

# The Current

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## Tritons Roller Hockey prepares for upcoming season

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# The Current

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## AFFILIATIONS



# News

## College of Nursing Dean at University of Missouri-St. Louis resigns after 5 years

*The college of nursing is looking for candidates interested in the position of dean for the nursing college*

**MINHO JUNG**  
News Editor

Juliann G. Sebastian, dean of the college of nursing at University of Missouri - St. Louis has decided to retire after 5 years of dedication.

"I have very mixed feelings. I have really enjoyed being here. UMSL is such a great university and the college of nursing has been doing great things. It is hard to leave." Juliann G. Sebastian, dean of college of nursing, said. "But, of course, I'm excited about future opportunities and new things to learn and so forth. So, I have very ambivalent feelings."

The college of nursing is looking for someone who can fill the position. Soon, the department will appoint an interim dean until they find a qualified candidate. A committee will also be appointed in an attempt to find the right replacement.

Since her appointment in 2006 as dean at the college of nursing, Sebastian has been an influential force upon students and faculty alike. She previously served at the University of Kentucky, acting as dean of the college of nursing there.

The field of nursing had inspired her even before she attended college. Her dream of becoming a nurse was naturally nurtured by participating in volunteer works at hospitals.

"As a matter of fact, I was very interested in nursing. I had a little volunteer experience in a hospital when I was a teenager before I went to college," Sebastian said. "I liked it. I liked the idea of being in health care. I liked all the sciences one has to study to become a nurse. I also liked being able to study humanities and some of social sciences as well. It was a good blend, I thought."

Her passion and career path eventually led her to a teaching position where she started a new career as a

researcher in the field of nursing.

"I took a faculty position before I got my Doctor of Philosophy. It was very early in my career. The opportunity came up. What was interesting to me was that faculty roles are, I always thought, the best possible because, as a nursing faculty member, you can practice, teach, conduct research, and be involved with professional organizations," Sebastian said. "I loved it. I always loved it. I felt very fortunate to be a nursing faculty member."

As the dean of the college of nursing, Sebastian helped improve the quality of education in the department. The college of nursing programs at UMSL for both bachelor's and master's of nursing have been enhanced and reaccredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2009. The Doctor's of nursing practice program was also accredited last year. For the last five years, the enrollment of students at the college of nursing has increased dramatically.

"Moving to the new position, I hope to continue to hear from UMSL. I know that the college of nursing at UMSL will always do great things. I'll be really proud to hear what's going on at the University," Sebastian said. "[I am excited about] moving to the new position to try some new challenges."

Sebastian is moving to the University of Nebraska to become the dean of college of nursing at their medical center. She did not forget to leave a message to students at UMSL:

"Enjoy your college years. Learn as much as you can. Take advantage of all the opportunities that are there. There are so many opportunities at this University," Sebastian said. "This is your time. [It is] your special time."

## Corrections and our sincere apologies

*The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.*

In the previous issue, two mistakes occurred. We would like to correct these mistakes in this issue.

First, the article concerning the "Watermelon Feast" on

page 12 contained an error in naming an organization. Phi Mu Alpha was referred to as simply Mu Alpha, rather than their full name.

Second, on page 13, the article concerning the "2011 Fall Expo" contained another organization name mixup. The Black Leadership Organizing Council was referred to as a Counsel, rather than its proper name.

## WEATHER

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# Computer science professor receives grant, aims to improve research methods

**MADDIE HARNED**

Staff Writer

The National Science Foundation's Division of Information and Intelligence Systems recently awarded a \$446,000 grant to Martin Pelikan, associate professor of computer science at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis. The grant money will go toward Pelikan's project titled "Model-Directed Hybridization: Principled Design of Hybrids of Model Building, Metaheuristics and More Traditional Optimization Techniques."

Pelikan's project deals with developing new, more effective optimization techniques. Improved optimization techniques could be applied to a variety of disciplines and would advance the ability to solve difficult problems in fields such as science, engineering and commerce.

"The key goal in this project is to develop intelligent optimization techniques that are able to not only solve one particular problem or problem instance, but that can also learn how to solve similar problems in the future with increased efficiency, accuracy and reliability," Pelikan said. "But the project aims to take these ideas even further – it aims to create techniques that allow one algorithm to improve its performance by using knowledge discovered by another algorithm while solving similar problems."

Pelikan and other collaborators on the project have been doing background work for the past couple of years in order to have a strong starting point for the project.

After completing prior research and background work for the project, Pelikan's research proposal to the NSF was accepted and he was awarded the \$446,000 grant to assist in funding his project. Every year, a small portion of proposals are chosen to receive funding from the NSF. Often only one

proposal in ten is selected to receive funding.

"To succeed, the proposal must address an important topic of public interest and the principal investigator must have done some prior work to show that the goals are worthy and feasible," Pelikan said. "The project must also address broader impacts besides the research goals."

Pelikan's "Model-Directed Hybridization" project will use the facilities of the Missouri Estimation of Distribution Algorithms Laboratory (MEDAL). Pelikan founded MEDAL in 2006 with funding from the NSF and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

MEDAL is located at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at UMSL. Pelikan believes the project will have a significant impact on the university.

"The new funding will help MEDAL grow and provide new students with the opportunity to participate in cutting edge research," Pelikan said. "To complement the research goals, the project puts a strong emphasis on broader impacts with the focus on supporting student researchers at all levels, facilitating graduate mentoring of undergraduates, participating in multidisciplinary and collaborative projects, ensuring effective dissemination of research outcomes, organizing student competitions and boosting the local research infrastructure."

A key component of Pelikan's project is to improve research methods both inside and outside of UMSL through the techniques, models and software the project will generate. The demand for improved optimization techniques in academia is rapidly growing. Pelikan's "Model-Directed Hybridization" project sets out to provide a response to that demand.



Martin Pelikan, associate professor of computer science.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## The UNDERCURRENT

by Jarred Gastreich

"What are you most looking forward to this semester?"



"Living through it."

Blair Stiles  
Art History  
Senior



"Finishing Organic Chemistry 2."

Antionette Jones  
Biology  
Senior



"Not failing out."

Tony Schilly  
Psychology  
Sophomore

# Writable walls and smart board are simply a small sample of the amenities in new SSB study center

**RYAN KRULL**  
Staff Writer

It is a new semester at University of Missouri-St. Louis and students now have a new area to study and administrators say it has been designed according to their specifications. The Mathematics and Writing Academic Center, located on the second floor of the Social Sciences Building across from the Pony Espresso, has replaced outdated study areas on the same building's fourth floor.

According to Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ronald Yasbin, the old fourth floor study areas were very helpful, but largely unknown by the student body. So beginning last February, designs started being put together to merge the writing and math centers into one study area. A blueprint for the space was created and submitted to the Undergraduate Student Council, who rejected it.

The student council was concerned that the planned new center was still on the fourth floor and it did not have what most students wanted in a study area. So Yasbin and other administrators sought student input as to what was wanted in a study area.

The new Mathematics and Writing Academic Center contains a smart board for student use as well as two LCD screens that laptops can be hooked up to which makes it possible for dozens of people to easily view the contents of one computer screen.

The first thing students are likely to see, though, is not the technology but the walls. The walls leading into the center have been painted with a unique epoxy paint that has turned the walls essentially into a massive whiteboard. Students are free to leave messages or write, draw and diagram whatever they like.

"It's a place where students can study by themselves, with large groups or with small groups. Students can get help with writing and/or math, with writing assistance available for any course," Yasbin said of the new center.

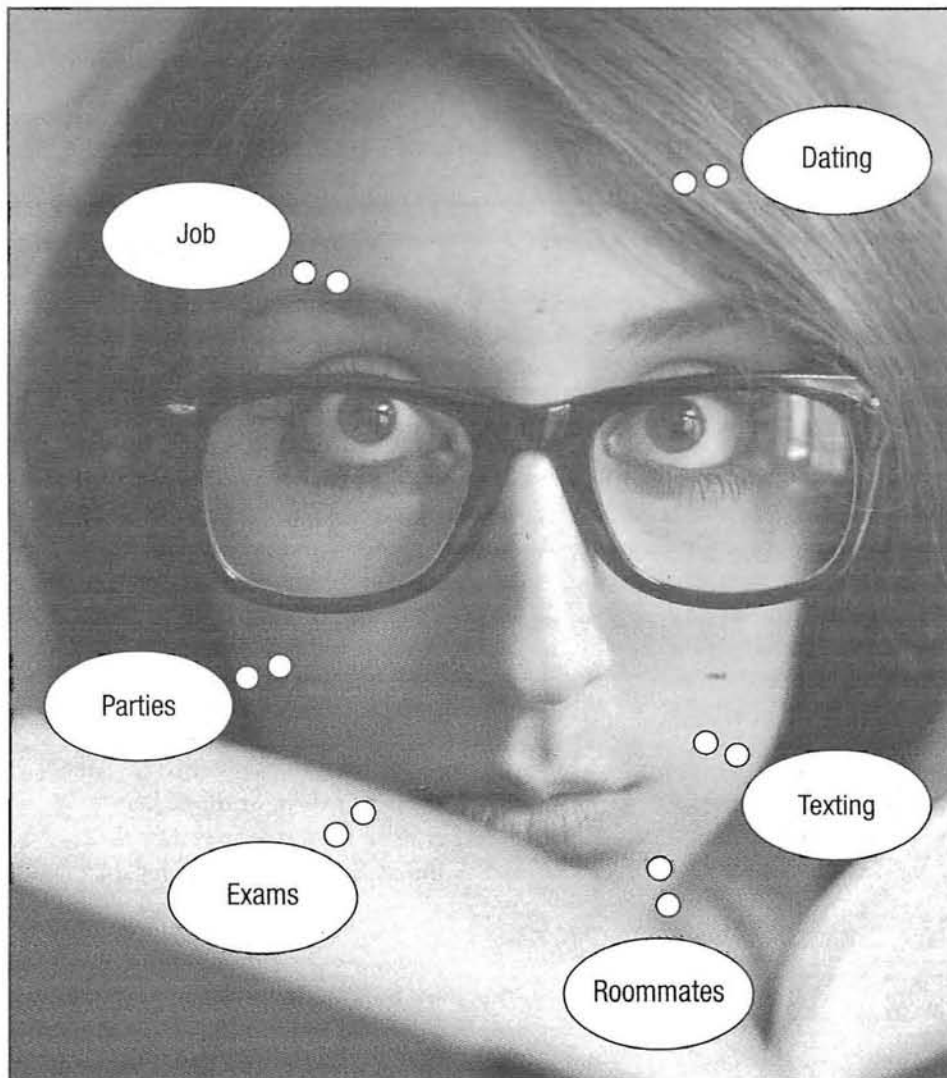
There are only 14 computers in the center. Yasbin said that most students would rather use their own laptops or tablets and having fewer university-owned computers in the center was a stipulation of students being able to bring in their own drinks from outside. The Pony Espresso nearby will change its hours to match those of the academic center so students will be able to get coffee while they study at any time.

