield made a strong run in answer to UMSL's and found themselves up 15-14. Much like the first set, getting down put a fire under the women and they finished the set strong. The Tritons got a point from nine different players down the stretch to take the second set 25-21.

The strong finish and healthy team effort gave the Tritons a wave of momentum in the third set, which they took easily. A healthy offensive showing by Anna McNulty, Erin Higgins,

senior, early childhood education, and Liz Jaeger, junior, nursing, who scored eight straight points during one stretch during the set. A strong team effort and intense focus led the Tritons to a 25-15 drumming of the opponents in the set and gave the Tritons the 3-0 sweep on the night, and the victory on senior night. Shelby Crawford, senior, biology, had a good night with eight kills and a perfect serve percentage. Weslie Gaff, senior, accounting, played a large role with nine kills. Erin Higgins lead the way with ten kills and sixteen points on the night. This was a good showing for all three seniors on a night that honors their efforts for their career.

The final regular season game of the year was a home matchup against Quincy University. UMSL took care of Quincy on the road earlier in the season in three straight sets. This night's work was not as easy.

UMSL got off to a hot start, scoring the set's first four points, including three by McNulty, two by way of service ace. The Tritons did not relinquish the lead after that, and went on to win the set 25-19.

The next set was not as easy, and Quincy drew the match even after taking the second set 25-21. It was a story of back and fourth as UMSL won the third set and dropped the fourth, setting up the do or die fifth set.

The Tritons were not messing around and got off to a quick 8-2 lead. The Tritons were able to stave off runs by Quincy looking to steal the match and won the match on a service error, finishing their season winning seven of their last eight games.

The team had a solid year, finishing second in their division with a conference record of 13 wins and five losses, and an overall record of twenty three wins and eight losses. They have a lot of momentum heading into the conference tournament, where they hope to make a strong case for an NCAA tournament bid. Keep an eye out for upcoming news regarding the tournament results.

Tritons open season ready to battle for conference

LEON DEVANCE

Staff Writer

When the 2010-11 University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball season ended, the team struggled with a losing record at 10-17, coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor thought she had overcome the biggest obstacle the Tritons encountered on or off the court: the injury bug.

But before the 2011-12 basketball season opened, with games against Missouri State, the St. Edwards Classic and the home opener against McKendree on November 19, the injury bug struck the Tritons in the off-season as freshmen Samantha Swarts tore her ACL and senior Normeka Holder, a sociology major, to a foot injury.

But Curliss-Taylor believes that with better luck

and a quality depth on the roster, UM-St. Louis can compete in the GLVC Western Division.

"We are a deeper and better team than last year. We have speed on defense to use the press and chase people in the corners to create turnovers. Point guard Angela Johnson is a good on ball defender. She has speed and can stay on the ball and she will not fall for ball fakes too often. If she does, Angela has speed to catch up. On defense we are going to press our opponents and play a man to man 40 minutes of hell type of basketball," Curliss-Taylor said.

The Tritons figure to be strong on the glass with power forward Kiki Robinson, senior, criminal justice. Robinson averaged

5.1 rebounds a game, led the Tritons with 91 rebounds and was second on the Tritons with 17 blocks. On offense, Robinson scored 4.9 points per game with 1.4 steals a game and shot 43 percent from the field. Robinson scored a season high 13 points and 13 rebounds at Indianapolis.

Newcomer and a power forward-center Devonna Smith, junior, sociology, who averaged 7.5 points, 5.6 rebounds a game at Mineral Area College.

On offense, the Tritons will run a motion offense designated to free shooters for open 3-point shots or cut to the basket for easy lay ups. Guard Kelly Carter, senior, elementary education, plays both

guard positions, played in four games before suffering a season-ending injury, an Academic All-American, tallied 11 points, seven assists and five steals against Lincoln. Guard Emily Brumitt, junior, nursing, ranked 32nd in the nation in 3pt field goal percent at 38.8 percent and Caitlyn Moody, senior, physical education, is fourth in UMSL history with 425 3-points shots attempted, blocked shots with 45 and seventh in field goals attempted with 911.

