

The Current

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UMSL Men's basketball powers through opposition in GLVC

By Owen Shroyer, page 14

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

ALSO INSIDE

2 Digital vs Traditional
Educational differences evident in contrast

12 'Red Tails' a total flop
George Lucas fails miserably with war film

12 MLK Day 2012
UMSL community unites in service

The Current

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AFFILIATIONS



News

Online courses recruit a few while leaving others disenchanted with tech

Differences continue to emerge between success of online classes compared to conventional education

ENA SELIMOVIC
Staff Writer

Enrolling in an online course requires that students be able to maintain their schedule and study independently. Brittany Gray, junior, accounting, is one such independent learner. Having already taken an online information systems course, she was not hesitant to take another. "I really enjoyed the online course," she said. "It's just like regular class with lectures, but you listen to them on your own schedule. You still have pop quizzes, assignments and exams, but it's much more flexible."

While most online courses do maintain this flexibility, Joyce Gates, senior, media studies, is currently enrolled in a required information technology course that is proving to be doubly inconvenient for its being online. "It's late at night," she said. "I hate that you have to be online at 8 or 9. I don't have an internet connection at my house, so it's an inconvenience for me to have to be somewhere

at a specific time." It is particularly problematic when she is unable to make up for her losses by attending physical lectures in addition to her online time. "I hate the fact that the professor can't see my facial reaction when I don't get something," Gates said. "They automatically assume everybody understands."

In a three credit-hour course, there is much to be understood. When it comes to online courses, however, Dan Chumley, junior, finance and economics, disagrees. "I think one would learn about as much from a \$900 online course as one does from a \$30 book on the same subject," Chumley said. "They simply don't allow for the same level of interactivity between students and faculty, which, in my opinion, leads to a fuller understanding of a subject, that occurs in a regular class."

While professors of the Education department and of the Honors College [Tony Ambrose and Tom

Hensley] referred to the logistical conveniences of online courses, they also cited the need for the traditional social component. "Online college courses solve specific logistical problems for students," Professor Ambrose said. "If the student is self-motivated and a self-starter, and if the course itself has a social learning or collaborative component to it, then the online course can be every bit as effective as its counterpart."

While Hensley prefers teaching traditional courses, he understands "the value of on-line courses for reasons of economics, convenience, and distance," Hensley said. "I do believe that a niche exists for on-line coursework. As a veteran of the introduction of technology (computers) into the education process, I recall the ill-founded fear held by many that computers ultimately would replace classroom teachers. Still, computers have proven to be tremendous tools

supporting the teaching process, and ultimately I believe that on-line courses will serve a similar purpose, supplementing on-campus coursework in meeting the unique needs of students."

The process of searching for statistics to summarize these qualitative findings reaffirms how varied student experience is. While some like online courses, others do not see this value as overriding the social component so intrinsic to traditional classes. "The bottom line is that various students have various needs that can be met through various methods of instruction," Hensley said. "Online learning has made significant contributions toward the teaching/learning process, but ultimately the physical campus community provides more opportunities to develop reflective practices through discourse."

For these professors and students, success in isolation is limited due to these shortcomings.

WEATHER

MON. 46	TUES. 43	WED. 48	THURS. 55	FRI. 55	SAT. 46	SUN. 43
27	28	30	34	34	25	33

Ron Paul still perseveres onward in the presidential race

Congressman Ron Paul sticks by his values and beliefs no matter the outcome or circumstance

RACHELLE BRANDEL

Staff Writer

In the most recent survey, 13 percent of South Carolina Republican voters are committing to vote for Congressman Ron Paul, resulting in polls expecting him to hold fourth place, behind Romney, Gingrich, and Rick Santorum. However, with the recent public endorsement of Senator Tom Davis, Congressman Paul may not be in fourth place for much longer.

CNN reported that on Sunday, state senator Tom Davis decided to publically endorse Paul, claiming he was the "only candidate that is talking about this problem [the national debt] to the degree, at the scale and with the scope that it needs to be talked about." Davis is well-known in Republican

circles and is believed to hold sway over many tea party activists, whose influence on national politics has achieved greater media popularity in recent years. Paul responded that he was very pleased with Davis' support and believed it would help his campaign.

On Wednesday, January 18, Romney, Gingrich and Santorum all questioned and accused each other concerning their honesty and principles while Paul was over at Capitol Hill voting against raising the debt limit. In response to opinions that Congressman Paul is not a socialite and has a reputation in Congress as a loner, Walter Jones described Paul as a "work horse, and that's what Washington needs

right now is a workhorse, not a show horse."

Paul is well-known for his unchanging views on issues cited for debate in the primaries. "You've got to admire an individual who, despite the currents of the time—polling data—says what he believes in and sticks to it. Ron Paul does that," Representative Mo Brooks said.

Paul's view on the issues can be found on his campaign website ronpaul2012.com, where he states that he is against abortion, against ObamaCare and committed to strengthening the economy.

In health care, Paul would repeal ObamaCare and end the mandate that all Americans must carry

only government-approved health insurance. He would provide tax credits and deductions for medical expenses and those with terminal illnesses would be exempt from employee portions of payroll taxes while they were suffering from illness or injury.

As president Paul promises to repeal Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that gave a person the right to have an abortion until viability, which is the ability of a fetus to live outside the womb.

Paul would also define life as beginning at conception by passing a "sanctity of life act." He would also prohibit taxpayer funds from being used for abortions or in "family planning" programs like

Planned Parenthood.

His plans for immigration are what he refers to as common sense reforms. He would enforce greater border security and end birthright citizenship. He would no longer provide amnesty and abolish the welfare state, which he believes to be a huge incentive for illegal immigrants to the United States. He would also work to protect lawful immigrants by streamlining the entry process in order to guarantee that those pursuing citizenship through proper, legal channels gain it quickly.

Paul defends individual rights such as the right to bear arms. Concerning the Second Amendment, he has not and will not vote

for any legislation to take away the rights of gun owners.

He also believes that forced unionism violates the constitution and being forced to pay union dues is wrong. He is a strong supporter of the National Right to Work Act, which gives workers the right to decide for themselves, rather than being forced one way or another, whether or not they wish to join a union or financially support one, as some jobs in the country currently require or refuse access to unions. According to the National Right to Work Committee, "It would eliminate compulsory unionism in every state in the United States," solving a long time debate

The UNDERCURRENT

by Sarah Lowe

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



"More drawing experience and maybe a new girlfriend."

Ling Ruan
Senior
Fine Arts



"Cardinal baseball season starting up again."

Ben Jacob
Junior
Graphic Design



"Finishing this semester!"

Pamela Calmese
Senior
Liberal Arts

Judges raise bonds on accused to prevent future crimes



Bail has been raised for gun-wielding criminals to ensure that they will spend some time behind bars while on trial.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

HALI FLINTROP
News Editor

Homicide rates in St. Louis have decreased, and this may be a result of a practice implemented by the St. Louis Circuit Court which raised bail on those charged with gun crimes. However, policy makers have been cautioned that the correlation between bail amount and homicide rate may not be a causal relationship and more research on the subject is required before a determination is made. Researchers from the University of Chicago have committed to studying

the relationship between bail amounts and homicide rates further.

According to STLToday.com, the St. Louis Circuit Court began to set higher bails for those who had been caught carrying illegal weapons. These higher bails functioned as assurance that criminals would await trial behind bars, not virtually free in society.

Judges John Garvey and Barbara Peebles have set higher bails at arraignments for people accused of carrying illegal weapons. They especially target younger alleged offenders from 17 to 25

years of age. The purpose is to uphold safety, but proponents of the new bail practice also hope that it will successfully deter young people from chronic law breaking. Some believe that giving them a taste of jail while awaiting trial will encourage them not to reoffend or carry illegal weapons.

Meanwhile, the homicide rate in St. Louis has decreased dramatically. Police Chief Dan Isom has stated that he believes the practice of setting higher bail has lowered the homicide rate in St. Louis by 20 percent "to a level not seen since

2004," he told STLToday.com. Isom stated that he believes the higher bails are the only change that has been made to the justice system in St. Louis.

There would certainly appear to be a rather causal relationship between bail amount and the homicide rate in St. Louis. However, the crime lab at the University of Chicago, which studies violent crime deterrence methods across the U.S., has indicated that this issue merits more study. It is simply too soon to tell if this new practice is actually the cause of the reduced homicide rates, if

it will continue to work and if it is sustainable.

Raising bail as a deterrent or to teach a lesson to the accused may not even be justified or fit into the Missouri correctional system.

