

# The Current

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## Catholic Newman Center takes a crisp bite



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# The Current

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## ABOUT The Current

*The Current* is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. *The Current*, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis.

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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

## Optimism and school pride runs deep at annual State of the University Address

*Chancellor Thomas F. George awards UMMSL faculty and staff members, revealing forthcoming Jubilee celebration plan*

**RYAN KRULL**  
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, University of Missouri-St. Louis Chancellor, Thomas F. George, gave his annual State of the University Address. The speech was optimistic in tone and was followed by awards of recognition for many UMMSL faculty and staff members as well as a special look forward to UMMSL's forthcoming Jubilee celebration.

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Glen H. Cope, opened the ceremony by introducing a video that highlighted UMMSL's dedication to teaching, research and service. The video was composed of three vignettes featuring three professors who exemplify those three aspects.

Cope then introduced Chancellor Thomas F. George.

"This is an institution that does it all," George said, near the beginning of his remarks. "We have outstanding, stellar programs that have national and international recognition, and what I'd like to do is start with some of those recognitions."

George then cited some rankings from "Academic Analytics,"

"US News" and "World Reports" which have placed many UMMSL programs, both graduate and undergraduate, among the best in the nation. One of the most impressive, from "Academic Analytics," has UMMSL ranked first among small research universities in the Midwest in the field of faculty productivity.

George also noted that UMMSL's enrollment is strong at about 16,800 students. He did say that the student body is "top heavy" in junior, senior and graduate students, but that this year's freshmen class was the largest in the last decade. He also noted 100 percent occupancy in University Meadows as well as 10 percent increase in Oak Hall occupancy this year.

George also ran through some of UMMSL's recent accomplishments in athletics, but brought the subject back to academia, saying, "Our students are great in the field and they're also great in the classroom. We hit a record last year in the number of degrees awarded and I'm still feeling sore in my shoulder from all those handshakes [during the

graduation ceremonies.]" George said UMMSL awarded 3,077 degrees.

Following the chancellor's speech, the Employee of the Month honors were awarded. Twelve honors were given, correlating with the themes of each month over the past year. The themes were diverse, ranging from September 2010's Excellent Teamwork, given to Mail Carrier Thomas W. Lange, to January 2011's Works Well Under Pressure, given to Public Affairs Manager Karen Pierre.

Cope then introduced UMMSL's 19 new full-time faculty members. The introduction of the new faculty was followed by a recognition of the 13 faculty and staff members who have reached their twenty-fifth year with UMMSL. The 13 individuals received placards and a handshake from the chancellor.

The final award of the ceremony was the given to the only double award winner of the night, Thomas Lange, who received a Chancellor's Award in Excellence on top of his Employee of the Month honor. Lange's

acceptance of this award drew some of the most enthusiastic applause of the afternoon.

Ron Gossen, senior associate vice chancellor of marketing and communications, then took to the stage to speak about the forthcoming Jubilee Year, which will celebrate UMMSL's fiftieth year as a university.

Gossen introduced a mini-documentary entitled "From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls," its title referring to the golf course that occupied the land before the university was constructed. The short film documented the early period in UMMSL's history when remnants of the golf course were still apparent and professors even had closest to the pin competitions on a leftover par 3.

Later in the week, a campus-wide email provided further information on the Jubilee, as well as a call for volunteers. It stated that "Individuals interested in being on one of the planning committees should sign up to volunteer by October 3. Legions of volunteers also will be needed for events during 2013."

## WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
70	71	72	84	69	66	70
59	56	59	55	50	51	53

# 'US News' and 'World Report' once again recognizes the quality of International Business Program at University of Missouri-St. Louis

**JOSEPH GRATE**

Staff Writer

Since 2003, "US News" and "World Report" ranked University of Missouri-St. Louis' International Business (IB) Institute in the top 20 of the nation. Just announced in August of 2011, UMSL's IB Institute has been ranked fifteenth, once again keeping their tradition of being in the top 20. This is ninth consecutive year that the UMSL International Business Program has ranked among the top 20 nationally.

The program itself is only 12 years old, yet it has climbed fast and strong in the last decade. Doctor Joseph Rottman, director of the IB Institute, an associate professor of information systems and a research

fellow in the Center for International Studies, accredits this success to the adopted model the institute has used. His first mention was of the IBI Fellows, the internationally experienced faculty that makes up the IB Institute. "We have a shared-faculty model... We pull from this faculty [IBI Fellows] of international experience to teach our classes," Rottman explained. "It's a great way to leverage the resources we have."

The second reason he gives is IB Institute's participation with the Consortium for Undergraduate International Business Education, better known as CUBIE. This is a group of IB programs that comes to-

gether and share experiences and knowledge to improve IB education. Participation, according to Rottman, is important to UMSL for a successful appearance to the world. "We make sure it's visible on the national stage which is [important] for our involvement with CUBIE." There are also several partnerships the IB Institute has involvement with, including a program that allows students to get a full experience working in China and leaving with credits from UMSL and a University in China.

Partnerships are a highly valued relationship for the IB Institute. Dr. Rottman says he is planning on taking trips to meet with potential

partners in France, Germany and South Korea. Doctor Glassman, director of International Studies and Programs, works closely with IB Institute and is also helping to find new connections. Rottman says he is currently in Tokyo looking for a potential partner. The search for global connections is ever increasing as the IB Institute continues to hold their level of excellence.

The program contains eager students that prove the success of the institute. Students such as Carlos Cuartas, a graduate research assistant, were attracted to the IB Institute. "I always knew I wanted to go into International Business and I saw that they [UMSL]

were eighth.... I was very impressed," Cuartas said. Carlos recently graduated from UMSL and went right into IB's master of business administration program. He was born and raised in Columbia until the age of 12 when he moved to the United States. Carlos is proud of what he has already obtained from the IB program, explaining that he has already met personally with business leaders of St. Louis.

The IB Institute was started in 1999 as just an IB program. A year later they became the IB Institute and started to prepare for their first ranking in 2003. Steve Burrows, the co-director of the IB Institute, is the man who created the great oppor-

tunities that IB students enjoy today, according to Rottman. Burrows has been involved since the beginning of the IB Institute. "He's a seasoned executive," Rottman said. "Steve is great. You don't get to be chief executive officer of AB-Asia without having a lot of tools in the box." Burrows used his friends to create a network that set up UMSL's IB Institute for nine consecutive years of success.

The IB Institute plans on keeping their top 20 positions by maintaining close relations with CUBIE, keeping contact with partners and continuing to provide opportunities for their students, according to Rottman.

## The UNDERCURRENT

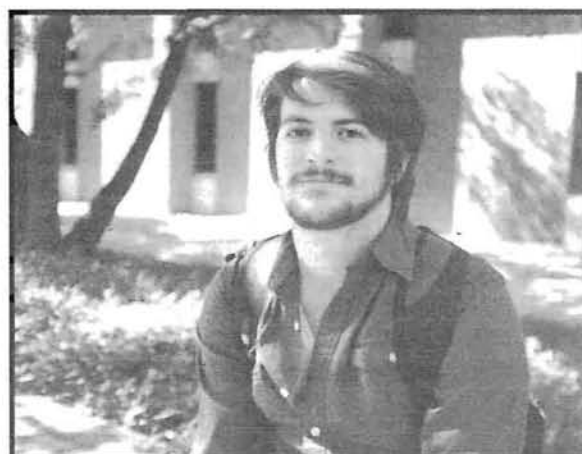
by Jarred Gastreich

### "Do you prefer using a Mac or PC? Why?"



"I use a PC because I was raised on it. I've become very comfortable with Microsoft and I find the Mac too confusing to be worth the trouble."

Ashley Rudolph  
Secondary Education  
Junior



"Mac. I use a lot of music software like Pro Tools and Ableton Live. Apple customer service is amazing."

Cory Cross  
Undeclared  
Sophomore



"I use a PC for all the anti-virus software and user friendly programs like Microsoft Word. Plus, all the games for PC run cleaner."

Phil Saluatone  
Computer Science  
Freshman

# 2011 Fall Job Fair brings opportunities for uncharted talents to be discovered at UMSL Mark Twain Building

**MINHO JUNG**  
News Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis' Fall Job Fair was held at the Mark Twain Building last Friday, September 23, 2011, bringing hundreds of current students and alumni to the school.

"I came here to explore opportunities with different employers and companies that are offering internships. [I'm] trying to get some experience [regarding] internship in management and finance areas," Jonathan McMiller, senior, business administration, said. "I knew this would be a good opportunity to meet perspective employers and job opportunities next year."

The UMSL job fair was

lined up with the intention of giving both current students and alumni the opportunity to connect with employers in the St. Louis region. Participating in the job fair that day were 102 companies and organizations. This slightly outdid last year, in which 98 organizations attended.

"We are optimistic that so many employers came to [this] internship and job fair. I believe that organizations really don't attend this kind of event unless they have a need, whether that [need] would be internships, co-ops or full-time [professions] to fill their hiring needs. So, [companies] that are here

are in active pursuit [of discovering hidden talents.]" Teresa Balestreri, director of career service, said. "But that does not mean that students and alumni are going to walk out the door with a job. This is the first step in the process. This is an ideal opportunity to connect with a lot of organizations in one room."

Although most participants gave positive feedback about the job fair, some students did not hesitate to give criticism about the program being too information-oriented system instead of an actual hiring fair. In fact, many companies and organizations did not even

take resumes from the job-seekers at the job fair. Instead, they only gave instructions about how to apply for positions online. Students who expected more active hiring interaction with employers were disappointed with this passive process.

A problem with unbalanced demands for different majors was pointed out. A preference for students with certain majors, such as accounting and IT, was obvious. Students who majored in an "unpopular" field barely got a chance to have an actual interview at the job fair.

"To be honest with you, [I am] not really [satisfied with the job fair]. I'm a

little bit frustrated because most people just say that you can visit our website and apply. That's the answer [that I received]," Natalia Sia, job-seeker, said. "They just say things that I already know. So, I did not get any new feedback, not anything different."

Almost 700 students pre-registered for the job fair this year. In spite of the bad weather. The Mark Twain Building was packed with hundreds of people who were thirsty for job opportunities, until the job fair was over around 2 p.m.