Moody started all 27 games last year and averaged 13.9 points and one block a game, 3.7 rebounds 1.7 assists and 1.3 steals a game. Last year Moody connected on 62 3-pointers good for second place on the team, made

127 3-point shots in her career and is the Tritons best 3-point shooter. She shot 82.1 percent from the free throw line.

Point guard Deaven Omohundro named an Academic All-American, elementary education, believes the Tritons possess the necessary toughness.

"If someone goes down then it's up to the next person to step up and fill the position. We just have to pull together and push through. I have high hopes and I am confident that we will be stronger because of our depth," Omohundro said.

Guard Molly Barnes, junior, educational studies, wanted to become a Triton because of the team chemistry. "I came to UMSL because the family

oriented attitude and the coaches are passionate. I stayed home because I wanted my family to be able to come to my games. We have both the support and the drive to succeed," Barnes said.

Overcoming the injury bug may not be the Tritons biggest opponent. Picked to finish fifth in West Division of the GLVC, Curliss-Taylor insisted the Tritons needed to improve on the fundamentals of the game. "We are going to compete to win every game to get better. Wins are not the focus. We have to improve our turnover to assist ratio, shooting percentage and take care of the ball. If we do that and stay healthy, then we can go a long way," Curliss-Taylor said.

Women's soccer losses in playoffs, still has successful year

ELI DAINS

Staff Writer

The 2011 season was one that the University of Missouri St. Louis women's soccer team can be proud of. They improved upon last year's record, finishing 9-9 overall with a 8-7 conference record, and made the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament for the first time since 2008. Although the team lost in the first round on the road against the number one seed Northern Kentucky University Norse the Tritons played with heart throughout the game, and the season that preceded it. "This season started off rocky but throughout each game we found more faith in ourselves and each other

to help us continue to fight through each game," said Jesa Jenkins, senior, physical education.

One of this year's team's greatest strengths was leadership, both on and off the field. "Our strength this year was the leadership and ability of our senior class, it will be extremely hard to replace them," said head coach Bobby Lessentine. Seniors Kaylee Neutzling, senior, criminal justice, and Kelly Meusenfechter, senior, liberal studies, were key to the team's offensive success. "Every single senior has lots of personality but we also have heart for the game. I really hope that the passion was dem-

onstrated and passed down to the other classes." Said Samantha Faron, senior, psychology.

The team started the season out with a bang, beating Missouri Southern 3-2 in Joplin. From there they hit a bit of a skid, losing six of their next ten games going into the homecoming game Oct. 16 against Kentucky Wesleyan University. In that game the Tritons treated their fans to a 5-0 victory including four goals in the first half.

Two days later on Oct. 18 was senior night, and the team honored the occasion by shutting out Southern Indiana Univer-

sity 2-0. They extended their season long winning streak to three games by beating the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds in overtime 1-0 two days after that on Oct. 18. That game was won on a Kaylee Neutzling goal 1:01 into overtime off of a beautiful pass from Jesa Jenkins. "The second half of the season stands out, we started having great team chemistry and playing really well as a team." Said Jenkins.

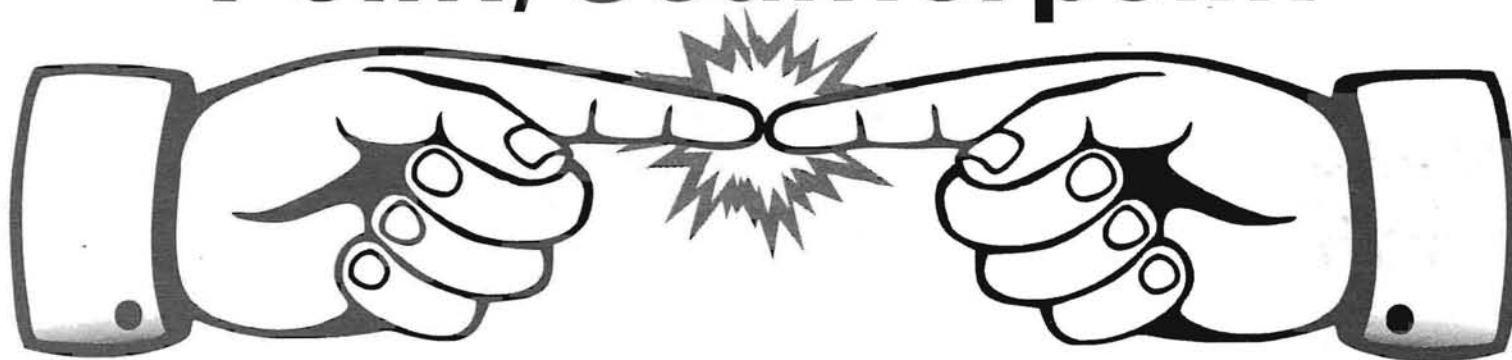
Following the Indianapolis game, a road trip hundreds of miles away to play two of the conference's best teams, Northern Kentucky University

