



PHOTO: CATE MARQUIS / THE CURRENT

UMSL community discusses student debt

SHARON PRUITT
Managing Editor

Students, staff and faculty members from all around campus met on Feb. 4 to discuss the growing problem of student debt and how it relates to the University of Missouri-St. Louis community.

The meeting was organized and led by the UMSL chapter of Young Activists United. The meeting was arranged following the introduction of a new fee schedule proposed last year that would bundle all student fees together. Issues such as transparency in the actions of the university were among the topics discussed at the meeting.

The meeting, which ran from 4 to 6 p.m., was divided into segments to better ensure that all topics of importance had time to be thoroughly discussed.

Following introductions, administrators and faculty members were given the opportunity to voice their

experiences and concerns. Students then had the opportunity to share their point of view, focusing on such questions as 'How can we increase need-based aid?' and 'How can we have a greater student voice in keeping the costs at UMSL low?' There were as many answers to these questions as there were attendees, but if there was one thing all could agree on, it was that there is no simple cut-and-dry answer for any of these questions.

"We need to continue talking with students in a problem-solving manner. The university is working hard to try and come up with plausible solutions that still provide students with a quality education and the services they need to excel and be successful in their futures," Dr. Carole Basile, dean of the College of Education, said.

Basile was among the large number of faculty members

present at the meeting. The meeting afforded the opportunity for students and faculty members to speak candidly with each other about the realities of pursuing higher education.

"Many UMSL students are finding it increasingly difficult to pay for school. Furthermore, UMSL students have the highest student loan debt of any public university grads in Missouri — \$27,300 — which is larger than the national average [of \$22,000]," Alice Floros, intercampus coordinator for Young Activists United, UMSL chapter, said.

"I think it was a good start. The university is committed to keeping tuition affordable while maintaining high quality. It is important to note that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution and that there will have to be some give-and-take on everyone's part," Curtis Coonrod, vice provost for

student affairs and dean of students, said. "However, I am convinced that if we have honest dialogue about all issues, we will be able to implement policies and practices that help students succeed and realize their education goals."

Increasing communication between students, administrators and faculty was listed among the top concerns to be addressed at the meeting. Ample time was also devoted to brainstorming ways to work together in the future.

"My kind of vision for what we could do next is to create the structures that we would need to have student, faculty and administrative teams. I like to think of them as 'FAST' — faculty, administrative and student teams," Jessica Lake, graduate student, social work and public policy, said. "This could work in a bunch of ways. We could have projects led by faculty and administrators

that involve students either through coursework, service learning projects or maybe even extra credit opportunities. We could also have faculty or administrators lead projects that could be worked on by different student organizations and their members."

The dean's Committee on Social Justice in the College of Education and the UMSL chapter of Young Activists United have been working together to offer the 2012-2013 Film Series, "Higher Education, Access and Equity." The three remaining screenings in the series are "International Student Power Movement" on Feb. 19, "Access to Higher Education" on March 14 and "Film Festival: How the Debt Crisis Impacts UMSL" on April 16. The film festival will feature films created by UMSL students and centered around the topic of student debt crisis as it relates to UMSL.

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"What's Current" is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and 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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Battle of the Bands sign-up Deadline

Deadline to sign up for the PLHCSA annual Battle of the Bands on Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in Pilot House. Open to the entire UMSL community and guests. Contact Marty at mjid4f@mail.umsl.edu or Jessie at jnbleile@mail.umsl.edu to sign up. For information, contact Jessica Bleile at 314-640-0594.

Monday Noon Series: A Discussion of the Musical Creative Process

Martin Kennedy, assistant professor of composition at Washington University in St. Louis, discusses the creation of his recent compositions and describes the role of the composer in the contemporary classical music world, 12:15 PM to 1:15 p.m. in J. C. Penney Conference Center. A doctoral graduate of The Juilliard School, Kennedy has received such prestigious awards as the ASCAP Rudolf Nissim Prize and 1st Prize in the "2 Agosto" International Composing Competition. Kennedy's music has been performed by orchestras worldwide and is published by G. Schirmer and Theodore Presser Co. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

PLHCSA Casino Night

PLHCSA annual Casino Night, 7 - 9 p.m. in Provincial House Museum Room, features games, free food and at the end of the night, add up your winnings and bid on awesome prizes! Please consider donating 2 personal hygiene items for our charity, Lydia's House, at the door for admission. For information, contact Jessica Bleile at 314-640-0594.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Economics Guest Speaker John C. Goodman

President and CEO of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas Economics John C. Goodman speaks on "Why Obamacare Won't Work," 2 - 3:30 p.m. in 331 SSB (McDonnell Conference Room). Goodman is widely known as the "Father of Health Savings Accounts." Presentation includes Q&A session; all viewpoints are welcome. For information, contact Judy Cates at 314-516-5353.

