

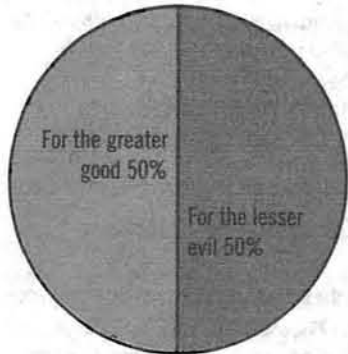
# the Current

UMSL's independent student news

## Last week's poll question:

Do you feel like you'll be voting more for the candidate you support or against his opponent in the upcoming election?

## Results:



## This week's poll question:

Is it only appropriate for children to wear costumes for Halloween?

Be heard in this week's poll by weighing in at: [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

## the Current Under

Do you watch the presidential debates? Why or why not?



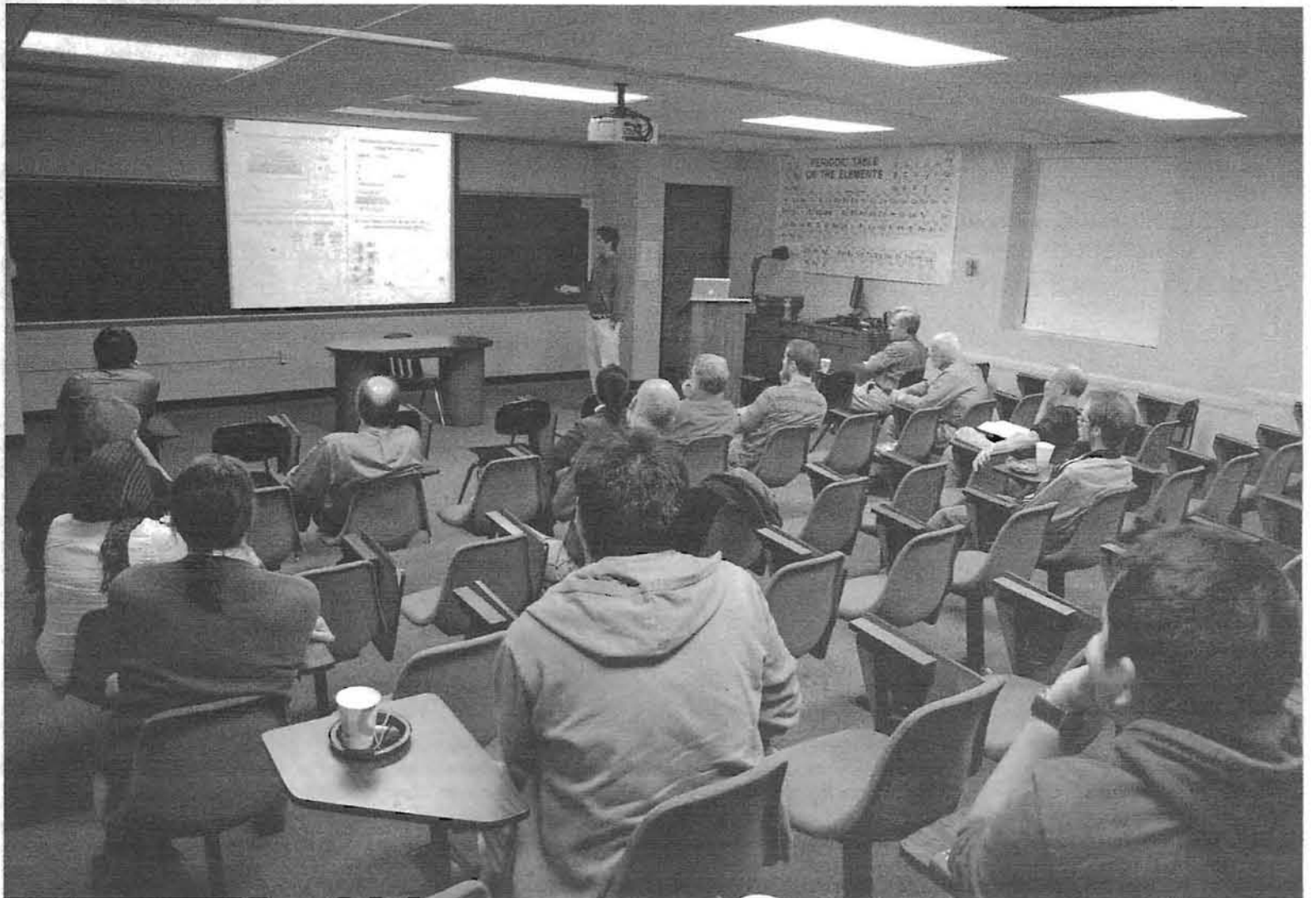
"No. I get enough static on my newsfeed." —Kaylyn Bauer, freshman, biochemistry and psychology



"Yes. It is important to stay informed whether or not you follow politics. It's also valuable to absorb their opinions so that your choice of political figure is reinforced." —Madeline Taylor, freshman, biology



"No. I don't watch the presidential debates because I don't really care about politics." —Liz Hampton, freshman, secondary education



Advanced Material for Energy Storage at Benton Hall 451.

Photo by Yeseul Park/The Current

# Two guest lectures spotlight science on campus this week

CATE MARQUIS  
Editor-in-Chief

Two campus events put a spotlight on science this week at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

One was a talk by the associate director of the Center for Nanoscience at UMSL on emerging materials for energy storage. The other was the College of Optometry's annual Fechner Day, when the college hosts a guest speaker and traditionally celebrates with German chocolate cake in honor of Gustav Fechner, a 19th-century German scientist whose discoveries are important to optometry.

"Advanced Materials for Energy Storage" was the title of the talk given by Eric Majzoub, associate professor in physics and astronomy at UMSL and associate director at the Center for Nanoscience, on Oct. 18 from 12:45 to 2 p.m. in Benton Hall 451.