and Bellarmine University, in one weekend. Although the Tritons picked up losses in both games they played hard and kept their spirits high. Two straight losses however meant that the regular season finale against Maryville was a must win for the team. They responded by defeating the Saints 4-0 to secure a berth in the GLVC playoffs.

It was a rematch at NKU, that the Tritons lost 2-1. "We felt good about our performance in the GLVC tournament against NKU," said Coach Lessentine. "It showed that we are capable of playing with and even beating the best

teams in the GLVC. It's never a good thing when you lose but we are excited about the future and are looking forward to building upon that experience. I am very proud of our team this year. We accomplished the modest goals that we set as a team and I look forward to a great offseason this spring." Said Lessentine. Next year's team will certainly have a very different look, with many of this year's key players moving on and new players stepping up to fill their shoes. "Next year will be one of reinvention, we have the opportunity to create a new identity," said Lessentine.

Point/Counterpoint



Were Oakland police justified in their use of force against protesters?

Violent intervention by police is not the way to deal with the Occupy movement

Those who occupy Oakland, along with the rest of America's 99 Percent, were given an entirely new reason to be appalled by the government last week when California decided it was time for a tear-gassing, head-busting crackdown on the Occupy Oakland protesters.

The Occupy movement had occupied cities worldwide in overwhelmingly peaceful protests against the government, corporations and the greed of millionaires. The Oakland protesters made public ground their home base and were able to coexist successfully with the rest of Oakland's citizens. They gained attention respectfully without causing violent disruptions. That was the arrangement... until Oakland police disturbed the peace by exercising force against the protesters, resulting in a riot and a situation far more dangerous than it was before the police intervened.

Police were apparently compelled to move against the protesters because the protesters had been using public ground for an extended period of time. According to California authorities, the occupiers were keeping the rest of the general

public from utilizing the area. Such a claim on the part of the authorities is outrageous. Are the Occupy protesters not part of the public and therefore entitled to the free use of common areas?

Not only was the forceful intervention uncalled for on the part of Oakland police, but their free slinging of harmful "peace-keeping" weapons into the masses of nonviolent protesters endangered many. The Oakland police were far too heavy-handed in their use of rubber bullets and tear gas bombs, both used for the purpose of subduing the protesters and controlling the crowd. The Oakland police should take note for the future that nothing gets a peacefully protesting crowd panicked and rowdy like angry police and tear gas grenades. The police should also take a page from the protesters' book and try behaving peacefully.

Even if the protesters were monopolizing public areas, the police had no right to place lives in danger by brutalizing them. That would be a classic case of two wrongs making a massive, bloody hot mess. If the protesters needed to move, then the police, or the Oakland or California government, for that matter,

should have put their well-paid heads together to think of a less Rocky Balboa-style way of making it happen. Now the Occupy protesters, the 99 percent of Americans losing out on their fair share of the country's wealth can give themselves a new label: the 99 percent of Americans who oppose police who tolerate police brutality.

The government may just want the whole Occupy movement to go away, but police intervention is not the way to achieve that end. Ultimately, the Occupy protesters are protesting because they feel powerless to inspire change in any other way. Making them feel more powerless by siccing police on them will only make them feel more powerless. They will hate the corporation-favoring, violence-advocating government even more for it, and as a result, they will clog up public areas for even longer.

