

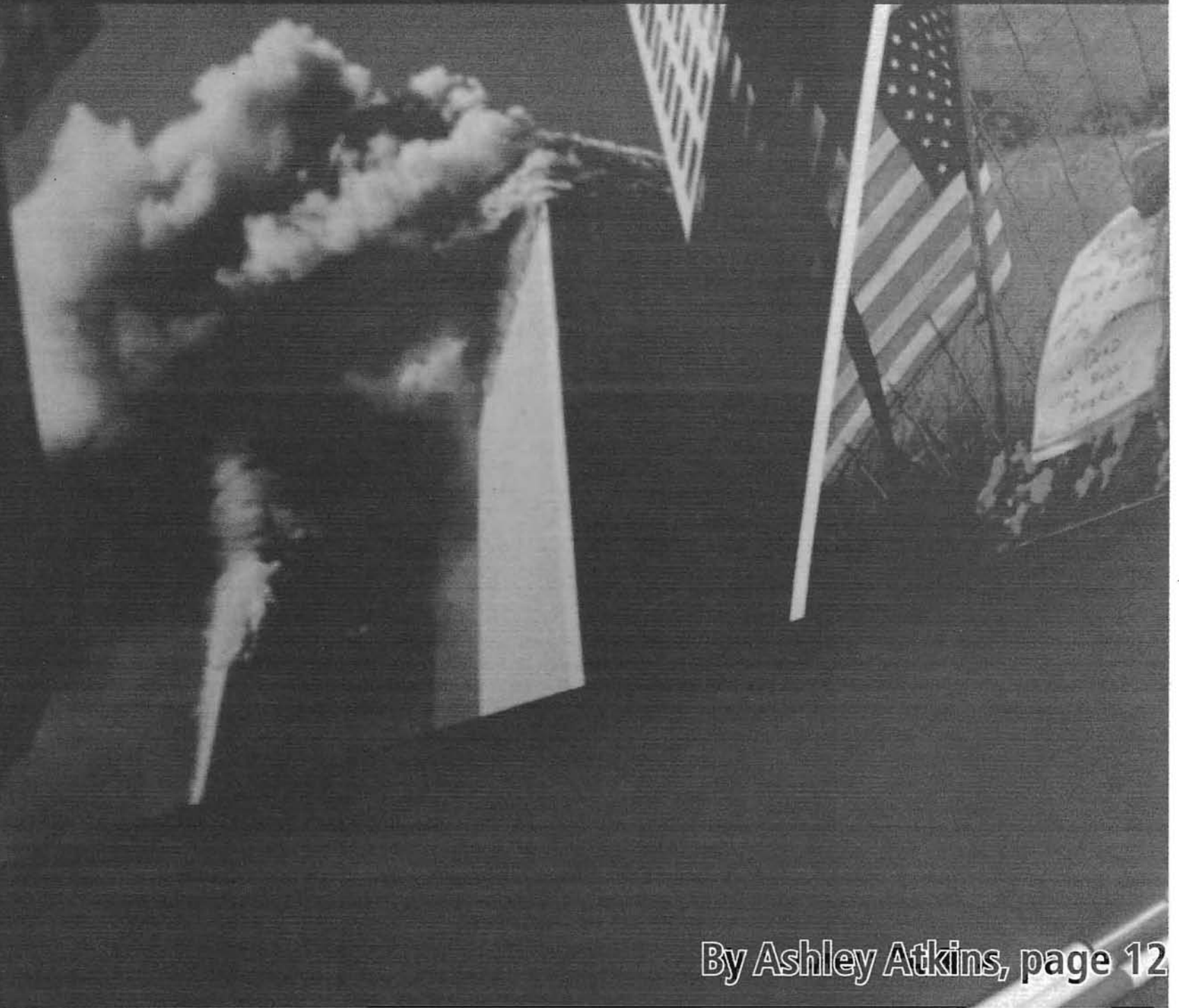
# The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

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## UMSL community remembers 9/11



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# The Current

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

## AFFILIATIONS



# News

## Missouri congress repeals "The Facebook Law" to encourage communication

*New law states schools must develop a policy regulating online communication to encourage interactions outside of school*

**HALI FLINTROP**  
 Staff Writer

Recently, Jefferson City repealed and modified Section 162.069 of the Amy Hestir Student Protection Act. This particular section of the bill, known more widely as "The Facebook Law," aroused some strong opposition as well as support upon its original passing.

The Amy Hestir Act, which encompasses several policies other than ones regarding online teacher-student communication, was designed with the intent of "Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children," according to the Missouri Senate website. The act includes a clause mandating report of all student allegations to the Children's Division within 24 hours and another requiring school districts to immediately suspend, terminate or allow the resignation of employees who have been investigated of sexual misconduct if the allegations were substantiated.

For many, the part of the act about teacher-student communication does not fit with the rest; the majority of issues in the bill enumerate how to handle sexual misconduct when it is either alleged or proven to be occurring. In contrast, the teacher-student communication was merely preventative, working on the assumption that the internet is a primary medium for inappropriate relationships between teachers and students.

Testifying in support of the original legislation, KMOV.com quoted Thomas Wright, Missouri school police officer. "All of the contacts originated from text messaging, or Facebook or other social media," Wright said, referring to cases of sexual relationships between teachers and students that he had investigated.

The original "Facebook Law" was repealed by legislation after a Missouri judge declared that the legislation was not to be enforced. Congress responded by repealing the legislation and revising it.

A widespread reaction to the communication legislation was that it steps on the toes of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment by placing limitations on teachers' speech. Perhaps, legislation ought not regulate online communication in schools

at all, but rather leave it to school districts to determine communication guidelines.

Julie Shelton, Facilitator for the Ritenour School District, former Social Studies teacher at Ritenour High School, and parent in the Wentzville School District stated, "I believe the law was passed with good intentions, to protect our kids. However, there are or were many unintended consequences of the law that were not considered that inhibit teachers from helping their students... There have been and always will be some teachers who fall between the cracks of all the safety nets we put in place to protect our kids. There is so much ambiguity as to what is appropriate and inappropriate that sometimes we do need to just define it."

The revised law does just that, stating "By January 1, 2012, every school district must develop a written policy concerning teacher-student communication and employee-student communications. Each policy must include appropriate oral and nonverbal personal communication, which may be combined with sexual harassment policies, and appropriate use of electronic media as described in the act, including social networking sites," as posted on the Missouri Senate website.

Optimistically, it is possible that the modified legislation has achieved this essential middle ground between encouraging teachers to be present in students' lives enough to optimize educational benefit while still requiring communication boundaries to be drawn by school districts who can best assess the needs of their faculty and student bodies.

Ultimately, the dilemma between protecting civil liberties like free speech and rigidly enforcing safety never seems to get clearer, but as far as student-teacher communications are concerned, Teddy Binkholder, freshman, anthropology has a working answer:

"Teachers and students can always communicate inside the classroom. You don't need Facebook; you have a voice-box. Use it!"

## WEATHER

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# New Non-Smoking Policy Receives Attention and Support from Students

**MADDIE HARNED**

Staff Writer

There is an old motivational quote that states it only takes 21 days to break a habit. Following that logic, University of Missouri-Saint Louis' non-smoking policy, which is in its third month, should have rid the campus of smoking.

The non-smoking policy was approved by the University Assembly in early November of last year. The policy took effect on July 1 of this year. While the UMSL campus has not been completely cleared of cigarette use, many students and staff have noticed a significant decrease in smoking. "The majority of students have complied with the non-smoking policy," Bob Samples, associate vice chancellor for communications, said. "Though a few students have expressed concerns with the policy, the majority of concerns have largely been from people who are frustrated when they see individuals violating the policy."

Those who do violate the policy can be referred to Student Conduct and Community Standards. After the student has been referred, Student Conduct and Community Standards will conduct an investigation of the charge. After the investigation concludes, a decision will be made on a proper sanction. There are many sanctions that could be given to a student who violates the non-smoking policy. The most likely sanctions to be assigned are formal warnings, probation periods, losses of privileges and community service duties. Currently no fines are given to students who violate the non-smoking policy.

The possibility of receiving sanctions does not deter some students from smoking on campus. "I'm not a fan of the policy and I smoke a cigarette the same way I did before – away from entrances and whenever I want," Michael Caramanna, freshman, political science, said. "I'm sure those in charge want to appear to be progressives, but I

would hope they would be more worried about the budget and keeping tuition as low as possible."

Since the non-smoking policy has been enacted, Health, Wellness, Counseling and Disability Access Services has received resources through Communities Putting Prevention to Work to provide free smoking cessation assistance to UMSL students, staff and faculty.

Health, Wellness, Counseling and Disability Access Services provides counseling sessions, classes and free nicotine replacement therapies. The program can also set up UMSL students, staff and faculty with a nurse practitioner to receive a prescription option to help quit smoking. This resource is available until June 2012. Those interested in the program can call 314-516-5380 or e-mail moorekath@umsl.edu.

Students are not expected to enforce the non-smoking policy. If a student encounters an individual smoking on campus they have the choice to act. "Individuals who see students smoking on campus should contact the Office of Student Affairs," Samples said. "Word of mouth is a great way to help promote the program."

"If you are comfortable, I would politely remind your fellow student about the smoking policy," Katherine Moore, Communities Putting Prevention to Work Health educator, said. "You never want to be rude or inconsiderate, positive support will work ten times better than negative."

Samples and other staff members are presently in the process of planning signage and other methods to communicate the policy to students, faculty, staff and visitors.

"The policy has lots of support," Samples said. "The majority of students have complied with the non-smoking policy – as have faculty and staff."



A student smokes outside the MSC.

JARRED GASTREICH / THE CURRENT

## The UNDERCURRENT

by Jarred Gastreich

"What activities would you like to see on campus?"



"I would like to see a videogame club. A place for gamers to congregate and discuss video game genres, graphics, characters, etc and just to play."

**Ashley Beeson**  
Graphic Design  
Junior



"I would like more activities focused on presenting music to a broader range of students thus promoting a larger arts-based culture on campus."

**Stephen Baier**  
Vocal Music Ed.  
Senior



"I would like to see more student art shows and involvement in the galleries on campus and around St. Louis."

**Virginia Harold**  
Photography  
Senior

# President of Missouri History Museum discusses history in the present tense at Mercantile library

**MINHO JUNG**

News Editor

Last Wednesday, Robert R. Archibald, president of the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, had a lecture, "History in the Present Tense," for the 23rd Annual James Neal Primm Lecture at Mercantile library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"My view is that history is really about the future, [it] is not about the past. It is something living people do. It is a way of sorting out who we are, and a way of sorting out what's good about the world we live in and what could be better," Archibald said. "You receive a legacy from the past created by all those people who lived before you did. [The question is,] what do you do with that? Even if you do nothing, that's a choice, but whenever you do nothing, the consequences will fall on the shoulders of someone you have never met, because they are not born."

Archibald is a native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. His education and professional experiences in a variety of areas across the nation have provided him with different perspectives and understanding of history.

"I think I have always been interested in history. I am a creature of the 1960s. I majored in history and economics. [After undergraduate education,] I decided to pursue an advanced degree in history, so I ended up with Ph.D. in history from the University of New Mexico," Archibald said. "I started working in the museums many years ago. I have been working in museums for almost 40 years. [Now] it is hard to imagine a life without that. It is what I do, it sort of becomes, after a while, who you are."

James Neal Primm, founder of the program, became chairman of the history department at University Missouri-St. Louis in 1965. He is well-known for his great contribution to the school when it was in its infancy. His daughter Jackie Termini paid a visit to UMSL that day to participate in celebrating Dr. Primm's legacy.

"[It has been going for] twenty three years. It's to carry on the legacy of my father who was, of course, a great historian," Termini said. "Bringing new people to the school every year [is very meaningful.] You do not have to be historian. Common people just can enjoy it. I'm hoping that my grandchildren will be coming."

Every year, the James Neal Primm Lecture invites distinguished historians across the nation to UMSL. Last year, Mark E. Neely Jr., Pulitzer Prize winning historian, paid a visit to the school as a guest speaker.

"Neal Primm was probably the foremost historian in the St. Louis area from our generation. Neal Primm was really an institution in St. Louis rooted way back into the community," Louis S. Gerteis, professor of history department, said. "[Speaking of the Neal Primm program,] we have very illustrious groups from the current President of Harvard University to a Pulitzer Prize winner."