The lecture was sponsored by the UMSL chapter of Sigma Xi. Sigma Xi is a non-profit international research society that promotes science and honors scientific achievement. They also publish the award-winning American Scientist magazine.

Majzoub's research in materials physics has focused on design of new materials for energy storage, among others. His current work is centered on hydrogen. His work in this field has been featured in popular press publications Fuel Cell Review, where "An evolving strategy on hydrogen storage" was the cover story June 2006, and Chemical and Engineering

News, where the August 2005 issue included "Filling up with hydrogen." Majzoub recently received a \$2 million Department of Energy grant for "Tunable Thermodynamics and Kinetics for Hydrogen Storage: Nanoparticle Synthesis using Ordered Polymer Templates."

*Research ranges from potential cancer treatment drugs to catalysts and structures for alternative energy.*

The Center for Nanoscience, located in the William L. Clay building next to Benton Hall, studies the very small. It was founded as the Center for Molecular Electronics but was renamed in 2007 to better reflect the research done there. The CNS promotes collaboration among scientists and engineers at the university and in industry and takes an interdisciplinary approach with faculty, including chemists, physicists, biologists, biochemists and materials scientists. Research ranges from potential cancer treatment drugs to catalysts and structures for alternative energy.

The other big science event on campus this week was the

College of Optometry's annual Fechner Day lecture. This year, the featured speaker was Dr. Jacob Sivak, professor emeritus in optometry and vision science at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Sivak's talk, "Finding the Causes and the Means to Prevent Myopia," was presented Oct. 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Millennium Student Center Century Room C.

This was the eleventh annual Fechner Day that the optometry college has celebrated. As has been their tradition, the talk by their guest speaker was followed by the serving of German chocolate cake. Fechner Day honors Gustav Fechner, a German experimental psychologist who lived from 1801 to 1887. Fechner was one of the founding figures of experimental psychology and the founder of psychophysics. His work included studies of how the brain perceives physical stimuli, including vision, and he was the discoverer of the Fechner color effect, in which colors seem to appear in a moving black and white pattern. Fechner Day takes place to mark his discovery of Fechner's Law. Optometrists use one of Fechner's methods in measuring visual acuity.

The College of Optometry was established in 1980 while Dr. Arnold Grobman was chancellor at UMSL. Grobman, a scientist who passed away this summer and for whom the drive in front of the MSC is named, was instrumental in bringing optometry to this campus. It is the only optometry school in the state.

# 'The Cuban Guy' inspires UMSL

PAUL PEANICK  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 18 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center auditorium, motivational speaker and gifted orator Andres Lara fired up the audience with his enthusiasm. Lara, "The Cuban Guy," was the keynote speaker for the University of Missouri-St. Louis leadership summit. Lara's incredible story is a powerful example of how will and action combine to change a life. Lara applied humorous use of acronyms such as OYA and ASS in combination with a well-executed visual presentation and performance.

Lara grew up in Cuba, a socialist nation in the Caribbean. At the age of 16, he decided to

*Arriving in Florida in 1996 as a penniless Cuban teenager without any English, Lara completed college and was a millionaire within 10 years.*

escape. Leaving his entire family behind and unable to even say goodbye for fear of government informants, he secretly fled the island with 30 other people. They left on a primitive, homemade raft under cover of darkness. Their goal was to make the perilous 90-mile journey across the sea to Florida.

Countless Cubans have died attempting this crossing in recent decades. Such escapes are not taken lightly by Cuban authorities; had Anders and the other people on the small boat been captured, they would have faced death or imprisonment. Despite these risks, Lara knew that he could become someone greater, and he was not going to let anything get in his way. The story of his success is an inspiring and motivating tale that he has continued sharing.

Arriving in Florida in 1996 as a penniless Cuban teenager without any English, Lara completed college and was a millionaire within 10 years. He founded several companies and is now Chief Executive Officer

of A. Success Training, Inc. Anders uses his story and gift for oratory to show others that they, too, can accomplish what is seemingly impossible. "You just have to let go of anyone, anything that stops you," Lara said. "You need to see the big picture and pursue your passions. Don't let anyone or anything stop you or tell you that you can't do it. A millionaire is made every 60 seconds in this country [the USA], and why can't that person be you? The minute you are willing to let go of whatever is stopping you—be it friends, family, relationships, fear of rejection—and just go, you are already there."

(continued on page 4)

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www.thecurrent-online.com

# 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.

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## Crimeline

**THEFT – LUCAS/ QUAD AREA**  
Oct. 15, 7:46 a.m.  
Report # 12-484.  
Flowers and bushes were discovered taken from the Quad area between Oct. 12 and Oct. 15. Disposition: Report taken.

**THEFT – WEST DRIVE**  
Oct. 15, 2 p.m.  
Report # 12-485.  
An UMSL student reported that between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. someone stole the parking permit from their parked car. Disposition: Report taken.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT – MANSION HILL APARTMENTS**  
Oct. 15, 7:26 p.m.  
Report # 12-486.  
A non-student reported they were sexually assaulted by an

acquaintance on Oct. 14. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

**THEFT – OAK HALL**  
Oct. 17, 8:58 p.m.  
Report # 12-491.  
An UMSL student reported the theft of a 40" television left in a common lounge. Disposition: Report taken.

**FRAUDULENT CHECK – MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER BOOKSTORE**  
Oct. 18, 12:30 p.m.  
Report # 12-494.  
A bookstore employee reported receiving a bad check that was passed with a false ID. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

### Monday, October 22

**Monday Noon Series: "Learning to Learn through Chess"**  
Alex Vergilesov, scholastic coordinator at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, discusses the Club and its partner, the World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. at J. C. Penney Conference Center. Matt Barrett, chess instructor and foreign language teacher, examines the artistic and educational value of chess as a cross-cultural language and mechanism for community growth. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

### Justice Cafe

Concerned about global issues? Committed to a spirituality that does justice? Gather for discussion of social justice issues connected to faith, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in MSC Century Rm C, sponsored by Catholic Newman Center. Bring a sack lunch. For information, contact Rachelle Simon at 314-385-3455.