Right on, protesters! Keep holding those signs. Never fear, the police will eventually run out of tear gas, and the government will run out of other unjust means of suppressing your message. Maybe then, as a last resort, the government will be receptive.

Oakland police use justifiable force against protesters to protect the public

The Occupy Wall Street movement seems to have sprung overnight into the center stage of national attention. In what seems like a mere few months, the Occupy movement went from a grassroots operation into a full-scale crusade against America's current economic situation. One thing about the Occupy movement is certain—its snarling demonstrations and picket signs with adversarial, anti-corporate messages are here to stay, as the plight of America's economy dwindles further into dilemma.

The Occupy movement has become daily fodder for national media outlets, in part due to its showy organized protests. Recently, the news coverage of the Occupy movement has centered around the city of Oakland, California. While protesters rallied in front of Oakland's city hall, tensions mounted between them and the city government.

The tensions eventually boiled over into a full-scale riot. Oakland police used rubber bullets and tear gas to forcibly arrest protesters, resulting in over 100 arrests.

Now, some members of the Occupy movement are claiming that the police were not justified

in their use of force, and perhaps were trying to squash the protest. However, that simply is not the case. In fact, the message of the Occupy movement had nothing to do with the fact that the riot broke out. While the thought of a government cover-up of the Occupy movement's message against the unfair distribution of wealth in America certainly makes for a far more tantalizing story, this was not the case.

On the day of the riot, Occupy movement protesters were on a mission to retake an encampment that Occupy Oakland activists had resided in for over two weeks until Oakland police evicted them about 12 hours earlier. It is important to note that the encampment was located on public grounds and therefore was not an area that belonged to the activists.

The evening protest contained about 400 Occupy activists who began marching down a major Oakland street toward the city hall. The conflict between the police and the protesters began to take shape about two hours into the protest.

After the police gave repeated warnings to protesters to disperse to no avail, the police finally

announced over a loudspeaker that those who would not give heed to their warnings could be targeted by chemical agents. As protesters scattered in many directions, tear gas canisters and several flash-bang grenades went off.

The initial use of tear gas and flash-bang grenades did little to dampen the boldness of the protesters. At around 6 p.m., officers in riot gear began to close in on the protesters' encampment and attempted to arrest one person. Protesters threw turquoise and red paint at the riot officers while others attempted to fight with the police.

The Oakland police were justified in their use of force. The protest quickly spiraled down into an angry mob looking for a confrontation. The police had no choice but to attempt to break up the protest by using whatever means necessary.

America is one of the few countries in the world that imparts enormous importance to protection of over the right to free speech and the right to peaceful assembly. However, when the public's safety and well-being is put at risk, these rights can not be safeguarded.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Once again, justice is being ignored in the heart of the South

Even more so than other southern states, Texas has an extremely high execution rate. In fact, the state of Texas executes more people than any other state in the Union. Part of that dubious distinction could come from the fact that Texas doesn't seem to care if the people it executes are innocent or guilty.

Yes, that's perhaps a hyperbolic statement. But what else can a reasonable person conclude from the outcome of the Hank Skinner case? For those unaware, Hank Skinner was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1995 murder of a woman named Twila Busby and her two sons. After 16 years on death row, Skinner is finally about to face his punishment, with an execution scheduled for November 9, but after waiting over a decade and a half, suddenly Texas prosecutors can't speed up his execution enough.

Why? Well, it could have something to do with the fact that there's enough injustice and willful ignorance surrounding this case to make the recent Troy Davis case look like a fair and even-handed application of justice. Oh, wasn't it mentioned that Skinner, like Davis, is black?

It's difficult to know where to begin when discussing the Skinner case. One might start with his court-appointed defense attorney, a disgraced former state prosecutor who was involved in a drug scandal and even prosecuted Skinner himself on an assault charge years earlier. Yet a Texas court believed this lawyer, Harold Comer, was an appropriate choice

to defend him.