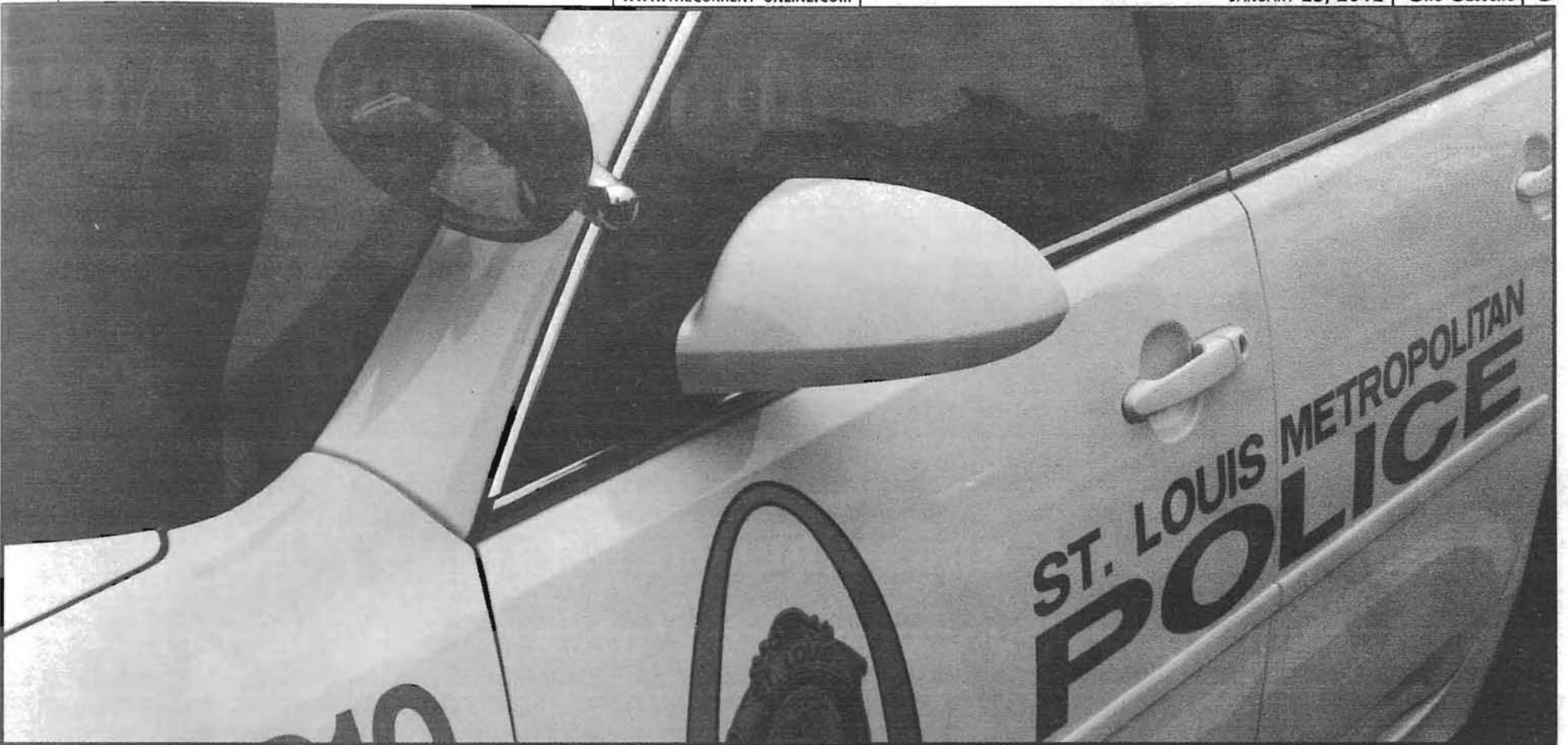
Critics of the new practice say that it has misused bail. The typical understanding of bail and bond is that they assure that the accused will actually appear in court when scheduled, so that the money which was put up for bail is returned to them. Bond is typically set at an amount high enough ensure that the accused appears at trial,

but not high enough to keep them in jail as they await trial unless they are determined by the judge to be an imminent danger to society.

It is extremely uncommon to manipulate bail to deter citizens from crime. "There's no empirical proof that this is stopping street violence... All it's doing is empowering the police to go harass more people," said Robert Taaffee, defense lawyer, to STLToday.com.

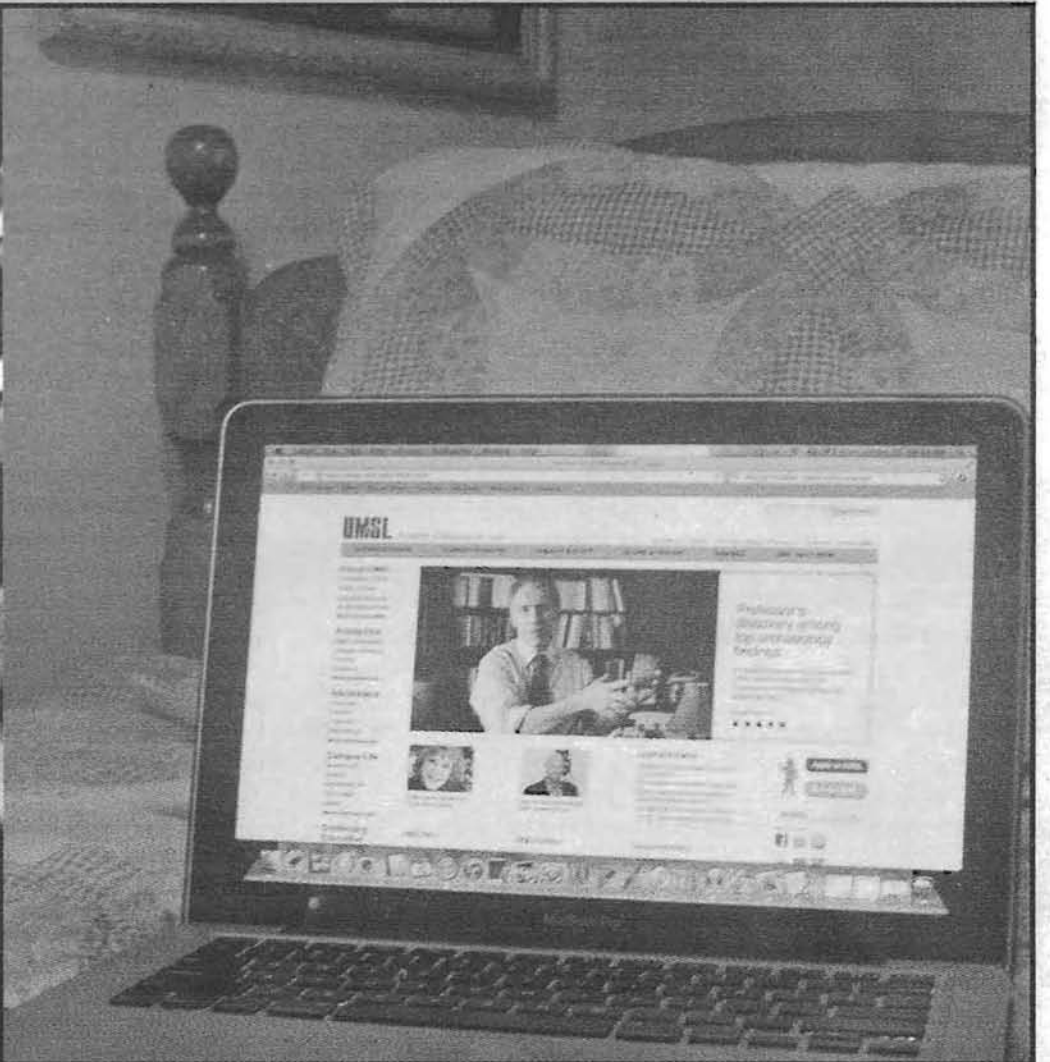
Ultimately, the practice requires more research, but for now, the homicide rate in St. Louis is in a better place.

READ
The Current



UMSL Criminal Justice Department is now partners with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

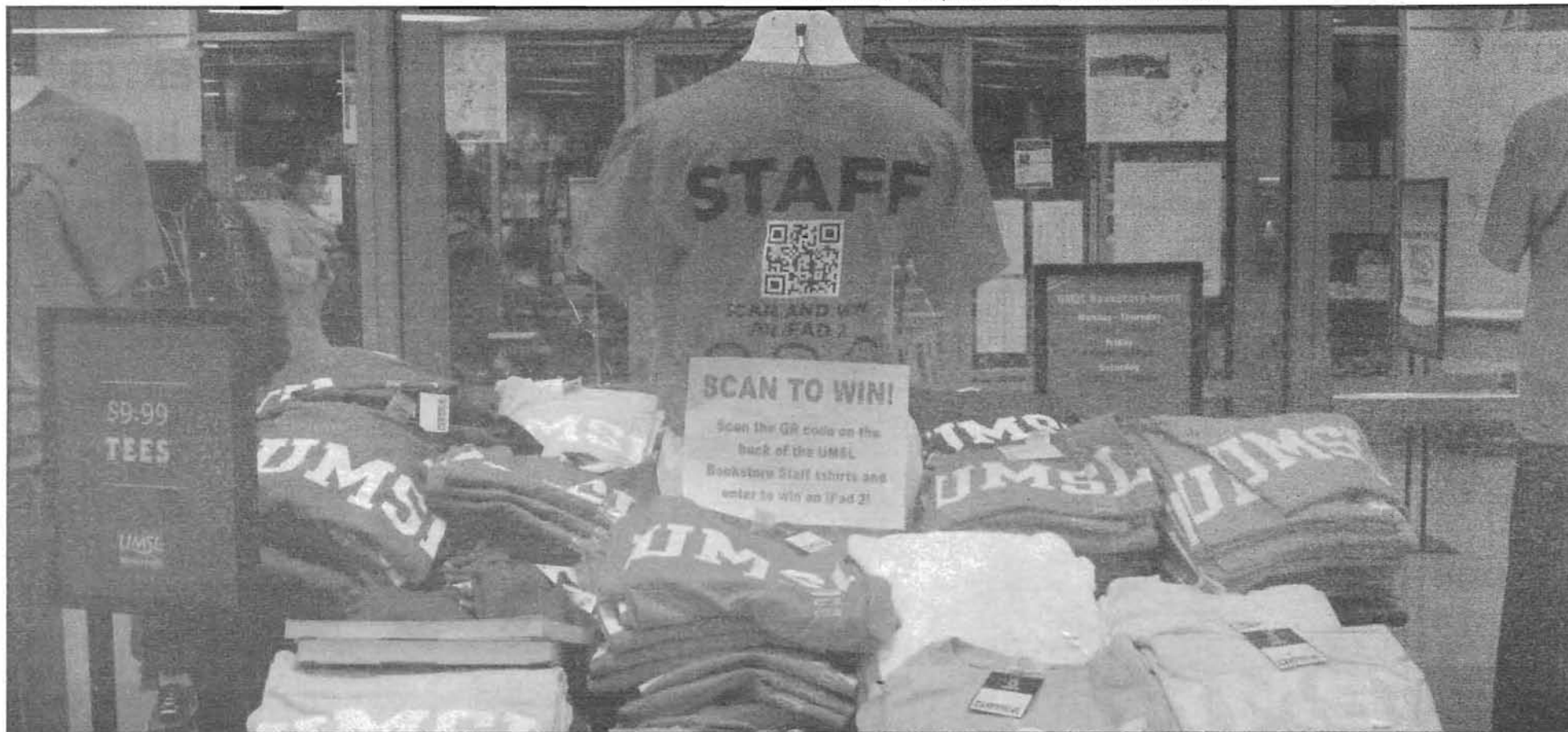


UMSL investigates the effectiveness of online classes vs. in school classes.