One of the employers at the job fair did not forget to give tips for those

who are looking for an opportunity in this bad economy.

"Go into everything with 110 percent confidence. A lot of people, even today, walked up and weren't so sure themselves about what position they want to go for," Hali McGuire, sales manager at Access Integrated Solutions, said. "If you take things you have done and you apply it to the position you are going after, most likely you have that experience. You are just not looking at it in the right direction. So, if you apply yourself into that position, there is a lot higher chance that you get it than you realize."

# Safety Walk gets a leg up from student and faculty volunteers within University of Missouri-St. Louis

**GREG LAINE**  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, September 22, the Annual University of Missouri - St. Louis Safety Walk took place. Starting every year from South Campus' Provincial House Chapel, the Safe Walk helps to point out some of UMSL's major safety flaws.

Lead by the Student Government Association, the UMSL Police Department, and numerous other participating organizations the walk has become a huge success. This success has allowed groups such as the Residential Hall Association, many of the Greek organizations and many other differ-

ent organizations to participate, as well as faculty members like Vice Chancellor Kurt Coonrod.

This is the third year for UMSL's safe walk, headed by Student Government Association's president Jericah Selby. This year was a huge success. "There were about 80 people in attendance. We received great feedback and we look forward to reviewing the previous years and working to better campus's safety," Selby said.

Senators and representatives from RHA (Residential Hall Association) split into ten teams to

cover the largest area possible on both UMSL's North and South Campuses. These areas included the JC Penny Building, Mansion Hills, Mark Twain Center, the MSC, the Quad, Benton-Stadler Halls, Provincial House, the baseball courts and the Optometry center.

Armed with checklists, the volunteers set off to search for areas that seemed dangerous or potentially hazardous to student safety. These lists included tasks such as searching for proper and improper lighting, and recording if any lights were out, recording the loca-

tions and serial numbers of the lights, checking for overgrown brush and searching areas for potential areas for new blue light safety systems.

With the groups split into their different areas on campus to survey safety quality of campus, Group Leader Andrew Roth was one of the members on the safety expedition. "We got a lot of great input from students and administrators alike. The next step is to take our results to the University Safety Committee," Roth said.

One topic that was a focus for many of the groups was the insufficient light-

ing around campus, as well as the sparse placement of the blue lights. Roth also cited the lack of lights and blue lights around the Fine Arts Building and Softball fields near Florissant Road. "We only found one blue light along our route and it was in front of the Fine Arts building," Roth said.

One of the major differences this year was the attendance rate. Many new faces were seen at this year's walk, including Jasmyne Adams, junior, Residential Assistant at University Meadows. "As a first time participant in the campus safety walk, I

felt that I was doing my part to keep students safe. I had fun and thank all of the campus policemen who came out and walked around with us," Adams said.

With the open invitation to the safety walk, students, staff and administrators are all welcome to come out and help improve safety on campus at UMSL. This walk helps to benefit the entire campus, down to every patron that passes through campus. It is important that everyone does their part to make sure that UMSL's campus is the safest that it possibly can be.

# 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.



Local heroes after rescuing a Webster Groves resident from an early morning house fire on Friday, September 23rd.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## Monday, September 26

### IC Short Course: Microsoft Word 2010 basics

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Located in SSB 102 and open to all UMSL affiliates. Join instructional computing to learn all the ins and outs of basic Microsoft Word 2010 operations. Topics will include: saving from older versions, how to utilize RIBBONS, use of images, etc. For more information, call Dale/Instructional Computing at 314-516-6000.

### The healing power of the arts: A St. Louis story

From 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 222 J. C. Penney Conference Center and open to all. Cecilia Nadal, founder of the arts and entertainment organization Gitana Productions, will lead a seminar concerning the use of arts as a positive way of integrating diverse groups. For more information, please call Jazmin Shawell-Wallace at 901-490-1144.

## Tuesday, September 27

### Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located at the MSC Patio and open to all. One in six women in the U.S. are annually victims of rape or other sexual assaults. Men are invited to wear heels for the duration of a campus walk. Fifteen men will be given heels to wear, but as many men who want to participate and have heels may do so. Prizes for the first three men across the finish line available. Come show support for a decrease in the rate of sexual assaults.

For more information, call Haley Cole at 314-516-5531.

## Wednesday, September 28

### Plagiarism: Do you know what it is?

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located at MSC in the SGA Chambers and open to students.

You pride your own thoughts, but do you respect those of others? This workshop will offer approaches to effectively paraphrase and cite acquired information properly within scholarly works. Writing Lab staff and Tanisha Stevens will lead this discussion. For more information, call Multicultural Relations at 314-516-6807.

### It's about time (management)!

From 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Located in MSC 225 and open to students.

Want to learn methods to improve grades, quality of life and divide time between the many obligations of daily life? This workshop provides ample examples and opportunities for reflection upon daily time management skills.

For more information, call Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

## Thursday, September 29

### Meditation

From 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Located at the Thomas Jefferson Library lawn and open to all.

Meditation has a wide variety of benefits to those who practice it, and these benefits only improve with continuous practices. Come learn these benefits, as well as meditation methods, all while sipping green tea.

For more information, contact Scott Morrissey at 314-516-5531.



Brad Pitt, left, and Jonah Hill, right, star in Columbia Pictures' drama 'Moneyball.'

PHOTO BY: MELINDA SUE GORDON COPYRIGHT: © 2011 COLUMBIA TRISTAR MARKETING GROUP, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## 'Moneyball' hits it out of park with real-life baseball tale

**CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

Could there be a better movie to open the Oscars race for baseball-mad St. Louis than "Moneyball?"

Hitting a sweet spot between underdog drama and a fresh take on a sports film, Brad Pitt stars as Oakland A's manager Billy Beane, who struggled to find a way to a winning team with an underpowered budget, in this real-life inspired story. Beane finds the answer in statistics that mine the unnoticed potential of baseball ugly ducklings, with the help of an Ivy League major played by Jonah Hill.

Smart, funny and human, this David-and-Goliath baseball story may be Brad Pitt's home run hit to Oscar gold. Like "Social Network," "Moneyball" is more a character study than a film about technology. With an intelligent script co-written by Aaron Sorkin and surprisingly winning odd-couple jock and geek pairing

of Pitt and Hill, director Bennett Miller makes all the right moves with this tale of the little guy outsmarting the rich guys. "Moneyball" goes way beyond expectations.

While statistical mining may rule the game of baseball now, this story takes place in 2002, when baseball statistical pioneer Bill James was viewed with disdain by baseball purists. Prospects are scouted as they always have been, with seasoned pros watching other teams' players, high school stars and promising minor leaguers. It is more art rather than science. The film was based on the non-fiction book of the same name about Beane and his ground-breaking use of sabermetrics.

Beane faced a quandary: fielding a winning team after it has been stripped of its three biggest stars, lured away by the big-money teams. The A's owners are tight-fisted with money, and his small-market team does not make the bucks to

compete with big money teams. Yet Beane needs to build a winning team with no money if he hopes to keep his job. This between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place scenario means Beane has to come up with new recruits or buy other teams' winning players. Every time he finds a prospect, he is outbid.

But one of these failed negotiations with another team yields a surprise. Beane notices the team's manager always glances at a very young, very un-jock-like assistant before deciding if he will trade a player. Intrigued, Beane focuses on the assistant and why he seems to have such strange power.

In the room of former athletes, Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) is the oddball, a Yale economics major with a body that says anything but sports. However, Brand possesses a mind that is a master of numbers. With nothing left to lose, Beane hires him away and starts down the path to revolutionizing baseball.

Beane offers Brand a

chance to show what his ideas can do. With Beane's skill as a wheeler-dealer and hardball negotiator matched with Brand's number crunching, they find undiscovered gold in overlooked players.

Despite his confident demeanor, Beane is filled with wistfulness and regrets about the past, particularly regarding his preteen daughter Casey (Kerris Dorsey). He shares custody with his ex-wife but it is clear that his all-consuming work keeps him at a greater distance from his child than he would like. But what else can a man with twenty years in baseball and only a high diploma do?

Both Pitt and Hill are winning in this film, making unlikely buddy pair. The handsome boyishly middle-aged Pitt is the sincere, hard-working manager. Pitt is a charming, well-dressed ideal suburban man. On the other hand, Hill's Brand is a man you would never notice in a crowd, nondescript and buttoned-down, dressed more for a Wall Street

accounting firm backroom than the locker room. Despite their differences, the two click in this story and as an onscreen team, adding a comic edge tinged with friendship.

The strong cast is filled out by Philip Seymour Hoffman as the team's disapproved coach, Robin Wright as Sharon and Stephen Bishop as aging star player David Justice. All of them turn in sharp, telling performances.

The film's script is the key to making this fascinating. It avoids sports film cliches and keeps the numbers-crunching to just the right level to make things real without bogging the story down. The plot takes us into an honest world of baseball as a business stripped of the myth, yet seems to find the real heart of the iconic game.

It is the little guys - the geeks dismissed by the jocks, the players who are less attractive or conventional, the poor team struggling to compete against the rich ones. Maybe it is baseball class warfare in a sense, but "Moneyball" is also that

all-American story of the underdog fighting the good fight against the powerful.

Beane finds a narrow niche, something the big teams missed, giving a chance to the teams and players who do not get the super star salaries.

Brad Pitt may have his Oscar-worthy performance here. Overall, Pitt is having a good year as an actor, with this excellent film following his equally-strong performance in Terrence Malick's dreamlike, contemplative "Tree of Life." Pitt has a good shot at this prize, although he might get a run for the money from Ryan Gosling with his haunting performance in "Drive."

"Moneyball" is moving as a human story about struggle and seeing overlooked value in others. It is one heck of a winning baseball movie precisely because it moves beyond the on-field triumph and the big game cliches to let human will to win shine.

**Grade: A**

# TV SEASON OPENERS

## 'New Girl' is next big thing on Fox

Releasing a brand new show this season, Fox TV has certainly found a hit. After premiering on Tuesday, September 20, "New Girl" is a comedy that guys and gals will both love.

Featuring the absolutely adorable Zooey Deschanel ("Elf," "Almost Famous") as the main character Jess, we watch as she attempts to pull herself together after a horrible break-up.