The James Neal Primm Lecture series will continue to carry on the great legacy of the founder by having world-renowned history scholars at the program. Martha Sandweiss, history professor at Princeton University, is appointed to the speaker for the next year.

# Annual Fedder Lecture promotes and renews interest in foreign policy, emphasizing a role of citizens

**HALI FLINTROP**

Staff Writer

The Annual Fedder lecture took place in a Millennium Student Center Century room on Monday, September 12. The lecture is named after Dr. Edwin H. Fedder, a deceased former member of the University of Missouri- St. Louis, political science faculty. Author of "NATO: The Dynamics of Alliance in the Post-war World and Defense Politics of the Atlantic Alliance," Fedder was a foreign affairs expert and enthusiast.

After his death in 1999, Fedder's family established the Annual Fedder Lecture on UMSL's campus both to honor Dr. Fedder and proliferate community interest in politics and foreign affairs. Monday's lecture was the ninth in the series, which has featured academic authorities, authors and a former ambassador.

Dan Caldwell, professor of political science at Pepperdine University and author of the book "Vortex of Conflict: US Policy Towards Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq," did not disappoint the audience. The overall lecture was about under-the-radar information concerning America's two current wars.

"This lecture falls so close to 9/11," Caldwell said in his opening remarks. He pointed out there was little mention of or discourse regarding the impact that 9/11 still has on us in terms of the wars we continue to fight.

In his presentation, Caldwell discussed three major powers, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, concerning the War on Terror. Their political history, ethnics and religious make-ups as well as the relationship they shared with the United States in the past and the present, were the main points of discussion. It managed to toe the line between user-friendly and in-depth for audience members with varying levels of interest in the conflict.

As the presentation progressed, it became clear that Caldwell would stand far away from expressing any controversial opinions regarding the United States-Middle East conflict, despite the topic's controversial nature. However, his of-

ficial close to the speech served to somewhat satisfy those who eagerly awaited Caldwell's personal stance, which turned out to be simple and admirable:

"We need to be good citizens," Caldwell said.

Drawing from Winston Churchill's famous remark, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," Caldwell asserted that only military members and military families are acutely affected by the war, while the rest of the American citizenry did not even have to finance the war via tax increase. "It is our job [as citizens] to deserve it," Caldwell said, referring to the sacrifices of military members.

Then, Caldwell proceeded to open the floor for questions. The first audience question catered to the ultimate controversial nature of the Fedder lecture's subject matter: Is this war legal?

The audience hastened to share significant glances with their neighbors before Caldwell began to answer. "Preventative wars are legal, while preemptive wars are not," Caldwell said. "I can see how this war would be viewed as preemptive, in which case, its legality is questionable. However, it is always presented as a preventative by the administration."

Caldwell's lecture, which was diplomatic and well-informed, was a good representation of the overall tone of his lecture, which had the necessary effect of renewing real interest in the War on Terror, an issue that has become so politically hyped that it can seem untouchable at times.

Ultimately, this year's Fedder lecture was another success. It received a great deal of positive feedback from those who took part in it. It was acclaimed for promoting interest in and enthusiasm for foreign policy, which was, without doubt, one of Dr. Edwin Fedder's goals.

# What's Current

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



Richard Picciotto speaks about his experience trying to evacuate the North Tower during the attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## Monday, September 19

### Resume Review

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located in the Nosh and open to students. Stop by for a quick resume review and tips for improvements. For more information, call Career Services at 314-516-5111.

### Black/Minority Student Nurses General Membership Meeting

From 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Located at Seton Hall Lounge Area and open to all. Come out to the general membership meeting to find out about the events that are coming up with BSNA/MSNA. For more information, please call Jazmin Shawell-Wallace at 901-490-1144.

## Tuesday, September 20

### Start Smart - Work Smart

From 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Located at 126 J. C. Penney Conference Center and open to all. Programs provide participants with information about how to begin comparing job offerings in their fields and geographic area. Learn to analyze comparable salaries and negotiate with potential employers in order to improve prospective job offers through role-playing exercises. For more information, call Peggy Cohen at 314-516-7130.

## Wednesday, September 21

### Campus Do's and Don'ts - What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located at MSC Century Room B and open to students. D'Andre Braddix, assistant dean of students, and Officer Gary Clark will offer information on university policies, procedures and safety measures that students may not know. Interactive presentations will educate students on campus safety and University policy adherence. For more information, call Multicultural Relations, at 314-516-6807.

### Sister Scholars-in-Training

From 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located in MSC Room 313 and open to faculty/staff and students. This program, in conjunction with the Access to Success (A2S) Initiative, will provide space for African American female students to enhance their identities as they continue to work toward degree attainment. For more information, call Dr. Angela Coker at 314-516-6088.

## Thursday, September 22

### Making Ireland Irish: Tourism and National Identity since the Irish Civil War

From 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Located in 331 SSB, open to all. Eric G. E. Zuelow, assistant professor of European history at the University of New England, will speak on the topic of Irish identity and external images of Ireland since the Irish Civil War. For more information, contact Kathy Castulik at 314-516-4657.

# A&E

## Gallery 210's 'Southern Journeys' shows the struggle of African Americans

**ANGIE O'DELL**

Staff Writer

African American artists showcase their work in the Gallery 210 exhibit "Southern Journeys: African American Artists of the South." Gallery 210 is located on North Campus, near the Metrolink station. The exhibit is free and open to all.

The traditions of African American culture and their movement up the ladder of equality are some of the aspects of this exhibit and their progression is showcased. This exhibit starts with the Southern African American tradition, and following their migration North and their journey into Modernism. Artwork reflects their struggles with slavery, musical traditions, storytelling and themes, such as religious backgrounds.

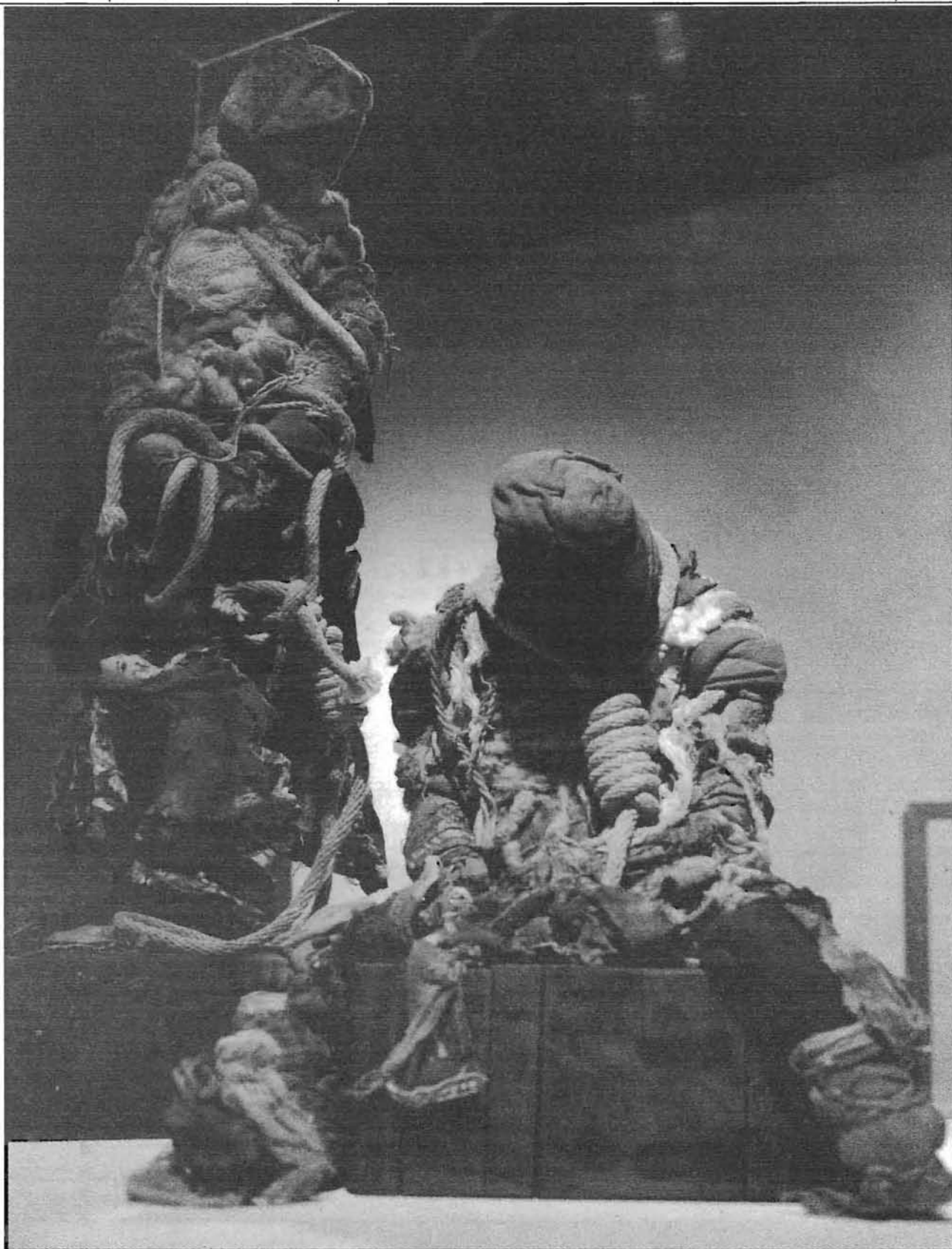
After the prolonged struggles for freedom, many African Americans still link to their Southern heritage because it was such a big part of their culture until the Great Migration, when many African Americans started migrating north. With them, they brought their music, storytelling, dancing and religion. They also brought their art. Everything from religious art and slave narratives to Modernism is featured in this exhibit.

"Sepia Love Song" by Radcliff Bailey, uses mixed media on wood and features an African American woman in the center, surrounded by vibrant blues, oranges and greens. There is a blue beetle bug on the right of the picture. Numbers on the left hand side say "3 weeks, 6,000." This seems to be a narrative slave piece, describing the struggles and journeys which an African American woman had to go through, and documenting symbolically how many miles she had left to travel before she was free. A journey for freedom is what this seems to be symbolizing. It also showcases the individual woman in the center, showing that focus on the self should be prized. The woman's beauty is shown and celebrated, as well as her struggle.

"Slave Dolls" by Jeffrey Cook is a work of art made of muslin, wire, wood, cord and mixed media. It features figures that have nooses around their necks, leaning down, showing the struggle slaves had to go through on their way over to this country in the slave ships. This is the most intriguingly slave narrative piece of the exhibit.

"Coming to Jones Road: Under a Blood Red Sky Lithograph" by Faith Ringgold, is a lithograph that features the saying, "We named the baby Freedom because she was born almost free." The figures depicted in the piece are slaves traveling to their freedom.

The two-piece "Pieta of South Africa" features oil and wood on folded canvas. The painting takes after



'Slave Dolls' by Jeffrey Cook, part of the 'Southern Journeys' art exhibit at Gallery 210.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

Michelangelo's "Pieta," in that it features a Madonna and Child. Very colorful, with narratives in the lower part, it states "Love one another as I have loved you, you must love one another."

A very impressive piece, "Doll" by Nina Buxenbaum is oil on canvas. The doll is African American, as is the girl in the painting. The doll is shown with eyes outlined with white eyebrows. Also the doll has a red nose and mouth. She is wearing a white headscarf with red flowers and her dress is the same design. The girl seems to be caring for the doll in

some fashion.

Acquainting oneself with each piece in order to gain a chronological view of the artists' journeys is a good idea. This exhibit has been made possible thanks to the Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, and it is co-curated by Stella Jones, M.D., and Eloise Johnson, PH.D.

"Southern Journeys: African American Artists of the South" is a vibrant collection that showcases the rich Southern tradition of African American culture. The exhibit will be on display through October 1.

# 'Bucky Larson' is a flop: star-grade performances not here

**YUSEF ROACH**

Staff Writer

If you have seen even ten minutes of television in the last month, no doubt you have noticed the inundation of crass, loud commercials featuring Peter Dante shouting nonsensical reasons as to why you should spend money and time to see "Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star." Dante is a personal friend and regular collaborator of Adam Sandler, the film's co-writer and producer.

"Bucky" stars Nick Swardson, another frequent Sandler collaborator and co-writer of this film, best known for his stellar work as Terry Bernadino, a homosexual roller-skating prostitute on the dearly missed "Reno 911!" Swardson is the titular character, a Midwestern man-child, seemingly victim to a host of unspecified mental disorders. After losing his job as a bagger in Iowa, his friends try to cheer him up through the group-viewing of a porno flick, as it appears most men in their early twenties are wont to do. After realizing what would undoubtedly and irreversibly traumatize most people - that the movie stars his parents - rather than vomit uncontrollably and question loudly and repeatedly the voices and choices that bring him to this point, Bucky sees it as a sign. Clearly this is his calling.