Everything in the new area is movable: the desks, the white boards and even the chairs. Yasbin said this is to accommodate whatever size study group students want and feel most comfortable operating in.

"[The students] wanted Starbucks," Yasbin said. "And that's what we tried to give them."

"It's nice to have a place that is workable to the student's needs," Jessyka Lee, Master of the Fine Arts student and writing consultant in the new center, said. "It just feels like it's much more accessible for how people want to use it."

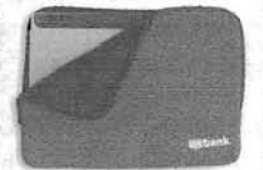
The area on the SSB's fourth floor that previously held the old math and writing support areas has been converted into classroom space. What is now SSB 410 is a large 70-plus person classroom designed primarily for business classes. A 40-plus person classroom has also been constructed right next door for math classes. Three of the four of the math room's walls are writable.



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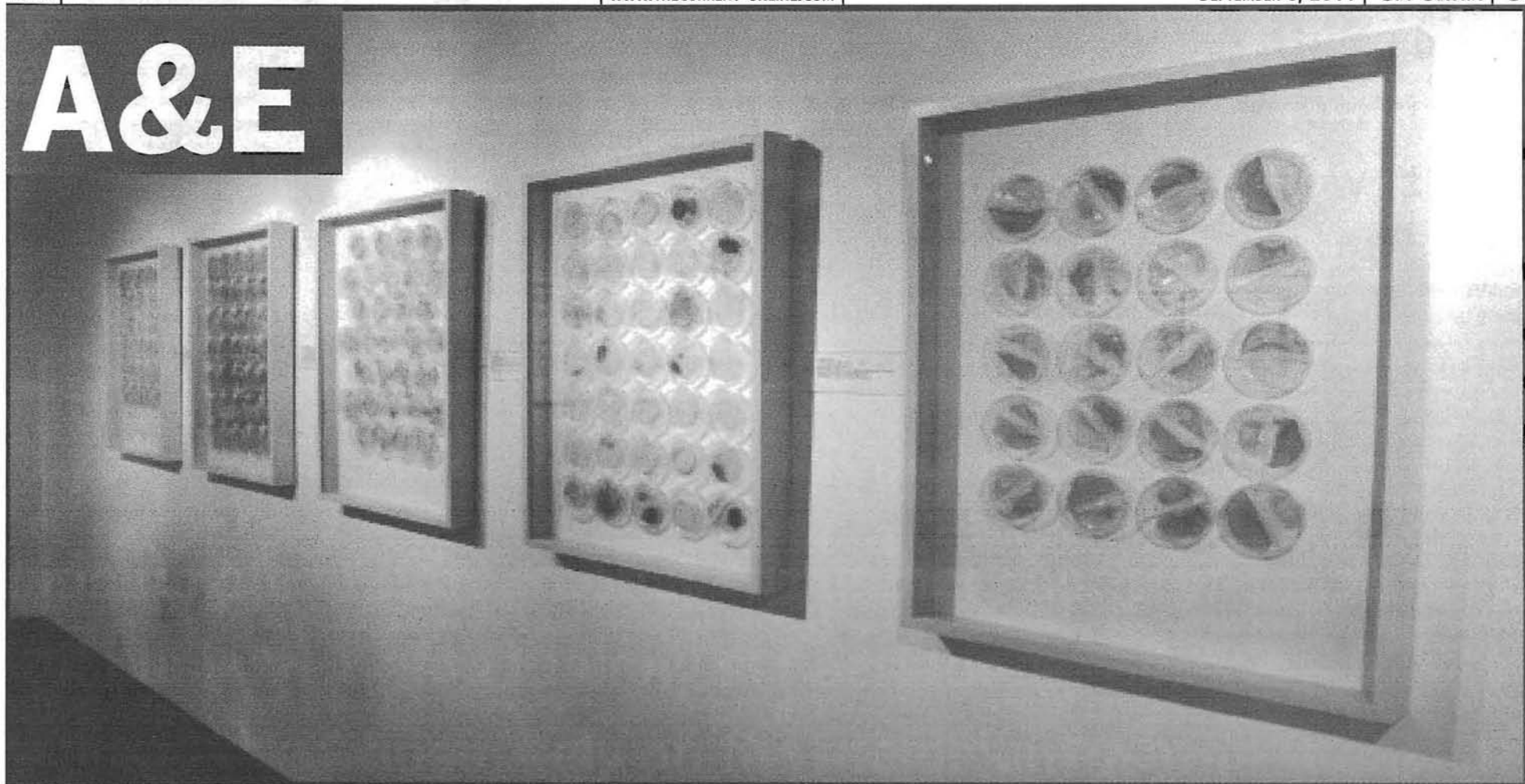
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A&amp;E



Art works by Ronald Leax, one of three St. Louis artists featured in the "Exposure 14" exhibit at Gallery 210.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

## Gallery 210's 'Exposure 14' mixes art with science

**ANGIE O'DELL**  
Staff Writer

Artists mingle science and art, in order to mingle with what created them and become one with both through the creative process. The current Gallery 210 exhibit, "Exposure 14," showcases the art of Brigham Dimick, Greg Edmondson and Ron Leax using various mixed media.

These artists share a connection between their art and the sciences. Dimick's father was an endocrinologist. Leax was a part of the polio vaccine study done in 1954 by Alexander Fleming in his lab. Edmondson has a biology background.

Collaboration with science is a great deal of the artistic process for Dimick and personal narrative is part of his work.

Dimick's work "Hive Body 2001" is an example of this meeting of art and science. Dimick created drawings influenced by illustrations from the Renaissance featuring the vascular system of the body, which were then photographed, cut up and coated in wax - then the bees do their magic. When the paper is torn away, it reveals a pattern which is a highlight of this piece.

Another piece, "Waxwork 2," features live bees crawling on a print of the artist's head which has been

coated in a white liquid resembling wax, all inside a wax cast of his head. Influenced by anaphylactic shock he experienced when stung repeatedly by bees, Dimick becomes one with the bees through the creative process. Dimick's "Dust to Dust" is the original drawing of the vascular system, done first by tracing his body onto a large sheet of paper. According to the artist, the vascular system of his body resembles trees, particularly family trees.

Ronald Leax's "History of the Culture Series" showcases lively colors, as well as blacks and darker pigments that have been immersed in agar, dye, formaldehyde and varnish, before being put into petri dishes. Leax is not trying to control his works, and steps away from personal narrative, focusing rather on seeing how the process unfolds and what the outcome is. Once Leax has the specimens the way he wants them, he freezes and preserves them. They are beautiful because each petri dish tells its own story. Leax is influenced by Jones Sauk who made the vaccine for polio, although the artist does not claim to be a scientist. Leax's "Brain Material" uses brain tissue in petri dishes.

In "Untitled 2009," Edmondson uses pencil on paper in the most beautiful way, imitating rhizomes and their reproduction as they appear underground. Edmondson began feeling more comfortable in the studio than in the lab while he was in college. The artist's "Twelve

Drawings," 2008-2011, are pencil on paper and vellum. The artist also takes some of his drawings and tears them in half to attempt to build a collage and makes it into a video, such as in "Circular Logic." Another of his videos, "Lunar Eclipse," is about the movement of celestial bodies. Influenced by biological forms, Edmondson's drawings, sculptures and videos are fascinating.

Process can be considered important to both artists. It is the process of starting with one dot for Edmondson, and the the petri dish for Leax.

The exhibit opened on Thursday, August 25, with a reception and panel discussion of the works. Schlafly Brewery catered the event, donating refreshments. At the gallery talk, guests could ask the artists questions about their artistic and scientific backgrounds, their artistic decisions and the processes they used in making their works. Terry Suhre, the director for Gallery 210 led the talk. The free exhibit was sponsored by the Regional Arts Commission and the Center for the Humanities.

Held each year by Gallery 210 since 2005, the "Exposure" series is one of the most popular exhibitions of the gallery each year.

Gallery 210's "Exposure 14" is a visual scientific discovery that meshes human experience with art, on display through October 1.

# 'Living With Lions' album 'Holy Shit' is almost worth its title

**MAVIS HOLLIS**

Staff Writer

The title of this album could have music fans either laughing, shaking heads or possibly angry, but the music definitely will not fully upset on matters of taste.

Living with Lions' newest album since 2008, released in May, is named "Holy Shit."

Their second full-length album, which features their new lead on vocals and new bass player, has caused the Canadian band to take criticism from American and Canadian media for the physical content inside and its cover, which is like a Bible's cover. Considering they are a punk rock band, they march their genre, but also separate themselves from other bands by having the style of early 2000s music and getting near the edge of pop rock. Those willingly to try a new genre for their ears, those who enjoy the genre or even those just wanting to listen to the lyrics can definitely find something they are able to like.

Although there is not much change to their music from their first album other than the vocals, "Holy Shit" remains an invigorating album for this band even with the controversy. It is possible that this punk music could get you singing along with the lyrics. The lyrics can definitely pull one in or can one push away, depending on taste.

"Holy Shit" does not exactly match its songs to its title. Many of the songs are very catchy after a bit but, at same time, a few songs can make the listener lose interest. With some of the songs, listeners may possibly nod along while other songs do not keep the enthusiasm. This does not make the album bad, for it can definitely change your moods, depending on the song.