Jess is an extremely quirky character that is easy to identify with and to fall in love with. Extremely dorky with her horn-rimmed glasses and unusual personality. Often singing and making up her own theme songs, Deschanel's character gets to show off her true vocal talents as well.

The first episode, simply entitled "Pilot," starts off with Jess attempting to impress her boyfriend while doing "sexy things with the pillow." After being seen butt-naked by her boyfriend's new lady friend, Jess realizes it is time for a change. She manages this by moving into a new apartment with three guys who each have their own quirks.

Nick (Jake Johnson) has also just experienced a bad break-up, and is constantly getting crap from the guys. Schmidt (Max Greenfield) is taking lessons on how not to be a douche-bag and each time he says something to counteract that, must put a dollar in the "Douche-bag Jar." Coach (Damon Wayans, Jr.) has no idea how to talk to women and tries to get Jess to coach him on how to talk to them.

Jess tells the boys from the beginning that it probably is not going to

be easy living with her for a bit. Which proves to be true as she watches "Dirty Dancing" about seven times a day while sprawled out on the couch crying, after a week of this, they all decide to take her out and find her a rebound at the bar that Nick works at.

While at the bar, Schmidt and Coach try to get Nick to text his big ex in order to get into the party. After refusing for a few minutes, Nick eventually does after a heart-to-heart between him and Jess.

They eventually find Jess a rebound, who happens to be Schmidt's friend. As the guy's head off to the party, they see Jess' date show up and realize what it must be doing to her. Making a last minute decision, they run off to save her at the restaurant and together they all end up singing "Time of My Life" while still inside.

The show is wittily written and features humor that both sides of a relationship will like. Featuring enough "romantic and emotional" stories for the ladies but plenty of comedy and sexual innuendos for the guys, it is a show that everyone will love.

The only downfall of the show is the time. Really, Fox? Only half an hour? Surely this could have run for a full hour. Your viewers feel robbed!

Fox TV's Tuesday night lineup is definitely one not to miss now. Check out next week's "New Girl" at 8 p.m. Viewers will laugh at and with Jess as she gets into more hilarious situations.

**Grade: B+**  
-Janaca Scherer

## 'Raising Hope' raises a little

Last year's breakout sitcom hit, "Raising Hope," returns this year with a decent second season opener on Fox-TV. With strong lead-ins like "Glee" and the series premiere of Fox's less-than-impressive new Zooey Deschanel vehicle, "The New Girl," all Greg Garcia's little, incredibly surprising single-camera comedy had to do was modestly deliver. And while Tuesday night's season premiere may not captivate any new viewers, it does an adequate job of re-introducing the show's tone and characters while conveying the same watered-down, no-frills charm fans of the show have come to appreciate.

Episode one of the second season opens with neighborhood babysitter Shelley (played by the unfailingly adorable comedian and musician Kate Micucci) playing a ukulele tune about Hope (the titular baby being raised). The song, though a little long and at times annoying, completely recaps the major events and fleshes out the main character relationships of the first season. It is a clever way to bring new viewers up to speed without dropping in an expository line full of old information every twenty seconds.

The main plot of the episode begins immediately after, when protagonist Jimmy (played by Lucas Neff) discovers he was once a thirteen-year-old piano and voice prodigy. The only problem is, due to an unfortunate "accident," he not only cannot remember ever being talented but also cannot remember how to sing or play at all.

Initially, Jimmy ignores these memories, refusing to pursue any ambition, as his character is wont to do. However, after noticing the way Sabrina (Jimmy's love interest, played by Shannon Woodward) fawns over the thirteen-year-old version of himself, he realizes how important his talent is.

After a funny teaching montage featuring Cloris Leachman's dementia-ridden character Maw-Maw and a very funny scene involving the Chances' visiting a doctor to look into Jimmy's memory issue (including the self-referential, foreshadowing line "It is just dangerous to get medical advice from a TV comedy."), it looks like Jimmy is not able to recall his talent in time for the children's talent show. The show ends on an awkward note, not really ever resolving in the heartwarming way most family sitcoms do.

The episode has its moments and while it retains the simple "loser" charm it established, it really does not deliver any real deep laughs. Burt Chance (Garrett Dillahunt's character) is really who a lot of the show's humor comes from, and he is not featured in this episode as much as he could be. Also, despite its only being the second season opener, the love story between Sabrina and Jimmy is already as tired and played out as it was midway through the first. Still, the episode is effective in at least garnering smiles and a few chuckles, heralding a season of higher expectations.

**Grade: B-**  
-Yusef Roach

## 'X-Factor' takes on 'Idol' for talent

For fans of "American Idol," Fox TV's new singing competition, "The X-Factor," will range from the familiar to the fantastically glitzy.

The two-hour episode, which premiered the night of Wednesday, September 21, began with the customary camera shot panning to reveal thousands of prospective contestants screaming, already eager to be famous. Judges Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul, more obvious links to "Idol," were joined by one-time chairman of Island Def Jam, L.A. Reid, and Pussycat Doll, Nicole Scherzinger. The premise is familiar. Perform for a spot to continue the competition in hopes of winning the ultimate prize.

This is where "American Idol" and "The X-Factor" differ. The prize, a \$5 million dollar record deal, makes "American Idol's" \$1 million deal seem feeble by comparison. "The X-Factor" winner also earns a spot in a Pepsi commercial set to air during next year's coveted Superbowl time slot.

"American Idol's" a capella auditions, performed for the judges and cameras only, seem intimate in contrast to "The X-Factor's." The age of "The X-Factor" contestants also varied greatly, allowing auditions individual performers as young as 13 and as old as 83, as evidenced by the premiere, along with groups.

The judges took in a number of performances that had both them and the audience applauding and smiling for the most part. Stand-outs included the likeable 13-year-old Rachel Crow, who worked the

crowd with her cute curls and fearless performance of the song "Mercy" by Duffy. Single mother Stacy Franci was a lesson that it is never too late, performing a rousing version of Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman" at 42 years of age.

Chris Rene, a 28-year-old trash collector and recently out of rehab for being a meth and cocaine addict, wowed everyone with an original hip-hop/soul performance that he said was meant to show his young son that he could change his life around.

However, not all of the auditions were gilded. "The X-Factor" checked off a list including a delusional stay-at-home mom, a crazy, old but cute couple, and a pair of teenagers whose performance could only be described as "Dr. Seuss's Thing 1 and Thing 2 meets death metal." Internet blogger Geo Godley gave the most cringe-worthy performance of the night with an "original song" that was interrupted by him dropping his pants. The performance literally made Paula Abdul sick, who escaped to a restroom.

For fans of singing competitions, "The X-Factor" will not make them quite so nauseous. The glamor will be a fun addition and the next few weeks will determine how much "The X-Factor" separates itself from "American Idol." Cowell said his favorite part of the competition was meeting a star for the first time, and "The X-Factor" must provide the same.

**Grade: B+**  
-Badia Ead

# 'Harriet's Story' experience is a good one at Touhill Center

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis' music program put on a great show last Sunday, September 18, at the Touhill Performing Art Center's Lee Theater. The concert brought in incredible vocalist Marissa Hudson, talented violinist John McGrosso and the coordinator of piano studies here at UMSL, Alla Voskoboynikova. Marissa Hudson was certainly the highlight of the night, filling the Lee Theater with her one of a kind soprano vocal.

The night opened with Hudson and Voskoboynikova coming on to the stage and playing a fast-paced, upbeat piano song, with Hudson displaying her high range of vocals. Voskoboynikova certainly showed her piano skills on this song more than others, as the tune was fast and catchy. This was a short song, which was a good intro to set the mood for the evening.

Hudson got in touch with the audience after that, introducing and sharing a little information about herself. Hudson's home is on the opera stage, however she was wonderful in concert, and even spoke to how she feels about small venues. "Recitals are my favorite. I love the intimacy with the audience, and I encourage the crowd to react and get involved," Hudson said.

Hudson then went on to provide background on

the next song, a more serious tune with depressing undertones. The soprano really got into this song, gripping the audience with her body language as well as her vocals. The piano was drier here, focusing on the vocals.

Next, violinist John McGrosso came on the stage. McGrosso played alongside pianist Voskoboynikova, keeping the tone very solemn and slow for two songs, before Hudson joined in with all three musicians in collaboration.

The first song they played together was "Harriet's Story," an emotional musical story with three parts, all about African American hardship during slave times in the Southern states. The musical piece was composed by noted composer Barbara Harbach. This song cycle was sung very emotionally by Hudson, being an African American herself, and she did very well vocalizing every lyric and finishing the song strong singing loudly, "I am free!"

After a short intermission, the three musicians returned to the stage refreshed and prepared. Hudson explained to the crowd how proud she was of this next set. The music would be sung in Russian, she said, which she worked on and perfected with Voskoboynikova over the years.

The Russian songs were very powerful and serious

in tone. It was not until the third song that the piano really kicked up, as well as the vocals. When one of the inspiring songs was over, one audience member could not help but utter, "wow" in amazement at the incredible finish to the song.

The final song of this set was very unique, with no lyrics. With Voskoboynikova playing the piano, Hudson and McGrosso went back and forth with sound. First Hudson would give voice to notes, no lyrics, and then John would repeat the notes back on the violin. Then, in the end, they both hit the notes together in harmony, making a very unique and beautiful sound.

The mood was lightened after that, with Hudson singing such classics as "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho," "Give Me Jesus" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand." Hudson's delivery on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand" gave this reviewer chills.

Hudson closed the night with one of her favorite songs in an encore, "The Lord's Prayer," which she did solo. "I've worked all over St. Louis. The experience I've had here is one of the best," Hudson said, expressing how impressed she was by the UMSL music department after a wonderful night of performing.

## LATEST + GREATEST

### New Movies Calendar

Movies opening Friday, September 30

(subject to change)

#### 50/50 (everywhere)

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen and Anna Kendrick star in this surprising dark comedy/drama about young guy facing cancer, skillfully treading a difficult path.

#### THE HEDGEHOG (Plaza Frontenac only)

A French comedy about an intelligent, fatalistic eleven-year-old girl, given to witty observations on life, who feels she is dying of boredom until she takes an interest in the building's grumpy concierge and a mysterious, elegant neighbor.

