

# The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

April 2, 2012

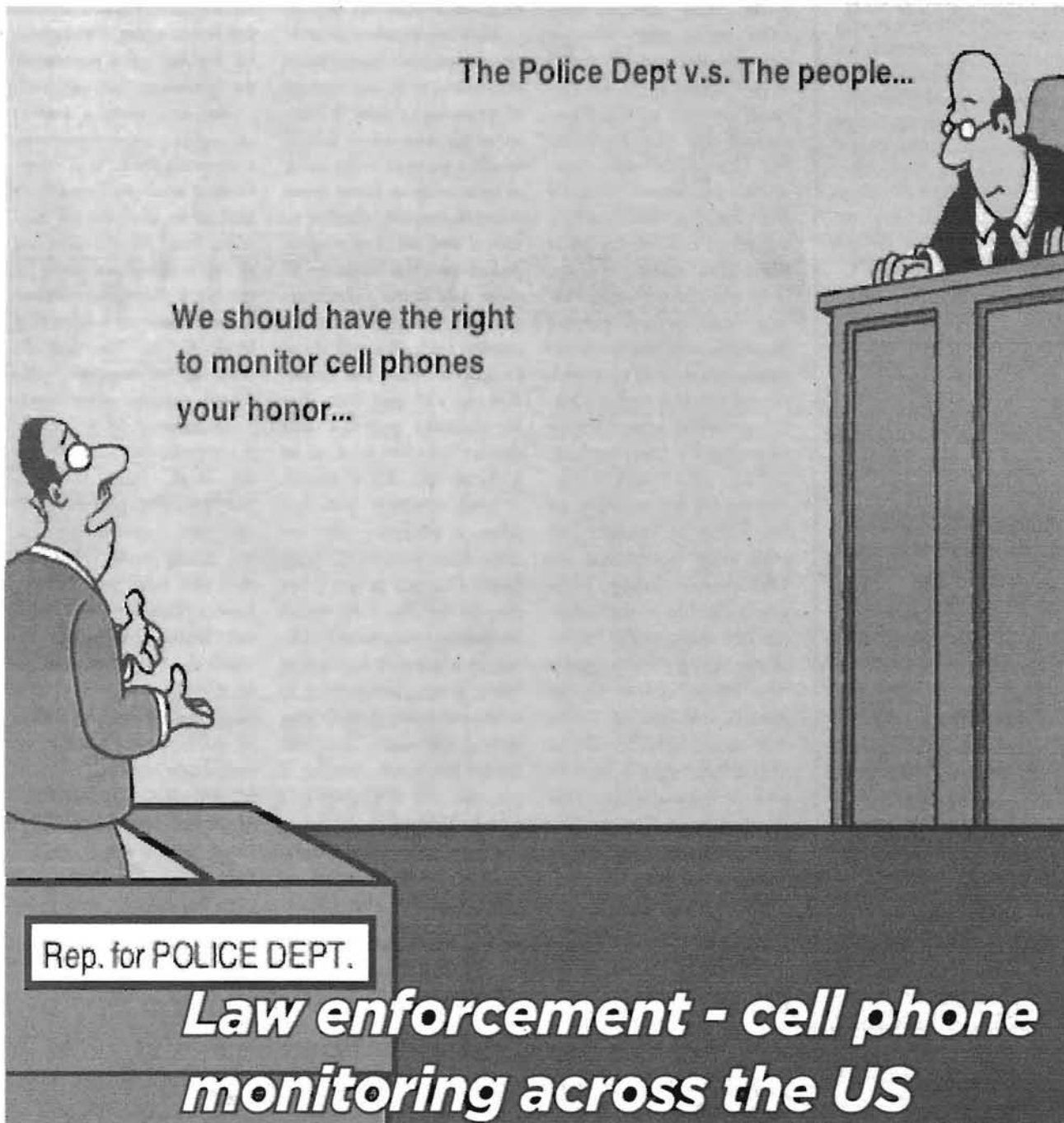
VOL. 45;  
ISSUE 1374

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

Imagine a world in which the police are allowed to utilize cell phone tracking technology freely in order to pursue not only wanted criminals, but anybody they deem potentially threatening. Now, imagine that money is the key motivator behind this for many cell phone companies. According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, this may well be the case.

According to Eric Lichtau, a writer for *The New York Times*, police municipalities around the country have managed to get away with this behavior for at least the past few years. Courts around the country are having a very difficult time coming to an agreement over the importance of individual privacy rights versus the rights of a police force to pursue evidence.