Not many songs are very memorable but the first track, "Pieces," starts the album well. "Wake Up, Wake Up" and "Honestly, Honestly" will both have heads bobbing. Other tracks can keep up with the pace to a certain extent before the album loses its momentum for a bit. The differences between this album and their first are not many, other than their use of lyrics, the new vocals and different style of bass.

"Holy Shit" does give some hype off, as well as gives images of a crowd of people nodding their heads and/or jumping up and down, like in a typical rock music video.

With the title and the album's content, "Holy Shit" is definitely an album to listen to if music fans really want a start into the genre. Although the band is not well known, Living with Lions definitely brought back early 2000s rock. Although they bring out the feeling of a cliché pop rock band at certain times, the punk rock is definitely there in the beat and in the music, as the lyrics continue to pull one in as one listens.

**Grade: B+**

## LATEST + GREATEST

### Movies Opening Calendar

Movies opening Friday, September 9  
(Subject to change)

#### CONTAGION (everywhere)

Steven Soderbergh directs an all-star cast including Matt Damon, Kate Winslett and Jude Law in horror/thriller about a worldwide pandemic. This highly-anticipated big-budget film promises to kick-off the awards season race.

#### WARRIOR (everywhere)

Tom Hardy, Nick Nolte and Joel Edgerton star in a tale of two brothers and an ex-alcoholic father struggling to win a mixed-martial arts championship. This blend of family drama and sports film with hints of "The Fighter" and "Rocky" is directed by Gavin O'Connor.

#### THE INTERRUPTERS (Plaza Frontenac only)

Documentary about a group of people trying to break the cycle of youth violence in an inner city neighborhood of Chicago. Director Steve James follows their efforts over a year's time, including those of one group called CeaseFire, who feel that violence spreads like an infectious disease and so can be approached using some of the methods of disease control.

#### BUCKY LARSON: BORN TO BE A STAR (everywhere)

Comedy about a young man (Nick Swardson) who thinks it is his legacy to be a porn star, despite some natural limitations. Also stars Don Johnson and Christina Ricci, directed by Tom Brady.

#### BRIGHTON ROCK (Plaza Frontenac only)

Helen Mirren and John Hurt star along with young Sam Riley, who was astounding as a young rocker in "Control," in this gripping British film. Based on a Graham Green story, it is a mix of crime and psychological thriller set among gangsters operating in 1960s Brighton's seaside Coney Island style resort. Also features a rare appearance of Andy Serkis (Gollum) without the motion-capture special effects.

### CD Release Calendar

(Subject to change)

#### August 29:

##### Lil' Wayne 'THA CARTER IV'

Rapper Lil' Wayne recently released his new album 'Tha Carter IV', the fourth installment of the 'Tha Carter' series, on Monday, August 29, 2011 via Cash Money Records/Universal Motown.

#### August 29:

##### Red Hot Chili Peppers "I'M WITH YOU"

Red Hot Chili Peppers end their longest drought between albums, with five years passing since "Stadium Arcadium." This is their first effort since the second departure of lead guitarist John Frusciante.

#### August 30:

##### Lenny Kravitz "BLACK AND WHITE AMERICA"

The new album from Lenny Kravitz was released on August 30. Not only does the set have a strong Civil Rights theme, it is the 47-year-old's most joyful collection of songs to date.

#### August 30:

##### Glen Campbell "GHOST ON THE CANVAS"

At age 75 and with the recent diagnosis of the onset of Alzheimer's disease, Glen Campbell has decided to say farewell to his five decade-long musical run, with the release of an emotionally satisfying career testimonial, "Ghost on the Canvas."

#### September 9:

##### Mantra "SPEAKING VOLUMES"

Mantra is fast becoming one of Australia's most eminent hip hop artists. After setting a new benchmark with first solo effort "Power of the Spoken," the Melbourne emcee is back with an explosive new release titled "Speaking Volumes."

LAST MAN DOWN:  
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Brendan Gleeson as Sgt. Gerry Boyle in THE GUARD.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN HESSION, COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

## Brandon Gleeson, Don Cheadle team in Irish cop tale 'The Guard'

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**DAVID VON NORDHEIM**

Staff Writer

There is no denying that "The Guard" knows how to leave the viewer with a good first impression. After opening with a fatal car accident involving a Volkswagen full of drug-addled teenagers, the film follows its protagonist, Sergeant Gerry Boyle (Brandon Gleeson), as he ambles over to the gruesome wreckage, expresses a note of sorrow for the victims, pockets their acid tablets, takes a hit and then, contemplating the glorious Irish sunrise unfolding before him, declares, "It's going to be a beautiful f\*\*\*ing day."

This is as fitting an introduction as any to the inscrutable Boyle who, thanks to an explosive performance by veteran character actor Gleeson, is both completely despicable and utterly lovable, a character equally comfortable cavorting with prostitutes as he is visiting his ailing mother. Best known for his supporting role as the hulking Hamish in "Braveheart," Gleeson was long overdue for a shot at a starring role and "The Guard" proves to be a stellar vehicle

for his talents.

Of course, one great role alone cannot carry an entire film, but fortunately, "The Guard" is apt to compete with its star's knockout performance. Frequently hilarious and surprisingly heartfelt, the film follows the efforts of the cartoonishly profane Boyle who, alongside prudish FBI agent Wendell Everett (Don Cheadle), attempts to thwart a multimillion dollar drug heist to which the corrupt local police regiment has turned a blind eye. In this regard, the film heavily channels the Coen Brothers' "Fargo," capturing its colorful, thickly-accented supporting cast, its bumbling, self-aware villains and, most importantly, its unlikely hero who, like "Fargo's" Marge Gunderson, is far more clever than he lets on.

It is a truly excellent take on a classic formula. Although "The Guard's" intricate screenplay could stand alone on its own merits, the film is, at its heart, a character study and Boyle proves himself an apt subject time and time again. Even when he is telling twisted jokes about Protestant children being gunned down by the Irish Republican Army or tampering with a crime scene to meet his own ends, he is so utterly likeable that the viewer is all too willing to

overlook his more despicable tendencies.

Boyle is so fascinating that, paradoxically, the film's supporting characters seem rather flat and lifeless by comparison. The film tends to lose momentum whenever Gleeson is not on camera, such as the scenes which follow the villainous drug traffickers as they coerce the local authorities or an aimless romantic subplot between Boyle and the widow of a slain officer. Fortunately, these minor missteps do not detract too heavily from the film. It just seems like a pity that none of "The Guard's" other colorful characters comes close to competing with the unflappable Boyle.

"The Guard" is one of those rare films that manages to successfully combine biting comedy, fierce action and moving drama into a single package. It so precisely nails the elements of a classic Hollywood blockbuster that it is hard to believe it is an Irish import, which it is. Although Gleeson's performance is worth the price of admission alone, there is simply so much mass appeal in "The Guard" that it is impossible not to find something to recommend.

**Grade: A-**





(clockwise from bottom left) Leon Jones as Jerome, Luke Treadaway as Brewis, Jodie Whittaker as Sam, John Boyega as Moses, Alex Esmail as Pest in Screen Gems' *ATTACK THE BLOCK*.

PHOTO BY: SCREEN GEMS COPYRIGHT: © 2011 SCREEN GEMS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## Space aliens versus London teen gang equals entertainment in British comedy/action 'Attack the Block'

**CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

"Shaun of Dead" showed us zombies could be fun. British sci-fi action/comedy "Attack the Block" does much the same with invaders from space versus a gang of tough teens in South London. These guys are just not going to tolerate an attack on their block.

"Attack the Block" delivers non-stop excitement with a clever script and a witty, wisecracking, likeable young cast in this "inner city versus space aliens" standoff. When space aliens land, this lot does not run in terror - they defend their turf.

The film actually begins with a mugging. Nurse Sam (Jodie Whittaker) is walking home in the dark in a poor, high-crime neighborhood when she is accosted by a gang of hooded, masked youths, led by taller, menacing, oft-silent Moses (John Boyega). But this bicycle- and scooter-riding gang of hoodiewearing boys are distracted when a "meteor" smashes in through the roof of a parked car. That is no problem for the guys, but when the creature inside scratches Moses, well, there is a price to pay. Having defeated one monster, when other "meteors" smash down in the 'hood, the gang grab their make-shift weapons, mount their bicycles and mini-mopeds and head out to do battle, a full-on invasion that sends

them scrambling.

And scramble they do, as the action explodes immediately. The film is written and directed by Joe Cornish, in his directorial debut. It is an impressive debut indeed, with a polished script, lively, restless, inventive camera work and fast-paced action that will not quit.

Nick Frost, Simon Pegg's sidekick in "Shaun of the Dead," plays a laid-back pot dealer in the employ of the neighborhood's real local gangster, Hi-Hatz (Jurmayn Hunter). Luke Treadaway plays a rather clueless college kid there to buy some weed when the invasion starts.

This film is highly entertaining, but there is more to it than action and laughs, although there are plenty of both. None of these people are who you expect them to be, as all assumptions are off about these streetwise young guys. It is great good fun with an unexpected winning charm but this action/comedy also has a little gentle commentary on race, class and the lives of people in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods as well.

Cornish, who is a British comedian, was inspired to write this after he was mugged but then got to thinking about the kids.

His comedy instincts serve the film well, although the comedy is dryly cheeky in the manner of "Shaun

of the Dead" and the film is equally spattered with gore and action. Chases pay a great part in this film but one never knows when tables will turn and who is chasing who is reversed.

The whole story and the characters are full of surprises. It turns out Sam the nurse lives in the neighborhood and joins the fight. The outside threat to survival creates unlikely alliances and brings out untapped resourcefulness.

The kids call the creatures "gollums" and there is a lot of snappy Cockney style patter. The kids are cocky, yet appealing, occasionally calling home with excuses about where they are. The young unknown actors play their roles with a mix of cocky bravura, kid appeal and high energy, but they also deliver on the dramatic moments too. The ensemble is irresistible.

Fans of "Shaun of the Dead" definitely will want to see this. Simply, "Attack the Block" is one of the best entertainment films of this summer, a fine cap to the season, but along with its breathless energy and spunk characters, it has real heart. "Attack the Block," which opened Friday at the Tivoli, is well worth the time and money.