#### MOZART'S SISTER (Tivoli only)

Lush French-language historical drama inspired by the true story of Mozart's sister, also a musical prodigy, who toured as the family's child star before taking second place to her younger brother. An exploration of the conventions and assumptions of the times, as her musical career and ambitions to compose were blocked by eighteenth century ideas about the inferior status of women.

#### DREAM HOUSE (everywhere)

Supernatural mystery/thriller with Daniel Craig, Rachel Weisz and Naomi Watts, about a man (Craig) who moves into a house with his family in New England, then learns about a family murdered there and is drawn to unravel the unsolved crime.

#### WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER? (everywhere)

Anna Farris stars in a comedy about a woman reflecting on her life and loves.

### New Albums Calendar

(Subject to change)

#### September 27:

##### Mastodon, "The Hunter"

The hardest working band in heavy metal describes their upcoming release as "like a really super-heavy Led Zeppelin or something." "The Hunter" is Mastodon's first non-concept album since their debut, after tackling Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" with "Leviathan," encounters with Sasquatch on "Blood Mountain," and whatever the hell "Crack the Skye" was supposed to be about.

#### September 27:

##### Wilco, "The Whole Love"

"The Whole Love" marks Wilco's first release on their own label, dBpm records. Although early leaks of the album have already prompted a number of critics to jump the gun with typically hyperbolic praise, anything with the name "Wilco" on it is usually a solid investment.

#### October 18:

##### M83, "Hurry Up, We're Dreaming"

M83 mastermind Anthony Gonzalez's upcoming double album is already being touted as his most ambitious release to date, with music blogs like Stereogum drumming up the requisite hype with a pre-release pre-review that seem to threaten a five star rating for the album. Obviously, a little skepticism goes a long way but, balmyhood or not, "Hurry Up, We're Dreaming" promises to be one of the fall's most interesting releases.

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# 'Straw Dogs' remake is a tense movie, yet not lacking own issues

**YUSEF ROACH**  
Staff Writer

"Straw Dogs" is writer/director Rod Lurie's remake of Sam Peckinpaw's 1971 thriller of the same name, starring Dustin Hoffman. The original was set in England, but Lurie's version trades the European countryside for the simpler, less-removed, rural Mississippi.

While the film does several things right: an intense buildup, a brilliantly terrifying performance by Alexander Skarsgard and an exciting conclusion, the final product is marred by unrealistic characters (who, in turn, make extremely unrealistic decisions),

forced symbolism, pacing issues and an ending that, while technically satisfying, on some level leaves far too much to be desired.

"Straw Dogs" follows Amy Sumner (Kate Bosworth), an actress, and her husband David (James Marsden), a screenwriter trying to meet a deadline on his new movie. They relocate from Hollywood, a plot point the viewer is constantly reminded of, to Amy's hometown of Blackwater, Mississippi. It is the stereotypical backwards-thinking southern small town that worships football and hunting.

After hiring her old boyfriend, Charlie (Skarsgard), to rebuild the couple's farmhouse, it becomes apparent that feelings for his old girl have yet to completely subside. After heaps of harassment are levied by Charlie and his crew on the couple, both passively and actively aggressive, and an unnecessary B-story conflict involving the "village idiot" is raised, the tension builds to a breaking point. David and Amy are left to defend their household from a squad of drunk, angry, lecherous men with guns.

Marsden does an excellent job portraying his

Hollywood condescension in the face of the clichéd backwoods town. He is an actor well-suited to playing the "pretty boy hotshot" character, evident here in more or less every scene, right down to the little driving glasses he wears when mounting the incredibly expensive Jaguar, a car featured more prominently than a few of the actors in this movie.

"Straw Dogs" real draw, however, is Alexander Skarsgard's menacing turn as Charlie Venner, the primary antagonist. Every detail of his performance seemed to convey hatred and lust, his character's

foremost motivating factor.

"Straw Dogs'" main issue lies in its pacing. The first hour or so of the film is a real exercise in patience. With the exception of one particularly harrowing set of scenes involving a hunting trip gone awry, the second act of the movie just seems to drag on and on. Also, the decisions the characters make are just downright unbelievable. This would not be a problem in a more fantastical movie but in a movie seemingly aspiring to ultra-realism like this one, it destroys any sense of suspended disbelief which, in turn, robs the plot of its

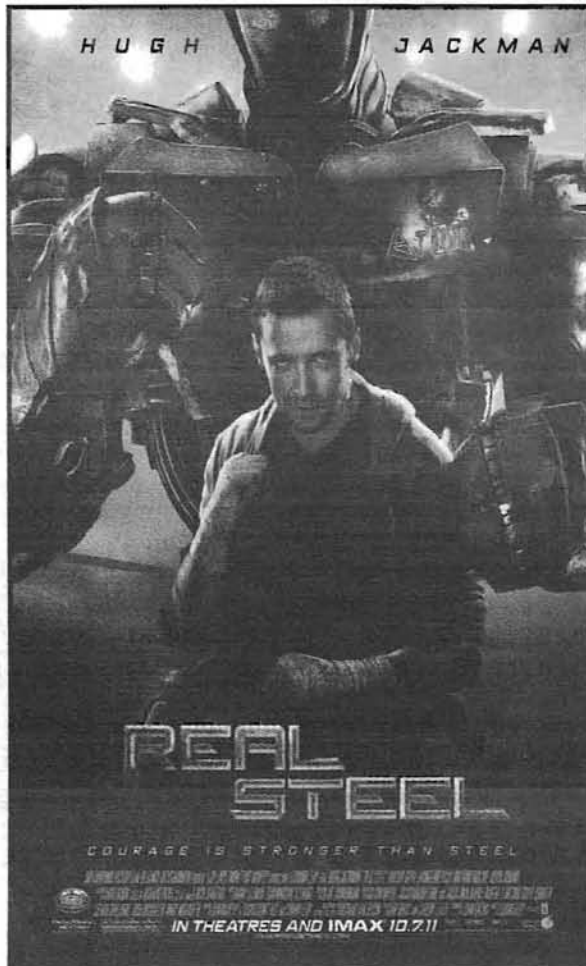
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The director adds a lot of unnecessary "artsy" shots from weird angles; very noticeable in an otherwise "by-the-books" thriller. There is a ton of trite symbolism, placed awkwardly in there to make "Straw Dogs" seem like a much smarter film than it actually is. Problems aside, the last twenty minutes actually did deliver quite an entertaining punch, even if it did pull out far too quickly. The film stands out from most recent contemporary thrillers, just not too much.

**Grade: C+**

# 'Straw Dogs' remake is a tense movie, yet not lacking own issues

**DAVID VON NORDHEIM**  
Staff Writer



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When an approaching album is released on the pop punk label Fat Wreck Chords, label of bands like NOFX and Lagwagon, a few assumptions can be made about the music within: jumpy, fast-paced rhythms, catchy vocal hooks and a lyrical focus that doesn't stray much beyond girls and beer. While Cobra Skulls are not a complete exception to this rule, they have carved out a unique niche among their label-mates with "Agitations."

Clocking in at an economic 25 minutes, "Agitations" follows the Skulls as they launch another typically vitriolic salvo against consumer culture, the military-industrial complex and any other hapless targets which happen to wander into their cross-hairs.

Though the album's scant running time might be off-putting to more indulgent listeners, the group should be applauded for the level of quality control they strive for here. There is virtually no

filler on the album. Cobra Skulls shrewdly peels their songs down to the essentials, letting each track burn out in a blaze glory with scarcely enough time for a second chorus.

The album's sound is largely a continuation of the same "folksy protest singer thrown into a mosh pit" aesthetic the band introduced on 2009's "American Rubicon," and though it inevitably draws a number of comparisons to groups like Against Me!, Cobra Skulls' approach is too genuine to be so easily dismissed.

But while many like-minded bands are content to plunk out the same start-stop rage for half an hour and call it an album, Cobra Skulls throw a surprising amount of variety into their assault, tackling the blues and country elements of their rockabilly styling with a degree of authenticity that few other groups approach. From the jazz-tinged "Drones" to the renegade

country of "The Mockery," "Agitations" stylistic pit-stops keep the listener from getting whip-lashed by the otherwise manic pace of the album. It all culminates with the lilting folk of "Believe," where lead singer Devin Peralta uses his formidable talents to pull his audience out of the pit for a surprisingly sincere (for a guy in a band named Cobra Skulls, anyways) heart-to-heart about the shape of punk to come.

By tapping into the same manic psycho-blues that made golden age punks like X and The Gun Club legendary, "Agitations" pulls the mean feat of being Cobra Skulls' most accessible and most impressive album to date, ready for the limelight.

Interested music fans will get their chance to hear the band live when Cobra Skulls play the Firebird, 2706 Olive Street, near downtown St. Louis, on October 1.

**Grade: B+**

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# Features



Students were taught to make two different kind of cupcakes, one being a sunflower cupcake, at the cupcake decorating class held in the Pilot House on Wednesday. NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## Free cupcake decorating class takes place at Pilot House

**SHARON PRUITT**  
Staff Writer

On the evening of September 21, students met in the Pilot House to attend a free class unlike any other offered at the University of Missouri – St. Louis: cupcake decorating. Inspired by shows like *Ace of Cakes* and *Cupcake Wars*, the University Program Board wanted to offer students the opportunity to learn a fun new skill taught by a professional baking instructor.

“I really like decorating cupcakes myself, and right now the shows are really popular on TV, so I thought it would be really fun to have a cupcake event here,

in a comfortable setting,” Haley Cole, program chair for the University Program Board, said. On behalf of the University Program Board, Cole contacted baking instructor Julie Fischer of Fischer’s School of Cake Decorating, Candy Making and Supplies in Florissant, MO. to provide UMSL students with a crash course in turning plain cupcakes into edible creations.

Upon their arrival, free, undecorated cupcakes were supplied and tables were set up with everything an aspiring cupcake decorator would need, such as bags full of

icings of different colors, mini marshmallows and cookie bits.

Participants could choose between making two equally enchanting designs: sunflowers with cookie centers and ladybugs made out of red and black icing or a panda bear with Oreo ears. Professional baking instructor Julie Fischer guided participants through the process, walking around the room and demonstrating how to make delicate flower petals out of piped icing and using mini marshmallows to form a snout for making a panda.