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

What's Current

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



The UMSEL Bookstore is giving students a chance to win an iPad 2. Use your smart phone to scan the QR code on Staff Tshirts for your chance to win!

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

Tuesday, January 24

Succeeding in online classes

From 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to students. Are you thinking about enrolling in an online course? Or are you already enrolled in one and would like to gain tips on how to succeed? This workshop is intended to give you a comprehensive look at online learning. We hope that it not only answers some questions about online courses but that it also provides tools necessary to succeed in this relatively new and exciting method of learning. For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Thursday, January 26

Teaching with technology workshop

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Located in South Campus classroom 102 and open to all. Elevate your assignments to help students connect with your selected readings by helping students learn to question and reflect through a variety of instructional strategies and technology tools. This workshop will show you how to set up the activities and experience how students will participate. For more information, call Margaret W. Cohen at 314-516-7133.

Wednesday, January 25

From research to practice: Forging the link in public sector

From 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 427 SSB and open to all. Presented by Dr. Wally Siewert, director of the Center for Ethics in Public Life at the University of Missouri - St. Louis January 25, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. This applied research seminar will present Dr. Siewert's plans for linking academic research on governance to real world practice at the Center for Ethics in Public Life. For more information, call Rebecca Pastor at 314-516-5277.

Friday, January 27

Procurement's January tag sale

From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located at the JC Penney Center dock and open to all. Procurement Services is hosting our next Surplus Tag Sale on Friday, January 27, 2012. Items included are laptops, monitors, CPU's, file cabinets, VCR's, printers, furniture and other items too numerous to mention. We have a large \$1.00 section as well. New items arriving weekly. For more information, call Tangie Brooks at 314-516-5361.

Monday, January 30

Make the most of your learning style

From 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to students. Find out how you learn and process information best. Do you learn easily by listening, watching or doing? Maybe a combination of all three is best. Hemispheric dominance (right or left-brain) will be explained. Understanding more about how our brains work helps us become more engaged, more confident and higher achievers. Specific studying, note-taking and learning strategies for each learning style are provided. For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

A&E



Joe "Lightning" Little (David Oyelowo), Samuel "Joker" George (Elijah Kelley), Declan "Winky" Hall (Leslie Odom Jr.), Maurice Wilton (Michael B. Jordan), Marty "Easy" Julian (Nate Parker) and Leon "Neon" Edwards (Kevin Phillips), in *Red Tails*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCASFILM LTD. AND TM

George Lucas' 'Red Tails' crashes and burns in theaters

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

Considering the box office edge it had as a film with an all-black cast, "Red Tails" turned out to be somewhat of a disaster. Audiences will flock to theaters expecting extravagant war scenes, agonizing casualties and invigorating addresses in this based on a true story film but will only receive an unsatisfying portion of all three.

This movie deserved the best treatment, which George Lucas believed he could provide through funding, but maybe he should have taken over the directing as well. Instead,

the project was placed in the hands of newcomer Anthony Hemingway. Gaining most of his experience from television, Hemingway seemed uncomfortable with giving a scene time to play itself out.

"Red Tails" is about a group of African American pilots who are part of the Tuskegee training program during World War II. The legendary Tuskegee Airmen are nicknamed the Red Tails for their planes' distinctive red-painted tails. Based in Italy and restricted to minor strafing runs with outdated aircraft, they dream of the chance to face the war head on.

The pilots finally get

their chance when they are assigned as fighter escorts on dangerous bombing runs into Germany. Their outstanding performance in this task helps elevate the Tuskegee Airmen to legendary status.

John Ridley was the screenwriter for the film and with his background in African American television he had no problem working with the racial dialogue of the 1940s. The time period leaves the window open for a small-minded individual to call the dialogue racist.

It is unlikely that the screenwriter was trying to impose his own beliefs on the audience. Instead he was depicting what he felt the conversation

would sound like among proud African American men in the 1940s. Ridley maybe went a little too far when he had his African American generals request that they be referred to as "Negros" as oppose to "colored" by their white counterparts. Most likely, a conversation of that sort would never have taken place in the 1940s military. Also, the mention of an interracial wedding would most likely not happen in the 1940s.

The film struggled in its presentation of its best talent. Whenever a principle character in the film, such as Colonel A.J. Bullard (Terrance Howard) or Easy (Nate

Parker), attempted to give a motivational speech, it seemed as if Ridley or Hemingway were afraid to let them finish what they had started. This film could have accomplished so much more in the two hours that it was allotted. Two hours is very generous. It was not fair to deprive the actors and audience of such a message.

The film struggled with casting supporting talent. In what rule book does it say that musicians are allowed to buy themselves into feature films? Recording artist Ne-Yo did not need to be in this film and neither did Method Man. They were two of the poorest

actors and, unfortunately, they stuck out like sore thumbs. Luckily this film did do something right by casting David Oyelowo as the spontaneous pilot "Lightning." For a supporting role, he gave the performance of a male lead. His popularity among the audience is exposed at the end the film.

With names such as Howard, Parker and Oyelowo attached to this film, one walks in to the theater wanting the film to "go the distance," but sadly it will only go as far as the shelf at the movie rental store.

Grade: C-

Need more movie reviews?
Check out www.thecurrent-online.com

'Paralytic Stalks' charts a new, uncertain course for Of Montreal

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

After a decade and a half of magnificently weird pop music, Of Montreal has finally done the unthinkable: they have released an album that is a little boring. As if it were a bashful apology for the group's newfound musical hedonism, "Paralytic Stalks" marks yet another stylistic shift for the protean indie pop hive-mind.

Whereas Of Montreal's most recent albums, beginning with 2007's "Hissing Fauna," rejected the starry-eyed twee pop of their earliest releases in favor of nymphomaniacal funk, "Paralytic Stalks" takes the group's sound in a different direction altogether. Frontman Kevin Barnes has found a new musical idol, abandoning the Brian Wilson and Prince fetishes which marked his previous releases. Instead he displays an Elton John-esque ear for tasteful, polished pop tunes, a direction that makes a lot of sense considering Barnes's and Elton's equally flamboyant wardrobe choices.

After the sonic indulgences which characterized Of Montreal's most recent albums, "Skeletal Lamping" and "False Priest," "Paralytic Stalks"

seems positively tame. Its mellow mixes of piano, flute and saxophone nearly verge into soft rock territory. Indeed, its breezy, unassuming tunes could easily be mainstream hits in some alternate dimension where songs with titles like "We Will Commit Wolf Murder" and "Authentic Pyrrhic Remission" receive radio play.

Still, if Barnes and company are embracing a more commercial-friendly sound with "Stalks," they do their best to disguise their intentions. This is painfully obvious throughout the second half, where every song is bloated with token stabs at experimentalism designed to disguise the album's conventionality. Tracks like "Ye, Renew the Plaintiff" and "Wintered Debts" begin promisingly enough, but they lose steam quickly after the three-minute mark. They meander about in dull stretches of droning and distortion while trying their best to avoid anything that could be construed as "catchy." Barnes has apparently developed a severe allergy to choruses since "False Priest."

These passages always seem to crop up whenever the album is in danger of becoming too fun or exciting. On the nearly quarter-hour

long "Authentic Pyrrhic Remission," a bubbly groove suddenly gives way to a wall of shrieking noise that sounds like a reject from the "Eraserhead" soundtrack. Not only are these rather halfhearted diversions tedious, but they are also at odds with the music itself, which is too peppy to be dragged down by overlong, progressive song structures. This creates the distinct sense that Of Montreal is at odds with itself, trying to expand its sound without alienating its post-"Hissing Fauna" fanbase, turning "Paralytic Stalks" into a disappointingly unfocused affair.

But while "Stalks" may seem disappointing compared to Of Montreal's previous efforts, it is still a solid, if unadventurous, batch of indie pop from one of the genre's leading pioneers. Of Montreal on autopilot is still miles ahead of the competition. If "Stalks" is ultimately a transitional album for the group, there is enough promise here to suggest that this could be a fruitful new direction for them. For an unabashedly odd group like Of Montreal, playing it safe is a bold move and for the most part, the gamble pays off.

Grade: C+

LATEST + GREATEST

OPENING FRIDAY, JANUARY 27:

MAN ON A LEDGE (everywhere)

-January is usually a month for late-arriving Oscar hopefuls and a dumping ground for less-than-stellar films. This thriller is an exception to that rule: a surprising, entertaining action tale about a man falsely convicted and driven to desperate measures.

ONE FOR THE MONEY (everywhere)

-Katherine Heigl stars as an unemployed, newly-divorced woman who lands a job as a bail bondsman and sets out on the trail of an ex-boyfriend cop in this adaptation of Janet Evanovich's novel.

THE GREY (everywhere)

-Liam Neeson stars in this action/adventure film about an oil drilling team struggling to survive after a plane crash in the Alaskan wilderness. Directed by Joe Carnahan, also starring Dermot Mulroney.

ALBERT NOBBS (Plaza Frontenac)

-Glenn Close and Janet McTeer deliver stunning performances in this intriguing, moving, fact-based tale about a Victorian woman passing as a man in order to work. A late-arriving Oscar hopeful.

TOMBOY (Tivoli)

-An award-winning French film about a 10-year-old girl moving to a new neighborhood outside Paris who is mistaken for a boy by her new neighbors.

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The Fox Theatre brings The Beatles to St. Louis with 'Rain'

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor in Chief

For all the differences in opinion that exist regarding which genre of music is the absolute best or most entertaining, most versatile, etc., timeless bands are a somewhat less debatable issue. When speaking of bands that will continue to influence and lift up the coming generations, one band in particular is mentioned again and again – The Beatles.