### Murder Mystery Dinner

Morticia and Gomez have invited some goulsh guests to celebrate the Halloween season when they discover their neighbor has been murdered. Be part of the audience, 7 - 9 p.m. in Century Rooms. Who knows, you could be cast as Freddy Krugger or Jason or Casey Anthony may even show up. Free dinner will be provided. For information, contact Shatera Davis or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

### Debate Watch Party

Join other UMSL students and faculty for a Presidential Debate Watch Party, 7:30 - 10 p.m. in TV lounge next to the Nosh, on the lower level of MSC. Co-sponsored by The Current and the Political Science Academy. Event starts at 7:30 p.m. with debate trivia, before the debate at 8 p.m. There will be post-debate discussion and light snacks will be provided. For more information, visit The Current website at www.thecurrent-online.com or email The Current at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu.

### Tuesday, October 23

#### Creepy Cash Shuttle

UPB is bringing back the Cash Shuttle but with a twist! The Creepy Cash Shuttle will pose questions to test your Halloween knowledge, on random shuttle buses throughout the day. Do you have what it takes to ride the Creepy Cash Shuttle? For information, contact Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

#### Office of Multicultural Relations' Mid-term Stress Break

Description: The Office of Multicultural Relations invites you to participate in our Mid-term Stress Break, noon - 2 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms and Third Floor Rotunda. Come have fun and de-stress by enjoying massages, professional make-overs, zumba class, line dancing, mindful meditation, healthy living tips, food, games and more. For information, contact Rochelle DeClue at (314)516-5532

### Wednesday, October 24

#### Ferguson Lunch Trolley

The Ferguson Lunch Trolley provides free round-trip shuttle service to Ferguson Citywalk restaurants for lunch on Wednesdays. The trolley will make four continuous loops between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sandwich board signs will be placed at trolley pickup sites: Woods Hall (west side), MSC (east side), and Marillac Hall (main entrance). For information, contact Mary Haux at 314-332-5546.

### Thursday, October 25

#### "What Is A City?" conference: "How Art Builds Community"

The Center for the Humanities invites you to join speakers from across the Midwest and St. Louis in exploring the power of art to effect changes in urban neighborhoods and communities at the annual "What is a City?" conference, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. at J.C. Penney Conference Center in Summit Lounge. The majority of artists live in cities and their work often addresses urban concerns of health, happiness, diversity, security, freedom of expression, and a sustainable environment. For information, contact Diana Rehagen at 314-516-6590.

#### UMSL Month of Giving 2012 Celebration prize drawing

October is UMSL Month of Giving and today at 12:30 p.m. is first random drawing for incentive prizes for donations of \$25 or more, in MSC Nosh. Learn more about the UMSL Month of Giving, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in MSC, an UMSL annual community outreach giving campaign for United Way and Community Health Charities and fundraising efforts by student organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.umsl.edu/monthofgiving/> or contact Patricia Zahn at [zahnp@umsl.edu](mailto:zahnp@umsl.edu).

#### Higher Education, Access and Equity Film Series

The student debt crisis is an issue that impacts everyone. Alan Byrd, the Dean of Enrollment Services at UMSL and Alice Floros, a UMSL student, will discuss how this issue impacts the UMSL community. We will watch and discuss a short film called "The Price of Admission," 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Boeing Room, Technology and Learning Center at Marillac Hall. This event is the kick-off of a yearlong series on this important topic. Dr. Rebecca Rogers is the faculty sponsor for this session: [rogersr@umsl.edu](mailto:rogersr@umsl.edu). For information, contact Alice Floros at 314-600-1890.

#### Laser Tag, Demoball & Pizza

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a Lazer Tag & Demolition Ball Party at the Adrenaline Zone in St. Charles, 6 - 10 p.m. This free event includes games, pizza, soda and transportation. Participants must register in advance. Call the Campus Rec Office, 314-516-5326, or visit them at 203 Mark Twain Building.

### Chris Carter: Mentalist

As part of UPB's Creepy Week, enjoy getting your mind blown away by Chris Carter, Mentalist, 7 - 9 p.m. in Pilot House in MSC. Carter will astound and amaze with his awesome talents of observation, which will leave you asking, "How'd he do that?" For information, contact Erin Potts or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

### "In the Blood" play presented by UMSL Dept. of Theater, Dance, & Media Studies

The Theater Department presents "In the Blood" with performances from Thursday, Oct. 25, through Sunday, Oct. 28, in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This 2000 Pulitzer Prize-nominated play is a modern day re-interpretation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter and was written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright of Top Dog Under Dog Suzan-Lori Parks. Parks uses themes from Hawthorne's text to bring a modern story of poverty and oppression to life. For mature audiences. Tickets are \$5 for students with school ID and \$10 for general public. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

### Friday, October 26

#### Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Plaza Dedication

Dedication ceremony 10 - 11 a.m. for the Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Plaza, honoring the legacy of Dr. Barnett, who served as UMSL Chancellor, 1986-1990. Barnett was a visionary who believed urban universities should connect community and campus resources in support of education. She established the Partners for Progress initiative which included the Bridge Program, the award winning program that continues today to provide unique and comprehensive year-round pre-college programming for underserved high school students and parents. For information, contact Deborah Tansil Graham at 314-516-4165.