According to records acquired by the American Civil Liberties Union from 205 municipalities across the country, acquiring information that cell phone customers presume to be private requires little more than a claim of "this is an emergency" or, in some instances, the right offering price. Police municipalities can either claim necessity for the information or offer companies the right sum of money and gain access to information that, judges feel, they may not have the rights to.



According to Lichtau's article, a 2010 case in the Third Circuit Court gave judges a right to require that any evidence from such tracking and pulling of cellular records be prefaced with a

warrant. However, this is still not a cut-and-dry case, as there is no legislation on the topic. Student views were mixed on the issue. "I'm not totally against this. I think that police

should use every available resource to try and track down criminals, missing persons, etc. Their job is to keep things safe, and this is one more tool they can use," Kris Soltys, freshman, chemistry, said.

Of course, the police need to be able to pursue evidence by utilizing resources. This issue, however, still produces a great deal of debate in relation to public image and individual rights.

"I think pulling records is a violation of our rights as citizens. The whole tracking thing, though--our phones have GPS. If we leave it on, we waive privacy rights to that information. If we turn it on, it becomes public information," Charlie McDonald, sophomore, criminal justice, said.

Both sides of this controversy have some appeal, which has caused the aforementioned rift between judges' opinions on the topic.

"In this situation we are reminded of a dichotomy between our convictions of privacy and of comfort. On one hand we want to remain free to go about our lives without the interference of an unbound perennial element, i.e. the government. On the other hand, we want to go about our lives without the interference of the constant fear that results from terrorist actions. Both of these convictions are grounded firmly in some sort of liberty, either liberty from the government or liberty from those who would cause us harm. I find it funny that either way, we will complain," Elliott Risch, junior, philosophy, said.

While there is no absolute legislation on this issue yet, several states across the country are considering legislation to their citizens regarding the issue. Which is more important--liberty or safety?

## ALSO INSIDE

**2** Spring Break ends - how to come back strong

**6** "The Hunger Games" fans' racism explored

# The Current

VOL. 45, ISSUE 1374  
WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

**EDITORIAL**

Editor-in-Chief.....Matthew B. Poposky  
 Managing Editor.....Jeremy Zschau  
 News Editor.....Hali Flintrop  
 Features Editor.....Ashley Atkins  
 Sports Editor.....Owen Shroyer  
 A&E Editor.....Cate Marquis  
 Opinions Editor.....Sharon Pruitt  
 Copy Editors.....Sara Novak, Caryn Rogers, Casey Rogers  
 Staff Writers.....David von Nordheim, Yusef Roach, Dianne Ridgeway, Leon Devance, Rachelle Brandel, Angela Acton, DeAnna Monroe, Andrew Mills, Matt Salmi

**DESIGN**

Photo Editor.....Nikki Vahle  
 Web Editor.....Dan Spak  
 Staff Photographers.....Jarred Gastreich, Sarah Lowe, Jenny Meahan, Ahmad Aljurjyyed, Erica Thompson, Ismail Adiputra  
 Illustrators.....Karlee Sellars, Stefano Ragonesi

**BUSINESS**

Business Manager.....John Wallace  
 Advertising Director.....Sarah O'Brien  
 Distribution Manager.....Mavis Hollis  
 Advisor.....Charlotte Petty

**CONTACT US**

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd  
 Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400  
 Newsroom 314-516-5174  
 Business/Advertising 314-516-5316  
 Fax 314-516-6811  
 E-mail (Editor-in-Chief) thecurrenteic@umsl.edu  
 E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu  
 E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu  
 E-mail (Tips / What's Current) thecurrenttips@umsl.edu  
 Twitter umslcurrent  
 Facebook The Current

**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.

The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current.

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**



## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Spring Break ends - students return to studies - or not

All good things must come to an end. Whether you take stock in that belief or not, spring break has certainly come to an end. Right around this time professors and classmates alike usually see a permanent drop-off from students who are simply too burnt out (or just plain burnt?) to return to class.

Maybe the parties at Panama Beach were simply too luxurious and the students' minds never truly returned. Maybe it is true that the current generation of students are becoming far too apathetic and lazy regarding their educations. Of course, there are also claims by students and even some faculty that the UM-System's spring break comes too late in the semester. But seeing as the fall semester actually has a greater time frame between the semester's start and fall break, this seems unlikely. Maybe the debate should not be over the cause of spring break burnout, but rather over how to better prepare students to deal with the seemingly inevitable impact spring break can

have on a student's psyche.