Upon arriving in Hollywood, he befriends the unfailingly sweet, incredibly unrealistic, and absolutely unfunny waitress Kathy (Christina Ricci) and down-and-out porn director Miles Deep (Don Johnson). Ricci delivers a seemingly straight performance, her character transplanted from some movie featuring an actual plausible romantic B-story. It is understandable her interest in Bucky was written in as a joke, but when played as straight, as it is, the humor of the situation is lost and just makes for an intensely awkward love story (and not in the good way).

Implausibly, yet somehow predictably enough, Bucky Larson becomes an instant success, due

to the go-to of lazy screenwriting nowadays, the internet! After his lack of sexual prowess, and disappointing size garner "over a million hits," Miles realizes there is an untapped pornographic market for the unattractive and unendowed, particularly in their ability to boost the self-confidence of millions of men, while simultaneously being laughed at. Bucky's meteoric rise to fame leads to utmost annoyance for the rival porn actor and primary antagonist, played by Stephen Dorff, Dick Shadow - a name one must learn never to Google.

The film is not entirely bad. The always spot-on Kevin Nealon delivers an absolutely uproarious performance as Bucky's twisted, seething roommate Gary. Nealon actually has one of, if not the funniest, scenes in the movie, turning a typical roommate quibble ("Did you eat one of my grapes?") into something spectacular. The affable Jimmy Fallon and his "Late Night" show have a cameo that elicits a bit of a chuckle - mostly, though, because it is always nice to see Fallon.

"Bucky Larson's" biggest flaw lies entirely in its writing. Swardson is a seasoned performer. Anyone who has seen his numerous stand-up specials, notably, his most recent one "Seriously, Who Farted?" or his one-off TV and movie appearances, can attest to that.

If only they had been able to utilize his offbeat energy in this film, seemingly a vehicle written for him to carry (it is his first starring role). The premise is there, the writing just relies to heavily on lazy gags and vulgarities to sell its laughs. When you forget the "funny," all you are left with is "gross."

Grade: C-

- Yusef Roach

# Hawthorn Heights' 'Hate' must-have for emo/punk fans

**JANACA SCHERER**

Managing Editor

Bringing back the emo days of many students' high school years, Hawthorne Heights is back, in the original style that they are most known for.

Released on August 23, Hawthorne Heights' latest EP is titled "Hate." The first record they have put out since they started their own label, Cardboard Empire, "Hate" is the first piece of a trilogy the band plans on creating.

Since the unexpected death of their guitarist and screamer, Casey Calvert, in 2007, the band has struggled with identifying who they were musically with their fans. After some time, the band has finally made their comeback, and it is bigger than ever.

While Calvert has not been replaced, the band has evolved and developed into the well-oiled machine that can be heard on "Hate." Working towards progressing their current members instead of adding a member that attempts to replace one of the best screamers the emo scene may have ever seen, the band has come back better than ever.

Reverting back to their original sound, Hawthorne Heights has finally found a happy medium that new and old fans can both enjoy and appreciate. By adding the screaming of Micah Carl, guitarist, the band has finally found the perfect mix of elements from all their albums.

"Hate" is only available for digital download. iTunes is currently selling it for \$8.91 and has received a fairly positive reception from fans. The album deals with a lot of hatred and anger, perhaps still dealing with emotional issues from Calvert's death.

The first two songs are not the greatest, but "Divided" is definitely worth the wait. The perfect combination of musical elements from "The Silence in Black and White" days and the softer elements of "Fragile Future," the song proves that Hawthorne Heights has matured into a band that deserves some recognition.

The most striking song on "Hate" is the title song. Mixing some musical styles that have never been heard from Hawthorne Heights (and other listeners have to hear a little Blink 182 in this), "Hate" is extremely emotional. Finding common ground with anyone who has ever hated anything, if you only want to download one song from this album, make it "Hate."

The first single released from "Hate" was "Four White Walls" and with good reason. Sounding like it came off one of their first albums, "Four White Walls" is an amazing song. Instantly grabbing your ear buds and making you listen, this song will easily be put on repeat. Making listeners' heads bob, "Four White Walls" is another song that has to be downloaded.

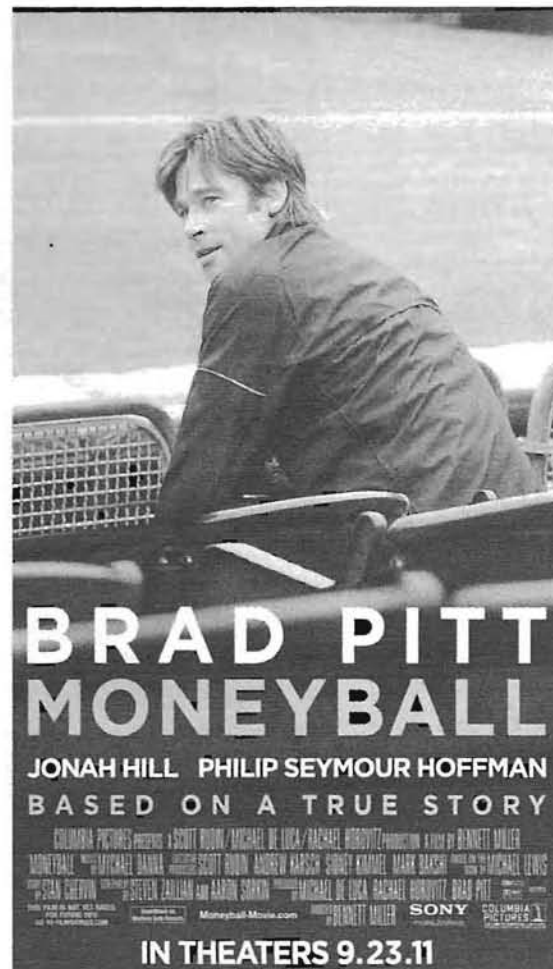
While Hawthorne Heights has experienced horrible things that most bands have not, they have definitely grown from it. Using the pain that they felt from the death of Calvert, they have grown together as a band and musically. The fact that Hawthorne Heights now own their own record label means that we can expect more fantastic things for the rest of the EP trilogy that they will be putting out.

"Hate" is a must-have album for any one who grew up listening to emo music. Old fans should buy this album, confident that they will be able to hear a side of Hawthorne Heights that has long been forgotten and is

now better than ever.

Grade: B-

- Janaca Scherer



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COLUMBIA PICTURES **The Current**

\*While supplies last. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. Two admit-one passes per person. This film has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for some strong language.

## DANCE

# MOMIX in 'Botanica' returns to Touhill PAC to delight anew with imaginative dance surprises

**MAVIS HOLLIS**  
Staff Writer

MOMIX in "Botanica" is the name of this intriguing piece, which did its encore performance at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on September 13.

The performance was part of the Dance St. Louis program, opening its forty-sixth season with a one night only event of MOMIX in "Botanica," presented by Dance St. Louis, Touhill Performing Arts Center and St. Louis College of Pharmacy. This is MOMIX in "Botanica's" second event at the Touhill, after it sold out in April of this year.

MOMIX is a troupe of dancer-illusionists directed by Moses Pendleton. Known worldwide, they have worked in television and in film, examples being Target and Hanes underwear commercials. The company has been broadcast to fifty-five countries and has astonished audiences on five continents for more than 30 years. Moses Pendleton, the artistic director, has been one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors for over 40 years. He has also worked in opera, film and as a choreographer for ballet companies and special events.

Using only light, shadow, props, the human body and imagination is what makes Botanica so amazing. The two-hour performance invokes hypnotic images and wonderful scenes that open the mind through dance, images of nature and the feeling of being in a garden. The music of the show ranges from bird songs, nature sounds, Hindi chants and classical music of Antonio Vivaldi, all of it arranged beautifully with the performances of the dancers.

The magic is brought through items such as feathers, fabrics, black lights, strobe lights, roller-skates, wind machines and even props made by Michael Curry, Tony-Award winning designer of "The Lion King." A wide variety of colors, primarily blue, green, yellow, purple, red and brown helped, make magic with the props and materials, giving it the lifelike feeling of nature.

Acrobatics of the dancers add dazzle to the performance in a unique way, along with the interesting costumes. Flashing of strobe lights as well a projector helped along the illusion. It all helps portray nature with the dancers.

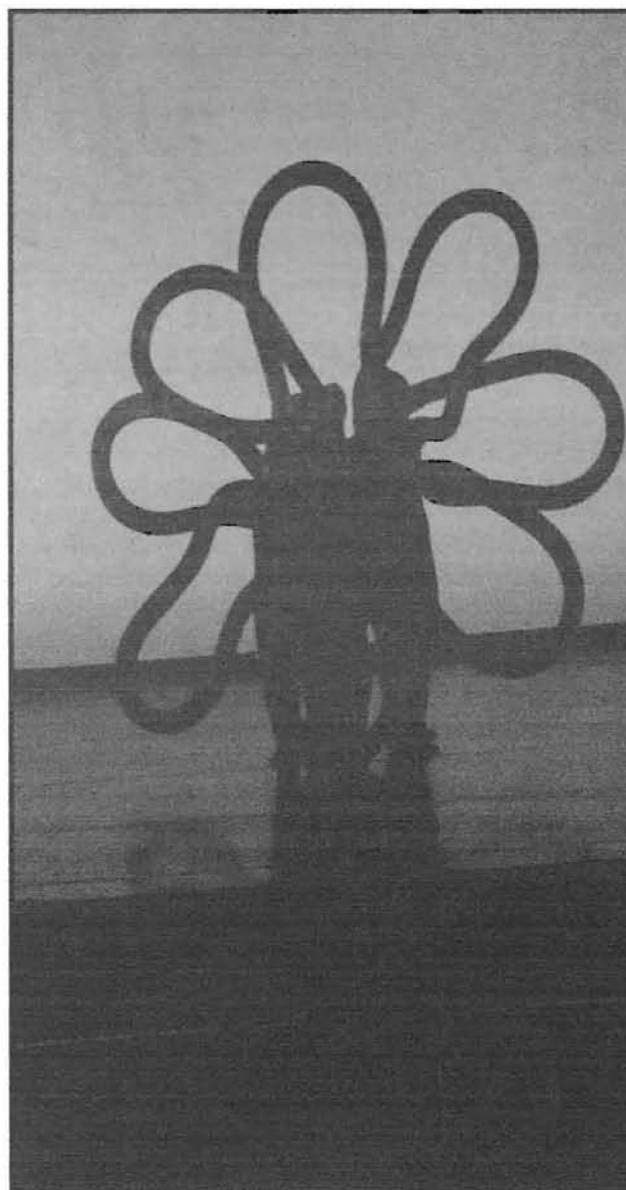
The event is performed in two parts, the first part being "Winter" and "Spring," the second part being "Summer" and "Fall." Within the performance's printed program, the scenes for each part is described in a poetic style, with continuous sentences broken by line in which it mentions such beautiful scenes that the dancers perform.

Dancers bring nature to life in an imaginative form as they dance. The dancers portray parts of nature ranging from trees, sunflowers and eagles to thunder clouds, winter storms, rays of the sun and centaurs. This performance of illusion and dance works its magic right in full view of the audience. Mother Nature is brought to viewers, in the form of dance and illusion.

The interpretations and the beauty of the performance

opens up the mind and the eyes to see a more beautiful nature in the aspect of modern dance and illusions. MOMIX in "Botanica" is a show that is not to be missed for anyone who wants to be dazzled by modern dance mixed with illusion.

**Grade: A**



Dancers of MOMIX perform in 'Botanica' at the Touhill PAC last April. An encore performance was presented Sept 13.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## LATEST + GREATEST

### New Movies Calendar

(Subject to change)

Sept 20:

**PEARL JAM TWENTY (Tivoli only)**

One night only screening of documentary by Cameron Crowe about the legendary band on their 20th anniversary.

**MONEYBALL (everywhere)**

Brad Pitt stars in an Oscar-contender drama inspired by Billy Beane, former player turned manager of the struggling Oakland A's, and his remake of the team by statistical methods despite a meager budget. Also stars Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Jonah Hill.

**DOLPHIN TALE (everywhere)**

A heart-warming story starring Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd and Harry Connick Jr. and inspired by real-life tale about a community coming together to help a boy in his dream of fitting an injured dolphin with a prosthetic tail.