Now, it is impossible for anybody in this generation to experience a new Beatles concert. The mopheads have long since broken up and the world has since then lost the musical talents of John Lennon and George Harrison to whatever great beyond may or may not exist. So fans are often left to scour the Internet in search of ancient concert footage or experience often lackluster imitations in dive bars.

A show by RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles, however, has provided at least a margin of hope for this reviewer. The Beatles' legacy can live on and there are musicians in this world still dedicated and talented enough to put on a show that truly makes one feel as though the Liverpool rockers themselves were on-stage themselves.

Rain got its start as "Reign" in the 1970s, playing a set of Beatles

tunes, along with others, up and down the west coast of the United States. By 1980, the band had become completely Beatles-centric, and even headlined at Disneyland's Tomorrowland Terrace. After interacting with the Broadway production of Beatlemania, the band's popularity began to soar, leading to their recent performance at The Fox Theatre on Friday, January 20, 2012.

The band's members in this show were Steve Landes (John Lennon), Joey Curatolo (Paul McCartney), Joe Bithorn (George Harrison), Ralph Castelli (Ringo Starr) and Mark Beyer, who provided keyboard and additional percussion. Together, this group managed to incite all-out euphoria in the audience, evident from the endless smiles on the face of every man, woman and child present.

The show lends itself very well to what one would assume (or, for those lucky enough to have actually seen an original Beatles performance, would know) a Beatles concert is meant to be. High-energy performers accompanied by fog machines, psychedelic light shows and cartoon music videos on side screens all played a part throughout the performance. And, of course, Rain took it upon themselves to switch up their performance attire a

number of times as well, traveling through time from the arrival of The Beatles on American shores to the colorful outfits of Sgt. Pepper's album cover, all the way to appearances in the times of "Yellow Submarine" and "Let it Be." As would be expected of any chronology cover band, Rain performed hits covering the entirety of The Beatles' history. Pieces from albums as early as "With the Beatles" ("All My Loving", "I Wanna Be Your Man") were followed up by hits from albums like "Help!" ("I've Just Seen a Face") and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" ("When I'm Sixty-Four") and ended with pieces from albums like "Yellow Submarine" ("All You Need is Love") and "Let it Be" ("Across the Universe"). No, "Yellow Submarine" itself was not played, much to this reviewer's pleasure.

RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles may not be the original act, but their dedication and love for the music that influences artists even today is unmistakable. When a tribute band manages to bring together the old and the young and makes them pull out their lighters in true Woodstock fashion, despite the security guards' objections, they are doing something right.

Grade: A+

'Shame' is not the subject of Fassbender star vehicle

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Actor Michael Fassbender seemed to be everywhere in 2011. After starring in "Jane Eyre" and "X-Men: First Class," two more Fassbender dramas, "A Dangerous Method" and "Shame," are making their way here now.

These films showcase Fassbender's range in two excellent but very different performances. While Fassbender plays a restrained Carl Jung in "A Dangerous Method," his character is anything but in "Shame." "Shame" is Fassbender's most edgy role, as an outwardly normal man in the grips of sexual addiction.

On the surface, Brandon (Fassbender) is a successful young man with a good job in New York. Secretly, Brandon has created a solitary life devoted to anonymous sexual behaviors. His hidden lifestyle is threatened by the unwelcome arrival of his sister Sissy (Carey Mulligan).

To be clear, Brandon is not a "player," seducing an endless stream of women, but an emotionally-distant man obsessed with impersonal sex. Rather focus on one bad habit, Brandon samples it all. Masterbation, internet porn, prostitutes, fetishes, anonymous sex - all are part of Brandon's obsession. Apart from pedophilia and bestiality, every sexual activity imaginable seems part of Brandon's pursuits. A scene where he stalks a woman on the subway

suggests that even rape might be in his repertoire.

Like any addiction, this is a compulsive, joyless pursuit. It is not clear he even likes women - he certainly avoids relationships.

While Brandon feels no shame about his habits, he does fear discovery. While he prefers his secret, solitary life, that fear drives him to make a half-hearted attempt to develop a more normal sex life with a co-worker. Mostly, he wants his clinging, disruptive sister to go away, so he can go back to his abnormal "normal."

Brandon's sister clearly has her own issues. While Brandon is self-supporting and has a nice apartment, seductive, self-destructive Sissy is unreliable, manipulative and has trouble holding a job. Their disturbing relationship raises questions about their family but we never learn anything about that. All we know is what Sissy continually repeats, that she is his only family.

For a film with many explicit scenes, "Shame" is surprisingly un-sexy. The sex is furtive, mechanical and passionless.

Brandon is a flinty, unsettling character but Fassbender does a marvelous job in crafting him. Likewise, Carey Mulligan glows as fragile, manipulative Sissy. There is a scene where Mulligan sings a tune with Marilyn Monroe whispery seductiveness that will divide audiences, seeing it as either a show-stopper or a painful

low-point.

Curiously, "Shame" has the look of an "Obsession" ad. While it is visually beautiful, the elegant, stylish settings are emotionally cold.

Making sex scenes unsexy is no small feat but the film goes further. The film runs about half an hour too long, repeating scenes of Brandon's proclivities long after the point has been made. This makes the film drag and become, well, boring. Men who identify with this obsessed character may not agree but women may start to murmur "yeah, we get it, he can't relate to normal sex, can we move on?"

Which is a central issue with this film - what is its point? Prurient enjoyment is not it. Is it to highlight a hidden epidemic of men living this kind of solitary urban life? Is this a cry for help or warning to women? What is clear is Fassbender's Brandon is one sick puppy, in need of psychoanalysis by Fassbender's Jung in "A Dangerous Method."

Make no mistake, this is a stylish, well-made, well-acted film. But its disturbing topic and unappealing character will make it a challenge for audiences. The past year had seen a string of grim dramas, prompting quips about "the feel-bad movie of the year." "Shame" would be this critic's choice for that title. This depressing, un-sexy look at sexual compulsion is only for the most determined fans of grimmer art-house fare.

Grade: B



'RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles' as Sergeant Pepper's-era Beatles at the Fox Theater.

COURTESY OF CYLLAVON TIEDEMANN

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Striking, colorful graphics spotlighted in Chicago International Poster exhibit at campus' Gallery FAB

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

Advertisements are everywhere, and as a society we have our filters on. We are bombarded with commercials, magazine ads and internet pop-ups every day and, as most of us have developed a way to ignore them, advertisers are motivated to push harder against our comfort zones to get a reaction. They give us shock and awe but nothing more substantial, and so we ignore them for the most part.

Advertisements, the good and the bad, can be given less than a passing glance because we are jaded by their very presence. With so much space devoted to them in our environment, on billboards, television and websites, it is a shame that advertising is not taken more seriously as an art form.

Gallery FAB, on the campus of the University of Missouri – St. Louis in the Fine Arts Building, understands that when something as simple as a poster is a presence in a person's life—as they wait for the Metro or look out their window at the city skyline—there is no reason for it not to be artistic. In fact, there is every reason it should be.

The gallery is hosting the second Chicago International Poster Biennial Association finalists exhibition (CIPBA), which will be on display until April 12. The exhibit showcases 92 of the 175 finalist posters created by award-winning international poster artists from 21 countries.

CIPBA “works with design professionals and students, professional associations, educational and civic institutions and members of the public to advance our mission of promoting visual

literacy as a professional responsibility, advancing international cooperation as a social imperative and celebrating cultural diversity as our greatest tool for understanding and peace,” according to their website, chicagobiennial.org.

It is an idealistic mission statement but one that this exhibit rises to meet. The posters are beautiful and thoughtprovoking. Some are visually striking and some have simplicity mastered, but each was eye-catching and worthy of closer inspection.

A piece titled “Charles Gayle Solo” by Niklaus Troxler required a step back to understand. Up close it looked like a study of graphite on paper, but with a little distance the information was revealed in the negative space.

Another piece, “Tartuffe, or The Imposter” by Stephan Bundi, inspired a few conversations from patrons standing before it. Fairly simple in design but visually striking, it depicted the outline of a head and neck laid over a sly man's side long glance. The two did not fit together traditionally, but the disconnection allowed for a very interesting poster that took a moment of study to understand.

“How to Stay Hard” by James Victore depicted only a vertical bone with the piece's title inside it. Victore's piece was one of the few with word play and double meaning along with the art, which can be an important part of holding an audience's attention.

Going to see the posters might encourage you to think about what, visually speaking, has the ability to reach out and make you look. Go to the exhibit and explore what you see and what you ignore in the world around you.