Let's face it: most of us do not get positive butterflies in our stomachs at the concept of returning to class. Whether we are students or faculty, whether we went to the beach or sat around our living rooms doing homework, whether we took a week off from work or picked up extra shifts to fill those dead hours, nobody really feels anticipation about coming back. We will do so because we want our education or our paychecks but we certainly preferred that simpler life. We need to be ready to face this challenge.

Most students complain when a professor piles on extra homework over spring break. I happen to love when they do this. No, I did not sit around my living room finishing my homework over spring break. I went backpacking in a national forest. I took long runs a few times and read books for entertainment. I got out and saw some old friends. I visited family. I may not have partied in Panama, but I got out and enjoyed my break. However, when I buck-

led down and realized that today had to come, I was grateful for the extra homework my professors had assigned.

You see, when a professor assigns extra homework over spring break, it is meant to keep students focused, to remind us that we are students first. All the partying in the world is not going to get us a degree. Professors do not want to ruin spring break for us, but they do want us to remember that school resumes after break.

Professors don't exactly get to just sit around during break, either. Granted, like students, professors do take some personal time during spring break. However, they still have work to do. Lesson plans for the coming month-and-a-half sprint towards the finish line need to be re-evaluated based on each class's progress thus far. A final or midterm may need to be completely restructured based on this same requisite. Essays or projects turned in prior to break require the professor's attention so that students can keep up with whether or not



Matthew B. Poposky

they are able to skip the final when the semester concludes.

The best way to deal with spring break burnout is simply to go into spring break knowing that school's return is inevitable. We are all students and are therefore tied to education until we either graduate or give up. No amount of whining, Oompah Loompah tans or downed bottles of Captain Morgan are going to prevent school from returning. So manage your time a bit better over break. Learn to balance your life without such a heavy emphasis on immediate gratification.

With that said, welcome back to UMSL after our week-long hiatus, my fellow students, faculty and staff! I sincerely hope that each of you had a fantastic spring break and that you are prepared to get back to work.

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

**Intensive French or Spanish**  
**Learn French or Spanish in just a few weeks and complete your foreign language requirement! The summer Intensive Language Program begins in May. For more information, call the Languages and Cultures Office at 314-516-6242, or go online to:**  
**www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit/aptitude.html.**

**WEATHER**

MON. 88	TUES. 77	WED. 70	THURS. 64	FRI. 71	SAT. 70	SUN. 68
64	52	50	46	48	50	51





# WORK AT SIX FLAGS



## YOUR TICKET TO SUMMER JOBS

SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS IS HOSTING A SUMMER JOBS CELEBRATION ON

April 21st and 22nd from 9 am to 4 pm

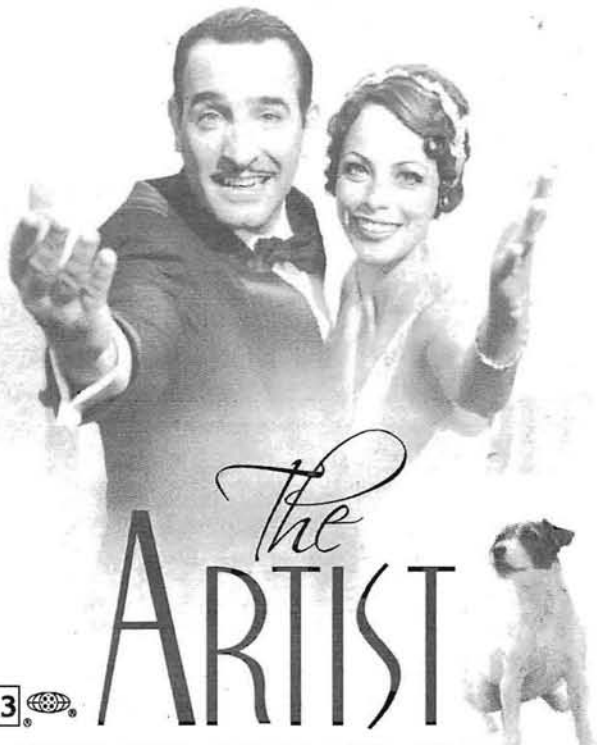
Apply online by April 19th to get your ticket to the event!