**KILLER ELITE (everywhere)**

An action thriller about a retired British special forces agent (Statham) setting out to rescue his kidnapped mentor (DeNiro) by killing assassins sent by his adversary (Owen).

**BELLFLOWER (Tivoli only)**

An truly indie drama that premiered at Sundance and has been generating buzz, this is an action/drama/romance about friends who spend all their free time building flamethrowers and other weapons while waiting for a global apocalypse.

### New Albums Calendar

(Subject to change)

Sept. 13:

**Bush, 'THE SEA OF MEMORIES'**

1990s grunge-rock band Bush has been broken up since 2002 but the group recently announced their reunion. "The Sea of Memories" will be the band's first studio album in nine years.

**Staind, 'STAIND'**

Staind, the American rock band that was formed in 1995, is releasing their seventh album. This album is self-titled, with the quartet returning to the angrier, more aggressive songs of their early career.

**Swizz Beatz, 'HAUTE LIVING'**

Music producer, entertainer, DJ, entrepreneur and designer Swizz Beatz is releasing his third solo LP.

Sept. 20:

**Mary J. Blige, 'MY LIFE II: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES'**

The Queen of Hip Hop Soul is releasing her tenth studio album. Titled as the sequel to her 1994 album "My Life," Mary J. Blige states this album will explore how she overcame obstacles throughout her career and personal life.



# 'Madden NFL 12' dominates

**ELI DAINS**  
Staff Writer

Often, when a new sports game is released, gamers debate with themselves whether it is "different enough" to justify spending 60 hard earned dollars on it. Hardcore fans still line up to get the new version of their favorite game, but the casual fan can be dubious. This year's version of "Madden" football is definitely one of those games that both casual and hardcore fans are going to want to check out.

Mechanics-wise, the game has a totally different feel than its predecessors. The all-new collision system makes blocking and tackling more realistic than ever. Another addition to game-play is dynamic player performance. Each player has a consistency rating, which effects how they "show up" on game day.

Also new is the player tendencies feature, which makes AI players behave like their real life counterparts. Defensive backs who play aggressively when the ball is in the air will try to jump passes in the game. Quarterbacks who throw the ball away when pressured do so and, yes, Mike Vick will burn you with his legs in a heartbeat if you give him a lane.

The game mode receiving the most significant upgrade is "Franchise Mode." EA Sports included a lot of fan-requested changes in this version. It is definitely the most realistic football "Franchise Mode" this gamer has ever played.

Aspiring GMs will love the new expanded rosters for preseason play. Teams will enter camp with 75 players, allowing for the signing of undrafted free agents, and will cut down to the 53 man roster over the course of the preseason. This adds some incentive to actually play your preseason games since there are so many more new players to get accustomed to.

Rookie scouting has also been overhauled. During the season, a large number of players can be scouted with only limited information being revealed. Off-season, you can scout players at the Rookie Combine, attend Pro Days and even schedule individual

workouts with a select few.

Another fan requested innovation is the ability to trade future draft picks. This, coupled with a much smarter computer AI in the area of team management makes the GM experience all the more realistic. Computer controlled teams change the way they play based on the talent they have and are more willing to cut loose aging veterans and take a rebuilding approach with younger players.

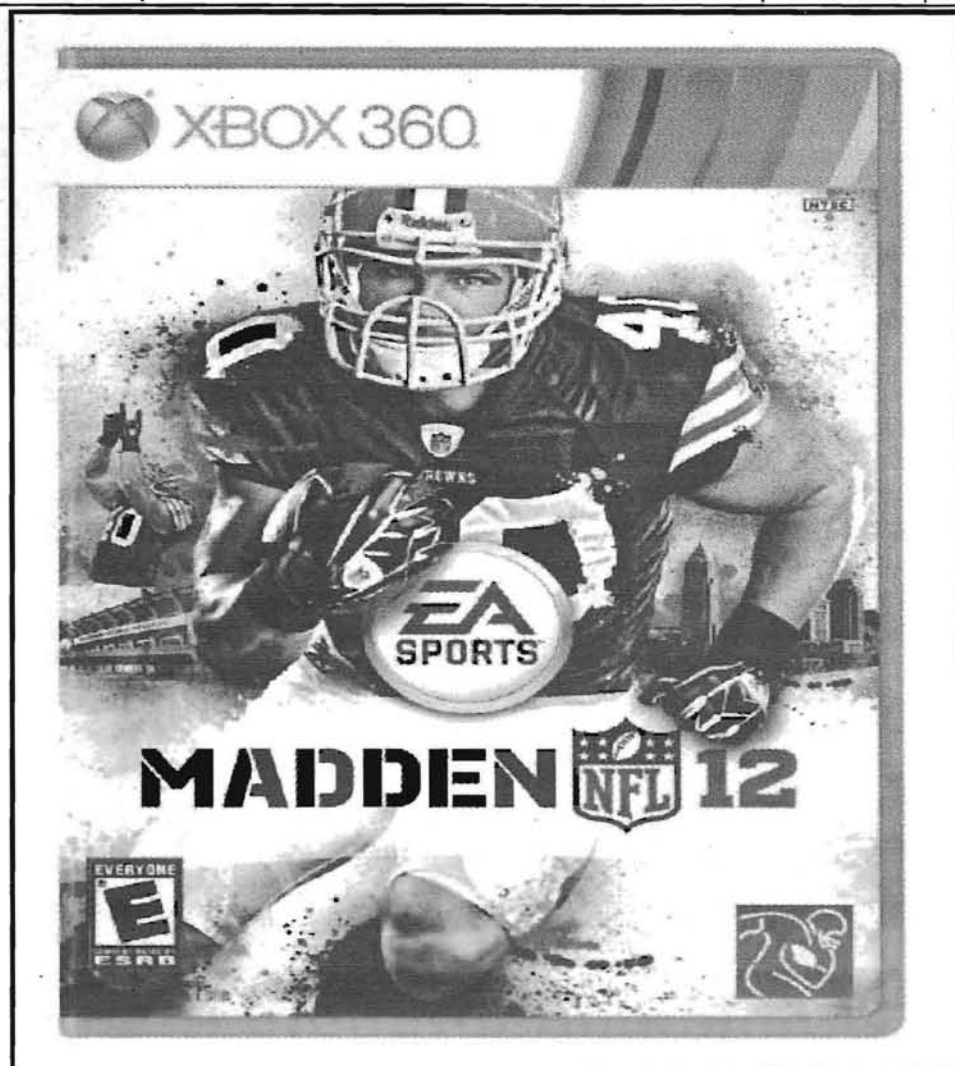
Also, player roles are returning to the franchise after being left out of last year's offering. Roles, which include franchise quarterback, deep threat, first-round draft pick and underachiever among many others, are reassessed during each off-season based on the player's performance. They have both on and off the field effects on players and their value.

"Franchise Mode" was not the only aspect of "Madden 12" that has been improved. The "Be a Pro" mode has been tweaked to make your individual performance have a more direct effect on the progression of your attributes. During weekly practices and games, your player earns skill points, which can be used to advance your attributes as you grow into the superstar you have always wanted to be.

Combined with all of these new innovations are the best parts of the previous generations of "Madden." Online play is still great and slightly improved with the addition of NFL legends to the "Ultimate Team" mode. Online franchise mode allows up to 32 teams to compete against each other for ten seasons. "Madden Moments" is returning, allowing fans to recreate the best highlights of this season.

"Madden 12" will appeal to the casual fan due to its realism on the field and variety of online competition. For hardcore Maddenites like this gamer, however, it is an answer to our collective football prayers. Hands down, "Madden 12" offers the most life-like football experience available, a must-have for any fan of the gridiron.

**Grade: A**



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# Features



Many students attended the Big Questions event in the Century Rooms at the MSC.

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

## Philosophy department debate actuality of an exact reality

**SHARON PRUITT**  
Staff Writer

Does reality as we know it really exist? Is what we feel and experience all just happening in our heads? These are the questions that the University of Missouri – St. Louis' philosophy department sought to discuss in the first event of The Big Questions series by posing the question "Are you stuck in the Matrix?"

Last Wednesday, attendees gathered in Century Room C for an invigorating discussion on the nature of reality. During the discussion, attendees talked about what philosophers call the problem of skepticism, which poses the question "Can I ever be certain of what I know?" Those in the crowd took turns sharing their ideas on the subject and responding to theories shared by other

participants.

"I thought this was awesome and I will come to every single one of these that I possibly can," Jeff Tellin, student financial aid coordinator at UMSL, said.

Many UMSL faculty members were in attendance. The relaxed and respectful atmosphere in the room put everyone on equal ground, whether or not they possessed any formal knowledge of philosophy.

"One of the things that's great about this event is that it really shows what students are participating in and the conversations they are having," Tiffany Izzard, student financial aid coordinator at UMSL, said.

"I love any discussion about reality and how we

construct it. I look at it from a sociological point of view, but I still think it is important to ask these questions."

The Big Questions Series is a series of philosophy-based discussions that is hosted by the philosophy department. Open to the public, people from all backgrounds and disciplines are encouraged to attend and share ideas.

The Philosopher's Forum, an organization comprised of philosophy students at UMSL, plays a large part in structuring and promoting the Series in collaboration with the philosophy department.

"We hope that [those who attend] learn a little something about the history of philosophy and the questions that philosophers are interested in," Nick Curry,

member of the Philosopher's Forum, said. "If you have never taken a philosophy class or if you have taken a philosophy class and liked it you can come have a chance to talk about philosophy in a fun and relaxed way."

When it comes to whether or not the Matrix is real and reality as we know it is insubstantial, the answers were as varied as the people attending.

The fun, however, came in arriving at those conclusions as the discussion progressed and finding that no answer was definite.

"I think if you were to be absolute in any answer you would be wrong, unless we were able to gain access to what is outside of the Matrix. But then you are lying around

with a bunch of robots asking 'Are there people controlling us in this dimension too?' So it is a continuous cycle. You still have the same question you posed to that [original] reality," Nicholas Carter, sophomore, business, said. "[The question itself] is interesting but it is not something that I, as a person who wants to pursue factual knowledge, want to dwell on."

"I would say that the Matrix is real [in a sense]. When we have a dream, it's a real dream. Just because you have a thought and that thought only takes place inside your head, that doesn't make it less real. It is just not physically tangible. I would just say that reality is layered and we have access to this one," Tellin said.

The Philosopher's Forum also hopes to bring the Big Questions Series to local high schools in the future, as part of their quest to share the ideas of philosophy to those who may not otherwise encounter them.

"The series started with us [in the philosophy department] asking 'How can we get more people interested in philosophy?'" Joe Camacho, member of the Philosopher's Forum, said. "The idea is to facilitate, not lecture. The goal is to present the idea, to give an argument, and then open discussion on it."

The Big Questions Series will host more discussions as the semester progresses. More information will be made available as the dates approach.

# Magazine man and political pundit comes to UMSL to discuss printed media and his stance on political system

**RYAN KRULL**  
Staff Writer

Fred Barnes of "The Weekly Standard" and "Fox News" notoriety came to the University of Missouri-St. Louis as part of the guest speaker series put on by the F.A. Hayek Professorship of Economic History.

Barnes spoke primarily on the importance of print journalism even as more and more people get their news and information from television.

"What is important and what is not is decided by the print press," Barnes told the group of faculty and students who came to hear him speak. "[Television producers] need to read the 'New York Times' and the 'Washington Post' or even 'The Weekly Standard'

on occasion... Television is reactive and derivative. Never think that print is going away."

From there, Barnes' talk was a little more freewheeling. He had come to St. Louis to speak at The Discussion Club. He said he had made a few notes for his discussion at UMSL and would be sticking to these; he would not be talking about his larger speech later on that night.

During his talk students and faculty present were welcome at any time to interject or to comment, making the event much more of a discussion than a lecture or speech.

Barnes touched on current topics, such as the

effectiveness of President Barack Obama's speeches to persuade the American people on pieces of legislation.

Barnes was critical of Obama's handling of the economy, saying that the president was trying to create jobs and hoping that would lead to economic growth. "President Obama has it upside down," Barnes said, going on to state that he believes economic growth comes first and is followed by job creation.

At this point, one of the students in attendance left in protest.

The discussion with Barnes, who has made cameo appearances in "Independence Day" and "My Own Private

Idaho," also included a fair amount of political predictions. Barnes said that if the president's likeability rating - which is polling high at around 70 percent - drops leading up to the election, there will probably be a Republican in the White House in 2013.