#### Experience St. Louis: Wolf Sanctuary

UPB offers a Campfire Wolf Howl at Endangered Wolf Center to howl at the moon, communicate with another species and experience the wilderness in the moonlight. The shuttle will leave Provincial House at 6:15pm. A sign up sheet will be available at the Office of Student Life and a \$5 deposit will be required but will be refunded at the event. For information, contact Erin Potts or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

#### "Annie" musical presented by Variety Children's Theatre

Variety Children's Theatre will present the musical "Annie" from Thursday, Oct. 26, through Sunday, Oct. 28, in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall, Touhill PAC. Variety Children's Theatre allows children of all abilities learn theatre skills from seasoned professionals, on-stage and backstage. Discount student and faculty/staff tickets available. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

### Saturday, October 27

#### Haunted house tickets for sale by UPB

UPB is reselling 50 tickets to The Darkness haunted house for only \$10 each. Students only need to come to the Office of Student Life, 366 MSC, and pay for the tickets. For information, contact Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

#### "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk/Run

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk/Run will honor breast cancer survivors, remember loved ones and raise awareness, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Forest Park, Upper Muny Level parking lot. Go to the website [http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=47458&pg=entry](http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=47458&pg=entry) to join the Colleges Against Cancer team and sign up to walk/run/ or make a monetary donation. For information, contact Lisa L. Taylor at 314-516-6074.

#### "Trunk-Or-Treat" family Halloween event

"Trunk or Treat" is a Halloween event geared toward UMSL families and the surrounding community, noon - 2 p.m. at the MSC South Garage, near UMSL North Metrolink, that is intended to provide a safe and fun way for families to enjoy Halloween festivities. There will be various activities and informational booths, followed by "trunk-or-treating," where children go from car trunk to trunk getting treats. For information, contact Ashlee Roberts at 314-516-5291.

#### Greek Studies Conference: "Greece and the Balkan Wars"

UMSL Greek Studies and International Studies are sponsoring the conference "Greece and the Balkan Wars: 100 Years from the Liberation of Macedonia," 1 - 5 p.m., in MSC Century Room A, with a reception 5 - 6 p.m. celebrating the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Macedonia and Greek Independence Day. The conference features distinguished historians will discuss important issues of the Balkan Wars. Both the conference and the reception are free and open to the public. For information, contact Bob Ell at 314-516-7299.

#### Little Monsters Cinema: "Monster House"

Bring your little monsters to campus to enjoy a movie and fun fall snacks, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in SGA Chambers of MSC. Parents, guardians, etc. MUST be present. For information, contact Ashlee Roberts at 314-516-5291.

### Sunday, October 28

#### Day at the Museum: Wax Museum trip

Join UPB in a journey through the Wax Museum in St. Louis. Oct. 28, 1 - 4 p.m., part of our Creepy Week. The bus will leave from Provincial House at 1 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Office of Student Life. A \$5 refundable deposit is required to sign up. For information, contact Marissa Steimel or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.



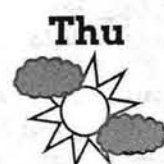
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Low: 62



High: 83  
Low: 62



High: 80  
Low: 63



High: 80  
Low: 51



High: 57  
Low: 38



High: 52  
Low: 35



High: 50  
Low: 32

# News

## German department kaput with no funds

HALI FLINTROP  
Opinions Editor

Earlier this semester, the University of Missouri- St. Louis German department in the College of Arts and Sciences revealed that it planned to phase out the upper-level options of the university's German language program, starting immediately and lasting until Spring 2014.

Starting in August, students will be unable to major or minor in German, and modern language majors will no longer be able to pursue an emphasis in German. The phasing-out process was designed to allow most or all of the current German majors and minors to be able to complete their German coursework at UMSL. However, students must finish their coursework for a German major or minor by Spring 2014. Students can use the Campus Exchange agreement between UMSL, St. Louis University and Washington University to procure German credits. Entry-level courses in German will still be available for students to take to meet their foreign language requirements.

The cuts to the German department are the result of an endowment expiring. This endowment paid for the salary of the department's permanent faculty, and the College of Arts and Sciences is unable to assume payment of German faculty salaries. With no funding coming in to replace that endowment to support the German department, it was determined that the College of Arts and Sciences would be able to support only one part-time German faculty member, not enough to lead a full department.

Kersten Horn, assistant teaching professor, German, is a faculty member who is now in his seventh year of teaching paid by the endowment.

"I was hired in Fall 2006 for an endowed position funded with a gift from Ingeborg M. Goess," Horn said. "The position is a non-tenure-track position. Most non-tenure-track faculty members are on annual contracts ... Enough money was endowed to pay for my position for six years with enough interest earned for the current seventh year.

"The expectation when the position was endowed was that the College of Arts and Sciences would begin funding my position after the endowment had run out ... Now that the money will run out for my position, the College does not want to start having to pay for it out of its own budget ... Since the State of Missouri has

made significant cuts to its funding of higher education since the beginning of the economic downturn, the College has had to make deep cuts year after year as well. If the College wanted to start funding the German position out of its own budget, money would have to be cut elsewhere to pay for it."

Though the situation is logistically difficult, Horn believes that the loss of intermediate and upper level German at UMSL is bad for the university. According to Horn, it will make UMSL appear less attractive to students who are interested in German and decrease UMSL's standing among other similar universities.

"I think it's important to remember that the college is not getting rid of the German program due to declining

*According to Horn, [the loss of the German language program] will make UMSL appear less attractive to students who are interested in German and decrease UMSL's standing among other similar universities*

enrollments," Horn said. "Our enrollment numbers have remained pretty steady over the last several years. Instead, we're losing the German program because the college does not want to start paying for the full-time German position out of its own budget. Other languages with fewer students will continue being taught by full-time faculty members. The difference is that the college does [not currently] pay for the German full-time position out of its own pocket, and now that the outside funding has run out, the college does not want to start assuming the cost."

Beth Landers, (continued on page 7)

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

JIMMY ARTHUR  
Staff Writer

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As part of their Survivor Series, the Office of Student Life hosted "A Family's Loss: The Amanda Cates Story" on Oct. 15. The Survivor Series is a series of events

that are held on campus throughout the month to bring awareness of domestic violence and its effects. An audience gathered in the Museum Room in the Provincial House to listen as the family of Amanda Cates discussed their experiences.