Or one could address the real elephant in the room: DNA testing. The state of Texas has multiple DNA samples from the crime scene, including blood, hair and a rape kit from the victim. However, none of this evidence has been conclusively tested, despite repeated requests from the accused over the course of a decade. All of these requests have been refused, despite the fact that such testing could take place at virtually no cost to the state of Texas.

In 1999, students from Northwestern University's Medill Innocence Project took up Skinner's case and uncovered more holes in the prosecution's already flimsy case. During the trial, toxicology experts had testified that Skinner would have been incapacitated, or groggy at best, from the mixture of alcohol and codeine he had ingested the night of the murders; NWU students would go on to uncover evidence that Skinner's ex-girlfriend had been pressured by police into issuing false statements, which she recanted.

Professor David Protes, leader of the Medill group, appeared on "Nancy Grace" in 2000 to challenge the Texas district attorney responsible for the case to send evidence in for DNA testing. At first, the prosecution complied. Several hairs held by Busby at the time of her death — hairs that did not belong to her — were sent in for testing. However, when initial results showed that the hairs were not Skinner's, the DA ordered

the testing halted. "They fixated on their suspect, and once they thought they had enough for a conviction, they stopped," Protes said in a 2010 interview with the Huffington Post.

In the decade-plus since, the prosecution has stonewalled any requests for further testing, hiding behind loopholes and legalese in order to deny this man justice. Under Texas law, inmates can request post-conviction testing if they could show it would prove their innocence; Skinner's requests to that effect were denied. The justification was that a suspect could refuse testing at trial, only to request it post-conviction to stall for time. However, Skinner did request testing at trial, making this so-called "justification" little more than a straw man argument.

This is not to claim that Hank Skinner is innocent. He may well be guilty. But when a man's life hangs in the balance it is the task of our justice system to make sure all the facts are taken into account when considering guilt or innocence, not simply to cherry-pick the available evidence in order to gain a conviction. For men like Hank Skinner, our justice system is quickly turning into an injustice system, and it is a complete and utter travesty that such things still happen in the so-called "greatest country in the world."

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Minh Jung, Ashley Atkins, Cate Marquis, Jennifer Meahan, Jeremy Zschau and Janaca Scherer.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

Francona is the most obvious choice to manage Cardinals

Last week, I wrote that "the [Cardinals are] going to have to start thinking about the future." That need to look to the future only intensified when longtime manager Tony La Russa surprisingly announced his retirement several days after his Cardinals took home their 11th World Series title. With his departure comes the end of one of the best eras of Cardinal baseball in history; La Russa's teams were playoff contenders more often than not, and the team took home three National League pennants and two championships under his guidance.

Now, however, is the time to turn the page on the La Russa era. In recent years, advanced analysis techniques have suggested that a manager's skill has little to no effect on a team's performance, yet a club's choice of manager is still an important one. Each manager brings different experience and a different philosophy to a team, and it will be interesting to see how La Russa's replacement is received after the team has spent so much time under the guidance of such a dynamic personality.

The Cardinals have already begun their search for their next manager, and according to statements from the team, hope to have the search wrapped up within the next week. A list of candidates began making the rounds among the media shortly after La Russa announced his retirement. The list of apparent front-runners includes the following: current Cardinals third base coach Jose Oquendo; Chris Maloney, the current manager of the Cards' AAA affiliate, the Memphis Redbirds; White Sox coach and former Cardinal utility player Joe McEwing; former

Cardinal catcher Mike Matheny; Ryne Sandberg, Hall of Fame second baseman for the Chicago Cubs and currently manager of Philadelphia's AAA affiliate, the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs and former Red Sox and Phillies manager Terry Francona.

As managerial candidates go, most of them certainly seem capable, but it isn't exactly a star-studded list. None of the first five listed have experience managing in the majors. In fact, of the six names listed here, the only one with said experience, Francona, is the only logical choice for the position.

Of the 30 managing jobs in the major leagues, the Cardinals' opening is one of the most coveted. By coming here, a manager has the opportunity to manage one of the game's most storied and most successful franchises, a franchise whose number of World Series titles is second only to the financial juggernaut that is the New York Yankees, without the constant pressure that comes along with managing in one of the major coastal markets such as New York, Boston, or Los Angeles. Furthermore, it is not as though the Cards are in a rebuilding phase; the current Cardinals team is in an excellent position to repeat its success next year, with all of its core players returning in addition to ace pitcher Adam Wainwright, who lost out on the 2011 season thanks to Tommy John's ligament replacement surgery.