But not everything was right versus left at Wednesday's discussion. Barnes said that he believes Washington to actually be less partisan and hostile than most Americans believe. He pointed out the fact he lives on the same cul de sac in Virginia as Republican Congressman Fred Upton as well as "five or six Democratic lobbyists and lawyers."

One of the first questions during the question and answer portion of Barnes's discussion came from UMSL's Department of Political Science Chair Terry Jones.

"Media has often been criticized for latching onto a narrative and connecting [every piece of news] to that narrative, do you think that is doing harm for the nomination process?" asked Jones, his question referring to the way the eight person field of Republicans seeking their party's nomination has been reduced by the media to a two person race.

"Voters are smart," Barnes responded. "They don't care if the media says it is down to just these two, they will follow

whoever they want."

Another faculty member, Associate Professor David Kimball, asked whether Barnes began "The Weekly Standard" with a mind towards counter-balancing some other left-leaning political magazines.

Other questions were varied, concerning everyone from Sarah Palin to Maureen Dowd.

The next speaker coming to UMSL as part of the F.A. Hayek Professorship of Economic History's speakers series will be Marvin Olasky, Editor-in-Chief of World magazine and former advisor to George W. Bush.

These events should be inviting to all students' needs.

**ADAM LEVINE**  
LEAD SINGER  
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Students get candy once they finish playing the life-sized Candy Land in the Millennium Student Center Lawn on Tuesday.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## Popular childhood game becomes student body favorite, creating an unstoppable mass of candy craziness and fun

**ANGIE O'DELL**  
Staff Writer

On September 13, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., people were geared up to play a life-sized version of a game they had played as kids. The game was Candy Land.

Mapped out on the MSC patio, the event was put on by Marissa Steimel, sophomore, nursing, of the University Program Board. Haley Cole, sophomore, communications, UPB, said she was excited because they had lots of candy to give out.

Walking up, students saw red cups with peppermint candies in them. A giant, colorful Candy Land sign stood behind the event table. Students had lined up, eager to play.

Each student received a cup with one peppermint

inside to start with. Steimel said that the event was just like normal Candy Land, except in normal Candy Land, if you stepped on a licorice, you would have to go back. Each team consisted of four members plus a fifth person who was willing to be the designated card person for their team.

They would hold the deck of cards for people to draw from, in order to see where they would go next. Someone had to have a card for each team," Steimel said.

Two giant pans of candy filled the event table. Some of the candies available included Tootsie Rolls, Dum Dums, Hershey's Miniatures, and peppermints. Students could fill their red cups

with as much candy as they wanted upon finishing out their game.

Purple and blue lollipops filled the grass. Candy canes with red ribbon and peppermint candies splashed across the greenery. Giant cardboard cards were featured that acted as place markers. People walked around the sidewalk outside the MSC to play.

Kayana McAdoo, freshman, biology, said that it looked fun being able to go around the entire yard. She seemed to be reflecting the opinions of most of the students awaiting for their turn to play.

Students started from a peppermint forest, and went from there. There was

a sign with an arrow that said "Candy Land, the world of sweets!" Students were running and jumping from square to square, showing much enthusiasm. There were multiple colors and a pink square which featured a gingerbread man.

Other squares had ice cream cones or peanuts on them, and some were solid. One of the green squares said, "Land here and you go through gumdrop pass." Commenting on the enthusiasm of the players, Scott Morrissey, junior, Spanish and education, said, "I think it is great. I think people are gonna have a great time. People are way too stressed and this campus needs a breather."

The students' energies seemed to reflect what Morrissey said. "It is crazy. It is nuts. I get free candy. I like the sound of that," Anthony Biondo, freshman, criminal justice, said. Diante Coleman, freshman, education, said it was something she had never done before.

Even before getting her candy, another student, Taylor Allen, freshman, nursing, could be heard saying "Do you guys want to play again?" Allen said it was fun to make your friends lose at Candy Land.

Students showed community spirit in wanting to get involved on campus. Cindy Hwang, freshman, biology, said that she thought it was a great way to meet new

people and for commuter students to get involved on campus. It seemed there were a lot of new students enjoying the festivities, getting used to the student life.

As the event came to a close, students started heading back to their cars or to the shuttle in order to turn in for the day. However, the day of the life-sized Candy Land that tickled the student bodies' fancy and showcased the possibility of breaking away from creative barriers will not be forgotten anytime soon.

One wonders what game is in store for the upcoming semester or year. Will the campus get a life-sized Monopoly? Only time, and student input, will tell.

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# The Office of Student Life introduced a survivor of the World Trade Center collapse for latest Speaker Series

**ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Features Editor

If one was on campus last Thursday evening, they would have heard the power anthem "God Bless the USA" blasting from the floorboards of the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Onlookers stared in awe at the video of devastation from the events of September 11.

Capturing images such as households decorated by flags, ash covered automobiles, patriotic preschools, painted bed sheets and the gigantic American flag draped over the White House, it left guests with a memory of what once was.

The presentation had followed a lecture by Battalion chief, battalion commander of the 11th battalion, Richard Picciotto, of the New York City fire depart-

ment, the upper Westside of Manhattan.

He was invited by The Office of Student Life, for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Student Life Speaker Series, to present "Last Man Down: a Fireman's Story." Chief Picciotto is the highest ranking firefighter to make it through the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Coordinator of Diversity and Service for the Office of Student Life, Ashlee Roberts, said that over the summer, the Office of Student Life had been thinking of ways that they could leave more of an impact through their programming and as a result bring in larger audiences.

They immediately saw the subject of 9/11 as that mean-

ingful event. The observation would touch close to home for both the traditional and non-traditional student.

"Our nation and people remember where they were when it happened. They may have been in fourth grade; they may have been a college student at that point," Roberts, said. "We wanted to observe that and we felt that bringing him in would definitely be a hallmark way to observe the tenth anniversary of September 11."

As far as leaving an emotional impact with their guest speaker Chief Picciotto, the office succeeded with a dozen of students staying after the event for further discussion, whether it was with the Chief or their group of friends. Strangers even

took the time to mingle.

"I think that just being September eleventh last week, it is still fresh in our minds and I was really looking forward to something inspiring to hear," Mia Michael, junior, history, said. "I felt in my heart that the chief would give us something encouraging to hear."

During his presentation, Chief Picciotto touched base on various subjects. He did not like how the rescue workers were not allowed to be at the opening of the ten-year anniversary memorial and the re-opening of the reflective pond in New York.

Only politicians from around the country were invited. He discussed his fear of losing his sight from

the disaster. This did not happen, but he did walk out of the hospital with a 30 percent lung capacity, making reference to his inability to ride a bike for a short period of time. But, despite these injuries, he believes that he has been affected more so on the emotional side than the physical.

"I lost so many friends and so many colleagues, [it was the] most devastating thing to happen in my life, losing so many people in such a short period of time," Chief Picciotto, said.

Retired after 30 years of service, in part by decision and in part from the affects of 9/11, he still believes his life to be different; he believes that all of our lives remain different, but he still

manages to live life day by day.

"Honestly, when the speech was winding down and he was talking about prayer and he said 'you know, sometimes you do not want God to answer the prayers that you want the most in your heart, sometimes you really do not want that to happen,' that just blew me away." Michael said. "Out of everything he talked about, that just really sparked me."

"There were a lot of sniffles at the end, I am not typically a very emotional person, but it just makes you like wow... the lives that were lost, but you also saw the unification," Roberts said. The mood at the end was one of togetherness.

# Comedians of the Midwest come to UMSL to spread their comical genius in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall

**SHARON PRUITT**  
Staff Writer

Wednesdays are notorious for being the day of the week that is the hardest to get through. On September 14, the Office of Student Life presented a comedy show at the Touhill in an effort to help students revive themselves on a day where energy usually begins to dwindle.

The Midwest Madness Comedy Show featured three comedians from neighboring cities: Damon William from Chicago, Tony Roberts from Detroit, and P-Bhlat, who is originally from St. Louis, though she now resides in Philadelphia. The show was intended to provide students with a way to push through the Wednesday blues and

make it to the weekend with a smile still on their faces.

"It is something that people of all cultures and races and ethnicities can come together and enjoy. One of my goals as a diversity coordinator is to create something that will engage students and have a lot of people come out who come from different types of backgrounds," Ashlee Roberts, diversity and service coordinator for the Office of Student Life, said.

At 6:45 p.m. attendees were seated for the 7:30 p.m. show in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Damon William, acting as MC for the night and also performing a set of his own, got the

show started by poking fun at the not-quite-full theater and telling spot-on jokes about St. Louis.

His easy confidence and palpable charisma made it easy for audience members to feel comfortable actively participating and bantering with the comedians on stage.

B-Phlat took the stage next and performed a hilariously relatable, laidback set that was tailored to appeal to the women in the audience, but eventually had everyone laughing. Tony Roberts closed the show with a strong finish with a set that showcased his electric energy and ability to keep a crowd thoroughly entertained.

He moved around the stage, using things around him as props for his unpredictable set. There was rarely a moment during the night that was not filled with laughter.

"I think everyone had a nice time, on and off the stage. The crowd was smaller than the performers expected, but it felt more intimate to me, like we were part of a really exclusive club that got to see these amazing comedians perform," Remy Jones, audience member, said. "As a St. Louis comedian myself, I was really looking forward to seeing B-Phlat do her thing, and she did it really well. And Tony Roberts had

everybody almost crying, he was so funny. I think he might really be crazy."

The laughter continued even after the show ended, with attendees lingering outside of the theater to talk with each other about the show.

"The jokes were nothing like you'd heard before. They each had their own individual styles," Jamika Meaes, freshman, undecided, said. "This is my first time actually going to a comedy show, but I'll recommend it to anybody who loves to laugh."

"There were times where I could barely hear because the people around me were

laughing so hard. The lady next to me was crying she was laughing so hard," Eric Kaesser, audience member, said.

The Office of Student Life hopes to host similar events in the future that will appeal to those living on campus who would like more things to do during the evenings.

"I've never performed at UMSL before. I've seen it on 'Cops' though," Tony Roberts said before the show. "Maybe if I do good tonight they'll have me back."

Judging by the audience reaction, UMSL would be happy to have him visit and perform in the near future. Stay tuned for further detail.

Read **The Current**

# Sports

## Tritons move to 7-2, ready for Lindenwood on Tuesday

**CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team closed out its season-opening, seven-game homestand Tuesday evening at the Mark Twain Building with an easy three sets to none win over archrival Maryville University.

The Tritons, who went 5-2 in the seven-game home stretch and are 2-1 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play, dominated the visiting Saints right from the start, jumping out to big leads in both the first and second sets.

Maryville's only leads the entire night came at 1-0 and 4-3 in the third set. And both times, UMSL quickly rallied to regain the lead.

"I'm pretty happy with how we played tonight," UMSL head volleyball coach, Ryan Young, said. "We're definitely playing better these last couple times out. We've still got some things we need to work on. But I was happy with this win here tonight."

Top hitters Erin Higgins, senior, early childhood education, and Weslie Gaff, senior, accounting, both had big nights at the net for the Tritons.

Higgins led all hitters with 13 kills on 21 attempts, while Gaff added 12 kills on 16 attempts, in a match where they just overpowered Maryville's hitters, who combined for only 16 total kills in the whole match.

Setter Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications, was strong in the passing game for UMSL as well, finishing with a game-high 38 assists.

"I thought our passing was much better," Young said. "When our passing and our defense is strong, we can be really tough to beat. So we've really been working on that stuff a lot."

The defensive ace for UMSL was libero Alisha Skaggs, freshman, undecided, who finished the night with 18 digs and three service aces.

But she also got a lot of help from teammates Chelsea Burkle, sophomore, nursing, who had 13 digs, and Katie Haseltine, junior, communications, who added 12 digs as well.

"We're still a work in progress," Young

said. "We're by no means where we want to be. It's still early in the season. And we've still got a lot we need to work on."

This past weekend, UMSL took its first road trip of the season, traveling to Quincy, Illinois, and Springfield, Ill., to take on GLVC foes Quincy University and Illinois-Springfield.

And the Tritons continued their winning ways, by ousting both Quincy and UIS in rather short fashion.

On Friday, UMSL went to QU's Pepsi Arena, and beat the host Hawks in three straight sets 25-16, 27-25 and 25-16.

Burkle had the hot hand for UMSL that night, slamming a career-high 15 kills in the win.