“I enjoyed it. I thought it was really cool because she

showed us how to do the panda bear and the sunflower and you got to choose how to decorate [yours],” Jennifer Guthrie, junior, social work, said. “I made the sunflower. Mine turned out really bad though. I actually have a cupcake shooter where you put all of your icing in it and it does [the decorating] for you. I prefer that over the bag any day.”

“I liked it a lot. It was a really fun event to do because it was free and we are really poor college students,” Diana Kilmer, junior, nursing, said. “It was a fun thing to do with our sorority sisters too because

it is hard to find free things to do on campus that are fun. We took a ton of pictures and it was really yummy.” Kilmer, who had no problem indulging in the different types of icing offered, said that while she may not be a cupcake decorator, she is still capable of putting icing on stuff.

“I would definitely come to something like this again. I like UPB events,” Chelsea Butler, sophomore, biology and pre-optometry, said.

Whether experienced or completely clueless when it comes to the finer parts of baking, participants were

treated to a night of gentle instruction and hands-on fun. With over a decade of experience under her culinary belt, Fischer was able to demonstrate with ease, during the hour-long class, the artful process of turning icing into art while helping her students for the night do the same. From panda bears with Oreo ears and sunflowers with ladybugs perched on their petals, the results were as delicious as they were adorable. Participants left the Pilot House with not only the knowledge of new skill but with edible souvenirs that were almost too lovely to eat.



Participants in Saudi Arabian National Day at the Pilot House on Friday, September 23.

SARAH LOWE/ THE CURRENT

## Saudi Arabian National Day celebration in MSC Pilot House

**ANGIE O'DELL**  
Staff Writer

"Saudi Arabia National Day" was celebrated last Friday, September 23, in the Pilot House and Nosh at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Authentic Saudi Arabian food graced the tables in the Nosh upon the students' arrival.

Some of the tasty morsels offered were stuffed grape leaves, falafel, spicy potatoes and beef kabobs. The authentic meal with plenty of fixings accompanied a brief presentation by the hosts of the event, the Saudi Arabian Student Association.

Upon arrival to the Pilot House, students were graciously welcomed by Saudi Arabian students proud to discuss their country and culture.

"I think it is good to give more information to people

who do not know Saudi Arabia and what its main resources are," Haitham Abdhalim, junior, marketing, said.

Other international students, in attendance, felt the same way. Moctar Elemine, freshman, business administration, said that here in America the media does not cover a lot about Saudi Arabia, but that in the presentation, the presenter covered women's rights.

To create the ambience at the event, the oud, a musical instrument similar to the sitar and the guitar. It created a room of relaxation. One of the musicians, Sultan Alghanami, senior, business administration, said that the event would introduce something new and in the form of the tradi-

tional music and food.

Director of the Saudi Arabian Student Association, Hassan Bahammam, senior, marketing and international business, said that the association is there in order to promote the Saudi Arabian student to the public and to also help other students not from Saudi Arabia.

"We help to pick them up, try and find them a place for living, try to get them state ID and driver license because they do not know the law," Bahammam, said. There are many services offered by this organization that help Saudi Arabian students with the transition into American society.

Bahammam said that as a result of 9/11, Saudi Arabians have been overwhelmed

by discrimination in places such as airports, where lines for Saudi Arabians were longer than for other cultures. He hopes that shedding light on issues such as this will generate more acceptance in the UMSL community.

Bahammam stated that King Abdulla Bin-Abd-al-Aziz-al-Saud is the current leader of Saudi Arabia and that he has done a lot of good things for their nation as a whole. The presenter for the event, Mohammed Alshbeki, junior, marketing and business, said that the King Abdullah Economic City, which will be the biggest city of economic diversity in Saudi Arabia, is currently under construction. It would offer graduate students a chance to go into

business and other industries. There are also King Abdullah Scholarship Programs, which enable Saudi Arabians in the U.S. to obtain a bachelor's, master's, or Doctorate degree.

The purpose for these programs is to have more people who are competitive in the work market and academic research, as well as to have more teachers and faculty in the universities and colleges in Saudi Arabia.

Bahammam also discussed the traditional fashion of men. He stated that the men wear what is referred to as an igal, which is a circular, black wool band over their white headdress. In the desert, igals keep them protected from the sandstorms. The

Saudi Arabian male wears the traditional headdress to be close to their culture. The igal is placed on the knee of a sitting camel so that it will not get up while his owner is sleeping in the desert. This is an interesting fact, unknown by the American student.

Clearly, a lot was uncovered by the Saudi Arabian Student Association to try to lift false perceptions throughout the evening. "Something Americans do not know is that we are not a simple life and desserts. We want all students to come out," Alshbeki said. "We wish next year is going to be more about American attendance." The event was positive all around and embraced all other cultures.

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# Catholic Newman Center seek out adventure at Eckert's

**ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Features Editor

Saturday morning, the Catholic Newman Center, located on the University of Missouri-St. Louis North campus, arranged a trip to Eckert's farm to kick off their Apples to Apples event.

Organized to promote student togetherness, the event consisted of apple picking in Illinois, making apple crisp and taking part in a vigorous game of Apples to Apples.

Upon arrival, after taking festive pictures with tractors and trucks, the students came together to start off the day with apple picking. Guests were expected to wait in a line as groups were driven to their desired site.

As the wagon came

to a stop, families with children already had their sites set on their own particular apples: big red and juicy. CNC decided to go for the more reasonable strategy and start off with Golden Delicious and eventually make their way to the promised land. What is it about a red apple that drives people insane?

As the Center walked through the apple trees, they carefully debated which apple they would take home for the magnificent apple crisp that was yet to come. Whether it was allowed or not, guests took it upon themselves to give the apples a taste test, covering the foreground with their withered apple

cores. And as a result, the ground was swarming with bees, friendly bees. This experience felt very "Johnny Appleseed." Was it the wagon ride, the dirt roads or CNC's musical serenade?

After apple picking, the wagons returned with the guests to the market, where they purchased what was left from their consumption. The tricky part was getting through the cashiers line without buying the caramel popcorn, apple butter or any other addition that complimented the greatness of an apple's already juicy taste.

Before leaving the event, two CNC members felt the need to take a turn

on the camel ride which turned out to be a comical sight for the bystanders because, prior to the ride, the camel was carrying around infants. Two college students may have been a little too heavy for the scrawny legged animal as it slowly limped to its required destination.

With their Eckert's custard in hand, the club headed back to the house to make dessert.

CNC member, Teddy Binkholder, freshman, anthropology, rejoiced over the newfound acquaintance she had brought back from the farm. "My favorite part was when I got to pick Gregory off of the tree and then I brought him back here

and I peeled him and I carved a little face in him," she said. "In three days he will be a shriveled old man head."

While waiting for the oven to do its magic, members took part in probably one of the largest games of Apples to Apples ever seen.

First-year CNC social chair, Mike Sullivan, junior, business administration, believed the event to be a success. "People riding camels... whenever someone gets to do something crazy like that, you consider it a good time," Sullivan, said. "My favorite part was actually feeding the animals out there. Being able to feed and pet an Alpaca is pretty

cool to me."

"I really liked being in the apple orchard itself and picking the apples," Rachele Simon, campus minister of CNC, said. "I feel like it is one of those activities that everybody bonds over, where everyone enjoys being outside on a beautiful day."

The Catholic Newman Center had just finished their Great Getaway two weekends ago which was an overnight at Babler Memorial State Park.

It was the Center's introduction to new students, transfers and returning learners at UMSL. Catholic Newman's next big event, entitled "Awakenings" will be a two-night retreat.

## Spiritual Healing: a Q&A with clairvoyant, Cynde Meyer

**ENDEA WILBERT**  
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, the University Program Board of the University of Missouri-St. Louis invited the student body out to "Lunch and Learn." During this event, the chief executive officer and founder of "Spirit Seeker" magazine, Cynde Meyer, gave a presentation about self-improvement and increasing spirituality.

Cynde Meyer began her career in nursing before switching paths to share her gifts in the area of spiritual healing.

*The Current: When did you decide to transition from nursing to spiritual healing?*

**Cynde Meyer:** I knew from the time I was quite young that I wanted to help people. Nursing opened the

door to infinite possibilities for healing the mind, body and spirit.

*TC: Did your childhood play a role in you choosing this particular route for your life?*

**CM:** As a young girl, my mother called me a miniature Ann Landers, known for many years for the wisdom that she offered to others. In much the same way, people felt safe with me and I would offer suggestions to help them on their path.

I was raised in the Catholic faith and loved the rituals of prayers with the Rosary and Fasting as a way of being closer to God. I now use my prayer beads from India and, in 2005, did a forty-day fast, which

helped in countless ways to connect to Spirit.

*TC: You mentioned during your presentation you provide breathing sessions that an individual can use as an opportunity to have a spiritual experience. You also stated that you have been asked by families to come to the hospital when a loved one has passed or while they were passing to help them to "cross over". What other gifts do you share?*

**CM:** I am a Reiki Master Teacher, Sound Healing Teacher, Breathwork Teacher, Feng Shui Teacher and a Mind, Body and Spirit Life Coach. I am very intuitive, and combine these gifts with helping people clear out the "sludge" and

focus on what they truly desire. Feng Shui has changed my life with taking the art of Intention to a whole new level.

*TC: You also mentioned seeking spiritual guidance for your own life and hearing a voice tell you to start a magazine. Can you speak a little about that?*

**CM:** In 1997 I was at Bell Rock in Sedona, Arizona meditating. I clearly "heard" during meditation that I was to start a magazine.

I was pregnant at the time and had a newsletter with 2,000 quarterly readers. I started "Spirit Seeker" magazine in St. Louis, Mo. in the summer of 1997, as a bi-monthly publication. In

2002, we started publishing monthly.

*TC: From the information given through the magazine and the website, what are you hoping to accomplish? What do you want others to gain from your magazine/website?*

**CM:** "Spirit Seeker" magazine is a comprehensive, inspirational, holistic publication for the mind, body and spirit.

Our magazine consists of thought-provoking features. We consistently showcase the work of authors, musicians and leaders in health, wellness and spirituality.

*TC: You also have a radio show?*

**CM:** Yes! I host "Spirit Seeker" radio show weekly, which has now brought

greater national and international listenership. It is on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. central time.