Amanda was a police (continued on page 7)

*Those in the audience who were involved in abusive relationships in the past also shared their experiences and what helped them get out of violent situations.*

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# Features

## Nick Walker back in school, dreaming big

ANYA GLUSHKO  
Features Editor

Many college-age students are not sure of what they want to do with their lives. They are faced with many crucial choices such as whether they should stay in school or move on to their independent lives.

Nick Walker, junior, theater and dance, is a transfer student at University of Missouri-St. Louis who decided to go into higher education instead of following in his father's footsteps and becoming an iron worker.

"My parents are very proud of me; every day I get some kind of praise," Walker said. Walker will be the second person in his family to graduate from college. His cousin, Ebony Fleming, graduated from UMSL last semester with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

*"If you put your mind towards success, then you can do anything. You just have to keep your goals in mind no matter what." — Walker*

During his sophomore year, Walker started working at UPS to make some money and move out of his grandparents' house.



"I tried to live life like others told me to live," Walker said. But later, he decided to keep his focus on school. "You need an educational background, and through college you learn essential life skills," he said.

In his freshman year at Northwest Missouri State University, Walker was a computer science major. "I just didn't feel comfortable with my major in my first semester at UMSL. I went to work and studied, and I didn't have any extra time. It was all just work and school and nothing else," he said.

Walker's parents encouraged him to stay in school and continue his education. (continued on page 7)

## UMSL and the ongoing Penn State controversy

ALBERT NALL  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 17 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center, a group of panelists addressed an audience of approximately 80 people on the subject of "Lessons Learned from Penn State." The panel focused on child abuse as well as ways to protect children and communities from child molestation. The event was the first installment of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Helen and Will Carpenter Series, which focuses on contemporary American issues.

The focus of the panel discussion was the controversy caused by the Penn State child abuse scandal that broke in late 2011. Penn State's former assistant coach, Jerry Sandusky, was indicted on 52 counts of child molestation dating from 1994 to 2009; the allegations may have dated as far back as the 1970s. The scandal resulted in the controversial firing of Penn State football coach Joe Paterno and the resignation of school president Graham Spanier.

Jerry Dunn, an academic director of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, was the moderator for the panel event. The panel also included detectives, legislators and other child advocacy experts.

Dunn cited a 267-page report on the Penn State scandal, saying that Penn State failed to investigate allegations against Sandusky because doing so would bring bad press to the school. Ron Yasin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, assembled the panel and facilitated the discussion. Yasin is currently seeking approval for a child advocacy certificate at UMSL.

"Few universities in the United States have a child advocacy center as part of their vision," Yasin said. "Children's Advocacy Services at UMSL is a nationwide model for a child advocacy center that is embedded within a university."

Detective Tony Cavaletti of the St. Louis County Police Department's Child Abuse and Neglect Unit was the first panelist to address the audience. He said that victims

of molestation often do not disclose the abuse for years. This is often due to the long process of bringing charges against abusers.

*"Few universities in the United States have a child advocacy center as part of their vision... Children's Advocacy Services at UMSL is a nationwide model for a child advocacy center that is embedded within a university." — Yasin*

"What the issue of child molestation comes down to are the perceptions others may have of the victim," Cavaletti said. "The victims are concerned about what their friends might think. Also, the victim may feel that parents will not believe them. A victim has less of a chance of remembering details, and this gives the suspect an alibi."

Natalie Warner, an assistant circuit attorney in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, said that children often do not know that the crime of sexual abuse has happened to them.

"The key to proving cases is for multiple victims to come forward and disclose abuse, as well as getting other eyewitnesses to testify in cases," Warner said.

Panelists addressed (continued on page 7)

## "The Cuban Guy" speaks

After introducing himself, Lara had every row of audience members form lines and massage one another's necks. After thanking one another, they were instructed to high-five 20 people whom they never met before. "Whomever you last gave a high-10, that's your partner!" Lara said.

Members then sat next to their partners, regardless of age, gender or acquaintance. The entire audience was moved to the front of the auditorium so that no spaces were between them. All of this was to shake up the audience's comfort zone in order to show that a person chasing a dream cannot let anything stop them.

"Repeat after me: OYA!" the speaker pronounced. "Get off your anatomy and take action!"

Lara held up a \$20 bill and asked who would like to have it. Hands were raised throughout the auditorium as Lara repeated. "What do you need to do, then? Get off your anatomy and...? Take action!"

Within a few tries a girl in the front row jumped to her feet, snatching the money from Lara and earning a loud "Yes!" from the speaker.

"I felt a little awkward sitting next to someone I didn't know," Madison Hines, freshman, early childhood behavior, said. "But during the event, I got the point. We can't let little

things get in the way of our goals. You just have to go for it. It's a powerful message."

After calling up a volunteer—Nicole Shellum, senior, psychology—he handed her a phone book and asked her to tear it in half.

"How do you accomplish your dream? Get off your anatomy and take action in small steps," Lara said.

Shellum was able to rip the phone book apart a page at a time and cast the pages about before bowing and returning to her seat.

"I was very glad to be there, and I would do it again," Shellum said. "He made some great points."

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2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

- 6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
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# A&E

*'Local Business' tries to impress through raw power, and for the most part it succeeds.*

## Titus Andronicus grows up for 'Local Business'

DAVID VON NORDHEIM  
A&E Editor

The term "highly anticipated follow-up" has long functioned as the albatross of the music press. It all but guarantees that artists' latest works will not be judged on their own merits, but rather mercilessly pitted against critics' nostalgia for their previous releases. Any innovation or deviation from their established sound will be deemed heresy; likewise, a rigid adherence to the template of their most beloved work will be declared artistic stagnation. It is an absurd tradition that has killed many a great album in the cradle, only for it to be excavated years later when the critics sheepishly admit that it was actually pretty decent.