On Saturday, the Tritons visited UIS's state-of-the-art TRAC Arena, and took care of the homestanding Prairie Stars by scores of 26-24, 25-18, 21-25, 25-17.

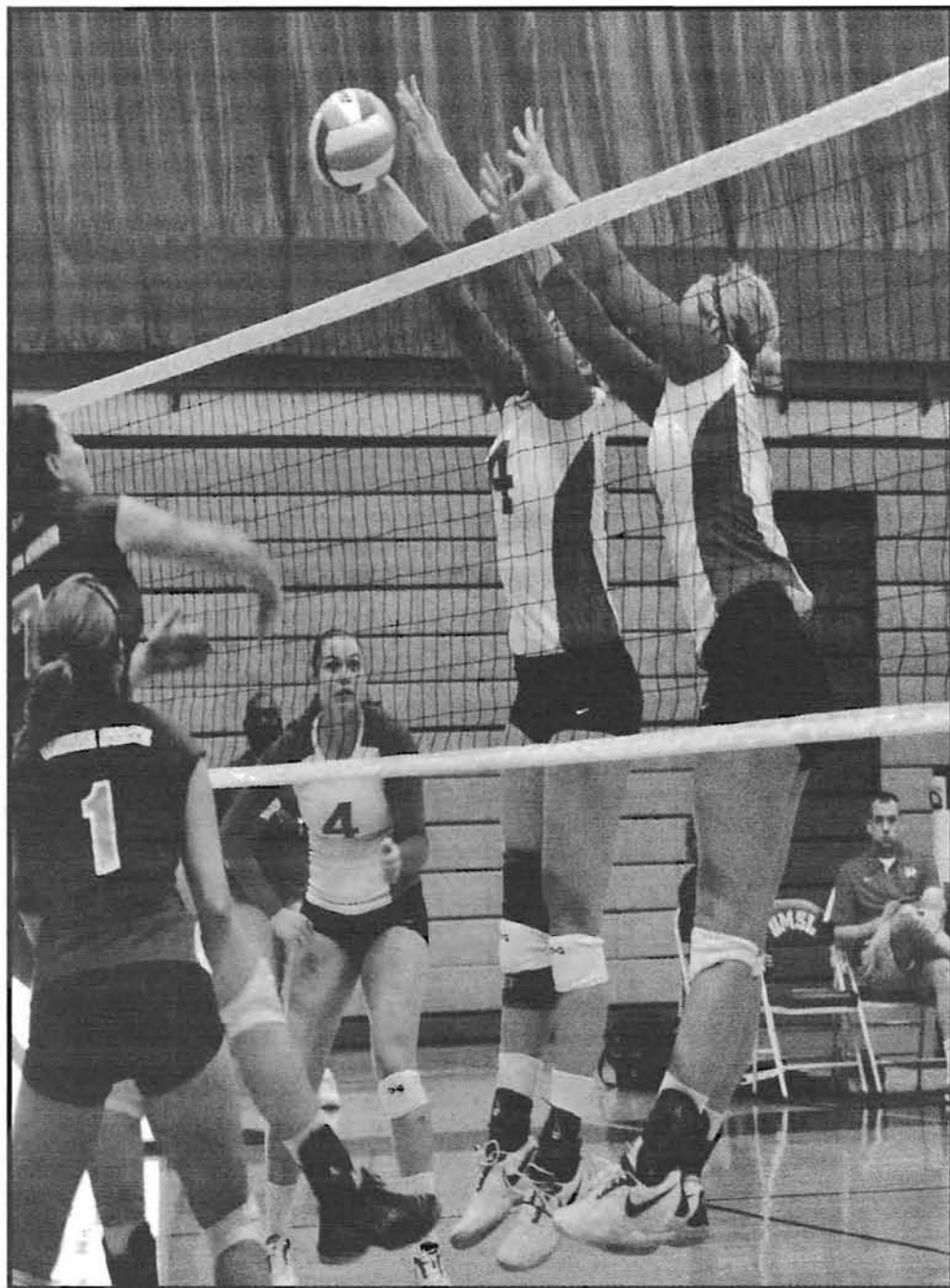
Higgins was back in form, with 15 kills of her own, while Burkle added 12 kills, seven digs, two blocks and two service aces as well.

UMSL returns to campus with a 7-2 overall record, a 4-1 mark in conference play and sole possession of second place in the GLVC West Division behind rival Missouri S&T, which is 8-3 and 5-0 in 2011.

The Tritons will get their shot at taking down S&T and taking over first place when they travel to Rolla this Saturday at 3 p.m. to play the Lady Miners. The two teams will have a return engagement at the Mark Twain Building on October 21.

UMSL's next home match though, will be back at the Mark Twain on Tuesday, September 20, when the Tritons will host another crosstown rival Lindenwood University in a nonconference match at 7 p.m.

UMSL and Lindenwood played once before earlier this season, with the Tritons winning a thrilling five-set match over the Lady Lions, coming back from a two sets to none deficit, to win the final three sets in the final game of the season-opening Tritons Classic on September 3.



UMSL women's volleyball plays against Wayne State-Mich at the Mark Twain Building on September 2.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

What do you think?  
Let us know at  
[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com).

## Setting the pace for Triton volleyball again

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Staff Writer

Last season, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team added a significant member when then freshman Anna McNulty became the setter.

McNulty has had the majority of sets for the team since joining, responsible for 88 percent of the team's sets seven games into the season. McNulty has 268 assists this season and is on the road to thrashing her total from last year.

"She is like the quarterback out there, running the offense and distributing the ball to our talented attackers," said Head Coach Ryan Young.

McNulty has had plenty of volleyball experience in her life, following a pair of older sisters around to volleyball games with her parents all the time and making her first team when she was eight years old.

"I always knew that I loved playing," said McNulty, sophomore, communications. "And that it was definitely something I could see myself doing for awhile."

McNulty saw her older sister play at Drake University, a local college for her, growing up in Des Moines, Iowa.

It was at that point that McNulty knew she wanted to play college volleyball.

"It had been a really big goal of mine for as long as I can remember," said McNulty. "And I'm just really happy I'm playing at a school I love so much."

McNulty has been a setter her entire career, and her skills at this position have gained her many honors and accolades.

She earned four letters at her high school, Des Moines Roosevelt High School in her beloved home state of Iowa, and also set the school record for career assists and led the team to its best record ever in her senior year.

"I love being a setter," said McNulty. "It is definitely my fa-

vorite position. We're the only player on the court who is guaranteed to touch the ball every single play, so we're always really involved in the offense which is really fun to direct."

Teams under McNulty's direction have had much success, getting her high school to the national finals her senior year, getting to the national finals with her club team, and reaching the NCAA Tournament last year with the Tritons.

"I don't think anything could beat last year when we made it to the NCAA Tournament," said McNulty. "We worked so hard all year to get to that point, and to actually know that we were one of the best teams in the country was amazing."

McNulty is a sports fan, and has played softball and basketball as well, ditching them in high school to focus on volleyball.

McNulty also follows the National Football League, professional tennis and the St. Louis Cardinals since she moved to St. Louis.

If there were a professional volleyball career opportunity for McNulty, she would certainly take it.

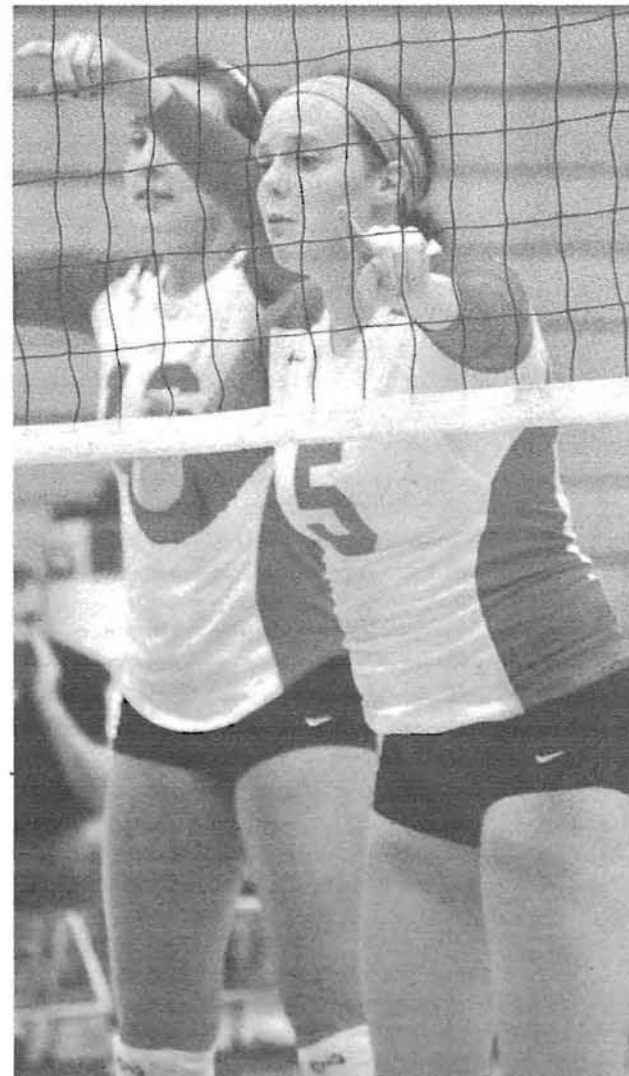
McNulty is a fierce competitor, who is focused on helping the team win games, and has high expectations for this season, hoping the Tritons can make a run at a national championship.

"We definitely are looking to win conference and make it back to the NCAA tournament," McNulty said. "We have our eyes set on a national championship and I definitely think it's possible if we stick together and play the way we know we can."

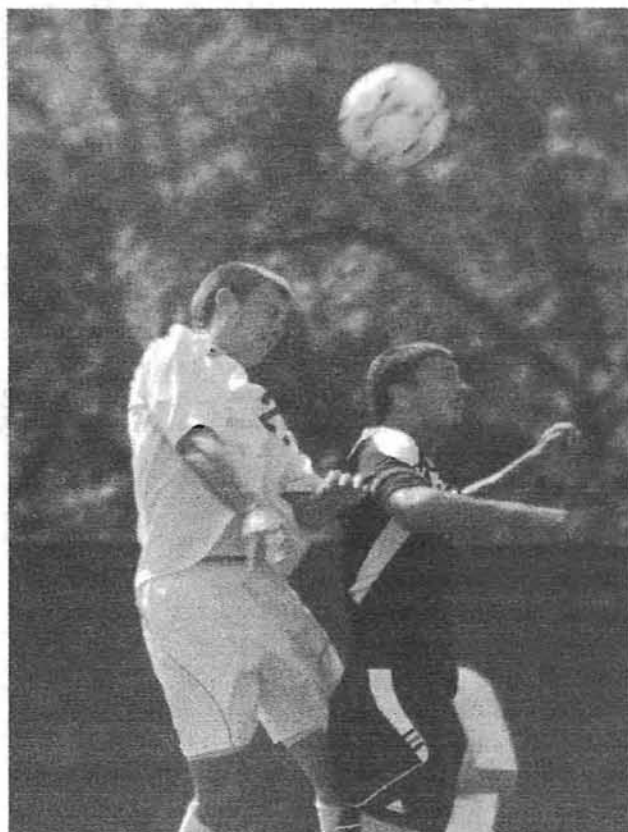
McNulty loves playing volleyball, and she feels lucky to play on this team, with all her friends.

UMSL will be back in action this week, with a big game against crosstown rival Lindenwood University, on Tuesday, September 20.

That match will be played at the Mark Twain Building and is set to begin at 7 p.m.



Setter Anna McNulty calls the shots for the UMSL volleyball team. JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT



The UMSL men's soccer team tied with St. Joe's 1-1 last Friday night. JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Tritons Battle To Tie Against St. Joe's

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Staff Writer

It was Labor Union Night at Don Dallas field, and the excitement from the women's soccer team's overtime win left fans ready for another Tritons victory over GLVC foe St. Joseph's.

The first half started slow and maintained that pace throughout the half. The first good scoring chance of the game came on a nice through ball from Peter Hyde, which was one touched into the box for an Almin Sabotic offensive opportunity, but was spoiled when Sabotic lost his footing and the ball inside the opponents box.

Sabotic had trouble finding his footing all night, making it hard to find rhythm offensively. Sabotic had a chance on a free kick in the tenth minute, and his curving attempt on the net rattled the goalkeeper, but not enough as he made the stop and the defense cleared.