APPLY NOW! [SIXFLAGSJOBS.COM](http://SIXFLAGSJOBS.COM)

SIX FLAGS and all related indicia are trademarks of Six Flags Theme Parks Inc. ®, TM and © 2012.

**5 WINNER**  
ACADEMY AWARDS<sup>®</sup>  
INCLUDING  
**BEST PICTURE**



*The*  
**ARTIST**

PG-13

NOW PLAYING AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE  
Check Local Listings for Theaters and Show Times.

University of Missouri—St. Louis  
College of Fine Arts & Communication and  
the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies  
**PRESENT**



**TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**APRIL 5-7 8PM**  
\$5 GENERAL ADMISSION

[touhill.org](http://touhill.org) / 314.516.4949



# SNAP UP YOUR SEATS FOR \$10 OR LESS

**SUM OF MOTION**  
APRIL 5-7 / \$5

**UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION,  
AFRO-CUBAN ENSEMBLE  
& VOCAL POINT**  
APRIL 10 / **FREE**

**CHEIKH LÔ**  
APRIL 12 / **FREE**

**ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET**  
APRIL 13 & 14 / **\$10**

**GREATER ST. LOUIS JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
**PONCHO SANCHEZ &  
HIS LATIN BAND,**  
Featuring Terence Blanchard  
APRIL 20 / **\$10**

**THE CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE  
BIG BAND**  
APRIL 21 / **\$10**

WITH THE UMSL JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Directed by Jim Widner

**THE SECOND CITY**  
APRIL 26-28 / **\$10**

**SAINT LOUIS BALLET: SWAN LAKE**  
APRIL 27-29 / **\$10**



AVAILABLE AT THE TOUHILL TICKET OFFICE  
with a valid UMSL Student ID. Quantities are limited.

**FOR INFO VISIT  
TOUHILL.ORG/STUDENTTIX**



# Save the Date!!



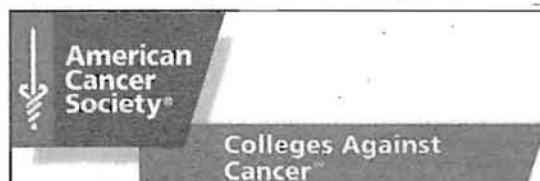
# UMSL Relay For Life

April 20-21, 2012  
Don Dallas Soccer Field  
6 p.m.-6 a.m.

**Sign-up Now!!**

**Or Donate**

**[www.relay.org/umslmo](http://www.relay.org/umslmo)**



Please email [umslcac@gmail.com](mailto:umslcac@gmail.com)

**with any questions**

## MAD WORLD

# Racist 'Hunger Games' fans taint an otherwise promising franchise

Internet racists ruin everything.

"The Hunger Games" was released in theaters on March 23 to rave reviews from critics and fans of the book alike. The film follows Katniss, a strong female protagonist who is thrust into the cruel world of the Hunger Games, a fight to the death where 24 "tributes" from the 12 districts of the country of Panem must murder each other in a televised event. During her time in the deadly arena Katniss bonds with a young tribute named Rue who reminds her of her little sister back home. Both the character of Rue and her relationship with Katniss is beloved by fans of the books.

The actress chosen to portray Rue performed flawlessly, effectively capturing the character's innocence and sweet demeanor in the short screen time she was given. Some fans, however, are less than happy with the casting choice, and it has nothing to do with the acting chops of Amandla Stenberg. These naysayers are unhappy that a black girl was cast to portray their beloved Rue, and they took to the Internet (mostly Twitter) to voice their displeasure.

Some of the despicable comments include (with all excessive capitalization omitted and proper punctuation and sentence formatting added for clarity): "Why does Rue have to be black? Not gonna lie, kinda ruined the movie." "Why did the producer make all the good characters black?" "Eww, Rue is black? I'm not watching." "Call me a racist, but when I found out Rue was black her death wasn't as sad." "I was pumped about the Hun-

ger Games. Until I learned that a black girl was playing Rue."

There is also more disgusting commentary, including such complaints as the following: "How in the world are they going to make Rue a freakin' black bitch in the movie?!?! Lol, not to be racist but..I'm angry now." "Since when has Rue been a nigger?"

To offer a little background information, Rue is described thus in the book: "She has dark brown skin and eyes, but other than that she's very like Prim in size and demeanor..."