Grade: A-

# Features



Angela Mitchell in Ballyvaughan, County Clare, Ireland, on Galway Bay.

COURTESY OF ANGELA MITCHELL

# RFT honors Angela Mitchell with Master Mind award

**ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Features Editor

Angela Mitchell, who is currently working on a Master's of the Fine Arts in Creative Writing (fiction) at the University of Missouri- St. Louis, was recently selected by the Riverfront Times for a Master Mind Award for being one of a group of artists. With an undergrad in English from the University of New Orleans and a Master's of Education in Higher Education (Administration) from the University of Arkansas, she still feels undeserving of the award.

*The Current: What made you decide to get your Master's of the Fine Arts? Why UMSL?*

**Angela Mitchell:** I had always dreamed of pursuing a Master's of the Fine Arts and I had always wanted to be a fiction writer. I wrote some as an undergraduate, a little fiction, a little prose, but I did not get serious about it until after the birth of my first child, when I had the opportunity to step out from my career in college administration.

After a few years of writing and learning on my own, I decided it was time to look into a Master's of the Fine Arts, where I could study writing more intensely and, just as importantly, get to know other writers, too. That has been the best thing about the program at UMSL, the friendships I have made with other writers. We have got students of all ages in our program, from all different backgrounds and that makes for rich and interesting discussions, both in and out of the classroom.

*TC: Are you trying to be a published author? What professional do you admire, as far as wanting to model their*

*career?*

**AM:** Like most everyone who writes, yes, I do want to be a published author. For now, I have had a few stories placed in small journals (Colorado Review, New South and Arkansas Review), which is the beginning point for many.

I have admired many writers over my life. I started out loving Eudora Welty and Flannery O'Connor, then moved on to Bobbie Ann Mason and Ellen Gilchrist and Louise Erdrich, then the "Larrys" --Larry Brown and Larry McMurtry. But there are always new writers coming out with work that I admire, too. I've loved work by Silas House, a writer in Kentucky, as well as Skip Horack and Tom Franklin. I am reading a book by a young writer named Allison Amend right now called "Stations West."

*TC: It was mentioned that you started writing later in life. What was your concentration personally or academically before you turned over to writing? What inspired the change?*

**AM:** I have an undergraduate degree in English, but I have always had a strong, personal interest in social history, too, especially American social history. Of course, all that really means is I have an interest in learning about people and their ways. I never lost my interest in writing fiction and, for years, I carried around a notebook in which I wrote down ideas or observations for stories and such. I still do that. You'll never find me without a notebook of some sort crammed down in my purse.

Quitting my job at Fontbonne as an academic

advisor and coming home to be with my first child gave me the freedom to really try to write.

*TC: John Dalton, director of the Master's of the Fine Arts in Creative Writing program described your writing to the RFT as funny, unnerving, and gracefully composed. Where does that humor generate from?*

**AM:** Generally speaking, I am a person who loves to laugh. Me and my youngest son can spend hours watching shows like Wipeout and America's Funniest Videos together just for the chance to watch people get bonked in the head, hysterical! Both sides of my family loved to tell stories and jokes, so I think that is where that comes from: growing up with people who could see the comedy of a situation as well as the tragedy.

*TC: What advice do you have for current students who may be thinking about taking on a career in the writing world?*

**AM:** I have to give the same advice that's given by everyone who writes: read, read and read. And read good stuff.

There is nothing wrong with a romance or vampire novel here and there, but do not keep exclusively to that. Stretch and read work by a wide range of authors on a wide range of subjects. Then actually write, even if it's bad. You won't be good when you first start. Even when you've done it awhile, you'll still write a lot of bad stuff, but you'll never write anything worthwhile until you've tried.

Writing is a career that's meant for those who don't want to live without it and who will write even when the odds are stacked against them.



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# UMSL adjunct Jack Snyder set to start work on new thriller entitled 'Call Me on Tuesday' on Wednesday

**ANGIE O'DELL**  
Staff Writer

On September 7, filmmaker and University of Missouri-St. Louis media studies instructor, Jack Snyder, will begin shooting his second feature length film, making it his second film in the "Gateway City." "Saint Louis is my home, so I really have no reason to make a film elsewhere," Snyder said.

The thriller entitled, "Call Me on Tuesday" revolves around a small-town man, Mitch, who ventures out into the city where he begins an exciting romance with Amy. When their romance starts to blossom, Mitch finds himself accused of murder. He flees the city with the cops and an assassin at his heels.

Jumping off from the success of his first full-length film, "Ghost Image," Snyder hopes this film is just as successful. The story will be told in a non-linear fashion with the male lead on the run from the beginning of the film. The audience will be caught up in the third act. More is discovered towards the end of the film as pieces come together. Snyder compares the film style to that of Christopher Nolan's "Memento".

Lamplight films, the same production company that produced his mega hit "Ghost Image" will also be producing this film. "My producer of 'Ghost Image' read its script and liked it," Snyder said. "By about February of this year, I decided it was ready to go for the cameras."

Snyder, who teaches television production and screenwriting here at UMSL, has been an adjunct since 2008 when one of his

friends showed some of his work to UMSL faculty.

It was in this academic setting that he was able to inspire others, such as student, Josh McNew, junior, media studies. McNew will act as a production assistant for the film. "I am going to be filming behind the scenes and interviewing the actors for the DVD extras," McNew said.

McNew, who aspires to become an associate producer, has been in a number of commercials and was a boom operator and production assistant in Hollywood. He said that Snyder had chosen him because of his valuable experience. He really looks forward to working on the flick.

For the first time in his career, Snyder was able to cast the actors that he had originally wanted for the film.

"In the past I have never written a script with an actor in mind, but oddly enough I had two leads in mind," he said. The cast for the movie include Jason London, known from "Dazed and Confused" and Danielle Harris, known from the Jamie Lee Curtis "Halloween" franchise. They will be joined by Kevin Sorbo, from the "Hercules" franchise and Lochlyn Munro, a character actor who has been in many movies including "Unforgiven." They will all be flown out from Hollywood for shooting which will start this Wednesday at 6 a.m. According to McNew, the production will involve 12 hour days, six days a week. Tuesdays will be their only day off which is ironic considering the title of the film. "Call me on Tuesday" has

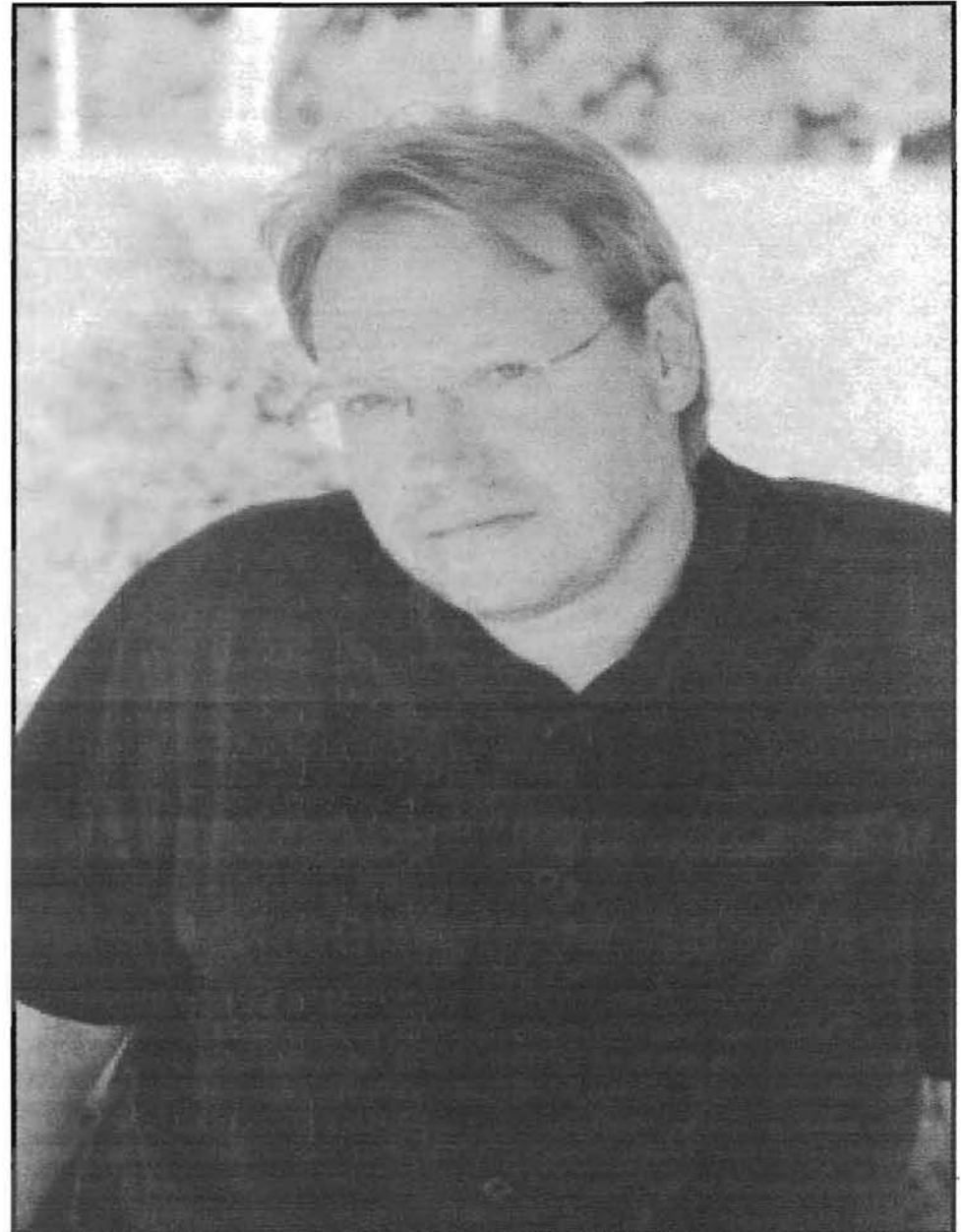
been a script that Snyder has been working on since the summer of 2009, writing the first two drafts in two days. In the two years that he has been working on the script, it has been chiseled down by a great amount. "The script has changed considerably," he said. "The film started out bigger than the draft that we started with."