St Louis Rotary Club Ethics Panel

A panel of leaders, St. Louis Rotary Club members and other professionals, discusses professional ethics with students and faculty, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. in JC Penney Conference Center, Summit Lounge. For information, contact Dr. Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

Campus Crimeline

THEFT - MILLENNIUM NORTH PARKING GARAGE

Feb. 1, 11 a.m. Report # 13-038.
A student reported the theft of a parking permit. Disposition: Report taken.

FOUND PROPERTY - POLICE STATION

Feb. 11, 10 a.m. Report #13-060.
A debit card belonging to an UMSL student was turned in to University Police, released to owner. Disposition: Report taken.

POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA - OAK HALL

Feb. 11, 9:45 p.m. Report #13-061.
An UMSL student was arrested after UMSL Police responded to a smell of marijuana in Oak Hall and observed drug paraphernalia. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - WEST DRIVE GARAGE

Feb. 13, 12 p.m. Report # 13-063.
An UMSL student reported a parking permit stolen from their parked car. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER

Feb. 13, 1:30 p.m. Report #13-064.
An UMSL student reported the theft of a credit card that was later fraudulently used. Disposition: Report taken.

SHOPLIFTING - MILLIENIUM STUDENT CENTER - BOOKSTORE

Feb. 14, 1:02 p.m. Report # 13-069.
A non-student was arrested for shoplifting at the bookstore; subject was released pending application of warrants. Disposition: Report taken.

Executive Fellows Mentoring Project

The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three-to-five students. Robert Muldoon on February 20 and Gary Lee on February 21, both 2 - 3:15 p.m. in 427 SSB. For information, contact Dr. Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MSNA 3rd Annual Black History Month Movie Night

UMSL Minority Student Nurses Association's 3rd Annual Black History Month Movie Night will show the film "The Long Walk Home" based upon the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 5 - 7:30 p.m. in MSC Century Room C. Free food and drinks. Bring toiletries to donate to Doorways St. Louis. Movie discussion will follow. For information, contact Ammie Leachman at 314-516-5291.

'Carmina Burana'

The performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," considered one of the most popular pieces of music ever written, brings together Nashville Ballet, UMSL's University Orchestra and University Singers, Bach Society of Saint Louis and St. Louis Children's Choirs into a firework of live music and riveting dance. The opening act is Bach Cantata No. 10, performed by UMSL's University Orchestra and University Singers and Bach Society of Saint Louis with choreography by Dance St. Louis' own Michael Uthoff and performed by MADCO. Performances Feb 21 - Feb 24. Touhill PAC Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Discounted SNAP student and faculty/staff tickets available. For information, contact Touhill box office at 314-516-4949.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Procurement's Monthly Surplus Property Sale

Procurement Services is hosting our monthly surplus tag sale on February 22, 2013 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in SCCB Garage (LOT YY) South Campus. Items to include, monitors, cpu's, laptops, chairs, desks, printers, speakers, VCR's, file cabinets, laptop cases, keyboards, mice, large \$1.00 section. Miscellaneous items to numerous to mention. For information, contact Tangie Brooks at 314 516-5361.

Launch celebration for Penumbra, the 13th issue of Bellerive

Special guest speaker Tony D'Souza, novelist, journalist, essayist, reviewer, and travel and short story writer. Copies of Penumbra will be available at the celebration, noon - 2 p.m. in Provincial House (South Campus). For information, contact Geri Friedline at 314-516-7874.

Leadership Academy seeks applications

SHARON PRUITT MANAGING EDITOR

The 21st Century Leadership Academy is currently accepting applications for its 2013 session. The program, which will run from May 19 to May 24, has openings for four UMSL students. As part of the program, representatives from each of the nine participating Missouri-area universities will spend a week together discussing public policy issues while developing leadership skills through workshops, panel discussions and networking events.

According to its website, a highlight of the program is a day trip to Jefferson City, where participants will be able to participate in a mock legislative session at the State Capitol and have lunch with women leaders in state government and the judiciary.

Networking with women leaders from a variety of backgrounds remains a mainstay of the program. Every year, the program is designed with the participants, or Shear Fellows, in mind. For the luncheon, the Shear Fellows are broken into groups based on their career goals and interests. Additionally, the women leaders who have been invited to attend are carefully selected each year. All of these factors work together to create a unique experience, tailored for each year's group of participants.

"We don't form the groups or recruit the women leaders until we know more about the students who are selected to attend," Dr. Dayna Stock, manager of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life and director of the Leadership Academy, said. Stock, who has been with the program since its inception in 1998, will this year serve her sixteenth year as program director.