Into this critical lion's den enters "Local Business," the "highly anticipated follow-up" to Titus Andronicus's 2010 opus "The Monitor." An incredibly ambitious album by any standard, "The Monitor" was a hardcore punk epic conceptually framed around the American Civil War. It was a clever premise, linking the self-destructive mentality of American history's most turbulent chapter to the monologues of self-doubt and internal conflict which characterize postmodern punk rock.

"Local Business," by contrast, is a much simpler affair, with all of the benefits and disadvantages that come with parsimony. Lacking the gimmicky conceptual framework of "The Monitor," "Local Business" tries to impress through raw power, and for the most part it succeeds. It is more approachable than its occasionally self-indulgent predecessor, which all but guarantees that it will be coldly received by many hard-nosed punk snobs.

But this album was not made for them anyway, and more open-minded listeners will find that Titus

Andronicus does, in fact, make several bold adjustments to their vaguely folk-inflected brand of hardcore. Largely forsaking the Pogues-inspired protest punk of their previous albums, "Local Business" is a tight, focused blast of left-of-center pub rock. Vocalist Patrick Stickles sounds far less vitriolic (and alcoholic) here, his drunken caterwaul substituted for a purposeful, mid-range sneer which sounds strangely similar to Modest Mouse's Isaac Brock.

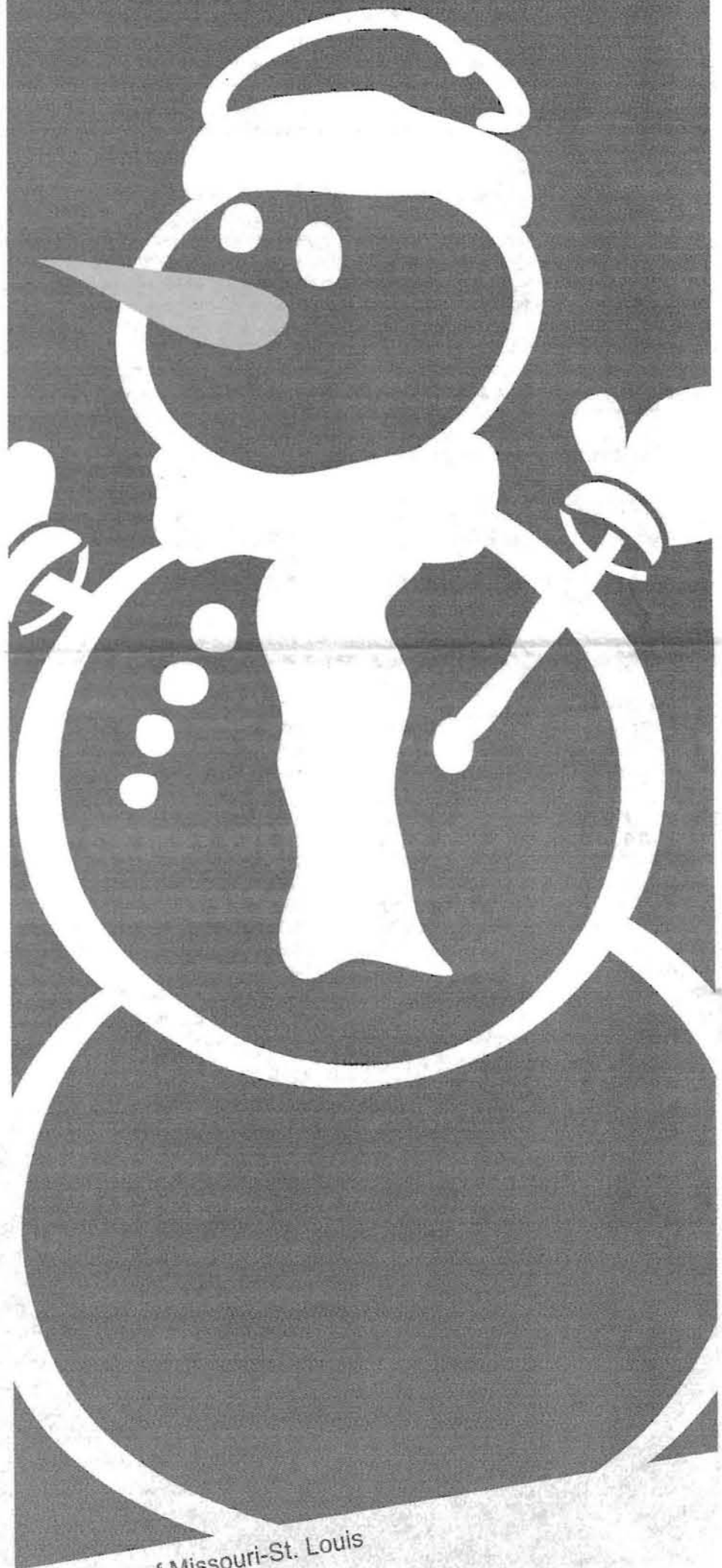
With "Local Business," Titus Andronicus offers definitive evidence that nobody can form a band in New Jersey without a little bit of The Boss winding up in their musical DNA. Harmonicas and honky-tonk pianos make several convincing appearances throughout the album (such as the goofy E Street interlude "Food Fight!"), earning Titus Andronicus membership in the "indie rock bands who secretly want to be Bruce Springsteen" club, whose other distinguished members include The Hold Steady and The Gaslight Anthem.