*TC: Do you have any future plans or goals in spiritual healing?*

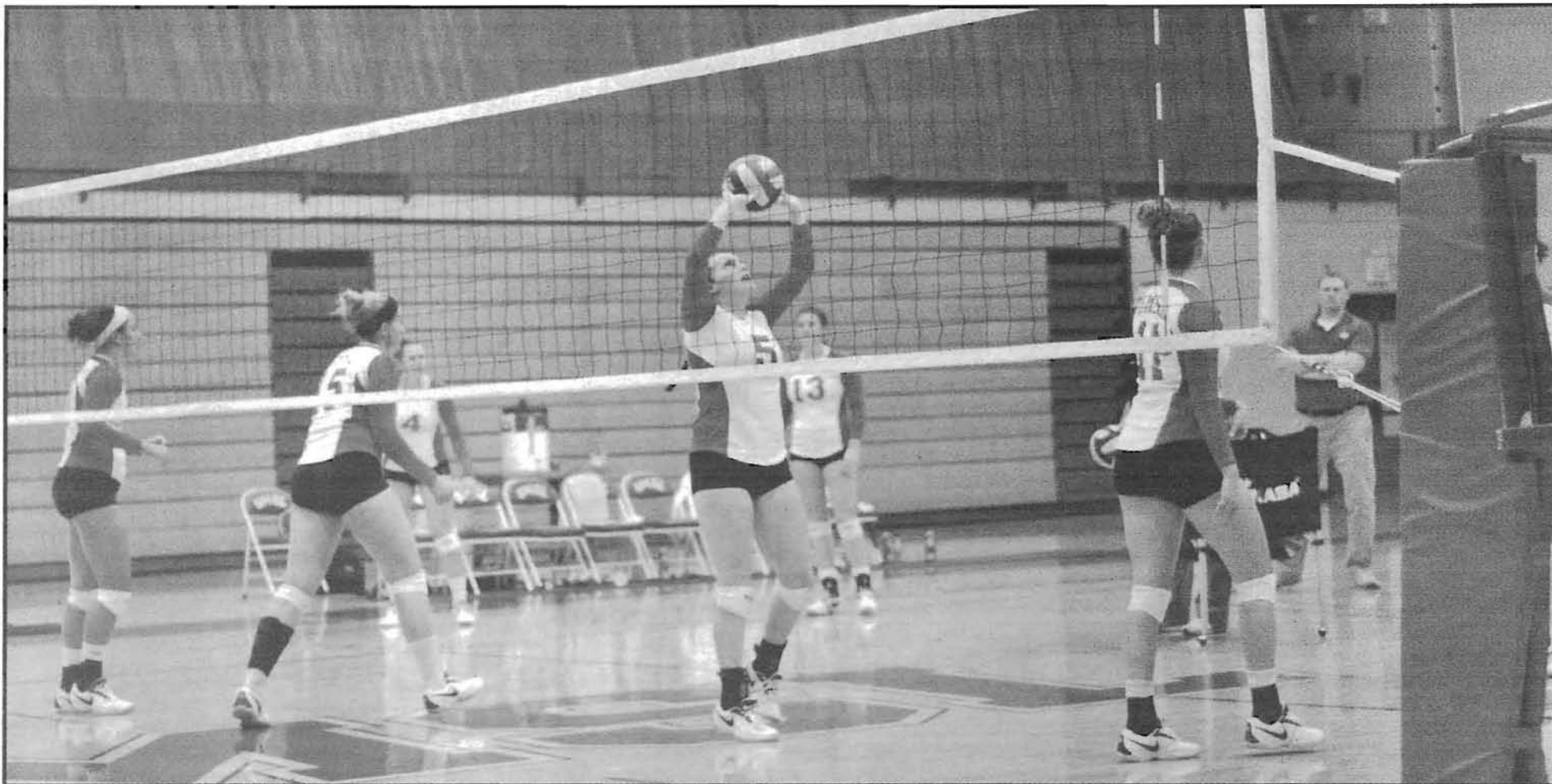
**CM:** My Future goals are to have a much greater presence in online publishing, bringing greater people to "Spirit Seeker" magazine and the many tools that can help them develop their spirituality and well being.

*TC: Is there anything else you want to share about your beliefs?*

**CM:** Yes. We are beings having a human experience. Live mindfully and powerfully, and remember that love is why we are here.

Read The Current

# Sports



Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications, practices with her team before the game on September 9.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Tritons look to remain tough with conference competition

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team was hot and on a four-match winning streak heading into their home matchup against Lindenwood last Tuesday, September 20, who came in with a chip on their shoulder after losing to the Tritons earlier in the season in the Tritons Classic, three games to two.

The Tritons got off to a good start, outscoring the visiting Lions 25=19 in the first set, which proved to be the most lopsided set of the match. The Tritons led the majority of the game,

finding themselves with a 17-8 lead before the Lions called a time-out to regroup. The Tritons maintained momentum, and never relinquished the lead on their way to a 25-19 victory. The second game went back and fourth, with no lead being greater than five points. After dropping two sets in a row, the Tritons won the fourth set, forcing the match-defining fifth set. Unfortunately for the Tritons, after tying the fifth set at ten points, they dropped five straight points to the Lions and lost the match. The match ended up at 19-25, 25-21,

25-20, 23-23 and 15-10 in Lindenwood's favor.

The Tritons headed onto the road to face Drury in Springfield, Mo., in hopes of earning back lost ground. They did so, after dropping the first set, then getting back in gear to win games two and three back-to-back. They dominated the third game, maintaining a solid lead throughout. The fourth game went back and forth. The Tritons made a hard run to try and clinch the match in this game, fighting back from a five point deficit to go up 23-22 and forcing Drury to call a time-out. Drury regrouped and out-scored the Tritons 8-5 after the timeout to win

the game. After the hard loss in the fourth set, going 29-27 in Drury's favor, the team rallied to take the match 15-10 in the fifth and final set. Once again, Anna McNulty had over 50 assists and played a huge role in the victory. The match went 23-25, 25-17, 25-16, 27-29, 15-10.

The teams most recent matchup was against Missouri S&T, Saturday, in Rolla, Mo. S&T overwhelmed the Tritons, taking the match in three games at 16-25, 24-26 and 22-25. Missouri S&T remained undefeated and at the top of the conference at 7-0.

For the first game, the

score tells the story: Missouri S&T dominated the whole game, getting the lead after the two teams were tied at nine, and never giving it up after that. The second game was the most competitive with the Tritons making a serious comeback, having had their backs against the wall with a score of 23=15, but tying the game at 24, only to give up two straight points and lose the set. The third set was back and forth, with the score tied seven times, but Missouri S&T made the extra effort and final push to take the match.

The Tritons women's volleyball team found themselves with eight

wins and four losses, with five wins and two losses in conference. They are currently in second place in the west conference behind Missouri S&T, looking solid for a Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament spot. The next three match-ups will be tough, all at home versus conference opponents who all have winning records in conference. The schedule follows: September 28 versus Southern Indiana, October 1 versus Wisconsin-Parkside and October 2 versus Lewis. Games are free to attend for students and the team loves home support in Mark Twain as they try to improve their conference standings.

# Gritty Women's Soccer Team Grinds Out Conference Victory

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's soccer team opened up a women's/men's double-header matchup against conference rival St. Joseph with a thrilling comeback overtime victory. A large crowd was on hand to see the late offensive run, which involved two goals after the eighty-fifth minute.

The scoring opened early with St. Joseph's scoring in the twelfth minute, after scoring on a rebound, then was stalled until late in the game. It felt like only a matter of time until the Tritons netted one, making St. Joseph's goaltender Mackenzie Calvert work with shots all game and pressuring the box. UMSL was on the offensive all game, outshooting St. Joseph's 25-8. It is games like this when a good set piece is what you need to get one in the net. Luckily for the Tritons, they had a corner kick in the eighty sixth min-

ute that resulted in a goal by Kelly Muesenfechter, senior, liberal studies, her first of the season, which was served up by Brittany Harbaugh, freshman, nursing.

It did not take the Tritons long after extra time began to make some progress, as six minutes in, Harbaugh sent another beautiful corner kick, bending into the box for forward Kaylee Neutzling, senior, criminal justice, to send the ball into the net for her fourth goal of the season. She was on the offense all game, with eight shots total. Kaylee has made a killing off using her head and continues to be a threat on any ball coming into the box. Her favorite way to score is a diving header.

"Right now I feel that the team is really starting to come together and learn how to play with one another. With half the team being new, one of our goals was to learn how to

play with one another as fast as possible," Neutzling said.

Neutzling is putting together another great year, having four goals and eight points just five games into the season, including the biggest goal of the year so far: the game winning header against St. Josephs, and a game winner in the eighty-fifth minute against Missouri Southern University, giving her a hat trick for the game. She is looking to put up better numbers than last season which she finished scoring ten goals.

The Tritons had their home matchup versus Indianapolis postponed due to rain and headed to Wisconsin for their matchup against Wisconsin Parkside. The Tritons proved to be severely over matched in this game, dropping it five goals to nil, totaling nine shots to the Rangers' twenty. The opposition scored early and often, netting three goals

in fifteen minutes early in the second half, burying the Triton's hope at a comeback.

The women's soccer team's record is even with three wins and three losses. They are currently seeded ninth in the conference, putting them just outside of the post-season picture. They had a big matchup away versus Lewis which occurred on September 25, followed by an at home game versus Drury September 30 and another at home game versus Missouri S&T on October 2, which will shed light on where the women stand in the conference. Lewis will be the toughest match-up, as they are ahead of the Tritons in the conference with three wins, one loss and one tie. The Tritons are ahead of both Drury and Missouri S&T in the standings, and posting wins versus these teams would further separate them in the standings.



Kelly Muesenfechter, liberal studies, senior, fights for the ball possession. JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT



Johnny O'Mara, senior, marketing, kicks the ball down the field at home. ERICA THOMPSON / THE CURRENT

## Men's Soccer Faces Tough Stretch

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

The men's soccer team has hit a rough patch heading midway into the season, dropping two key division match-ups. After the rainout last Sunday, September 18, the team had a reschedule against Indianapolis on Tuesday, September 20, at the Scott Gallagher complex in Maryland Heights, Mo. This matchup proved to be a little too much for the Tritons.