Snyder has been interested in film since his childhood when he received a "Super 8" camera for Christmas in 1975. He was influenced by film noir, with such movies as "Body Heat" with William Hurt and Kathleen Turner. He has also been influenced by the Florida Noir movies such as "Wild Things" with Neve Campbell.

He still remains proud of his 2007 flick "Ghost Image." The thriller, which was also filmed in St. Louis, involved a female lead who struggles with the death of her beloved boyfriend whose life was taken in a car crash.

While trying to cope with his eternal absence, she starts to see him in her media screen. Her community of friends tries to convince her that he is not contacting her from the great beyond, while she debates whether or not she is insane. She wonders if someone is trying to kill her.

Snyder's female lead for "Ghost Image" was Elisabeth Rohm, mainly known for her work in crime television. "Ghost Image" is currently available on Netflix, NBC, Universal Movie, Showtime, the Movie Channel, and at Blockbuster. The film is currently airing in 60 countries.



Personal Portrait of Jack Snyder, UMSL adjunct for the Media Studies department  
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# Sue Shear Institute continues helping with UMSL Women LEAD Program after a successful year of guidance and aid

**SHARON PRUITT**

Staff Writer

Last year, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life introduced the University of Missouri–St. Louis' Women LEAD program, a semester-long program designed to encourage leadership and civic engagement among the university's female population. This year the program will return for its second year, with a group of chosen participants meeting five times during the course of the semester for events and activities intended to help students recognize and build their personal leadership styles and interact with women leaders from a variety of fields.

The Institute formed the Women LEAD program after seeing the success of

their 21st Century Leadership Academy, a week-long leadership development program open to students from nine Missouri public universities. During that program, the participating students reside on-campus at UMSL and participate in such events as skill-building workshops and a day-trip to the State Capital in Jefferson City. Rhiannon Reynolds, Coordination Assistant, Sue Shear Institute, said that the problem with the previous program was its four slot availability per school.

"We realized then that there was a need for another program and that we needed to make it available on campus exclusively to UMSL students," Reynolds said.

The Women LEAD program was designed by Sue Shear Institute apprentices Lauren Masterson-Rodriguez and Melissa Alper before debuting in 2010. After completion of the program, participating students were then matched with mentors for the following semester. This year the Women LEAD program is able to offer the same opportunities to a new group of participants, thanks to a grant from UMSL's Women Leadership Council. "Despite budget cuts, we felt that this was a really important program to have on campus. They [UMSL's Women Leadership Council] were really instrumental in keeping the program going," Reynolds said.

This year, many of the activities will be directed by 2011 Sue Shear Apprentice and 2010 Women LEAD participant Claire Regnier. The program will once again conclude by matching participants with a mentor for the following semester through the Executive Leadership Consortium's Women's Networking series, an UMSL-hosted event where students can build their knowledge and hone the networking skills needed in any profession. "[Women LEAD] is a hugely beneficial program for any career," Reynolds said. "We help you recognize your skills and your strengths and to make connections to other students on campus [through attending events as part of

the program]."

Past participants of the program have sung its praises. "[Women LEAD] opened my eyes to a new direction that women are able to take, more so than we were able to do in the past. It steered me into focusing more on women's issues." Tina Miller, senior, communications and gender studies, said. "[The program] brings out a new you. It brings out something within yourself that you may not have known you were capable of."

"My experience [in the program] was very fulfilling. I got a chance to connect and develop a good relationship with my mentor, who exposed me to events that related to my major,"

Chantal Rivadeneyra, senior, management information systems and business, said.

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life offers many programs open to the public that are intended to help women succeed. Pipeline to Public Office, a two-day workshop offered every other year by the Institute, takes place in November 2011 and is a nonpartisan program designed to teach women who are interested in running for office how to do so effectively. The Institute also hosts Statehouse Sisters, a series of annual panel discussions hosted at UMSL that provide a chance for students to learn from women leaders in local and state government.

## Residential Hall Association and Catholic Newman Center host a wild welcome back evening of tie dye, creating a Dye Fest 2011 to die for

**GREGORY LAINE**

Staff Writer

Wednesday evening, the combined efforts of the Catholic Newman Center and the Residential Hall Association hosted the annual Tie Dye Night in front of Provincial House chapel on south campus. Visitors had the options of using their favorite colors from red, yellow, blue, purple, orange and green to color their choice of shirts, bandannas or tube socks.

As if the joys of tie dyeing were not enough, RHA and CNC were kind enough to provide cookies and chip mix for those in attendance. Different combinations of color, along with creative freedom, made it possible for guests to feed their inner imagination as well. Student artistry ran rampant during

the fun filled evening.

The Catholic Newman Center has been hosting welcome back events all this week including a welcome back barbecue free for University of Missouri–St. Louis students which took place at their Center two days prior, and every Tuesday evening they host a Soup and Mass event. The events do not stop here, the CNC has at least two more events planned to help new and returning students merge and create connections.

On September 9, the Catholic Newman Center will be hosting the Great Get Away Overnight Retreat. On the Retreat, there will be a roaring bonfire and playful brain-teaser. The event will also allow its

guests to participate in team builder activities which are set out to help guests to get to know one another. Dinner and breakfast will be provided and it only costs \$10 per student.

CNC is also hosting an event entitled Apples to Apples which includes a trip to Eckert's apple farms and numerous other apple related activities. It is set to take place towards the end of September. All of these events are open to all UMSL students and attendance would be appreciated from both sides.

The Residential Hall Association has been hosting events since the weekend before school began including a Meet 'n' Greet for the new residents of Oak Hall

on August 19 and Pizza Palooza on August 20.

RHA hosts events year-round for the residents of Oak Hall, as well as the general student body. Some events coming soon involve a Water Gun Night and a night themed around one of the most popular new games; "Angry Birds."

Angry Birds is known as a puzzle video game in which players use slingshots to fire birds at pigs stationed throughout the game in different locations. The game has been described by its critics as humorous and addictive, a perfect combination for a college student looking to kill time. Upcoming RHA events will be announced in the near future. RHA encourages

student engagement, academic growth and personal responsibility.

Another event that the Catholic Newman Center offers the campus is their weekend mass. Located in the Provincial House chapel, it takes place every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. The UMSL student body is most welcome. RHA often hosts general meetings for informational purposes to inform students about upcoming events and campus changes.

RHA and the CNC have worked together on the Tie Dye Night for at least the last two years and each year it leaves guest with a more than colorful experience as well as a more than colorful article of clothing that would rival the 1970's.

If anyone missed it this year there is a good chance that it could make another appearance in the coming years.

Welcome week events will be popping up on campus for the next four weeks including a Hip Hop Dance Class in the Pilot House on September 7, Women's soccer on September 4 and the Blackout Volleyball game on September 20.

The WoW (Weeks of Welcome) extend all the way until the first of October, so there will be plenty of events to distract from homework and ways to meet new people, all it takes is students attending and having fun. Join in the fun these first few weeks, no matter your year at UMSL!

# Sports

## Triton volleyball caps 3-1 weekend with thrilling comeback

**CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team enjoyed quite an opening weekend by hosting the Triton Volleyball Classic at the Mark Twain Building last Friday and Saturday.

On those days, UMSL took on several top teams from all over the country and came away with an impressive three wins in four matches, after earning victories over Wayne State University, Gannon University and crosstown rival Lindenwood University.

"It was a good tournament," Ryan Young, UMSL, head coach, said. "All four teams we played were excellent. Three of them made the NCAA Tournament last year, and Lindenwood was great defensively, a really disciplined team. So to go 3-1 here, I'm proud of our kids."

The season-opening showcase began on Friday, with UMSL taking on Wayne State. The Tritons came into the 2011 season pushing for their fourth-straight 20-win campaign, and hopefully their second straight trip to the NCAA Regionals. And they looked every bit like a team destined for playoff glory with a 25-22, 25-17, 25-19, a three sets to none win over the Warriors.

Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications, led the way for UMSL with a game-high 35 assists, while teammate Shelby Crawford, senior, biology, proved to be the Tritons' top hitter in the opening match with a game-high 14 kills.

On Friday evening, Weslie Gaff, senior, accounting, had her own game-high of 14 kills, when UM-St. Louis knocked off Gannon by scores of 25-21, 22-25, 25-15 and 25-18.

"We played really well the last few sets," Young said. "We were a little sloppy at times, though. We've definitely got some things to work on, but we'll get better."

UMSL's only loss of the weekend came in

the early match on Saturday when the Tritons got absolutely blitzed by North Alabama, three sets to none.

The Lady Lions were the eventual winners of the Triton Classic, going 4-0, after finishing their weekend with a three-set sweep over Gannon.

"That North Alabama team looked great," Young said. "They dug everything we hit at them. And they were so athletic. I wouldn't mind if we didn't have to play them again."