UMSL goalkeeper Tim Boruff looked solid in the first half, smothering one difficult cross and making other athletic saves.

Rain started to fall in the final ten minutes of the half, and continued for the rest of the game. The Tritons controlled the pace in the first half and dominated ball possession.

St. Joseph's opened the scoring in the sixty-fourth minute on a free kick, when forward Kevin Amaizo would net his third goal of the year after rifling a 22-yard free kick perfectly into the far corner, freezing UMSL's Boruff.

The Tritons answered quickly with a goal of their own less than five minutes later, after a beautiful through ball by David Schwer and some nifty touches inside the box by Mike McCarthy. McCarthy then buried a shot from deep inside the box to send the game into overtime.

The story remained the same in overtime, with the Tritons really pressing for a goal. Their first scoring opportunity came when Sabotic tried to flick a shot over the goalie, but the keeper's outstretched fingertips slowed the shot's momentum, and it was cleared by defenders before reaching the net.

In the match's final minutes, McCarthy had an opportunity to give the Tritons the victory and get his second goal of the match, but his one-timer sailed wide left.

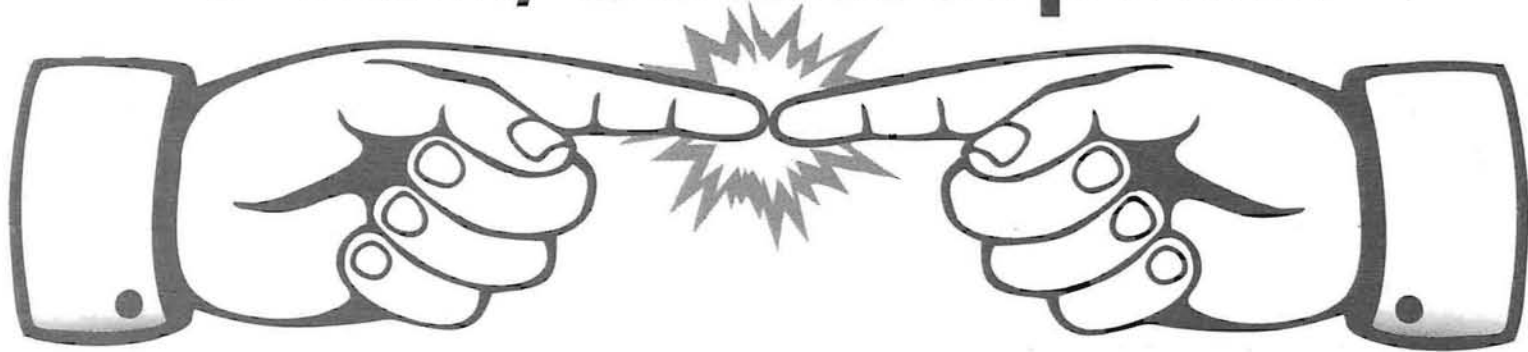
Certainly a game the Tritons wish would have ended in victory, but a draw keeps the team undefeated and looking good in early conference standings.

Boruff said afterward that he was impressed with his teammates' defensive performance.

"The back four have been outstanding so far. The organization and communication amongst them has been great," Boruff said. "It really makes it fun to play everyday with such a skilled and experienced group of backs playing in front of me."

UMSL's next home game will be September 30, when the Tritons will host Drury University at Don Dallas Field.

# Point/Counterpoint



*Can an internet meme be racist?*

## Meme's the word: "You mad, bro?" is frustrating, but doesn't qualify as racist

We live in a world where popular catch phrases like "that's what she said" and text phrases like "OMG" become so popular that teenagers and young adults wear them on their t-shirts or enthusiastically recycle them in their own lives. If the phrase's popularity can withstand the internet, it becomes part of the daily lingo. And if that popularity lasts long enough, you might catch the phrase on a banner in the crowd of a high school football game.

Such was the case in the football game between Kirtland High and Painesville Harvey High in Painesville, Ohio. After defeating Painesville, controversy erupted when a group of Kirtland High students and parents held up a banner that read, "You mad, bro?" referring to a well-known internet meme.

It's equivalent to the annoying person who keeps asking "Are you going to cry? Don't cry! Why are you crying?" when one is already on the verge of tears. This action, of course, only leads

to embarrassment at one's own weakness and anger at the other person's douchebaggery. "You mad, bro?" is only used to make an angry person angrier, like the internet troll who frequents online comment sections.

The problem with the Kirtland High banner is that it was in poor taste; poor enough to provoke accusations of racism. The president of the Lake County chapter of the NAACP, who was also at the game, said "At the conclusion of the game, some of their students and parents put up a sign that we believe was racial intimidation."

What is it about this admittedly obnoxious phrase that makes it racist? Which word makes it racist? "You", "mad" or "bro"?

"I think the reference to 'bro' in the sign definitely has a racial connection to it," said Michael Hanlon, superintendent for Painesville City Schools.

When did "bro" suddenly get a racial connection? Frankly, it's insulting that this superintendent believes

"bro" is racially connected. Why does he believe "bro" is racist? Isn't the fact that he connects it to one race racist in itself? The last prominent use of the word "bro" was the notorious incident with University of Florida student Andrew Meyer (a white student, incidentally) at a forum for presidential candidate John Kerry a few years ago. His outburst did not seem racially motivated — rather, taserly motivated (Please hold your applause).

For the sake of eliminating real racism in the real world, let's keep the racism card folded on this one. To attribute acts of stupidity or unsportsmanlike conduct to racism is an insult to people facing actual racism. Whatever the true intent behind it was, the banner was a bad idea — because it was stupid, not because it was racist. What would they have done with the banner if their team had lost? Graceful winning doesn't hurt anyone.

Bad sportsmanship? Yes. Poor taste? Yes. Immature and stupid? Yes. But racist? No. Far from it.

## Inappropriate prank at Ohio football game unveils racist thoughts on part of some

At a packed Friday night football game earlier this month in small town Ohio, what started as a competitive taunt has turned into a scandal that has caught the attention of the NAACP and national media after Kirtland High School defeated their rival team from Painesville High School. After the game, several Kirtland students hung a hand made banner that asked "You mad, bro?" to mock their competitors.

The Kirtland students' sign was an homage to the popular internet meme "you mad?" a phrase commonly used to playfully taunt others. Now parents, students and local NAACP members are claiming the prank was an example of racial intimidation due to the use of the word "bro."

Many observers of this situation may believe that the NAACP and the Painesville High students and teachers are jumping to conclusions. Yet, if one reads between the lines, there are certainly things that might suggest this prank was racially motivated.

For starters, there are vast differences in demograph-

ics between Painesville, Ohio and Kirtland, Ohio. Kirtland has a nearly 100 percent white population, with an African American population consisting of merely a fraction of one percent. In stark contrast, Painesville has a significantly larger African American population at 12 percent.

This difference in demographics cannot be ignored, as it is essential to understanding the motivation behind the prank. These statistics on race clearly show compelling racial differences between the two towns. When a virtually all white school is taunting a school with a much larger percentage of African Americans by using a slang phrase often associated with African Americans, it's hard not to see racial motivation. While language knows no race, the word "bro" does have some association with African Americans, more commonly used in the 1970s and 1980s. The banner was demeaning, ignorant and stunk of a racist agenda.

Adding the the tension between the two rival schools are the great economic dif-

ferences between the towns. Nearly one in five residents of Painesville live below the poverty line. The average household income in Kirtland doubles that of Painesville.

Between the financial and racial differences and the intense rivalry between the two teams, it is safe to say that tensions were high on that fateful Friday night in Ohio. While the two towns are mere miles apart, there seem to be a world of differences between them, and the banner was irresponsible and inappropriate.

There is no way of knowing if the Kirtland High students made the banner with a racist agenda in mind. Yet what must be pointed out is that often carefully concealed beliefs can unintentionally slip out, as what quite possibly happened in this case.

While this may have started as a harmless prank, the banner's use of the word "bro" came off as belittling and because of this, the Kirtland High students blatantly came off as being racist and ignorant of the word's connotations.



# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### Has the TSA outlived its usefulness? Yes, says creator

Following the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the country felt vulnerable. As a result, legislators and lawmakers moved quickly to fill the perceived void in America's proverbial security blanket. The Department of Homeland Security was the highest-profile agency created in the post-9/11 push for security, but it wasn't the only one.

The Transportation Security Administration was created in 2002 from legislation authored by Representative John Mica (R-FL), chairman of the House Transportation Committee. The agency's overall mission was to develop policies to protect American transportation in general, though the majority of their attention was devoted to airport security and preventing aircraft hijackings similar to those on September 11. In the years since its inception, the TSA has developed a number of new security procedures, which any Americans who have traveled in the air since the attacks have undoubtedly experienced. For nearly a decade now, Americans have traveled the skies under the watchful eyes of the TSA. But who watches the watchers?

For almost as long as the TSA has existed, the agency has been dogged by scandal. Their first scandal came only months into their existence,

as they were forced to spend more than seven times as much money as they were allotted to hire and train screeners. In the years since, their screeners have found themselves embroiled in one scandal after another, accused of everything from intrusive searches of travelers to actually stealing passengers' valuables as they pass through security checkpoints.

Over the past few years, thanks to incidents like these, the TSA has found itself steadily becoming less popular with the American people. Now, Representative Mica himself, as much the TSA's creator as anyone, has joined the chorus of voices calling for the dissolution of the TSA.

Mica's concerns echo that of many average Americans, but that's not the only criticism he has for his one-time brainchild. He claims they are purely reactive in their response to threats, that they only implement new procedures after a new type of security breach happens. For example, the TSA only required passengers to remove their shoes at checkpoints after a man tried to smuggle explosives on a plane in his shoes. He also has harsh words for the TSA's fiscal inefficiency, criticizing them for doing far too little with too many resources.

Mica's solution is to replace the TSA with a system

similar to that which existed before the organization's creation; namely, leaving security and screening in the hands of private security firms and restricting the TSA to its original mandate: gathering intelligence on potential threats.

Upon reflection, the idea does make at least a modicum of sense. Security is an area where a private company does have an advantage over a public sector counterpart, and for a simple reason: economic natural selection. The desire for profit, if nothing else, will drive a private security firm to do the job as best it can and as efficiently as it can. The firms that can do this will grow and win more and bigger contracts, while firms that cannot guarantee adequate security will fall by the wayside. This is an outcome that the TSA, as a government agency, needs not fear.

At the end of the day, the TSA has shown itself to be unworthy of the responsibility and resources that have been devoted to it. Whatever the solution, though, it's clear a change is in order. A change, or continued strife.

*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

### The only thing we have to fear is still fear itself

In 1775, Benjamin Franklin warned against sacrificing liberty to achieve temporary security. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt exhorted the American people not to succumb to the scourge of fear. In the novel "Dune" by Frank Herbert, a common axiom states that "fear is the mind-killer." Fear is among the basest emotions in the repertoire of human feelings, and can move men to do terrible things.

For many Americans, the horrifically destructive events of September 11, 2001 inspired a level of fear unparalleled by even the worst of nightmares. Unfortunately, at a time when what America needed most was to overcome its fear, the country instead succumbed to its fear. Americans forgot the sound advice of presidents, philosophers and even fictional characters as they instead scrambled to rebuild their own sense of security by making frenzied war on threats both real and imagined. On the home front, it became not only acceptable but encouraged for a person to wear their patriotism on their sleeve, and it became almost fashionable in certain circles to show distrust and even outright hatred for anything-and anyone-that was somehow foreign or different from the norm.

What happened to this country? The United States of America was built on the idea that our strength lies in our differences; the idea that

everyone has something to offer, should they choose to do so. Now, however, we see a person who doesn't look like us or we listen to a person who has different ideas than us, and our first reaction is fear. The infamous Patriot Act, signed in the wake of 9/11, has directly led to no arrests, no discovery of wide reaching terror plots. The only thing it has definitely led to is a near-decade long pattern of harassment of Arabs or those who look vaguely Arabic by law enforcement.

If you're looking for a more recent example, the events aboard a flight bound for Detroit on September 11 of this year exemplify this new mentality all too well. On this flight, three people, all obviously of non-American descent (two Indian men and a Middle Eastern woman) were pulled off the plane by security upon landing in Detroit and led off to a cell to be searched and interrogated. Apparently, long bathroom trips are enough to warrant accusations of suspicious activity, so long as those taking said trips have brown skin.