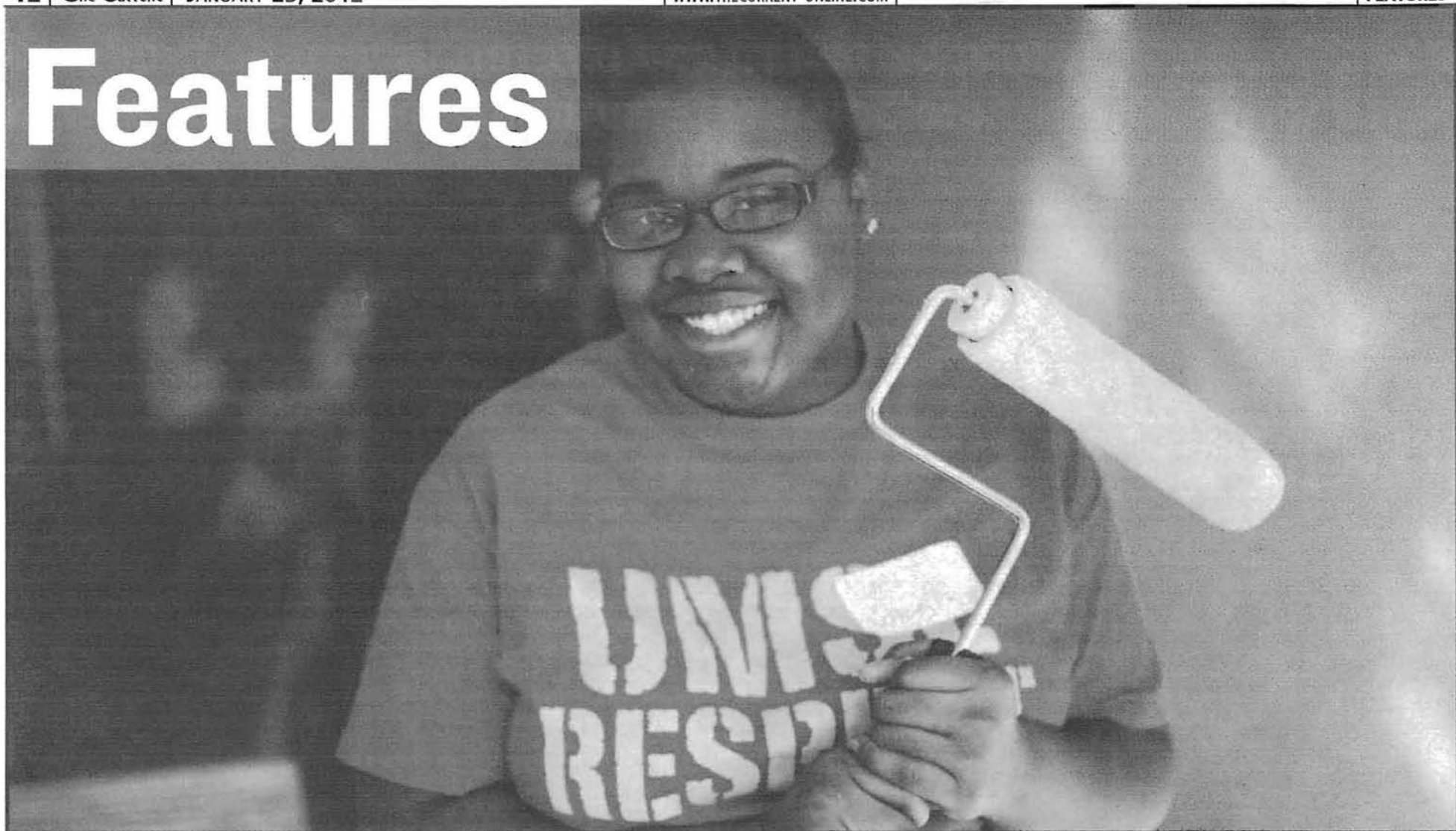
Grade: B

Students enjoy the opening of the second Chicago International Poster Biennial finalists exhibition at the Fine Arts Building on Thursday evening.

SARAH LOWE/THE CURRENT



Features



Marlice House, junior, spent her Monday morning painting the inside of Unity Lutheran Church.

JARRED GASTREICH / THE CURRENT

Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity hosts 2012 MLK Day

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

On January 16, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at the University of Missouri – St. Louis hosted the 2012 Dr. King, Jr. Holiday Observance in the Anheuser Busch Auditorium at the Touhill Performing Arts Center commemorated the work of a man whose life's goal was to bring equality and peace to the world.

As guests roamed the halls of the Touhill, they were welcomed by a group of women who represented the Pan-Hellenic Council, along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The women came to the event in order to increase voter registration and awareness among the residents of both St. Louis

city and St. Louis County.

"We are looking forward to making sure that our voters are not suppressed when they come to the polls this coming year and also to make sure that they are aware of the issues," Rose Mary Johnson, president of the Jennings Board of Education, said. "Our goal is to get 1,000 individuals to vote between now and the end of February."

For this group of women, it was important for the crowd to understand that they were not present to sway votes, but were on a mission to get individuals to vote.

Once guests made it past the voter registration table and to the Anheuser-Busch theater, they were welcomed to a show conducted by Deborah J.

Burris, director and chief diversity officer for the Office of Opportunity and Diversity. The show consisted of an introduction from the Master of Ceremonies, Don Marsh, the host of KWMU radio show St. Louis on the Air, an address from Andrew Smith, winner of the MLK essay contest, as well as a musical presentation from the Dickson String Quartet.

Deandre McGowan, St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley student, felt that the event honored MLK in the right way.

"I learned how the Martin Luther King speech still affects us today. It shows us that we still have a lot of things to overcome and hopefully one day we will be able to

see his dream come true," McGowan said.

Fellow audience member Kay McGowan saw the show as an inspiration, voicing her appreciation for the MLK essay winner and complimenting him on his insight and his promising future.

In the second part of the program the guest speaker, Allen McKellar, hosted a Q&A session with the audience that consisted of advice for the younger generation. The majority of his responses advocated the education of African American youth. McKellar was one of the first African Americans to be a part of the national selling campaign of Pepsi-Cola.

"I would have liked to see someone like Al Sharpton, someone who is current enough, to

answer those questions. The speaker [McKellar] was 92 years old, so he was having problems answering those questions," Charles Cobb, audience member, said. "Other than that, the program was fantastic."

As a member of the MLK Observance planning committee, Professor Jesse C. Swanigan, senior lecturer, finance, felt that it was an excellent idea to have a speaker who had lived during a time that most young people know nothing about.

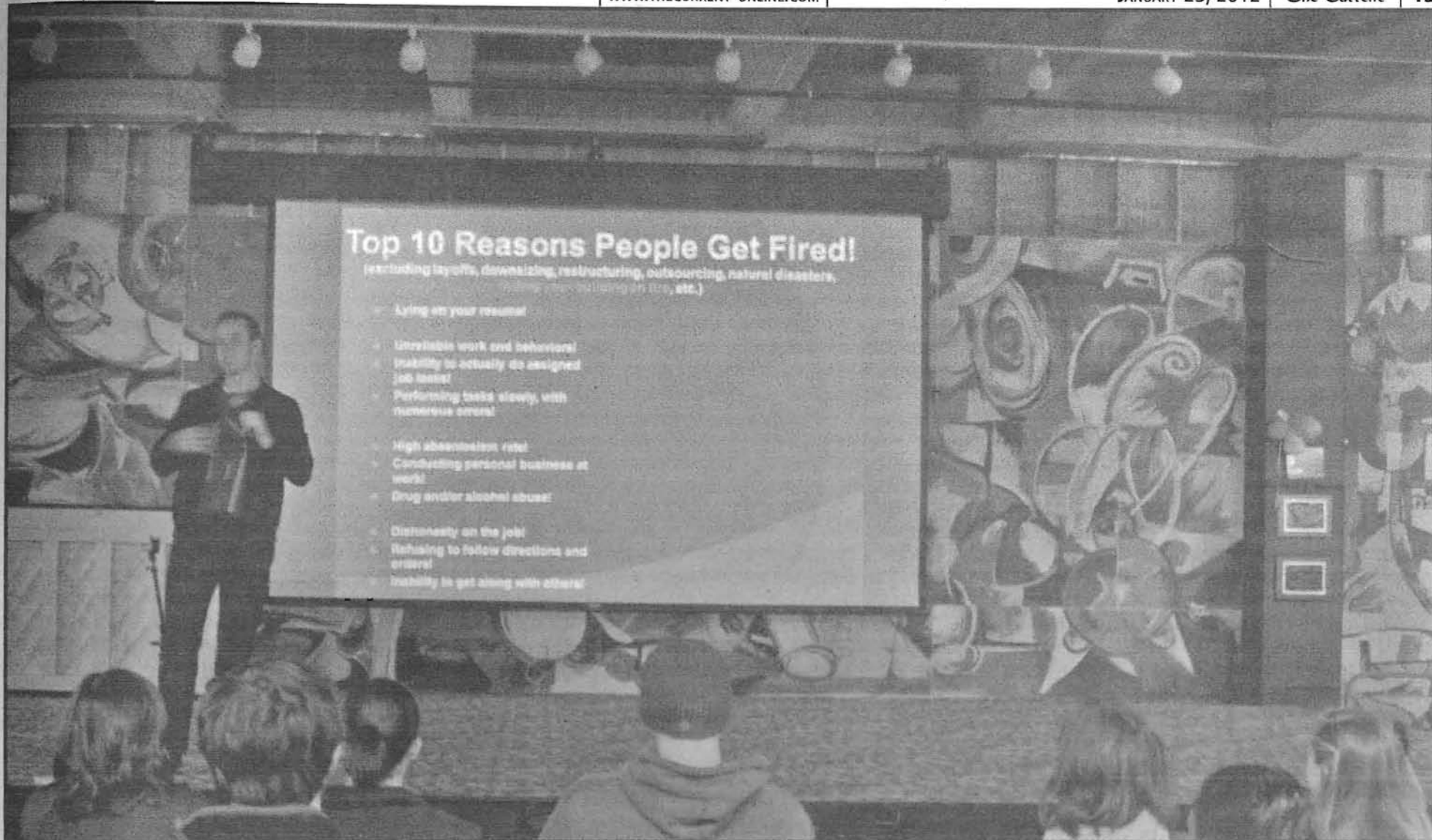
"Those of us who have been around for a while need to try to step back and pass on the responsibility to the young people. We need to let them figure it out so that they can take it to the next level," Swanigan said.

The event concluded

with a performance from the St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church Choir that ended in a standing ovation.

"I thought that the event was very motivational and enlightening. I am thankful that UMSL puts a presentation on of this sort," Kimberly Thomas, audience member, said.

According to Burris, who headed the committee that was in charge of coordinating the celebration, the event's purpose was to reflect on the historical challenges that citizens have faced during the fight for equality while at the same time offering a sense of hope for the future. It looks like the committee was able to successfully get their message across.



Students gathered in the Pilot House on Thursday to see Jeff Havens comedy show, "How To Get Fired."

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

Comedian Jeff Havens entertains and inspires students in Pilot House

SHARON PRUITT

Opinions Editor

The job market can be a threatening place for many college students. How to land an interview, how to get hired and how to fit in and do well in a new workplace are all things that many college graduates worry about when preparing to enter the professional world. In the Pilot House on the evening of January 19, comedian Jeff Havens came to the stage to offer his refreshingly satirical take on the subject of job seeking.