So basically, this 12-year-old brown-skinned girl is getting heat for portraying a 12 year-old brown-skinned character in a film because a few slower fans of the books opted to picture a dark-skinned character as white while reading. While one could bemoan the poor reading comprehension skills of Internet racists, there are infinitely more troubling things at play here. For instance, consider the fact that, for some readers, it was so difficult and/or unnatural to picture a brown-skinned character as sympathetic that their mind recast them as white in order to be more relatable.

Even more troubling are the claims that since Rue was portrayed by a black girl (rather than the blond-haired, blue-eyed white girl that some fans chose to imagine), her death was less moving. During a time when activists are struggling to bring media and societal attention to the unjust murder of people of color that has taken place outside of films and is finding it difficult to make society care, this issue brings to light a depressing reality.



Sharon Pruitt

The Internet is full of idiots, no doubt, but this recent rash of blatant, unashamed racism points to the bigger societal problem that is brewing in our country right now. People of color are routinely stripped of their humanity when they are viewed as nothing but stereotypes by those who are unable to see them as human beings whose lives were taken unjustly — whose lives mattered and were meaningful in the first place.

It's no secret that crimes committed against people of color are disproportionately reported by major news outlets in relation to stories about blond-haired, blue-eyed white women who go missing on their vacations. It's also no secret that this shortage of reporting isn't a coincidence, even if many people are unwilling to honestly assess the reasons for this ubiquitous discrepancy. When Internet racists represent a very real sentiment among a disturbing number of American citizens, misspelled Twitter rants become more frightening than amusing.

*Sharon Pruitt is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.*

# Entertain Your Brain

St. Louis  
PublicRadio  
90.7 KWMU

A Service of The University of Missouri—St. Louis

Are you planning to graduate this semester?  
Have you applied for graduation?  
If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!

## UMSL 2012 MAY Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 12  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

Each Ceremony will be approximately 1 1/2 hours in length. No tickets required.

10 A.M. - College of Nursing  
- College of Fine Arts & Communication  
- School of Social Work  
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry - Touhill Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, MAY 13  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

2 P.M. - College of Education  
- Bachelor of General Studies  
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration  
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program  
- Missouri University S & T Engineering Education Center

### All Graduating Seniors

Activate your Free Alumni Membership!  
Get a FREE graduation gift!  
Stop by the UMSL Alumni Association Table at the Grad Fair in the Bookstore in the MSC, April 3, 4 & 5.

### Don't Miss the Grad Fair

April 3, 4 & 5  
UMSL Bookstore in the MSC  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
• Purchase your cap, gown and tassel, etc.  
• Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 late fee will apply after Friday, April 30.

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at [www.umsl.edu/commencement](http://www.umsl.edu/commencement) for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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



# Horoscopes

**CURRENT HOROSCOPES** by The Inane Collective  
altered by:  
**Emergen-See Designations**

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

Spring break was a time for fun, and we all know you had some, But now it's time to settle down and get back to work. Try not to burn yourself out taking on too many tasks as you return to your daily grind.

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

As finals approach, be sure not to bog yourself down in too many commitments. Instead of trying to help everyone a little, try to help a couple of people a lot.

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

Sometimes it's hard to view your life from a distance, but it may be time to really take a good look at who's around you. Now may be the time to clear out Facebook friend lists and do some social spring cleaning.

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

Sadly you can't save everyone. Pick your battles wisely this month, because as hard as it is watching someone you love struggle, sometimes you just can't fix things for them.

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

Step back. It's easy to see all the problems surrounding you that you could solve, and to just take charge and fix them. But remember to consider the people you step on while fixing those problems.

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

Honestly. You need to quit trying to find meaning in every little life event that happens. The bird that took a dump on your car the other day is not a sign of the Apocalypse. Neither is the tear in your jeans a sign of pregnancy.

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

You have a strong nurturing instinct in your family and love life, but sometimes the broken toys can't be fixed.

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

If you've been harboring secret desires for a friend, you can't be mad when they look for love on their own. If you want to be the one they turn to, you have to let them know that's an option.

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

College is a great place to learn the thoughts of great men and women who came before you, but as you finish your time in these hallowed halls, it's time to stop parrot-ing and to start thinking.