Though "Local Business" may find the guys embracing the musical legacy of New Jersey's most celebrated citizen, though, it finds them mulling over the same lyrical preoccupations of their previous work. Try as they may to disguise it behind layers of literary allusions (their name, after all, is cribbed from a Shakespearean tragedy), Titus Andronicus's lyrics are still steeped in the same diatribes of personal angst which have characterized nearly every punk band created in the wake of emo. The anguish of youth weighs heavily on "Local Business," but it strives to channel it into self-growth rather than senseless anger. The struggle for identity and self-worth is a pervasive theme throughout the album, but the group sounds generally **(continued on page 7)**

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# Opinions

## THIRD COUNTERPOINT Opposites generally do not attract voters

The election season is certainly stirring up a lot of tension between the two main political parties in America. Both of our presidential and state candidates have bold opinions on the hot-button issues in this country. While it is pretty normal to have such strong views on the political platform, the voters may want to stay away from extremes of polarization between parties.

Our two main political parties seem to be at war this election. One candidate sits far left and the other far right. But what consequences will we face for those policy ideas in the future? First, if candidates present views that are too strong just to argue with the other candidate, then it does not necessarily provide the best outcome for the people in the election. Also, if candidates are too extreme, it may be difficult for Congress to develop legislation that they believe the President will sign into law.

Another problem with our political parties creating such strong views is that many independents find it difficult to pick a candidate. This means that independents will either not vote or vote for someone who has a very slim

chance to defeat the two main candidates. If these politicians are hoping to grab last-minute votes from people who remain undecided, providing very rigid and far-out policies will probably push the independents away rather than closer.

What this election all comes down to is who Americans feel will lead our country in a better direction. Unfortunately, sometimes our politicians create their policies through the simple political ideological mindset of their parties and not on what will make our economy grow or provide better education for our children. There are more important issues we need to discuss than just attacking the other side's ideas. However, instead of focusing time and energy on making better policies, these politicians will do anything to show the public that they full-on disagree with their opponent. Unless you are an incredible extremist and enjoy the way our politicians strive for the opposite poles, these strategies are all just a waste of time.

## Political divisiveness far from detrimental

The quality of divisiveness in politicians often gets a bad rap. Without further analysis, it is easy to see how the American public could say that they prefer their politics with some added milk and sugar.

On the surface, politicians who claim to offer their constituents sugarcoated promises of unity, less conflict and camaraderie may seem appealing. However, the political arena is no place for potential voters to be wowed and wooed by mawkish proposals and empty promises. Divisiveness is an essential component of the framework of American politics.

Ask someone what the greatest problem in American politics is, and the answers will be as varied as they are impassioned. Yet one problem persists, a problem that may easily be overlooked—spurious politics hawking unity.

These pseudo-unifiers sentimentally promise easy, good-natured national harmony. In spite of that, their actual goal is to ally themselves with precisely enough of their respective partisan voters coupled with independent

voters inclining toward partisanship to ultimately win. The promise of unity is cynical, not sweet.

Lofty and zealous promises of unity may go down easy for a trusting, if not naïve, member of a constituency. Regardless of how agreeable such promises may sound, in all actuality, they are merely cynical instruments utilized to garner quick votes.

Regardless of how wonderful or pleasing the notion of a nation united may sound, it is a true impossibility in American politics. The widely diverse spectrum from right-wing conservatives to left-wing liberals makes up the political arena. These differences are essential in allowing the public to elicit change, listen and comprehend arguments and eventually take sides.

The most valid conclusion is that promises of unity are merely empty rhetoric.

Political divisiveness is far from detrimental. In fact, it creates the catalyst the American public needs to listen to take heed of arguments and form opinions.

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# Nick Walker Returns

(continued from page 4) "UMSL was one of my top choices because of the price. It was affordable but also one of the top universities in St. Louis," he said.

Walker liked theater in high school but never pursued it. Last summer, he started working at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theater.

"When I came to UMSL, I finally got to do what Nick Walker wanted to do. I picked theater and dance because I enjoy conversations and social interactions ... I like to talk, but I also like meaning behind the words; that's why plays are very relevant to me in many ways. I can apply a script's themes, context and messages to everyday life and even learn from them," he said.

Walker became involved in UMSL's campus life. He joined the Residential Life staff at Oak Hall. "My freshman year at Northwest Missouri State University, I did not see myself being a Resident Advisor at UMSL," Walker said.

Walker also does intramurals, which include volleyball and football. "I really like being involved on campus because it makes the college experience better. You have more social life, and it's not just about academics,"

he said. Walker joined the Emerging Leaders program his sophomore year. "I wanted to become someone who is known on the campus; I wanted to be a leader. Through Emerging Leaders you get background experience while gaining leadership skills," he said.

"Coming from another school with no plans and then going to UMSL was challenging because I did not know what I wanted to do ... I took the time to find out more about myself and what I really wanted to get out of my college experience," Walker said.

Walker has big dreams for the future. He wants to perfect his acting skills and become an achiever. "I plan to move to New York because that is the mecca for theater. If you want to become a true actor you have to think big," Walker said.

Walker believes that if you enjoy what you do, you are more likely to become a professional in your career field. "If you put your mind towards success, then you can do anything. You just have to keep your goals in mind no matter what," he said.

# German department kaput

(continued from page 3) assistant teaching professor, French, and director of language programs, finds the planned changes to the German program unfortunate.

Landers cited the loss of the endowment and budget limitations for the College of Arts and Sciences as reasons for the changes. She went on to say that enrollment has declined in German and that declining enrollment in university German programs is a trend among universities across the United States.

"The German program nationally has been shrinking, basically since the end of the Cold War," Landers said. "German was historically an important language, and during the Cold War, it remained critical for national

security reasons ... Since 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, ironically German programs have been shrinking because German is seen to be less strategic than other languages, such as Arabic or Chinese. To a certain extent, German enrollments at UMSL reflect what has happened nationally."

An article published by the Modern Language Association titled "Successful College and University Foreign Language Programs, 1995-99: Part 1" presented data indicating that enrollment in the German language at the university level, including undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs, is decreasing. UMSL enrollment statistics for German during that time period are not currently available.