Heading into this game, the Tritons were undefeated and goalkeeper Tim Boruff had proved to be quite a challenge to beat. Indianapolis had different views on these issues. The Tritons got on the board quickly, with Almin Sabotic, senior, communication, beating his marker one on one, and taking it to the house for a goal just half a

minute into the game. Sabotic got the pass from assistant man David Schwer, then took on the defense by himself to net one quickly. Sabotic led the team with three goals. The scoring went on hold until Indianapolis scored just minutes before halftime, evening the score off a cross from the left side into the box.

The pace in the second half picked up, but scoring did not come until deep into the half, when Indianapolis took a goal lead off a shot deep inside the Triton's defense in the seventieth minute. The Triton's starting pressing hard after this and were able to net one just minutes before the end of regulation. Gino Valenti, junior, business administration, sent a ball in from deep, and Matt Burrus,

sophomore, business administration, found the back of the net with a timely header. This was Burrus' first goal of the season and Valenti's second assist. The goal came in a dramatic fashion, and hoped to be a momentum builder for the Tritons as they headed into overtime.

The first overtime would prove to be stagnant, with no scoring and the few scoring opportunities for UMSL squandered by offside calls.

After a dead-on goal by the Triton's Thomas Mihalcz, Indianapolis built up a quick counter attack, earning a corner kick and ending the game just five minutes into the second overtime off a shot just outside of the box off the corner serve. This was a tough conference loss for the Tritons to take, dropping their conference record to even with a win a loss and two ties.

The Tritons had to pick

up the pieces quickly three nights later in Wisconsin. This matchup, however, would again prove to be too much for the visiting Tritons. After a scoreless first half, Mike Asen scored for the opposition just minutes into the second half giving Wisconsin Parkside the lead. The goal came off a free kick from just outside the box. The shot was a true strike that was just too much for Boruff to stop, going just off his fingertips into the upper corner of the net. The Tritons had a few late chances to tie with two corners and a free kick deep into the overtime, but could not beat the opposing goalie and dropped the game one to nil.

After these games the Tritons found themselves 2-2-3. They are currently in twelfth place in conference with games versus Lewis away, then at home against Drury.

# Point/Counterpoint



*Are cheerleader uniforms appropriate in the school setting?*

## School has the right to set and enforce a dress code for students, even cheerleaders

A cheerleader having to wear sweatpants with their uniform in school isn't such a bad situation that the girls should complain about it. Piedmont Hills High School has made a logical choice when it comes to their school with these girls and their mini-skirt uniforms. The high school in San Jose, California came up with a very reasonable solution to the problem of these uniforms violating the school's dress code rights for being too short.

The administrators noticed the problem while conducting hall sweeps at the high school and worried about potential distractions when the girls would bend over with them on. The girls' uniforms are custom-made and tailored for about \$300, but they are used for one purpose: performing their cheers.

The girls are still able to wear their uniforms, though with sweatpants or jeans in place of the skirt. This wasn't a popular decision with the cheerleaders; many of them objected, both to the look of wearing only the uniform top

over sweatpants, and not being able to show school spirit.

Can it really be an attack on their spirit if they can still wear the uniforms, even just a part of it? It probably is possible for them to find sweatpants with their school colors or even official school sweats, since many schools now sell clothing with their name and logo. But students' complaints are understandable to a certain extent; clothing and appearance do matter in high school, and wearing sweatpants with a uniform top certainly looks odd to most students.

The uniforms are used only for the games, though. Does this mean that short skirts are the right chance even though the school has voiced its dislike of the skirts? Are mini-skirts fine for cheerleaders when they are performing their routines and doing flips in the air, but not for them to walk the halls of their school and going to class?

It is true that a school should be more worried about the educational needs of the students than what they're wearing, but would

students even be able to focus if the girls had continued to walk around in their short skirts on campus? Generally, if students fail to follow their school's dress policy, they are sent to the office and made to wait until a parent or guardian brings them clothes to change into. Though it seems perhaps a bit excessive to send a student to the office for such small infractions, they're still in violation of school policy, the same as any other run-of-the-mill school troublemaker.

Could the situation affect their social standing or the image and concept of cheerleaders presented by the media? Not exactly. Since they still get to wear their uniforms for games, wearing or not wearing the uniform in class shouldn't change their popularity as long as they're still part of the group. Considering the school has revised the policy in question to allow students a little more leeway in how they wear their tops, the situation should no longer be a problem for the students or the administrators.

## This sort of dress-code represents a double standard for cheerleading garb

The traditional uniform for high school cheerleaders has basically been the same for decades. Short skirts, sleeveless tops, tennis shoes, and pom poms, with few exceptions. Today, cheerleading equipment is big business, with girls forced to pay out of pocket for their squad's uniform. Uniforms can cost a lot of money, and now at Piedmont Hills High School in San Jose, California, members of the cheerleading squad are not even allowed to wear their \$300 custom tailored uniforms to class on game day.

The school has banned its cheerleaders from wearing the short skirts that are part of their uniform to school, citing that they are in violation of the school's dress-code. This change in policy was made after administrators deemed the skirts too short during organized "dress-code sweeps." The school initially insisted that the girls wear sweatpants instead of the offending skirts, and eventually relented to letting them wear jeans with the top of their uniform.

This story is a glaring example of the double standard on the part of the school in

regards to the uniforms of its cheerleaders. If something is inappropriate to wear to school, what makes it appropriate to wear in front of hundreds of fans in attendance on game day? The school made it clear that the cheerleaders would still be able to wear their skirts at games. If the outfit is inappropriate to wear anywhere, why make members of the squad buy it in the first place? Why did the district decide to wait until now to ban the skirts?

The solution of having the girls wear sweatpants instead of their skirts with the uniforms did not go over well because the girls didn't like the look. One squad member was quoted as saying that the look made them feel like outcasts for wearing their school colors. Even jeans with a cheerleading top seems a bit mismatched, but I guess it was the best deal that the girls were going to get.

No one is arguing that most high school cheerleader uniforms are not revealing; but in this case, the Piedmont Hills cheerleading squad is essentially being punished for following the rules, rules which were subsequently changed. Now if

the cheerleaders want to show school spirit on game day they must do so while wearing an outfit that they do not particularly enjoy wearing.

If the school wants to alter the cheerleading uniforms to conform to the new dress-code, that is their right. The girls should at least be provided the longer skirts free of charge by the district since they have already paid for the ones now deemed inappropriate for school. The district is doing a double take on this issue, not the cheerleaders themselves, so the district should foot the bill.

The issue of a school's dress code in general is one that should be decided before the school year begins. If the cheerleaders were told before buying them that they would not be able to wear their uniforms to school, perhaps they would have lobbied for uniforms that complied with the dress code. Since the school decided to change the rules after the fact, they were not given that option. This is an issue of overreaction and poor timing on the school's part, but one that will likely be allowed to pass with little or no opposition.



# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### Cantor's latest intransigence harming his own constituents

A little over a month ago, the U.S. was hammered with a torrent of natural disasters, from earthquakes to the strike of Hurricane Irene. Irene made her way up the Atlantic shoreline and ravaged the Eastern Seaboard; the hurricane's effects were felt even as far north as New York City.

The last time America was so devastated by a natural phenomenon was in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the coast along the Gulf of Mexico. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Bush administration's feckless reaction to the damage showed just how unprepared our disaster services were at the time.

The new and improved FEMA has done a much better job of responding to and dealing with earthquake victims in Joplin, MO. Then Hurricane Irene hit. Already overstretched and feeling the effects of the congressional meat cleaver that's been taken to their funding, FEMA simply could not afford proper disaster relief for all these afflicted areas without Congress' approval. Even redirecting aid from the earthquake sites to hurricane relief is only a few more drops in the bucket compared to what is needed.

Yet Congress continues to sit on its hands doing nothing, much as old Emperor Nero did as Rome burned around him.

It isn't because there is nothing Congress can do. In fact, Congress is the only authority that can do anything. Why, then, are they dragging their heels? Surely, it's obvious even to the most obstreperously blockheaded politician that quick action is needed. The culprit here is a familiar but unsurprising one: ranking congressional Republicans.

You see, Eric Cantor has no problem helping out victims of the worst natural disaster our country has seen in the last five years, but only if it can be done while balancing the books. In his own words, "we're just going to need to make sure that there are savings elsewhere to do so."

Even for a Republican, this is beyond the pale. It's not as if the GOP is renowned for its humanitarianism, but they've at least managed in the past to not be quite so brazen about their lack of concern, as well as their penchant for playing political games with the lives and livelihoods of others. Now, though, Eric Cantor is abandoning his own constituents — the people that sent him to Washington in the first place — just so he can continue his dogged devotion to the Republican mantra of spending cuts, spending cuts and more spending cuts.

This isn't a new idea, either. As mentioned above, Hurricane Irene made landfall roughly a month ago. FEMA's situation with regards to fund-

ing and the ability to properly do their job started out bad and has only gotten worse. Much like in the aftermath of Katrina, millions of homes were destroyed and millions more were left without power; about 50 people were killed in areas struck by the hurricane. Cantor has stuck to his guns for nearly a month now, insisting that no one will be allowed to help his constituents until he has been assured of enough spending cuts to balance out the expense. It's baffling, really. Morally, the decision is about as despicable as it gets. Politically, not acting in the best interests of your constituents on top of looking like a partisan tool hardly seems to be a winning political play, especially as poll numbers suggest that Americans are getting tired of GOP legislative stonewalling.

It is enough to make even the skeptical wonder if there really might be something to the charges of class warfare being leveled against Republicans in Congress. At the very least, Eric Cantor needs a lesson in compassion (a quality Republicans claim to cherish, yet repeatedly fail to demonstrate) and a reminder of what his priorities should be.

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

## OUT OF LEFT FIELD

### Cards' surge is a trying but exciting lesson in persistence

It's undeniable: St. Louis is a baseball town.

Many people no longer remember the days when this city was home not to one, but two baseball teams, the Cardinals and the Browns. The Browns would later move on to become the Baltimore Orioles, but the Cardinals have been part of our city's collective spirit since even the oldest residents were but children. Football and hockey have each spent time in the sun, as well, but St. Louis' first and greatest love has been and always will be the Cardinals.