Part comedian, part motivational speaker, Havens mixes a multimedia presentation with a clever, fast-talking monologue to talk to college students not about how to get a job,

but how to lose one in the quickest, most efficient way possible. "How to Get Fired!" is a presentation that offers a dynamic experience for anyone in attendance. Havens combines visual aids with his own whip-smart and charismatic humor in order to talk to students about a well-known fact: the working world functions entirely differently from the realm of college. According to Havens, "all roads lead to unemployment," and throughout the course of the night he offered hilarious tips that are sure to get students well on their way to losing any and all "real jobs" they may have in their adult lives. Tips included how to fabricate

a resume, guidelines for inventing awards, internships, accomplishments, and the quickest way to make your boss want to murder you.

"The speaker was energetic. He reminded me of Dane Cook," Sara Gerbereing, sophomore, business, said. "I would for sure come back to see him again."

"I thought it was educational and funny. [The speaker] kept everyone's attention," Amanda Davis, sophomore, business, said.

Havens utilized audience participation in his routine and spoke to the students with an easy air of familiarity. As a result, the entire night possessed a laid-back atmosphere that only added to the enjoyment of Ha-

vens' presentation.

Finding a job is usually a daunting prospect for many college students, but Havens offered them a chance to laugh at an intimidating task, rather than struggle with the usual anxiety that accompanies the topic. Havens' own background provided a source of inspiration and he spoke candidly about the realities of doing what you love for a living.

"I heard about the event from a friend and we both went together. He was kind of hyper, but it just made the presentation even better," Destiney Southerd, junior, criminal justice, said. "You can tell he has passion for what he is doing."

Havens' unorthodox

methods are not commonly seen. He initially borrows from the canon of more traditional motivational speakers by adopting the energetic, relentlessly positive demeanor commonly found in self-improvement seminars. Havens then adds his own unique twist to the expected, however, by throwing his own fearlessly raunchy humor into the mix. The end result is an evening of relatable humor and entertainment that concludes itself with a healthy dose of motivation, advice and inspiration.

"Searching for comedians, we wanted to find one that would give [students] a good message. This is something that college students can relate to. We are always

looking for events that can bring something to the campus besides entertainment," said Scott Morrissey, programming chair for the University Programming Board. "We wanted to give something that could give back to students something they could use in the field."

Havens is a former English teacher and stand-up comedian who sought to combine his impulse to teach with his love of making people laugh. As a result, many of his presentations are designed to get audiences laughing and learning at the same time. Following "How to Get Fired!" students walked away educated and entertained.

Sports

Men's basketball start new winning streak with a game thriller

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

This season could not get more exciting. Second year University of Missouri - St. Louis Head Coach Steve Tappmeyer has brought in a new team and a new tradition: winning. When he set the pace last year with the largest number of conference victories in school history, Tappmeyer was just getting started.

Tappmeyer has made impressive strides by recruiting, getting transfers, building a strong rotation, and just coaching well on the court.

Of course, talented players also help. Southern Illinois University transfer Troy Long, senior, liberal studies,

is leading the team in points per game (17.2), minutes per game (31.2) and assists (47). Long has been on fire from the three-point line, knocking down 50 shots on the season for a percentage of .475. Cleveland State University transfer Joshua McCoy, junior, communications, is second on the team in points per game (13.5), minutes per game (29) and assists (41). McCoy has also stood out defensively and leads the team in steals (29) as well as a solid contributor on the boards averaging nearly 5 rebounds a game. Another CSU transfer Charlie Woods, junior, psychology, is having a major impact. Woods is third on the team in points per game (10.7),

minutes per game (24.6) and assists (31). He has been the team leader in rebounding, and averages 6.6 rebounds per game. Woods has also had 15 blocks this season.

Junior college transfer Isiah Nunn, junior, communications, has had an important role. Last season at Southwestern Illinois Community College Nunn averaged 4.9 points per game; here at UMSL he is averaging nearly 10 points per game. He attacks the glass (4.9 rebounds per game) and gives shooters trouble (11 blocks).

Returning players Zach Redel, senior, business administration, and Justin Hightower, senior, communications, are also playing

large roles. Both play a lot of minutes; Redel has 19.5 per game and Hightower sits at 22 per game. Redel also leads the team in blocks with 18.

Tappmeyer is getting production from the entire team, and his high work ethic shows in the team's performance. He led his Tritons back onto Chuck Smith Court, where they have not lost this year, and look to rebound from a last second loss at Indianapolis against conference opponent William Jewell.

UMSL got off to a quick start in the game; a 13-2 run to start the game would put the Tritons in the driver's seat. Leading by double digits most of the

first half, UMSL continued to pressure William Jewell, constantly adding to their lead. A 12-6 run by William Jewell cut the UMSL lead to 6 at the break.

The beginning of the second half went back and forth, but the Tritons maintained their strong lead. It was a six minute 17-6 run by William Jewell that gave them a two point lead with just over five minutes to play. William Jewell got their lead up to five, but a three-pointer by McCoy and a fast break layup by Long tied the game with 4 minutes left.

Those last 4 minutes were neck-and-neck, and it looked like the last possession would win the game.

With nine seconds left and the Tritons down by two, Long worked off a screen from Nunn at the top of the perimeter, drove to his left and hit a runner in the paint to give the Tritons a one point lead, which would be good enough to win.

An exciting year just got better for the Tritons. After losing on a buzzer-beater, the Tritons came out and responded by winning one of their own.

UMSL is 12-4 overall, with an outstanding 7-1 conference record at this point. They lead their division and will look to start another winning streak at home against Rockhurst before they go on the road for a game at Quincy.

Steve Tappmeyer is the definition of success as a head coach

ELI DAINS
Staff Writer

Steve Tappmeyer, now in his second season as head coach of the University of Missouri - St. Louis men's basketball team, is a man who knows how to win on the court. Prior to coming to UMSL, Tappmeyer spent twenty-one seasons as the head coach of the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats, posting a 408-208 record, which made him the winningest coach in that school's history. Over that span, his teams achieved ten NCAA tournament berths as well as ten seasons with 20 or more victories.

"Coach Tapp is very intense and detailed as a coach," Tritons assistant coach Luke Crump said. "He wears his emotions on his sleeve, and he approaches practice with so much focus and excitement that his players seem to feed off of him and understand where he is coming from." Tappmeyer's coaching accolades include being named Kodak Coach of the Year after his first season at Northwest, regional coach of the year in 2001 and Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association coach of the year in 1989, 1998, 2001, and 2007.

Last season, his presence

was immediately felt on the Tritons, who posted a 16-11 record - the program's best performance in nearly a quarter-century. They also achieved a winning record (10-8) in the Great Lakes Valley Conference for the first time in team history.

To say that the 2011-2012 Tritons team is off to an exciting start would be a dramatic understatement. Coach Tappmeyer has assembled a team that includes ten players who are new to the program, and they have begun the season with a 12-4 record (7-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference), UMSL's best

start since the 1990-1991 season. The team's success is a testament not only to the spirited performance delivered night in and night out by the Tritons players, but also to the efforts and abilities of their head coach.

As a recruiter, Tappmeyer has already done a superb job, and he has shown a great ability to get the most out of his new players.

Over the off-season he and his staff went and found the pieces for the machine that the Tritons have become, bringing in true freshmen and junior college transfers as well as transfers from other four-year schools. "We look for

guys that come out of good programs that have been coached well, and are used to success and winning," said Tappmeyer when describing what he looks for in a recruit.

Looking forward to the rest of the season, Coach Tappmeyer has confidence in his players, while recognizing that the games only get more difficult from here on. "The league is very tough. We're off to a good start conference-wise, and we set a goal to keep getting better all year long. It's all about being emotionally and physically prepared, and learning from your scouting," Tappmeyer said

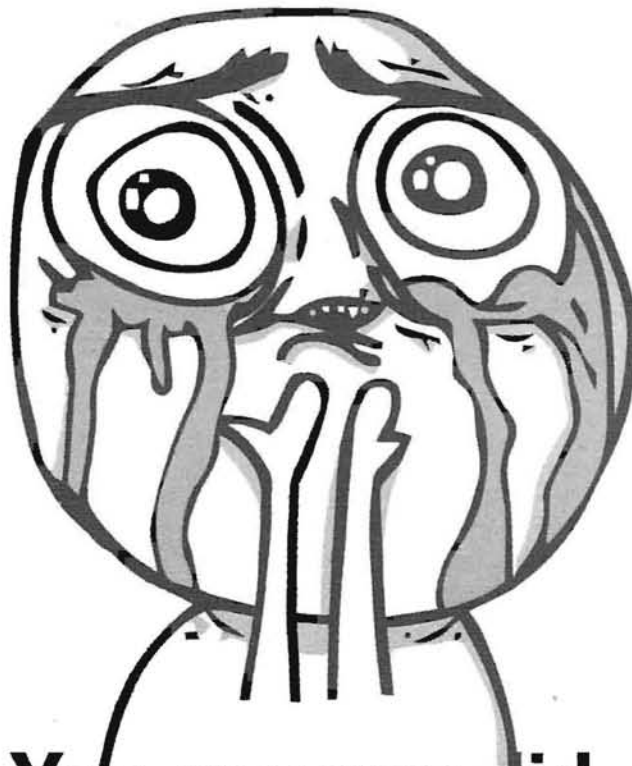
about the team's current standings.

"We are really hoping that people see the success that we are achieving they will get excited about the team," said Coach Tappmeyer, who has made it his goal to get as many fans into the stands as possible. He understands that it is hard to compete for attention in a big city like St. Louis, but still holds out hope that the Tritons' exciting play will draw fans as the 2011-12 campaign comes to a close. As the team finishes out an amazing season, it is our duty as UMSL students to come out and support them.

RAWR!



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Point/Counterpoint



Are celebrities entitled to special measures to ensure their privacy?

Beyonce at fault for hospital drama; she should apologize

Patients who were at the hospital during the birth of Jay-Z and Beyonce's "princess" Blue Ivy are accusing the hospital of neglect. Guests have reported that while Ms. Knowles was under hospital care her security made it impossible for them to enter the neonatal intensive care unit to see their own children. Waiting rooms were also evacuated. So, is the hospital really at fault? Yes.