# Titus Andronicus review

(continued from page 5) more optimistic about it now. Whereas "The Monitor" found Stickle's proclaiming "You'll always be a loser" ("No Future Part Three"), opening track to "Local Business," "Ecce Homo," concludes that "there's something more to life than just being born," likely the most confident statement the angst-ridden vocalist has ever uttered on an album. "Local Business" finds Titus Andronicus embracing life after hardcore, a direction which the group seems to

anticipate alienating a fair share of their fan base (the title alone seems to be preparing itself for accusations of "selling out"). Punks have to grow up sometime, though—the world is probably better off with a John Lydon rather than a Johnny Rotten—and the results are compelling, as with album closer "Tried to Quit Smoking," a weary, Tom Waits-inflected piano ballad that is easily the least punk thing the group has ever attempted.

# Domestic violence

(continued from page 3) officer for the Normandy, Missouri Police Department until Aug. 29, 2006, when her fiancé, Robert Brooks, shot and killed her. Brooks was also a police officer. Carolyn Cates, mother of Amanda, spoke at length about her daughter and the importance of knowing how to spot the signs of domestic abuse. Carolyn also took the time to answer questions from the audience, discussing the motivation and possible reasons those who are being abused may have for remaining in unhealthy relationships. Those in the audience who were involved in abusive relationships in the past also shared their experiences and what helped them get out of violent situations.

"I liked the event. It taught me a lot, and it related to my own experiences," Mariah Childs, freshman, mathematics and physics, said. "I felt really comfortable, and I could connect with the people who went through the same thing that I have. I was shocked how close to home this subject was."

"This [event provided] a really good message. I wish that more people [would have] shown up to this event. It was a huge eye-opener," Heather Macon, senior, media studies, said. "I was surprised at some of the people that were involved in domestic violence. You would never have guessed it."

Amanda was passionate about helping students, interacting daily with the seventh and eighth grade

students of the Normandy School District when she was alive. The Amanda Kay Cates Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 by Amanda's family and the Normandy Police Department. The funds go toward increasing educational opportunities for children in the Normandy/St. Louis area and helping put a stop to domestic violence. The Amanda Cates Memorial Scholarship, awarded to University of Missouri-St. Louis students who have graduated from the Normandy school district and are majoring in either social work or a social science discipline, was founded in her honor.

To learn more about Amanda Cates's story or domestic violence, visit [amandacates.org](http://amandacates.org) for more information.

The first event of the Survivor Series, "Love [Doesn't] Hurt," took place on Oct. 8. Sharee Galvin (or Mocha Latte, her event and hosting personality) shared her experiences being involved in a violent relationship, including how she found the strength to walk away. The final installment of the series is "Profiler of an Abuser," which will take place on Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Museum Room. Raven STL, a local non-profit organization that works with batterers to provide intervention and prevention services, will discuss the common characteristics of abusive partners and the work that can be done to change their beliefs and attitudes if they are willing.

*"I was surprised at some of the people that were involved in domestic violence. You would never have guessed it."—Macon*

# Penn State controversy

(continued from page 4) the difficulty of enforcing Missouri's law concerning the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

When there is a reasonable suspicion of child abuse, the mandated reporter must report or cause a report to be made on the abuse. Many people whose work involves direct contact with children are described as mandated reporters, but front line childcare workers are often not trained in detecting abuse. Also, childcare officials often have to deal with the great loopholes in the law.

"There is a high turnover of child abuse investigations, plus a lack of training from people working in child advocacy who often have one year of experience or less," Anthony Harper, a chief investigator of the Child Abuse and Neglect Unit, said.

Representative Marsha Haefner, co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse,

said that being a reporter of child abuse is not often part of the curriculum at colleges and universities. There are loopholes in the Missouri mandated reporter law that she and other child advocates are trying to change.

"The challenge is not only in trying to secure funding for abuse prevention but also bringing the battle against child molestation to the front lines to create public awareness and to protect children in a positive way," Haefner said.

"The goal of the panel discussion is to bring every person in attendance to the realization that it is everyone's responsibility to protect children," Dunn said. "Children cannot protect themselves, and not all people will act to protect them."

Any person can report suspected child abuse or neglect by contacting the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738.

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# Comics & Games

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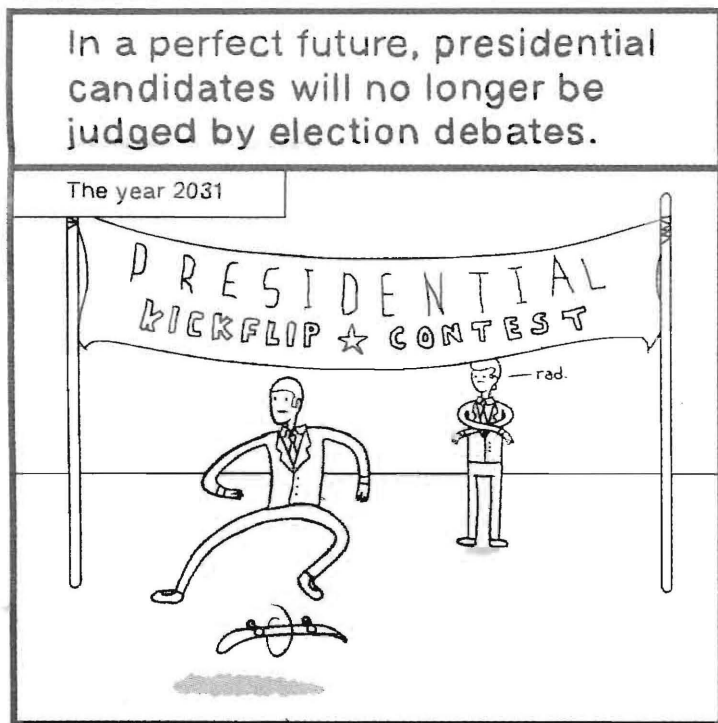
## SIMPLY BEAGLE

Lee Sellars



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