And now, the Redbirds are rewarding that passion with one of the most exciting September stretch runs the city has seen in a long time. It reminds people of 1964, when a Cardinals team that was 11 games out on August 23 roared back to take the division from the Philadelphia Phillies, who stumbled badly in the final month of the season and allowed the Cardinals to overtake them and get into the playoffs.

The Cardinals' 2011 incarnation isn't going for the division, of course; the Central Division title was placed more or less out of reach after the Milwaukee Brewers went on an improbably hot streak, collecting a 21-7 over the month of August. At their lowest point during the Brewers' surge, the Cardinals were over a dozen games out of either the division or the Wild Card. At that point, many people — including this writer — were

sorely tempted to give up on their team. When they lost, they looked a great deal like the unsatisfying, frustrating Cardinals teams of recent memory, teams that barely sniffed the playoffs or made a quick exit when they finally got there. They certainly weren't winning enough to suit anyone's taste.

However, baseball is notorious for the ways in which one's fortunes can change, and change they did. As the calendar turned from August to September, it was the Cardinals' turn to get hot. Although Milwaukee faltered, but not enough to give the Redbirds a true shot at the division, a new target obligingly presented itself for a suddenly hungry Cardinals team and its fans: the NL Wild Card. The Braves have been losing as much as the Cards have been winning; within the past few weeks especially, they seem to have been doing their best to gift-wrap a playoff spot for the Cardinals, as St. Louis managed to pull within a mere game and a half of Atlanta in the Wild Card standings.

That was, of course, before the slight cold snap the Redbirds have weathered in the past few days. In spite of that, though, the Braves still only have a two game lead with four games remaining to be played. The Cardinals aren't in a great spot, or even in as good of a spot as they could be (they'd be tied with the Braves in the standings now if they hadn't dropped easily winnable games to the Cubs and the Mets in the



Jeremy Zschau

last few days, for example, not to mention the countless other winnable games they've given away over the course of the season), but they still have a chance, and they've already shown how foolish it is to count them out too soon. As the old saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

Now, of course, one shouldn't look to sports for valuable life lessons. But there are also times when people faced with adversity, as many St. Louisans currently are, need something that can restore a sense of hope or optimism, even if that thing is as little a sudden, unexpected run of success by one's favorite sports team.

Success can be most surprising and also most satisfying when expectations are low. And when you give someone a chance, they just might surprise you. In this respect, at the very least, baseball truly is a microcosm of real life — much to the delight of Cardinals fans all over St. Louis.

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

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

## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Law breaker: Exceeding speed of light would re-write physics laws

Nothing goes faster than the speed of light, according to Albert Einstein. But something might have last week, and if it did, it could change everything in physics and alter our understanding of how the universe works.

It could not have been more startling if we read that spaceships had landed on the White House lawn: the news that a subatomic particle called a neutrino may have exceeded the speed of light in an accelerator run by the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN.

In fact, the CERN researchers themselves were so startled that they put their data out without claim on any significance, so other scientists could check their results.

CERN physicists were using a particle accelerator to shoot a beam of neutrinos from Geneva, Switzerland, to Gran Sasso, Italy, a distance of 732 kilometers, or 454 miles. The time taken for the neutrinos to travel that distance was 0.0024 seconds, which is 0.00000006 seconds faster than expected. In other words, the particles exceeded the speed of light by 60 nanoseconds. The calculated margin of error was 10 nanoseconds, meaning the result was scientifically significant.

CERN spent months repeating the experiment, with thousands of trials, before making the announcement. The researcher who presented the data for CERN, Dr. Antonio Ereditato, described the results as "crazy" in an interview with the BBC.

Most physicists expect that some kind of measurement error is behind it all. Eventually, an error may be uncovered and the whole story amount to nothing. But if not, we may

have something really big.

The subatomic particle that may have broken the cosmic speed limit is a neutrino. Neutrinos are odd things. These bits of an atom have almost no mass and no charge. They come in three types, called flavors, but are able to switch type. They are so elusive they have been nicknamed "ghost particles."

It seems a most unlike event, breaking the fundamental speed limit of the universe. The speed of light as an upper limit underpins Albert Einstein's Special Law of Relativity, the theory associated with that most famous equation  $E=MC^2$ . According to Einstein, cause and effect are real but space-time is a continuum. In relativity, how fast you are moving and where you are in relation to a gravitational field affect the flow of time. To make the theory work, objects can approach the speed of light but cannot exceed it. And so far nothing has been observed to do that.

The speed of light as a limit is fundamental to so much in physics. But of course physicists know something is missing in physics theories. Although the speed of light as an upper limit is bedrock to quantum mechanics, there is a disconnect between Einstein's relativity and quantum mechanics. Quantum mechanics underlie all our modern electronic wizardry. In quantum mechanics, cause and effect are fluid but time and space are fixed. Both work in their realms but both cannot be right.

One explanation posed for the CERN results is a theory of a shortcut through another dimension. The particles may be moving in and out of another dimension, taking a



Cate Marquis

shortcut to beat the speed of light. This explanation might tweak Einstein's theory, rather than change it outright.

Precise measurements are needed for accurate results from particle accelerators. Scientists must have exact measurements for the distanced traveled by the neutrinos, the exact time they left Switzerland and the exact time they arrived at their destination in Italy. None of which is easy at the level of accuracy needed.

Among the physicists who will be testing the CERN results are those at the Fermilab near Chicago, Illinois. The Fermilab is one of two facilities in the world that can try to replicate the results. The other lab is in Japan but was impacted by this year's devastating tsunami and earthquake. The Fermilab accelerator does not have measuring systems as precise as the one in Europe. In fact, the Illinois lab had a result in 2007 of a particle seeming to exceed light speed but the result was within the margin of error and therefore dismissed.

The data from CERN most likely is an error but if it is not, we are living in revolutionary times for physics. Either way, it is fun to speculate on the "what-if."

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

## MAD WORLD

## Canadian hair salon uses image of battered women to sell haircuts

Recently, a controversial ad for a Canadian salon has been making the rounds on the internet.

The print ad features the image of a well-dressed woman sitting on a couch. She is impeccably dressed, wearing a dress and shoes that are meant to look expensive. Hair extravagantly styled, she stares at the camera making the kind of trademark 'model face' most commonly seen staring vacantly out of fashion magazines, her eyes at half-mast and lips in a perpetual, perfect pout. The only thing amiss is her black eye. Behind her stands a well-dressed man, presumably her significant other, holding out an expensive necklace and poised to present it to her as a gift. The ad reads "Look good in all you do."

So what is it, exactly, that the ad is suggesting women look good while doing? Enduring domestic violence and participating in the cycle of gift-giving and apologies that keep women trapped in abusive situations? Will that salon not only cover that woman's shiner with the best makeup the industry has to offer but give her a Wash 'n' Trim for only \$39.99?

After receiving criticism for making light of domestic abuse, the owner of said salon responded

with a statement that claimed that the ad is art and everyone is just oversensitive.

Art does not exist in a magical space where criticism cannot enter. Furthermore, if the ultimate goal is to turn a profit, can anything someone does in pursuit of that goal really be considered art in the first place?

This sort of "artist's defense" is not only flimsy, but puts a halt to any widespread, potentially-productive discussion that comes about as a side effect of the so-called art that's been produced. The salon's response to any sort of criticism (or comment that isn't 'oh my god, that's so edgy!') has pretty much cemented the content of the ad as being contrived purely for shock value.

That isn't the least bit surprising, as no one really expects an advertisement to be art. However, hiding behind the artist's defense in a case like this is undeniably condescending. Perhaps companies should not be so eager to handle topics they aren't willing to show the proper respect to, or if they aren't prepared to add anything to the conversation beyond suggesting that anyone who feels strongly about the topic at hand is oversensitive.

If nothing else, the ad



Sharon Pruitt

is guilty of handling domestic violence in a manner that lacks any trace of taste and tact. It promotes old, unspoken rules of 'keeping up appearances' that have kept women suffering in silence for decades. The image of an abused woman seeking to hide the physical evidence of that abuse for the sake of her gift-giving abuser glamorizes that behavior as normal and expected rather than acknowledging the unhealthiness and disordered thinking that kind of behavior suggests to society.

By adding to a slew of images already seen in various media outlets that suggest women should value appearance over health, this ad is contributing to a system that keeps abused women from seeking the help they need and deserve. Surely, there has to be another way - a better way - to sell haircuts.

*Sharon Pruitt is a columnist for The Current.*

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  
Let us know at [www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

# Horoscopes



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

Your industrious refrigerator schedule states that you will have a weird skiing trip with the Statue of Liberty next week, but only after pulling weeds and doing homework.



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

The charmingly filthy Marilyn Monroe will approach you on Wednesday. Her invitation is a trip to the handsome, southern country of Cuba, to eat toasted marshmallows all night.



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

When ancient thunder strikes deep at your loveable bubble-bottle, it may be time to spend an afternoon trimming that awkward facial fuzz and thinking of the future.



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

When the dull rhinos chase your obnoxious girlfriend to the casino this week, it will be time for you to take a comical trip to the ghost towns and castles of The Netherlands.



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

When casually telling the truth to your parents leads to a melodramatic emptying of your bank account, you should train monkeys to abuse ginseng for the purposes of revenge.



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

Remember the time you got falling down-drunk at your high school football field? Well, that's going to happen again. When it does, remember that popularity isn't everything.



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

We all want to look radiant at our high school reunions, but you have to face facts: you're more like a pathetic Canadian than a freshwater pearl. Get comfortable with this idea.



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

High school memories feel timeless and special, but you must remember you are no worldly coconut; more of an ordinary apple. Know your limits!



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

We all did our time pumping iron and listening to the luscious Backstreet Boys, but you're an intellectual now; clean and nerdy. Get out of that homeless shelter and start paying your bills.



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

We noticed you've been having a bad hair day. It's getting rather frightening. You might want to arrange an exorcism for that thing...swiftly. I think I see some barbed wire in there.



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

Dating is dead. Wine tasting is wicked. Try genetic engineering to create your stereotype, clueless, cute bimbo, or violent, sensitive swine.



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

I heard about this bogus haunted house that you should go to. It's set up like Custer's Last Stand, the videogame, only with Nicholas Cage in a scary, patriotic kilt. Go this weekend.

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