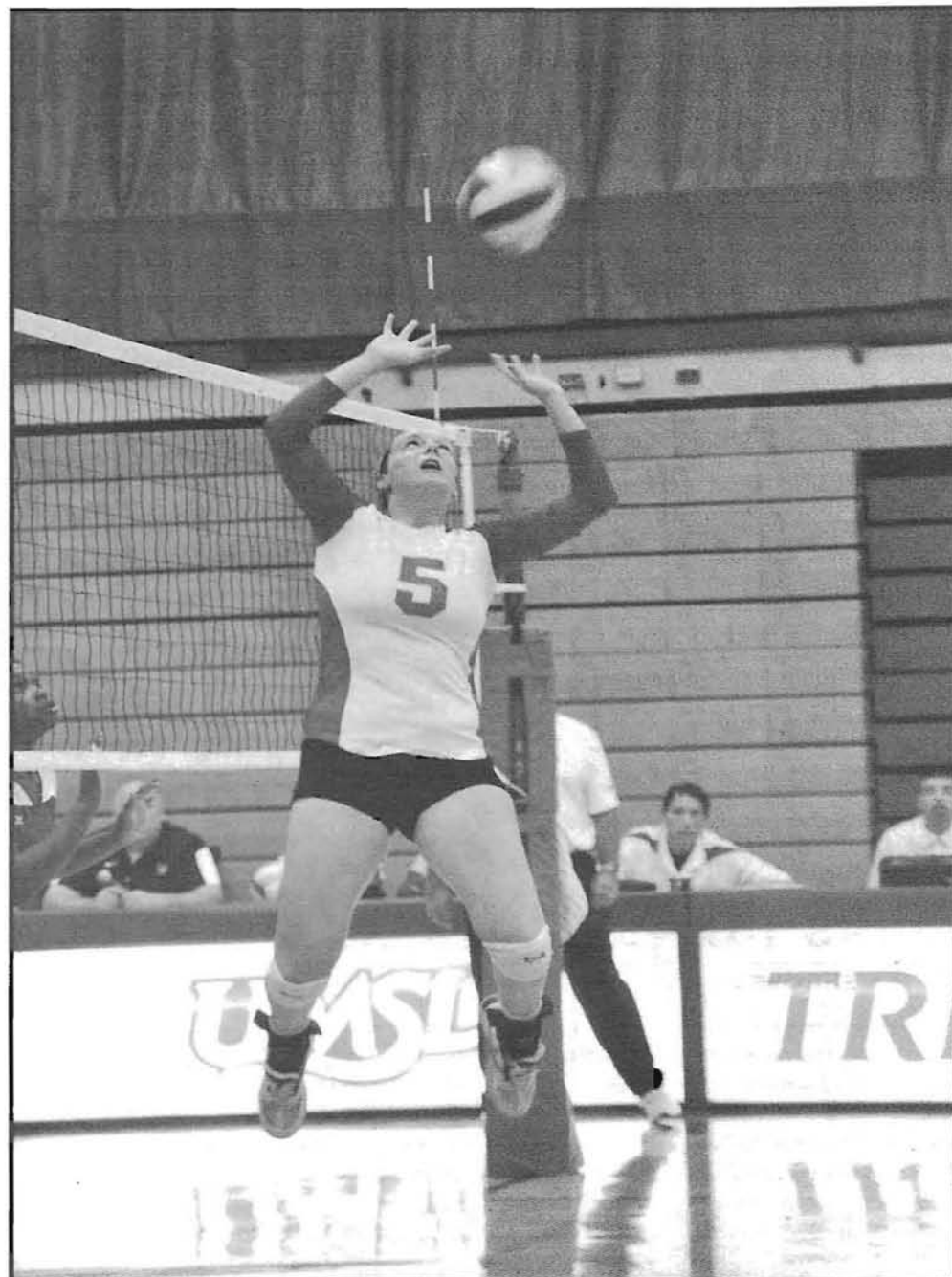
The final match of the weekend proved to be the most thrilling of the entire tournament, as UM-St. Louis rallied from two sets down to defeat Lindenwood in five sets by scores of 17-25, 20-25, 25-13, 25-21 and 15-12.

After a shaky start, McNulty was fantastic at setting up the offense for the Tritons and finished with a career-high 56 assists.

Crawford, a third-team all-Great Lakes Valley Conference selection last year, was the top hitter again with 16 kills, while teammates Erin Higgins, senior, early childhood education; Chelsea Burkle, sophomore, nursing and Corinne Hoekstra, sophomore, social work, added 15, 11 and 10 kills, respectively.

"It's tough work for Anna sometimes, being our only setter in the '5-1,'" Young said, "She's out there so much, it's hard on her fitness wise. But it's still early, she'll adjust. And next year, when we have another setter coming in, she'll have more help and we'll go back to '6-2'."

UMSL will be back in action this coming weekend with the start of GLVC league play, beginning on Friday, September 9, when the Tritons will host new GLVC member William Jewell College at the Mark Twain Building at 7 p.m.



Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications, sets the ball to a team mate on Friday against Wayne State-Mich.  
JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

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# UMSL roller hockey prepares to sweep the rink in the coming year

**MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**  
Editor-in-Chief

The University of Missouri – St. Louis has a wide variety of athletic teams. From basketball to soccer, tennis to baseball and even volleyball, many of these teams get regular recognition. However, one of the lesser-recognized teams had their tryouts last week and they are looking forward to just as impressive a season as any other triton team.

The UMSL Roller Hockey team is heading into a fresh year this October. “We’ve actually been playing for years. I played years ago with the captain, and this is our second year coaching,” Jason Holzum, assistant coach, said. “We start our first semester usually around October, and we play both semesters. We’ll play three, four, sometimes five games a weekend, so maybe 25 games per year. Then we go to nationals and see how we do,” Holzum said.

Sporting a primarily fresh lineup, the tryouts showed a mix of talents and specialties. Some of the potential members specialized in shooting, others were extremely tricky on their feet and yet others seemed extremely proficient at guarding members of the opposing team. “We wanna see if you can skate, stop, play with the team. Are they coachable? If so, we keep you on here. We do have

a lot of guys returning, but we have a lot of new guys as well,” Holzum said. Tryouts consisted of everything from sprints to scrimmages, including anywhere from two-on-two setups to full-out play-offs.

“Lindenwood is probably our biggest rival. They’re who we beat at Nationals when we won,”

Given Lindenwood’s benefits compared to UMSL’s team, it is truly impressive that UMSL manages to compete this fully. “Lindenwood is able to give scholarships and that makes them our big competition to get guys. The boys here, they pay everything: we get no scholarships or funding as a team,” Holzum said.

The team is not giving in to the hurdles before them. The men in this rink are ready and willing to make the efforts necessary to push to the next level. “We’re applying to become a Student Organization. We need Student Life to approve us so we can get some sort of funding from the school. Schools like Lindenwood will give out nearly full

“Heart and spirit are what is really necessary here. Skill helps, but it’s all about heart. It’s sad that there’s no notability for the guys around campus.”

-Andy Meade

Holzum said. Holzum and Meade, currently assistant and head coach, respectively, both played for the Tritons during the National Championship won by UMSL. “I came to UMSL purely to play roller hockey, and my second year, we won the National Championship. Prior to our beating Lindenwood, they had a 300 game winning spree, and had won seven years in a row at Nationals,” Andy Meade, UMSL, head coach, said.

“I think we’ll be fine this semester. It’s always a work in progress getting everybody playing together. Heart and spirit are what is really necessary here. Skill helps, but it’s all about heart. It’s sad that there’s no notability for the guys around campus. A lot of these guys chose UMSL strictly based on hockey, and they don’t get anything back for it. Schedules aren’t out yet, but you can track us at [nrh.org](http://nrh.org),” Meade said.

rides for this, we just need some funding to help our team out,” Alex Hodges, junior, criminology, said.

Like any sport, Roller Hockey requires a wide variety of talented players, but most of all, it requires commitment and heart from its participants. The team certainly has the heart required for success: perhaps it is time UMSL started supporting them a bit more thoroughly.

# UMSL men’s soccer team ushers in a strong returning force, looks forward to year of prosperance and victory on the field

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Staff Writer

Last year, the men’s soccer team put together a solid season, gaining momentum and chemistry along the way, but after suffering a defeat from Bellarmine, they were eliminated from Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament play. After an offseason of hard training and a few roster changes, this year’s team appears poised to make a run. Coach Dan King was especially impressed at how fit the team came into the preseason, and this allowed for the team’s preseason workouts to go faster, giving them more time to focus on strategy and game plan.

With a solid preseason, along with eight returning starters, this year’s team does not have many doubts heading into the season, which will allow for them to kick it into gear on the right foot as they start their season in California play-

ing Cal. State - East Bay, September 1, and San Francisco State on September 3. They head back from the bay to play at Quincy, which will be a true test for this team early in the season. The team will look for a quick start to improve on last year’s conference record of 7-5-2. “This year’s team gelled a lot faster [than last year’s],” Dan King, coach, said. King adds that he thinks the opening weekend in California will only be a chance for the team to gel even more and gain some momentum heading into Quincy.

The team’s roster is looking very potent this season as the return of forwards Almin Sabotic and David Schwer has the offense looking resilient. The already experienced and strong offense will add scoring threat Peter Hyde, who transferred from playing for Marquette last season.

Hyde was able to develop chemistry with the team quickly as he is a native of St. Louis and used to do battle for Cham-inade against defensemen Gino Valenti (CBC) in high school in the Metro Catholic Conference. Expect a lot of scoring from these forwards, as each one of their strengths is finishing. The midfield is very solid as well with each of its center midfielders, captain John O’Mara and Mike McCarthy, returning to the positions they have played their whole careers for the Tritons, as well as Evan Schumacher on the outside who could be a points machine.

The defense is the youngest on the pitch featuring Captain Matt Burress in the middle, with inner-conference transfer Logan Reame and solid junior defender Gino Valenti on the outside. Returning

to the net after missing the 2010 season due to injury will be senior Tim Buroff. Buroff started sixteen of eighteen games in 2009, recording a hundred and seven saves. “We are not dependent on any one player, we are a solid eleven out there. I expect everyone to contribute,” King said.

This team certainly can attack and score with anybody, but maintaining a solid mental focus, avoiding fundamental errors and focusing on the team aspect are going to be the keys for success to this year’s squad. They play in one of the toughest conferences in the nation in the GLVC, and may appear to opponents as somewhat of a dark horse, but this year’s team can certainly compete with anyone. An exciting season is undoubtedly ahead, so get ready to pack the stands for UMSL men’s soccer this coming year.

# Point/Counterpoint



*Should business owners turn away objectionable customers?*

## Photographer incapable of separating personal business from professional

The article on the young photographer Jennifer McKendrick from Indiana County, Pa., and her refusal to photograph a couple of high school seniors is ridiculous. McKendrick did not solve anything.

McKendrick let her personal feelings influence her business judgment. She sounds more like a detective than an artist. Why was she on her client's Facebook page in the first place? Adolescents use the site to express themselves in a way that they would never have the guts to in every day situations, meaning a parent is probably going to see a picture of their "perfect angel" straddling some guy in a chair, or falling down drunk at a party. Also, the parents would most likely see the nasty post that follows, whether it is on the picture or on their wall. Girls are vindictive and vicious. Of course, a girl will eventually evolve into a civilized woman, but the years before that are filled with adolescent acts that branch from insecurity.