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

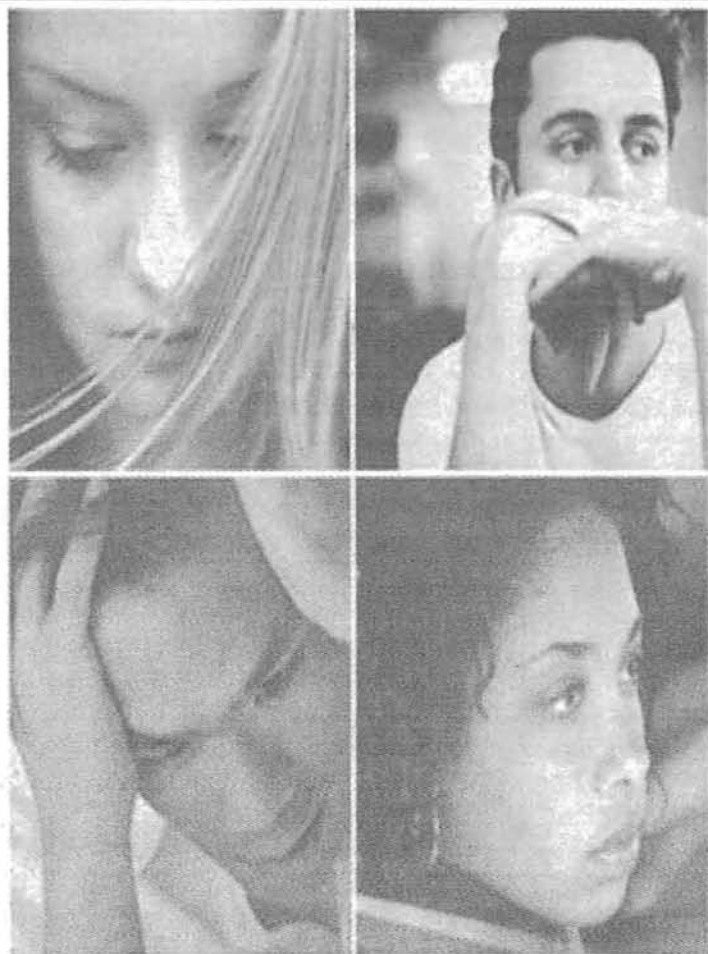
You always demand the best, and there's no shame in that. But remember that everything can't be perfect, and just because things don't go the way you planned, that doesn't mean that they've gone wrong.

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

Your free spirit and originality have carried you far in life, but occasionally it pays to plan ahead.

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

Though some may think you airheaded or flighty, take heart in the fact that you are a compassionate, romantic and imaginative individual. Anyone should be happy to know you!



## Feeling some relief but still having Depression symptoms?

We are conducting a research study to test the safety and efficacy of an investigational medication for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

Volunteers may be eligible to participate in the study if they:

- Are male or female 18 or older
- Have a primary diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder
- Have had depression symptoms for at least one month
- Are currently on a SSRI

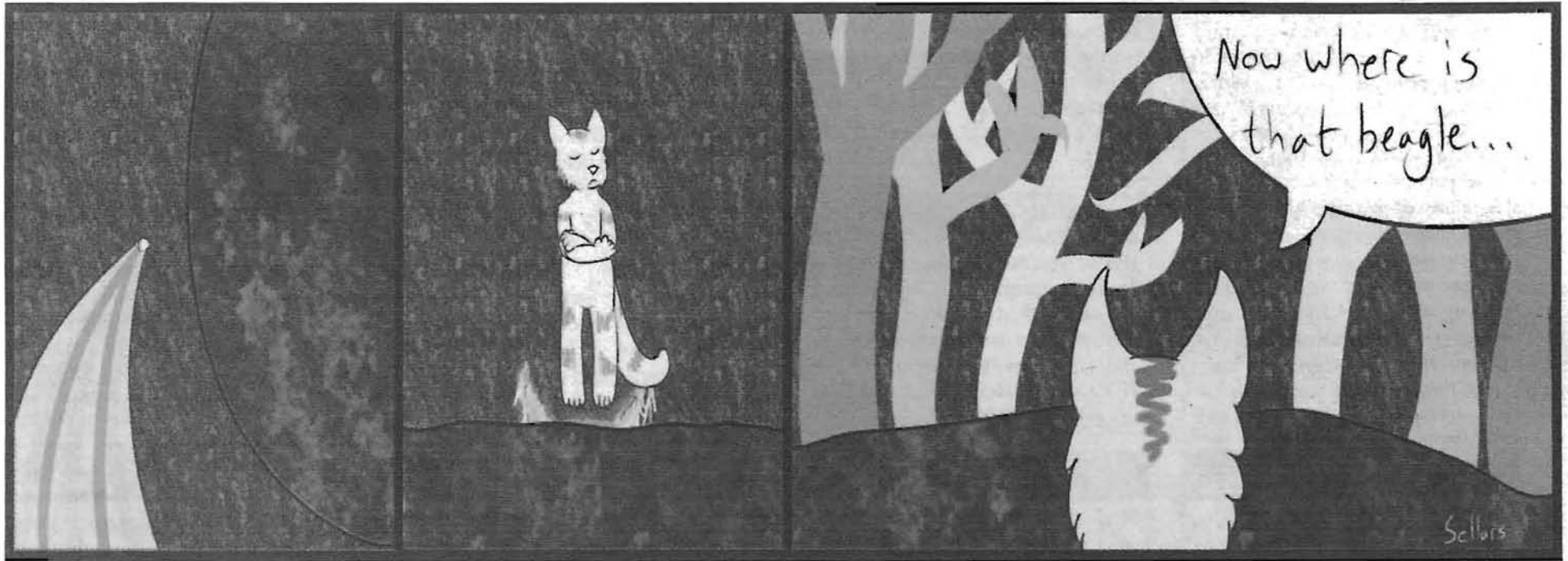
Eligible participants will receive study related procedures and study medication at no charge. They will also be compensated for their time and travel.