Simply put, the Cardinals have no need to settle for a second-tier candidate, which is a description that fits everyone on the above list sans Francona and perhaps Sandberg, Matheny and Oquendo, despite their standing with Cards fans, have



Jeremy Zschau

no managerial experience at any professional level. McEwing's experience consists of two years managing in the White Sox minor league system. Sandberg has only a few more years of experience than McEwing, but his case is bolstered somewhat by his Hall of Fame credentials.

Francona, however, is just as suited to the position as the other candidates are unsuited. During the La Russa era, Cards fans became used to winning. That is a position Francona is accustomed to, having faced similar expectations in Boston. He rose to the occasion for the Sox, as well; he led the team to their first World Series title in 86 years back in 2004, his first year with the team. He repeated the same feat in 2007, winning against a Colorado Rockies club that was regarded by many as a "team of destiny." He is not just the only currently available candidate who can come close to matching La Russa's resume, but one of the only managers in the majors today who can boast similar success. A top-tier franchise like the Cards deserves a top-tier manager, and the only man available who fits that bill is Terry Francona.

Jeremy Zschau is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

What do you think?
www.thecurrent-online.com.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Climate change deniers lose favorite scientist to other side

Last week, climate change deniers lost their favorite scientist to the other side. Climate change skeptic Richard Muller, a prominent physicist at the University of California Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, has been a darling of climate change deniers for years. His questioning of climate research has been cited extensively by those wishing to challenge the science on global warming.

On October 31, Muller announced the result of a two-year study that aimed at questioning the research of prominent climate scientists, using questions raised by climate change deniers to prove they were wrong. Except the results led Muller to switch sides, now acknowledging that the planet is warming rapidly.

Climate change denial has persisted despite overwhelming scientific evidence and a remarkable 98 percent agreement among climate scientists that it is real and that mankind's activities are major contributors. While some climate change deniers have switched to an "it is a hoax" conspiracy theory, the fossil fuel industries, certain well-funded organizations and wealthy individuals like the Koch brothers have kept up the effort to instill doubt about the scientific evidence. Muller's dissenting voice had little impact among scientists but it helped confuse the general public about the scientific consensus on climate.

Ironically, Muller's study was funded in part by the Charles Koch Foundation, with the stated hope that the study might challenge the opinions to date on climate change. Charles and David Koch are the politically active billionaire brothers behind Koch Industries. The company is involved in oil refining and businesses related to the fossil

fuel industry and the other industries that emit greenhouse gases. Not surprisingly, the Koch brothers are calling for further study.

Muller's study examined changes in the planet's surface temperatures. The results showed that the earth has warmed 1 degree celsius since the 1950s. Temperature readings from the pre-industrial late-18th century convinced Muller that the planet had become much warmer.

As many have pointed out, Muller's study has no real scientific significance, as it only confirms the already-overwhelming data on climate change, a mere drop in the ocean of evidence.

The study's greater significance will be whether climate change deniers will now drop the pretense of scientific doubts about climate change and how mankind is impacting it. For years, Muller's work has been used as a cover by climate-change deniers in industry and government who wanted to slow or limit renewable energy development and limits on carbon emissions.

That cover is now blown, but will they take notice? Only if the general public notices.

While Muller has not gone so far as to acknowledge that human activity is the major contributor to global warming, he has admitted that limiting carbon emissions is a good idea.

While scientific evidence grows that the planet is warming at a faster rate than some models had predicted, paleontologists are uncovering new evidence about what a significantly warmer world would be like. The picture for humans is not rosy, especially after passing the seven billion population mark.

Of course, there is evidence that climate change denial may have been largely an effort to



Cate Marquis

run out the clock anyway. It has been widely reported that Rupert Murdoch, the Australian billionaire owner of Fox News, has been convinced of the reality of global warming and man's role in that phenomenon for sometime, although one could never guess that from the comments of pundits such as Glenn Beck who dominate Fox News programming. Businesses have to run based on reality, no matter how much one might wish that the facts were otherwise, and Murdoch is nothing if not a clever businessman.