McKendrick's opinion of her clients had no business

on Facebook. It is equivalent to breaking up with somebody on Facebook.

People such as McKendrick and the teenage girls need the chatroom to feel important. The only reason why the photographer posted her professional business on the site was to gain the acceptance of her peers. When a client seeks out a particular type of service they should not have to worry whether or not that business is going to trash talk Facebook. It is an invasion of privacy. This act shows the photographer's weakness, her youth.

Some may argue McKendrick's right to freedom of speech, but what makes her different from her clients? Discussions between classmates are not her business. Do her clients have the right to comment on any personal comment that she post on her profile? Would she want them to?

What is interesting is that in a later Facebook post the photographer noted how her action would most likely not make these girls better people. So, why did she feel

the need to talk herself out of compensation? Just because her clients are ugly people does not mean that her financial obligations are no longer existent. This was her opportunity to be creative. She could have encouraged ugly dresses for the portraits, over-charged them and later posted on her Facebook, "I don't photograph beautiful people."

It would not be surprising to discover that the photographer had been a victim of verbal abuse when she was in high school. She is feeding off her own experience and applying it to this situation. She feels like the victim.

Did she contact the people who were being cyberbullied by these girls? Why not? She would probably make more progress approaching the situation from that end. While she is online gloating about how she let a couple of clients go because of their internal ugliness, the victim is still at home debating whether or not they are worthy of life. McKendrick went for quick gratification when she could have gone for the long-term.

## Photographer within her rights to deny service to those 'ugly on the inside'

Bullying is a serious, life-altering problem for many young people, particularly in the United States. It's prevalence in U.S. schools is well documented by the media, yet, despite all the precautions and measures taken to quell the epidemic, it continues to spread.

Legislation, administrative intervention, even parental involvement seem no real match for this culture of abuse. Sometimes it takes the action of a complete stranger to really communicate a much-needed message; this stuff doesn't fly in the real world.

At the risk of sounding cliché, the photographer's course of action, "fighting fire with fire," is an effective and measured levy against the bullying crisis. Some will argue that the girls targeted are just children; young, dumb, prone to making mistakes and falling prey to their own insecurities.

The truth of the matter, however, is that, while these girls are young, they are very aware of what they are doing. Bullying is wrong. Treating

others cruelly is wrong, and even without knowing the circumstances of these girls' particular upbringing, it's impossible to fathom that they don't know this; it's repeatedly jammed into the socio-academic subconscious since before most of us even know how to read. Far too often the "just kids" defense is used to disguise brutal, barbarous acts as formative, necessary learning experiences. You know who else were "just children?" The object of these sick teenagers' little game, and you'd be hard pressed to find a decent human soul that could stand idly by and allow such atrocities to be committed on anyone, let alone those going through, arguably, the most delicate, sensitive times of their lives.

Over the years, millions of former schoolchildren have made it through high school without becoming sociopaths. In most cases, when a child steps out of line, there are consequences for their actions, and that is precisely what these girls lack in their life: consequences for their cruel, petty and unnecessary

maligning of others. They're too used to picking apart the appearance and deficiencies of the weaker, having others bend at their will in the hopes that one day it will stop. But it won't.

While one may ultimately disagree with the photographer's motives, actions and even demeanor, she is well within her rights to refuse service, for whatever reason, to anyone she sees fit.

Bottom line is, this woman is a freelancer; a position coveted by many solely due to the fact that this grants one the right to be their own boss. She could have denied them for their fashion sense, low GPAs or even something as arbitrary as their taste in movies. The thing is, she chose a valid and rational reason to turn down these teenagers, and in the process, stood strong for thousands, if not millions, of dejected and hurt young children and teenagers everywhere. And for that, she not only should be free of vilification, but celebrated as a passionate activist that took a brilliant, much-needed stand.



# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### T.I.'s arrest shows the overzealous side of law enforcement

Last October, Atlanta rapper T.I. was convicted on a charge of violating his probation (stemming from an earlier arrest and conviction on a drug charge) and sentenced to serve 11 months in jail.

Several days ago, he finished serving the prison term of his sentence and was released from a federal penitentiary in Arkansas. Under his sentencing agreement, he was allowed to serve the final month of his sentence at a halfway house, similar to the one he spent time in following his earlier conviction on federal weapons charges.

His release went without incident, and he quickly departed for the Atlanta halfway house in which he was scheduled to serve the final month of his sentence. Nevertheless, upon his arrival, he was once again taken into custody by federal agents and placed in a medium security prison in Atlanta.

Why? Because instead of traveling like a regular person or a disgraced criminal, he chartered a luxury tour bus to bring him home. At least, that's the only reason that seems readily apparent. When asked by a reporter from the celebrity news website TMZ, T.I.'s lawyer confirmed that the arrest was not drug-related in any way and he arrived at the halfway house on time and completely sober. As for other

possibilities, it isn't as though he had a lot of time to commit crimes on the road from Arkansas to Atlanta. For the moment, at least, the reason for this latest arrest is a mystery.

It's premature, not to mention hyperbolic, to start throwing around accusations of racism on the part of the Feds and the police. Such accusations, when made without all the facts, tend to do more harm than good. However, cases such as this do quite a job of highlighting the double standard that still exists in this country for African-Americans, as well as the overweening sense of zeal that some within the federal justice system seem to have for busting black celebrities.

The fact is, T.I. did his time, and it's one of the most horrendous flaws in our justice system that men, black or white, are still viewed as and treated like criminals even after they've served their sentence and been released. Sure, he could have chosen a less extravagant method of getting himself back to Atlanta, but overall he did nothing but try to comply with the conditions set down by his sentence, and he did it without breaking the law. His only crime, if you can even call it that, was to make a slightly ill-advised and rather gauche choice in his mode of transportation. If the Feds had a better reason

for arresting him and sending him back to a cell, they have yet to disclose it. If they wanted to see him in prison longer, they should have pressured the judge for a longer, harsher sentence, instead of jailing him after his release on dubious grounds.

Let's be clear on one thing, though, before there's an excessive burst of righteous outrage on T.I.'s behalf: the man is no angel. The weapons charges mentioned above stemmed from an incident where he was caught trying to buy machine guns and silencers from a federal agent, and he's done jail time on three separate occasions for the weapons charges, drug charges and a violation of the probation he was first given following the drug arrest.

However, he's faced the punishment for his actions with aplomb, and in the past has shown his willingness to put his time, money and effort back into the community harmed by his actions. Surely, the Feds have better things to do with their time and money than continuing to harass a man who has paid his debt to society.

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

## OUT OF LEFT FIELD

### Stop the plane! Flight attendants becoming fashion police

It seems that flight attendants have now appointed themselves the fashion police of the skies.

Billie Joe Armstrong, the lead singer of Green Day, was removed from a Southwest Airlines flight from Oakland to Burbank recently after he reacted angrily to a flight attendant's order to pull up his sagging pants.

This isn't the first instance of a flight attendant turning fashionista, either. In July, a woman was pulled from a JetBlue flight because the flight attendant couldn't see her shorts under her baggy shirt; she was subjected to borderline sexual harassment, first by the flight attendant himself and then later, when she was forced to show her shorts to airline employees. Around the same time, a 23-year-old college student was similarly humiliated on a Southwest flight, being pulled off the flight and lectured for wearing a snug top and a short skirt. She was later allowed to fly, but only with a blanket covering her legs.

Understandably, none of these people reacted well to each particular airline's prim disapproval of their fashion choices. Armstrong made an angry tweet after he left his flight; a sympathetic employee quickly booked him for the next available flight. Both women mentioned above have since retained counsel for possible legal action against JetBlue and Southwest, respectively.

The least understandable thing about these inci-

dents is why they occurred to begin with. Yes, it is the responsibility of the flight attendants to watch out for the safety and happiness of all the customers on a flight. In none of these cases did another customer complain, however; in each case, the complaint originated with the flight attendant themselves. Though both companies consider themselves a 'family airline'; neither has a dress code beyond "[making sure] she's covered up in all the right spots," a Southwest official was quoted as saying, following the incident with the aforementioned college student. Thus, in none of the three cases were the flight attendants in question acting on airline policy, but simply on their own prejudices.

More importantly, though, how are flight attendants watching out for airline safety by singling people out based on their clothing? None of these people posed any sort of threat to the flight itself. It's one thing for a flight attendant to remove someone who is overweight or obese from a flight, as happened to noted director Kevin Smith last year; at least in those sorts of cases, the airline can make the case that they are watching out for the safety of the flight and its passengers. The science of flight is an exact one, and even the massive jet-powered airliners of today can only lift so much weight. Overloading a plane can have deadly consequences for all aboard.

However, that was not



Jeremy Zschau

the case. Neither Armstrong nor the two women posed any sort of threat to the flight as a whole, and all three were perfectly cooperative passengers prior to their confrontations with airline personnel – confrontations that were unnecessary to begin with.

Make no mistake, there is a reason that flight attendants wield the authority they do. Flying can be potentially dangerous, and they are trained to make each flight a tranquil and safe one for their passengers and customers. However, that does not mean they should be allowed to use their power on a whim for frivolous purposes – and situations like these certainly qualify as frivolous.

If someone wants to walk on a plane with sagging pants or tight fitting clothes, it might not be the most advisable fashion choice, but neither is it one that affects the happiness and/or well being of their fellow flyers – and as such, it should be no concern of airline personnel.

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

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

## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Kissing cousins: Cavemen leave legacy in human immune system

We thought it was just us and the Neanderthals in the Ice Age. But last summer, a third type of "caveman" was discovered in addition to *Homo sapiens* and *Homo neanderthalensis*. The newly-discovered archaic human species are the Denisovans, named for the Denisova cave in Siberia, where the fossils were found. The species does not yet have a formal scientific name.

Now those fossils are yielding more surprises. A study published last week in the journal *Science* revealed Denisovans and Neanderthals left a legacy in the human immune system through interbreeding. Although neither Neanderthals nor Denisovans are ancestors of modern humans as a species, it appears we were "kissing cousins" and that some people now living are descendants of ancient crossbreeding.