The hospital was being biased in favor of the privileged, and it would not be the first time. After all, this is coming from a healthcare system where money provides every solution. In this system, the middle and lower classes are clearly looked down upon. Still, the system should at least try to treat everyone fairly. This is not the Oscars or the Grammys; in a hospital, Beyonce is just another new mother and should be treated as such. Her personal security cannot kick someone out of intensive care, or kick guests out of waiting rooms because they happen to be on Beyonce's floor. What's next? Does Beyonce want the other pregnant women's ice chips as well?

People were acting like a biblical event was about to

take place. They were acting like they had never witnessed a pregnancy before.

Pregnant women go to the hospital to achieve one goal: to give birth. It is a painful and stressful process for all involved, and overbearing goons in the hallway are not going to help the birth happen. Hospitals in New York are crowded enough. What would have happened if that particular floor had caught fire and the nurses had to get all of the babies out of the ICU? Would the bodyguards insist that Blue Ivy be released first because she has more to live for? This sounds like a ridiculous scenario, but this situation was ridiculous and extraordinary measures need to be contemplated.

Since Beyonce has given birth and has most likely been made aware of the many complaints that have arisen regarding her security arrangements, it is now time for her to step up and claim responsibility for what went down in that hospital that day. Every one is pointing their fingers at the hospital (as they should) but this would have never happened if she had not been there that day. Of course, she

would never take responsibility, because by admitting that her security was in the wrong she could bring down her current popularity for a day. But should that even be a worry for her? Chris Brown and Mike Tyson have survived by admitting the worst to the public. If the public can forgive wife beaters and thugs then it is certain that they will be able to forget about this particular event eventually.

That doesn't change the fact that Beyonce owes an apology to these people. If the birth of her child was going to cause such a ruckus then she should have had a home birth. The security personnel were lucky that they were dealing with men and not women in the hospital because they would have had a hell of a time telling a woman that she cannot see her child.

It is assumed that the moral of the story is that if you ever plan on getting pregnant, be sure to send your hospital schedule to Beyonce first so that she can verify that your due date is going to cooperate with her own - or the woman in labor could always try to postpone her contractions. How hard could that be?

Celebrities are entitled to ensure safety and privacy

Celebrities are not like normal people. While that may be an unpopular opinion, it's undeniable that they face threats in their everyday lives that most people don't have to deal with. Beyonce has been receiving a lot of criticism due to recent reports that her hired security at the hospital where she gave birth acted rudely in their efforts to keep her protected. Some are claiming that they were even prevented from seeing their own children in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Celebrities live in a world of extreme circumstances; certain measures need to be taken to ensure their safety. The average Joe does not live with the very real threat of violent stalkers and obsessed paparazzi, but for Jay-Z and Beyonce, both of those are a very real concern. In this case, the celebrity in question would be in a weakened state: extra precautions had to be taken in order to protect her from the crazed photographers who would care more about being the first to get a picture of her newborn than the well-being of both herself and her child. The family also had to recognize and accept the threat of

violence and even kidnapping, and do what they felt would ensure their safety. Consider how often maniacs try to steal newborns from hospitals. While this may not be something most new parents worry about, the threat of something like this happening is increased when fame is added to the equation.

Imagine if celebrities had to do things with no security. Can the kindness and sanity of the public really be depended on? Most people aren't interested in stealing celebrity babies or hurting them. However, it is undeniable that there exist an alarming number of people who are interested in those very things, and those interests have had dire consequences in the past. The security Beyonce and Jay-Z hired was not just for show. It's not a matter of ego, but of safety.

It's also highly unlikely that Beyonce was even completely aware of what was happening in other areas of the hospital. She was most likely much more concerned about the fact that she just gave birth. A caesarean section is a major surgery - it can be hard to focus on every move of those who work for her when she's

still hazy from the drugs, recovering from major surgery and adjusting to the sense of wonder that comes with giving birth. It isn't fair to add to that the responsibility of making sure that no other patients in the hospital are inconvenienced because of her presence and the necessary security measures that accompany it.

While it is unfortunate that other patients felt inconvenienced, it's unavoidable in some ways. In these types of situations not everything can go as planned. Beyonce's security detail probably didn't set out to do anything that would keep anyone from seeing their children. However, if there were complaints about their methods, then the hospital should have stepped in and made an executive decision as to what should have been done about the situation.

The hospital accepted her money to rent out an exclusive birthing suite. The hospital allowed her bodyguards and security to secure the area around her in whatever ways they saw fit - and it's the job of the hospital, not Beyonce or any other patient, to make sure that everyone feels taken care of.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Knockout game teens should face consequences for crimes

It's safe to say that every generation feels as if "kids today" are the worst children that have ever been. It's true that as the world around us grows and changes, it sometimes feels as if the ways in which teenagers are getting into trouble evolve as well. This past October, a 51-year-old man named Matt Quain was brutally attacked by a group of teens while walking home from a grocery store in the South Grand area of St. Louis. The unprovoked attack left Quain with a broken jaw, a black eye, and stitches. What happened that night was all part of the "knockout game," a pastime that has been adopted by a disturbing number of teens in the St. Louis area. The game involves the random selection of a victim by a group of kids; they then mercilessly beat the unsuspecting person, usually until they are unconscious.

Worst of all, the teens who were arrested for their involvement in the attack were acquitted in early January when a key witness didn't show for an adjudication hearing in juvenile court. There has been speculation that intimidation was involved; not unlikely, considering the witness in question was a 13-year-old girl and the age of the teens involved in the attack ranged from 12 to 16. Following the news that they would

walk away unpunished, the kids were seen celebrating in the hallway, cheering and high-fiving. The fact that anyone can engage in such violent behavior and then walk away celebrating is both disturbing and outrageous; the fact that some of the people in question were as young as twelve is shivering-inducing.

It's the job of parents to teach their children personal responsibility and instill in them the kind of moral fiber that will allow them to function as responsible adults in society. When the parents aren't doing their job, at what point can the law intervene? It's certainly a loaded question, but something more has to be done in these cases. Treating children as young as twelve as adults while on trial may be somewhat extreme, but the fact remains that if someone doesn't do something (be it the parents or the law), these same kids will end up in the same situations. What's worse is that the chances of being able to successfully help them to become better people will be significantly slimmer. Whether it's requiring family therapy for children who commit violent crimes or a complete restructuring of the corrections process for juveniles, something more has to be done.

When kids intentionally

harm another human being, show no regret and are later able to walk away without any kind of punishment, it's teaching them the wrong lesson: that despite the severity of the crime, punishment may still be avoidable. If the kids in question did play a hand in intimidating the young female witness who never appeared at the hearing, what they're also learning from this is that not only is punishment avoidable, but there are tactics you can use in order to get out of it — and you can get away with those things, too.

What these cruel children need to learn is the inescapable reality that actions have consequences. If their parents or caregivers aren't teaching them these important lessons then may the heavy hand of the law do so before it's too late — not just for them, but for the well-being of the society that, as adults, they will be playing a hand in building. Next time, the unsuspecting man walking home from work may not be lucky enough to walk away from the latest round of their "game" at all.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Jeremy Zschau, Janaca Scherer, Ashley Atkins, Hali Flintrop, Cate Marquis, Sharon Pruitt, Owen Shroyer, and Nikki Vable.

DEFINING MOMENTS

Fight means more than just a few punches on the schoolyard

Boys in a schoolyard sometimes chant "Fight! Fight! Fight!" and find themselves caught up in a silly impulse, that primordial reflex to assert their egos that has existed since the beginning of time. They usually just end up giving the kid in glasses a nosebleed, cutting their lips on their braces and waiting in the principal's office for their mothers.

Mothers show up and punish the brawly schoolboys, which can lead to an entirely new fight. This one is less physical, but emotionally charged. Boys wonder why their mothers cannot just take their sides and understand that the other guy was asking for it. Mothers wonder why boys cannot understand that their punishments are just, because boys are asking for it by fighting in the schoolyard. So mothers fight with boys.

And girls fight with boys, and girls fight with mothers. Mothers fight with other mothers and grandmothers, when they are not busy fighting with fathers, step-fathers and lovers. Fathers fight with other fathers, mothers and fathers' lovers. Everyone fights with mothers-in-law.

The objects of fights can usually be broken down into two categories—resources and loyalty. Resources include such things as food, jobs and foreign oil, while loyalty includes friends, constituents and international alliances. It is all important, but is it

important enough to fight over? Maybe, but only because if everyone was not so compelled to fight there would not be enough to go around, and no one could protect what was already theirs.

If someone stopped fighting first, they would be gambling their resources and loyalties. Anyone who had not yet stopped fighting could just reach out and take what the peaceful one had worked to hold and maintain. Being the first to choose peace and to stop the fight would mean giving up control, and that is just too much to bear for some people.

Fighting allows people to control their environment, which people, organizations and countries obviously need to do to preserve their security. Land, objects and people are needed, because these things in combination are what create security. But it cannot be only security that people fight over, and an abundance of land, objects and people do not necessarily keep one secure.

Look at Great Britain—at one time they had more than enough land under their rule, but they were less secure because their land made them a target. People saw what Britain had and wanted it for themselves; they thought that Britain had more than their fair share. So they fought to take it. Britain could fight back for continued control, but why bother controlling the land any longer? Not for security.



Hali Flintrop

Security can be (and, to the world's credit, often is) fought for, but sometimes security is nowhere to be found in, and does not even touch one's motivation for, entering a conflict. Fighting for control, on the other hand, is always in the right neighborhood. Fighting for security is fighting for control, and it is a just fight. But fighting for control could also be fighting to steal, to hog, to conquer, to exploit.

The world fights a lot. People can shrug and think nothing of it. "Boys will be boys," a father will say of their boy's schoolyard squabble. Boys will be boys, gangs will be gangs and countries will be countries. Everyone fights for control because it's natural, is it not? It is everyone's impulse to fight for their cause, whatever the cause may be. If everyone fights, if everyone does it to each other, it's not so bad.