Will this cold splash of reality trickle down to the political debate over taking action on global warming? Clearly, the motivations for the fossil fuel industry have not changed, but will the smoke screen still hold with the loss of the pretense of scientific uncertainty finally gone? The study leaves only the conspiracy theory standing, although efforts are made now to argue against action due to the economic situation. However, that argument is like saying it is too expensive to fix the roof on your house, so you will just let it collapse.

It will be interesting to see if losing this physicist as a climate change skeptic will impact public opinion on this grave threat to our planet.

Cate Marquis is Arts and Entertainment Editor and a columnist for The Current.

MAD WORLD

"Navajo" products more than just a case of corporate mislabeling

Recently there's been a disturbing trend of retailers marketing Navajo-inspired products to the public. One of the main problems with this, however, is that few of the products are actually credited as being Navajo or Native American "inspired," but instead are labeled as simply "Navajo."

Urban Outfitters has gotten into some legal trouble for branding many of their products as "Navajo," including a "Navajo Print Fabric Wrapped Flask," which is more than a little culturally insensitive. The appropriation of Native American crafts has become increasingly common recently, as designers and consumers alike have picked up on this so-called trend. Of course, reducing an entire nation and culture to a fashion trend to be packaged and sold in vapid fashion magazines and mass retailers nationwide is problematic, to say the least. The Navajo nation is just that — a real-life nation of people with its own history and cultural identity, not a superficial fabric pattern to be sloppily recreated on cheap sweaters and sold for profit — a profit that actual Native peoples do not see a single penny of, despite.

Knocking off tribal arts is not only unethical, but it's also a legal issue. According to the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 and the Federal Trade Commission Act, it is prohibited to falsely claim or imply that a product is Native American-made if that isn't the case. The Navajo Nation owns a bevy of trademarks associ-

ated with the term "Navajo," including trademarks that cover clothing and sportswear. What Urban Outfitters and other retailers are doing is illegal in the United States and their actions can result in prosecution and a hefty \$1,000,000 fine. Urban Outfitters allegedly received a cease and desist letter from the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation asking them to stop using its trademarks to sell products that aren't associated with actual Navajo people or Navajo designs (the use of "Navajo" to describe the products suggest otherwise). As a result, the products were recently relabeled, with product descriptions using the word "printed" in lieu of "Navajo."

Troublingly enough, the appropriation of Native American culture and crafts is a trend that many don't even blink an eye at. From hipsters in headdresses to "Navajo" printed flasks and leggings sold at trendy retailers, what many don't remember is that these items and patterns originally possessed cultural significance to an entire nation of people before they were watered down and used to turn a profit for retailers who are in no way affiliated with any actual Native American tribes. When we as a society get to a point where we collectively fail to identify things like this as at least somewhat troublesome behavior, how far have we fallen in regards to respecting cultures that are not necessarily our own?

Typically, the designs used aren't authentic representations of the Navajo culture, but



Sharon Pruitt

cheaply made knock-offs used to sell hand bags and feather earrings. Using "Navajo" as a blanket term to cover generically Native American-inspired items ignores the existence of the many unique tribes of the U.S. There are so many problems with this trend that it's hard to believe that many designers and retailers didn't pick up on a single one of them. When using Native American-inspired art, corporations should be absolutely clear that the products in question are not authentically Native American in any way, shape, or form. It's not just a matter of correct labeling, but of showing respect for those cultures from whose pilfered image you seek to profit.

The line between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation isn't always clear, but it's safe to say that if you're profiting from a bastardized version of something that exists in a culturally authentic form somewhere else, your actions are most likely a case of the latter.

Sharon Pruitt is a columnist and staff writer for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com

Horoscopes

CURRENT HOROSCOPES by The Inane Collective
altered by:
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 **SCORPIO**
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)


You have always wanted to fly at high speeds and attack using your large venomous stingers. Unfortunately, you have neither forelegs nor a tail.