The first Denisovan fossil, a finger bone from a young girl, was discovered in 2008 by Russian scientists. Denisovans lived about 30,000 to 50,000 years ago and may have inhabited much of Asia in the late Pleistocene. Although only a few fragments were discovered, a finger bone and a tooth from different individuals, it was enough to recover some DNA, which was surprisingly well-preserved.

An international team of scientists, headed by Svante Paabo of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, obtained the samples for DNA analysis. Initially, the group sequenced mitochondrial DNA. Mitochondria, the power plants of cells, contain their own

DNA separate from the cell's nucleus and are passed down from mother to offspring in the cytoplasm.

The results from sequencing the mitochondrial DNA revealed this was a new species. The results prompted the researchers, many of whom had sequenced Neanderthal genome, to create a draft sequence of the Denisovan nuclear DNA. Those results were published in December 2010 in *Nature*.

The Denisovans appear to be a sister species to Neanderthals, possibly descended from a common ancestor that left Africa 300,000 and 400,000 years ago and then diverged. Neanderthals migrated northwest to Europe and Denisovans spread northeast into Asia. The distribution of Neanderthal and Denisovan DNA in modern populations suggests that when modern humans emerged from Africa 70,000 to 80,000 years ago, they first encountered and intermingled with Neanderthals.

Last year's partial genome sequence of Neanderthals revealed as much as four percent Neanderthal DNA in some present-day humans' genomes. Up to six percent of some people's genomes, in East Asia, are derived from Denisovan DNA.

The new study, by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine, reveals Neanderthals and Denisovans made important contributions to our immune system. The cross-breeding introduced new variants of HLA class I immune system genes, genes critical for our immune system to recognize and destroy disease-causing microbes. Their variability help provide the flexibility



Cate Marquis

needed against rapidly-evolving viruses. The diversity of the HLA gene system means that it provides more information on populations' history than other gene families.

The researchers already suspected that at least one HLA variant, HLA-B\*73, came from archaic humans, partially because it is rare in modern Africa but much more common in West Asia. This suggested it was added after our ancestors migrated out of Africa.

Evidence suggests it likely came from the Denisovans. Even where it is most common, HLA-B\*73 is never more than five percent of all variants. But the analysis uncovered other HLA genes likely from Denisovans or Neanderthals. The Melanesian peoples showed surprising HLA genetic legacy from the Denisovans, suggesting the genes may have conferred a survival advantage.

Why were the Denisovans not discovered sooner? Other Denisovan fossils may have been misclassified. Originally, this finger bone was believed to be from an early modern human and the tooth from an older human ancestor. Only the DNA analysis revealed the truth.

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

## POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

## To column, or not to column: are there any who can actually do so?

This whole columning thing really is not as simple as some would make it out to be. Oh sure, some weeks just clicking through Google is more than enough to bring up a topic worthy of complaining about. Frankly, however, there are times more oft than not that it just takes more to discover something worthy of speaking about for the length of a column.

Honestly, anybody with a strong opinion on a vague concept or idea set could potentially start a column. There are columns the world over which deal with everything from deep political debates to videogames. The fact of the matter is that sometimes even the greatest minds find themselves blocked, and it is these times that being a columnist can really suck.

"What should I write about this week? Can I do something goofy, or will my readership lose respect for me in that case? What about the fact that there are hundreds of events happening right now, and I just don't feel like writing about any of them since they're likely played out already?"

Yeah, this column is going rather off-topic, but bear with it a bit longer. For, certainly, it will tie in eventually.

When it comes right down to it, the columnist's job is to provide insight into a situation, from a point of

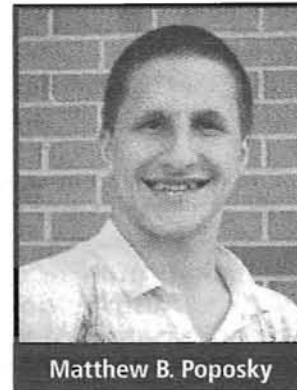
view which may not be entirely popular amongst the masses. Think about the number of columns which regularly receive heavy criticism, and yet continue to grow in popularity.

The point of an opinion column is to create a character with whom readers may both associate and dissent. It is the responsibility of a columnist to provide a forum for conversation, not just an opinion.

The problem is that, far too often, a columnist will run their idea to death, until there is no longer any true point in continuing to speak on a specific topic. When all is said and done, what is the purpose of running a column which is not serving the aforementioned to readers?

For those aspiring to this task, do not enter into it lightly: the tasks of a columnist are difficult. They have a high requirement of one's dedication to the point of interest chosen for the column's continuous themes. Mostly, the job of a columnist is one of public service, and it is important that one constantly be in contact with their constituency in order to guarantee the highest quality of service is provided.

So, how is this done? It is a different process for everybody, and every topic. The internet is certainly one of the most useful sources for researching topics of interest to columnists the world over. Websites such as huffington-



Matthew B. Poposky

post.com are great sources for the more politically-minded columnist, whereas other websites may serve the interests of an entertainment column.

Perhaps one of the greatest sources of inspiration for a columnist, however, should be their own daily life. The world surrounding mankind is in a constant state of evolution and growth, providing adequate sources of discussion for nearly any columnist willing to simply step outside and watch society advance.

Being a columnist is not a position one should approach lightly. It is something any journalist should attempt at least once in their career, and it is a fulfilling role to the columnist who truly cares for their constituency's interests. Beware, however: a poorly-contrived column will be discovered by the readers and will be crushed under the feet of society's disapproval.

*Matthew B. Poposky is Editor-in-Chief and a columnist for The Current.*

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at [www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

# Horoscopes

**CURRENT HOROSCOPES** by The Inane Collective  
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**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Read the stars tonight. A little romance never hurt anybody, and letting yourself go for once won't lead to the destruction you seem to endlessly fear.



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

Go to Youtube, and look up "Pon Pon." Watch the first video it brings up. Do not question this. Watch it entirely through. You are now an adult.



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

Frighteningly absurd and ugly, not at all like Shania Twain, the beast will approach you from the log cabins. Road kill will filthily aid you in fighting Eleanor Roosevelt.



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

Whipped cream and bashful screeching are not a combination suggested by your friendly neighborhood fortune teller. Pay attention to Sirius.



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

"Delightfully appetizing" and "mud" is not a typical combination of words. You really ought to pay more attention in English class... or at least not write essays whilst intoxicated.



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

Dainty and principled, your new love resembles Michael Jordan...or perhaps Rosie O'Donnell? Either way, all of your boyfriends have been intense feminists.



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

My glitzy crystal balls have foreseen that an influential attack on Pearl Harbor may cause a touchy-feely lobster to carry you over the edge of a cliff. Terrifying!



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

What?! Somebody hid the Staff of Doom? It would seem that you must now suffer through playing with the Staff of Slight Dismay, instead...pity.



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

If you're lucky, this month you'll be able to join a comfortable cult which worships James Bond. This is difficult, because they're mostly in Europe, but it'll be delicious while it lasts.



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

A melodramatic game of bingo with the cosmopolitan morticians next door will be exceptionally interesting this week. Pay special attention to the friendly cactus cattycorner.



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

Soon you will receive a depressing email concerning your funky VW Beetle, which is hopelessly lost near Stonehenge...in the Far Right...



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

King Henry VIII, who had grown puffy from eating squeaky-clean star-fruit, will host this year's Academy Awards. Eccentric Reggae music will be performed by Manhattan's Goody Goody Global Warnings.

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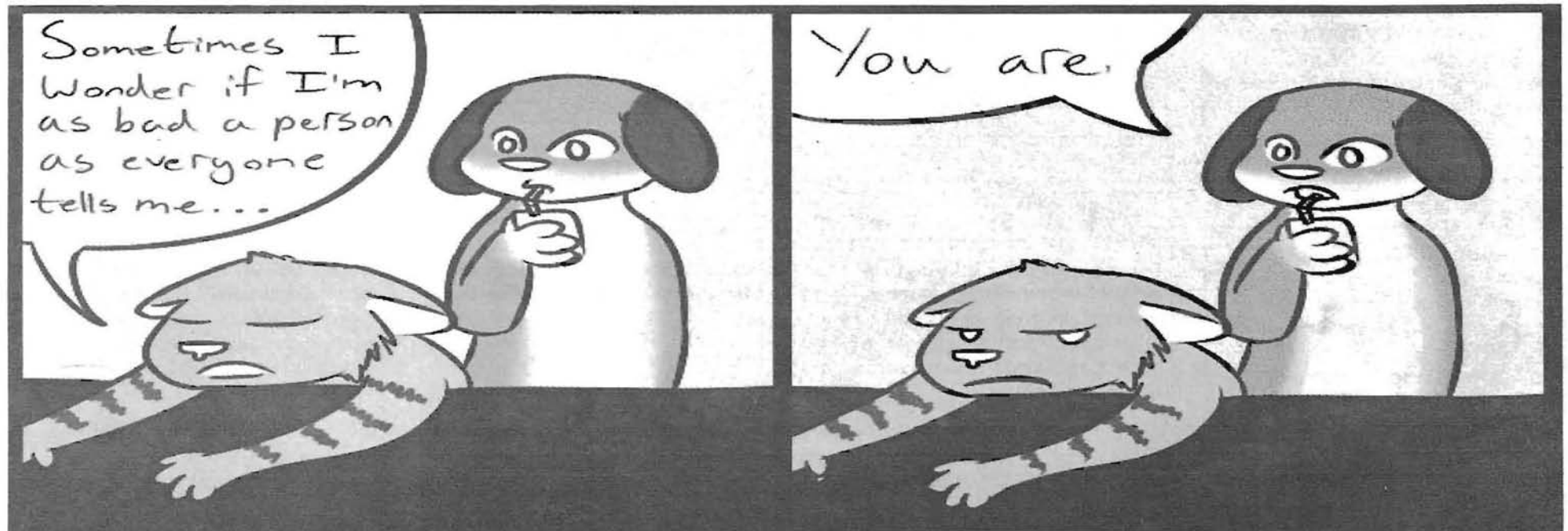
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