What's one little punch on the nose? What's a few little gunshots, a couple little bombs, right? Right?

Hali Flintrop is the News Editor and a columnist candidate for The Current.

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

SCIENCE MATTERS

Uncertainty looms where the future of energy is concerned

Recently, University of Missouri - St. Louis economist Lea-Rachel Kosnik spoke about the end of ethanol subsidies on KWMU, the campus' NPR-affiliate radio station.

Actually, ethanol subsidies were always intended to expire. Producing ethanol fuel from corn was never seen as an energy solution. The idea was to subsidize that industry as a stop-gap while the United States launched other alternative energy industries.

Except we never launched them.

Like a procrastinating student given a late-semester deadline, we have done all too little with what time we had. We daydreamed about cheap oil while the world's oil barons continued to gouge us at the pump. Other developed nations (and even rising ones like China) have embraced alternative energy. Germany, a nation with little potential for solar energy, has nonetheless made a big commitment to it, along with wind power. China uses coal now but is investing in solar power for the future.

Unlike these more forward-thinking countries, America has stuck with the old ways - oil and coal. Rather than jump-starting alternative power industries ripe to make the leap into the mainstream, like solar, wind, geothermal, tidal and small hydropower, we wasted time and money researching nowhere-near-ready sources like hydrogen or fantasies like "clean coal." Rather than indulging in these pipe dreams, we should have been resetting fuel-efficiency standards to force electric cars onto the

market and giving incentives for their adoption with big rebates. We should have expanded public transportation by light electric rail.

To power those electric vehicles, we should have promoted a combination of smaller decentralized alternative power generating plants to replace conventional, big centralized power plants. A combination of energy sources would solve the problem of continuous power needs. We should have followed the lead of European countries and even the state of California, which offer incentives to homeowners who add solar panels to their homes. Loans made through power companies for solar panels could have been paid off in excess power generated and sent back to the grid. We could have offered communities grants to build wind power generators or, in Missouri, small hydropower generators, a ready-now, off-the-shelf solution widely used in Alaska.

The problem here, however, is that no one is even seriously considering any real changes like these, despite the jobs they would generate.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the United States decided to speed up the switch from coal to oil by subsidizing the new industry. Doing so allowed oil to be priced lower than the free market price, which allowed it to compete against cheaper coal. The national benefit in hurrying along this transition trumped complaints of socialism - complaints that are once again rearing their ugly head.

A hundred years later,



Cate Marquis

we are still subsidizing oil. Then, it was kick-starting a useful new industry; now, it is regarded as corporate welfare.

We have known for a long time that the end was coming for cheap oil. It is a finite resource, and tapping ever more expensive and dirty sources, like tar sands, will still mean a dwindling supply and rising prices.

This country first started talking about moving away from oil under President Nixon, when the U.S. ceased to be an exporter of oil and became a net importer. Back in the 1970s, the issue was not global warming but energy independence and national security. The U.S. acknowledged that we could not drill our way out of the situation. Many looked to new alternatives like solar and wind but those industries were new and still experimental in the 1970s.

That has changed now. Alternative energy sources are ready to go, just lacking a little help to reach economies of scale and a change of national mindset, much like the early oil industry.

We may have subsidized the wrong energy industry for too long.

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

MAD WORLD

"Blokes only" brewery contest ignores obvious: women brew, too

Women and beer go way back. In medieval England, women were the masters of the drink world; a skilled, friendly hostess was essential to the successful running of a tavern. In 1696, women were managing a third of the taverns in colonial Boston. Since beer was brewed in the kitchen, it was even considered to be women's work. So why was the aptly named Rachel Beer banned from entering a brewery contest in her hometown of Queenstown, New Zealand? According to the Lake Hayes A&P Show in Queenstown, it was because the contest was for "blokes only."

Trying to keep women out of bars isn't a new trend. California still had laws that prohibited women from serving whiskey as recently as the 1970s. Rachel Beer, however, is one of the many women today who are brewers, either professionally or as a hobby. Today, the beer scene is largely considered to be a welcoming environment for anyone who is passionate about the process of brewing and who possesses an appreciation for the craft. However, that may come as a shock to many who associate beer drinking with high school students behind the bleachers and frat boys doing keg stands. Drinking beer, or even being involved with the production or selling of alcohol, just isn't viewed as traditionally feminine behavior, despite the recorded history

that suggests otherwise.

The gendered marketing of liquor companies plays a large part in this phenomenon. Beer advertisements typically sell the kind of caricatured hyper masculinity that is seen more often in these commercials than in reality. Beer targeted at women is largely unheard of, and when it does exist, it borrows the same old tropes we see in other advertisements aimed at women. "Chick Beer," a brand of beer marketed exclusively towards women, uses the image of a little black dress on its bottles. The cardboard case for its bottled six-packs is designed to look like a purse. It is, of course, a light beer.

Lake Hayes A&P Show's rule is steeped in the notion that beer and dark liquor is for men while women, if they drink at all, stick to the lighter, more colorful drinks. The idea itself is a testament to the sneaky way that gender stereotyping finds its way into many facets of our daily lives. From the food we eat to the drinks we order at the bar, from the colors of the clothes we're dressed in as infants to the magazines that are targeted towards us, gender stereotypes are hard to escape. This can be most easily seen in advertising, where one would be hard pressed to find a commercial that doesn't attempt to sell their product by appealing to the stereotypical needs of a certain gender.



Sharon Pruitt

Many advertisements for food products attempt to appeal to that which society tells us should be important to women: the most common being the pursuit of physical attractiveness (which is usually tied to weight). Yogurt commercials sell women a smaller waistline; they sell the idea that one day the woman watching at home can achieve a physical ideal with the help of their product. Advertisements aimed at men tend to appeal to what is perceived as being masculine in today's society: strength, power, and the (successful) pursuit of women. Car commercials sell the promise of a girl in the passenger seat just as much as they sell the car.

Beer is a beverage, something to be consumed and enjoyed, so why is a certain gender viewed as a requirement needed to brew it and do it well? That's a question the Lake Hayes A&P Show has yet to answer.

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
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Horoscopes

CURRENT HOROSCOPES by The Inane Collective
altered by:
The Viscious Rendings of the Office Baboon Intern



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

If you find yourself wondering this week, "What is the secret codename of the flying surprise hugger?" keep in mind that he/she/it does not particularly take kindly to investigations.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Take some time this week to exfoliate your skin. To be more specific, walk on some hot sand. Those "feet" of yours are starting to get awfully pungent. Please, do something about that odor.



ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You claim to have been a marvelous actor when you were younger. In reality, the teacher was just one of those types who enjoyed the company of any human being and loved your attention.



TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Sue Bickland went to high-school with you. He happened to play the lead in every play and get perfect grades. He was also a star athlete. How did he do it? Mass hysteria and insomnia. Victory is yours!



GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Your dreams are getting odd. You were recently arrested and forced to drive to your place of occupation, which was more extravagant than you remember. This may be a prophetic dream - or not.



CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Keep in mind that driving like an undiagnosed schizophrenic will not likely keep the cops off your tail. In fact, they're probably more likely to pull you over if you are looking over your shoulder every three seconds.



LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

When fed song lyrics by that googly-eyed young man, keep in mind that he has likely memorized the entire set simply for the purpose of getting one thing from you - he wants your puppy dog. Poor Fido.



VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Huckleberries aren't real? Koalas are actually marsupials? What are these horrible things of which you speak? How is it that any of this is true? Wait. Only the second is true? Well, that changes things.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Sherlock Holmes will finally meet his match this week - The Army of Squealing Fangirls. Quite frankly, nobody can handle fangirls. Even I can't handle fangirls and I am nothing more than a voice.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Oranges and summer sausages, while theoretically nutritionally balanced and sound, really is not the best diet to live off. Try throwing in some cheese and milk. That will work better.



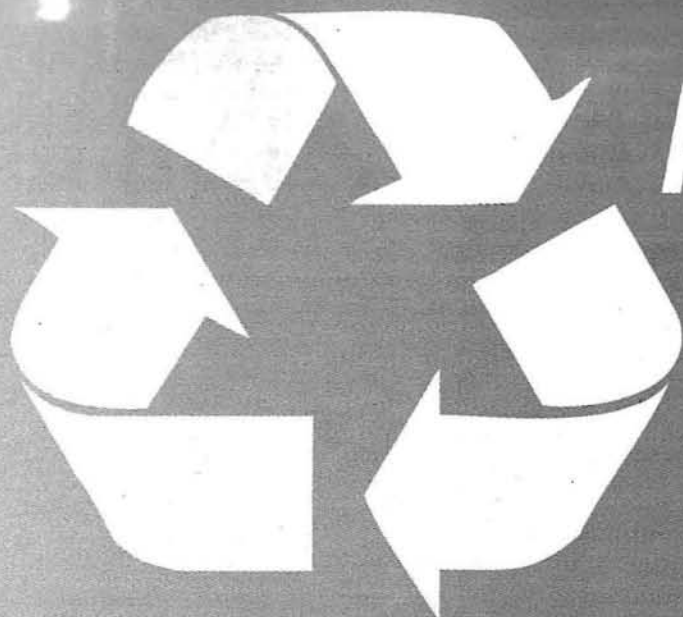
SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Satan escaped his cage this week, but fear not. There is a simple solution to this problem; simply refuse to give him any attention and he will go away - America's method of dealing with problems!



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Everything is gonna be alright. So kick back, relax a bit and be satisfied that, for this week at least, your horoscope has somehow been saved from the viscious rendings of the office baboon.



**After all is read and done,
Please Recycle!**

-Your friends at The Current

Comics

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars

This semester is going to be awful! I'm going to fail everything and it will be a disaster and then the Sun will explode and the world will end all because I'm not cut out for this! I signed up for too much and I have to present to the class in May and I'll goof it up and be ridiculed! Woe is me!



Beginning of the semester

Everything went much better than expected... Again. I guess I worry too much. Besides, next semester is going to be the real soul-shattering disaster...



End of the semester

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