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

If you find yourself stuck in a battle this week, flap your imaginary wings at high speed to release the highly toxic dust within your peacoat into the air.

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


You are always intensely furious and tenacious. You will never abandon the pursuit of your goals until you have successfully achieved them.

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

You must use your ability to read minds this week, as it will allow you to identify impending danger and teleport to safety.

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

You are very lazy. All you do is eat and sleep. As your rotund bulk builds, you shall become steadily more slothful. Please, do not allow your slothful nature to keep you from success.

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

When several of your type gather in a small area, your electric personalities could build and cause lightning storms.

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


When you and your friends swing your "burning tails," it elevates the temperature to unbearably high levels no matter where you are.

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

Despite what your parents swear to, you were actually created by a scientist after years of horrific gene splicing and DNA engineering experiments.

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


A mystical individual who exudes a gentle aura, you often find that you have the ability to change climate conditions with your mood swings.

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

At the time of your birth, you had only one tail to speak of. However, as you have grown older, you are realizing that your tail is splitting into multiple entities.

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

Because you have never thought to remove your skull helmet, no one has ever seen your real face. Come out of your shell for once.

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

You have always adored circular objects. You wander the streets on a nightly basis to look for loose change. You may need to reevaluate your life.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at

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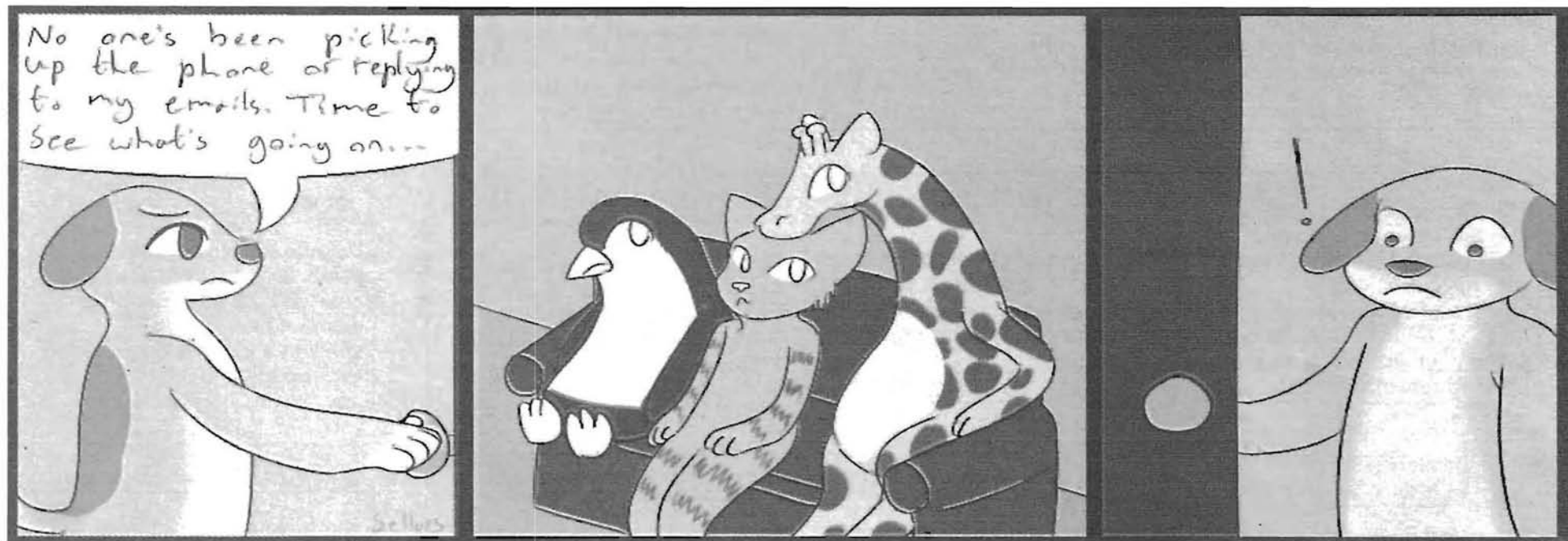
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