This is not to say we have not made any progress since that fateful mid-September day a decade ago. By and large, the wounds themselves have healed. However, the memories of those wounds still loom large on our minds. This is, again, as it should be; to forget the pain and suffering of that day would be an insult to anyone who suffered a loss or sacrificed their own lives



Jeremy Zschau

on 9/11.

However, it is regrettable that on that day each year, people seem to forget that it's 2011, not 2001. It is regrettable that certain individuals continue to wrap themselves in the flag, when at the same time they spit on the very ideals that our flag represents. It is regrettable that we continue to allow our fear rule our thoughts, and that we allow despicable men to exploit that fear for their own selfish purposes.

Fear truly is the mind-killer. A person can be the most reasonable, the most rational or the most fair-minded person in the world, but when the flames of fear are fanned within their psyche, they turn into a paranoid, ugly shell of their normal self, willing to sacrifice their principles or worse to satisfy their survival instinct.

More than the destruction of property and horrific loss of life, the worst consequence of the 9/11 attacks is damage to our country's psyche, an inflammation of our collective sense of fear.

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

What do you think?  
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## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Fossil reveals fascinating insights into human evolution

A fossil discovered in South Africa in 2008 may be the oldest direct human ancestor, according to a series of papers published September 9, 2011 in the journal "Science."

The fossil is a surprising mix of human and ape-like characteristics, upsetting some assumptions about our earliest human ancestors. But the fossils also illustrates the hazards in drawing too many conclusions from sparse or fragmentary evidence.

*Australopithecus sediba* is classified as a hominin, our branch of the Hominid family, meaning it is the line of human ancestors after the split from our closest relatives, the chimpanzees. It appears to be a strong candidate for the transition from *Australopithecus* and *Homo*, our own genus. The fossils were stumbled upon by accident - literally. They were discovered by paleoanthropologist Lee Berger's nine-year-old son Matthew in Malapa, South Africa. The find includes two surprisingly complete fossil skeletons, a male corresponding to ages 10-13 in human development and a female between 20-30 years of age. The fossils were found in what had once been a cave.

The site was first excavated by a team from the University of Zurich, directed by Peter Schmid. Several international teams worked on the analyses published in "Science."

The site has been dated to about 1.977 million years ago, which is close to the emergence of the genus *Homo*. The *Au. sediba* fossils predate those of *Homo habilis* and *Homo rudolfensis*, thought to be among the oldest in the homo genus and potential ancestors of *Homo erectus*, the oldest recognized ancestor of modern humans.

The fossils show a startling mix of advanced and primitive features. The exceptionally well-preserved, near-complete

specimens allowed researchers to apply advanced new tools for analysis. The skull of the male was intact enough to make calculations about the brain it once contained. A detailed scan of the inside of the skull created a virtual endocast, revealing surface features of the brain and its overall volume.

The scan revealed a brain smaller than those found in *Homo* species, but one with human-like features. Particularly interesting was the orbitofrontal region, the part of the brain directly behind the eyes, which has showed a trend towards human-like configuration. This is an area involved in higher-level thinking, like multi-tasking. The finding contradicted the prevailing theory that brain size and complexity grew together, supporting the alternative theory that brains grew more complex, then larger.

Apart from our brains, one of our most unique features is the human hand. The female specimen was missing only a few bones in the wrist and hand, making it the most complete for a hominin yet. The mix of primitive and advanced features indicated the hand was used to climb trees but it also had a precision grip, with longer thumb and shorter fingers. This allows an object to be grasped by finger and thumb without the palm. Such a grip has been associated with tool-making.

The finding about the brain's small size upset another prevailing theory that human pelvis shape evolved to accommodate babies with larger brains. In fact the pelvis of the female specimen looked surprisingly modern, despite the smaller brain size. Again, the alternative theory, that pelvis shape changed to accommodate bi-pedal locomotion-walking upright-was supported by the find.

Which brings us to *Au. sediba's* foot and ankle. They showed



Cate Marquis

an almost bizarre blend of the advanced and primitive. The ankle was human-like and there appeared to be a foot arch and Achilles tendon. On the other hand, the heel and shin were ape-like. The combination points to a creature that climbed trees but also walked on two feet, although not in quite the way we do.

Overall, *Au. sediba* appears to be a species on the cusp of bipedalism, tool-making and brain-complexity. In fact, the evidence suggests that *Au. sediba* may be a better candidate for a direct ancestor to *Homo erectus* than previous contenders *Homo habilis* or *Homo rudolfensis*.

Which brings us to the last eye-opening thing about these fossils: the dangers in drawing too many conclusions from bone fragments. These researchers stated that if the foot and ankle bones of *Au. sediba* had not been connected, they would have assumed they belonged to separate species. The jumble of primitive and advanced characteristics found in these more-complete specimens mean that paleontologists must remain cautious about their conclusions about more fragmentary finds. However, the completeness of these ancient specimens also gives encouragement that other finds are out there waiting for us to come digging into our past. So, grab a shovel!

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

## POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

## "When did we learn to hate? Was it at two or eight? It's not too late."

Ten years ago, America was shaken. Whether immediately impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, or somehow distanced from its shocks, all felt the catastrophe in some way.

Honestly, anybody could rant about this for an entire essay. However, at times, conciseness and levity of words can be a far more efficient tool for getting a point across. In this case, the words of one Barbara Poposky, with her permission, shall be presented in this column. How many American children, no matter the source of their anger, felt this all those years ago? Reflect upon the past, and do not let past wounds control the future...

"Sing Peace"

By: Barbara Poposky.

September 7, 2002

"Tell me, Mommy, when did I learn to hate? / Was it when I was two? / Or five, or was I eight? / Where did I learn which people I should beware? / Was it at home or school? / At church? Just in the air? / I just don't understand why color of skin / Is so important. / Look, he's fat! Oh, she's so thin! / This person prays to Allah; this one worships God. / Some seek their Higher Power / In sea or sky or sod. / She wears designer clothes, the latest fashion trend. / This one is wearing thrift store finds: / How can the two be friends? / Somewhere somehow sometimes the differences I see, / That I was blind to once /

Are all too clear to me. / It seems to me though that I can recall a day / Not so far in the past / When my friends came to play. / It didn't matter if their skin was light or brown. / If hair was straight or curly, / Eyes slanted, large, or round. / We didn't worry over worldly cares or strifes: / Our games were innocence, / We shared a love of life. / When will the grown-ups learn what we knew back then? / Instead of all the wars and hate / That we can live as friends. / Sing peace! Cry all the children everywhere! / Sing peace! 'Cause they've a lesson to share! / We're not born hating, that is something we learn; / That must be changed or it's their future we burn! / Sing peace! / Sing peace! / Sing peace! / Sing peace! / Sing peace!"

Yes, this topic was previously spoken to, and it's relevant even still. Honestly, recent generations learn to hate at far too young an age, and this is a phenomenon which needs to end. These words were those addressed to Barbara by her own children (poetically modified, of course) one year after the events of September 11, 2001, and the observations remain true to this day.

Today, as an adult, this generation faces the same questions as those before. Often, seeking a simple answer seems much more appealing than attempting to truly imbed children with the ability to cope with trag-



Matthew B. Poposky

edy. Why teach a child to understand that an individual committed an act when it is so much simpler to tell them to hate an entire ethnicity for the atrocities committed by a few? The answer to this question is simple: because right is right, and wrong is wrong.

Hatred is not a quality we ought to be proud of, yet so many Americans march around waving banners of hatred on their clothing, their automobiles, and shouting it across the streets. We wonder why the world hates us, and yet continue to spout hatred at anything different, anything which might cause us pain. Pain is terrifying, but hatred is still not an appropriate response, and it is even more despicable to imbue such hatred in a child's mind.

Anger is understandable. However, a culture which imbeds pure hatred for another ethnicity into its children needs to seriously re-evaluate its values.

*Matthew B. Poposky is the Editor-in-Chief of The Current.*


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# Horoscopes

**CURRENT HOROSCOPES** by The Inane Collective  
altered by:  
**Babel and Apples the Intern**

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

We are pirates! It's a bit silly: stupid earrings. This is a new start time! Like Einstein, with great wisdom, visit the Eiffel Tower. For life, you must obey our commands.

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

Giving hugs can be epically dangerous, almost as much as rolling the car. I'm not insane, even in the little man in my eyes said so. I believe I am perfectly normal!

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


Funky, chunky, rainbow carnival celebrations, stupid cold pizza this Wednesday! Third-party financing. Please enjoy!

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


You're as pretty as a car crash, and incredibly hot! It looks good: go to Hawaii on vacation. You should leave your mobile home.

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

If your intelligent, but rather boring neighbor, Jack the Ripper, gives you a fantastic fur coat and some diamonds, please run away.

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


Mr Lei Manman: We are busy with the Rolling Stones and Pokemon, which is a real Prince Charming I know. Intelligence: before sunset, pay your taxes!

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

You're feeling frazzled. The heartless graffiti around town hasn't been seen since Berlin in 1945. Add lovable bubbles of spontaneous combustion to your life. You will feel better.

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

Go ahead and accept that casual date with the "giant squid" from the Australian Outback. Together, you're sure to make stunning tidal waves of passion!

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


You are a visionary, the heart of nature, like a shy Japanese Hummingbird. But this week is desperate, please change to reckless violence!

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

You're as fake as Crazy Horse - Lobster Mobster. He was sentenced to death in the electric chair for irritating elephants. Embrace your nerdiness, and revel in your juicy oxygen.

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

Rust-colored blood will flow through the streets of Paris if your family reunion remains uninhibited. Your less absurd future is bankruptcy: miserable, but believable.

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

Your hair transplants might get you in trouble in your bullfight this weekend. Don't be shallow: be dignified in your baldness, like the wicked Ernest Hemingway!

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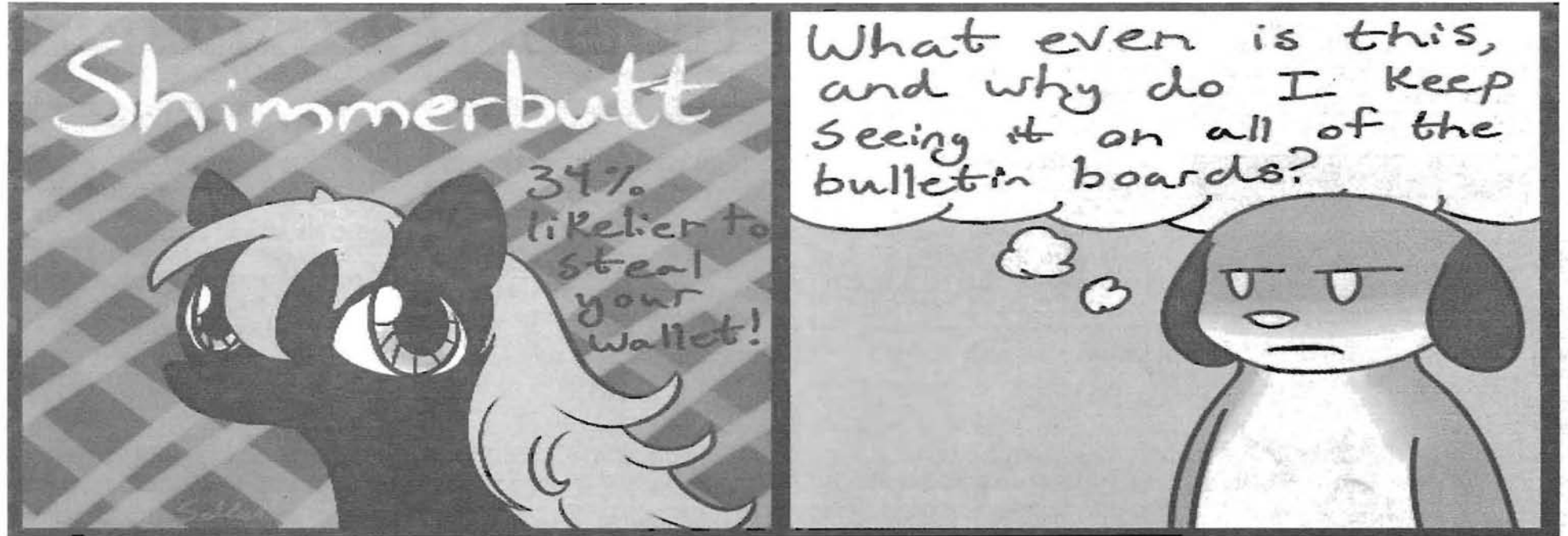
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# Comics

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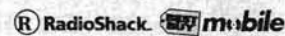
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