To learn more about this research study and to see if you are qualified, please contact:

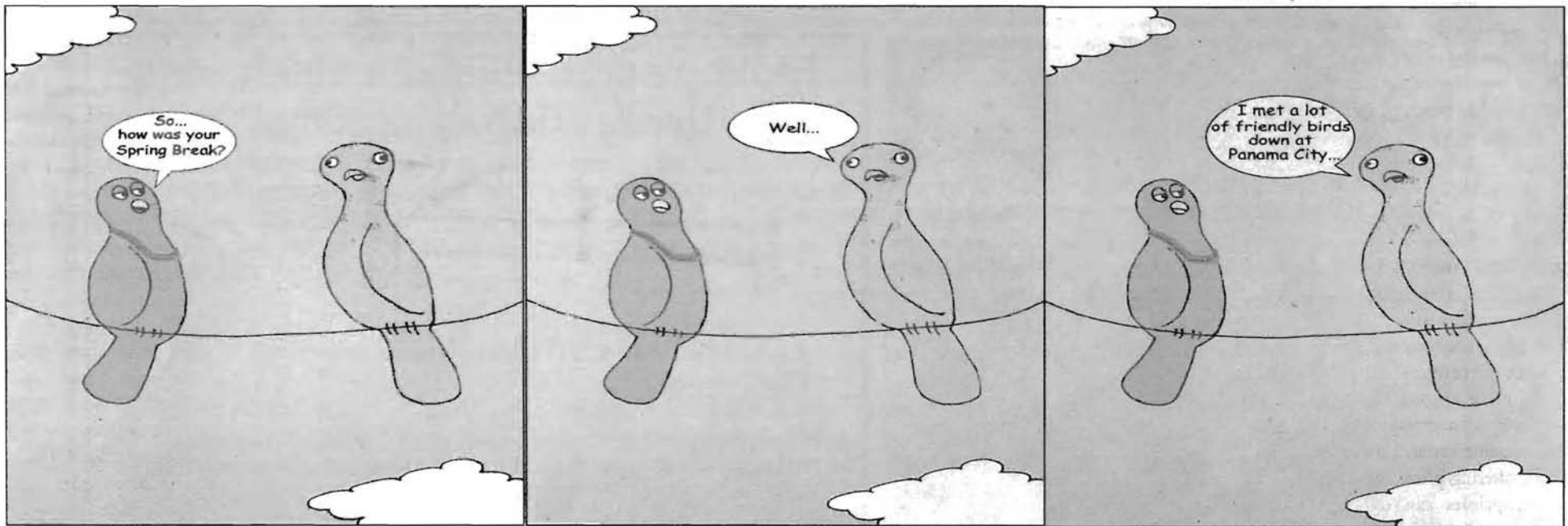
**Mid-America Clinical Research at:**  
**314-647-1743**

# Comics

## Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



## Pidgiots by Stefano Ragonesi



**The Current is now accepting applications for  
Editor-in-Chief**

**All are welcome to apply - stop by 388 MSC.**