"The program has evolved over the years and is now a model for the other 22 'NEW Leadership' programs around the country," Stock said. Founded by Rutgers University in 1991, the "NEW Leadership" program served as the initial inspiration for the 21st Century Leadership Academy. The Sue Shear Institute developed the program in partnership with the NEW Leadership

Development Network. The 21st Century Leadership Academy is part of the nationwide network of NEW Leadership programs, all of which focus on encouraging college women to become leaders in the political arena. Since its inception in 1998, over 500 students have participated in the 21st Century Leadership Academy.

"Students say that they leave the program with more confidence in themselves and their ability to effect change," Stock said. "It is really inspiring to hear the stories of so many successful women, and it helps participants envision a future that they may not have imagined. I tell them that I want the week to help them 'set the bar higher' for their dreams and goals. Like LEAD [another leadership program based at UMSL], we are trying to expose them to role models and mentors who will help them be the best that they can be."

There is no cost for students to attend the program, as all fees are underwritten by the university and through fundraising efforts by the Sue Shear Institute. A faculty selection committee will review all applications and make final selections by early- to mid-April. Dr. Farida Jalalzai of the political science department has served as the program's faculty advisor for the UMSL campus since 2007.

"We want to see candidates that have a real interest in women in public life. Rather than just an additional blurb on a resume, we seek women who have already demonstrated a commitment to service, but who also need to perfect various skills and expand their experiences," Jalalzai said. "It is also nice to meet students that have particular public policies that they want to affect in their work. Students with clear ideas of what they can put into the Academy and what they want to get out of it do best."

The deadline for applications is March 8. For more information on how to apply and what materials are needed to do so, visit the Sue Shear Institute online at umsl.edu/sue-shear.

'Natural Bridge' celebrates anniversary

HUNG NGUYEN STAFF WRITER

"Natural Bridge," University of Missouri-St. Louis's nationally-distributed literary magazine, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary on Feb. 8 with a panel of literary journal editors and a short meet-and-greet party afterward for attendees and editors to talk. The panel was a moderated discussion entitled "Literary Journal Publishing in the 21st Century: What and Why?" It consisted of editors from notable local publications such as "Sou'wester," "The Missouri Review," "River Styx" and "Boulevard," among others.

The audience of readers, writers and other editors listened and laughed as the panelists spoke candidly and lightheartedly about the difficulties but also the importance and joy of literary journal publishing as they move forward.

With cuts in arts programs across the nation, literary journals are operated by individuals intensely passionate about their work, who receive little pay. Some journals have gone under completely due to loss of institutional funding. But listening to the panelists, theirs is not the image of the anxious, defeated artist. They are excited at the thousands of submissions by writers wanting to publish in their journals. They are enthused to curate and help hone the future Raymond Carvers, a writer who also began his career in "December."

In publishing the work of new writers, they are able to introduce those writers to a readership they did not know existed yet. They publish the best, and while that best may change from journal to journal, good work is good work when submitted to the people ready to receive it. The journals serve as valuable but highly selective receptacles of a writer's first or earliest work, not gatekeepers with any particular agenda.

In the information age, a number of journals have switched over to digital editions or now offer that option to encourage a wider readership as the push towards e-books and tablet reading devices continues. In most cases, it is also less risky than printing thousands of volumes that may not be sold. In any case, literary journals are simply in the process of adopting different modes of delivery and new means of marketing, such as social media, as they acclimate to the challenges of twenty-first century publishing. As long as humans need to connect, to be entertained, to learn about themselves and others, literary journals still have a place.

After a brief question-and-answer period, the celebration continued with a small party with hors d'oeuvres, drinks and, of course, the latest issues of local literary journals.

"I think what came through from this panel discussion is that literature is very much alive, and it's important, and it's about humanity and truth and entertainment ..." Mary Troy, associate professor of creative writing, said.

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Jubilee Flashback

ALBERT NALL STAFF WRITER

The Berkeley riots were a series of student protests that took place in and around University of California-Berkeley in the mid-1960s. The protests took root with some different but interlocking themes. Some of the protests involved the quest for civil rights among students who were involved with sit-ins and the freedom riders. Others were over the U.S. entering into the Vietnam War. As women became more involved in the protests, many of them moved up the ranks in the movement. And yet, there was disdain over the idea that organizations with an interest in human rights denied women the right to lead.

And then there was the free-speech movement. Berkeley, like many colleges across the U.S., enforced a ban on political activities on campus property. Students of Berkeley insisted that their college lift the bans on free speech and accommodate academic freedom in class.

Former St. Louis mayor Vincent Schoemehl, Jr. wrote

a letter to The Current at University of Missouri-St. Louis. The Current published the letter in two parts over two editions. Part one of the letter was published on Feb. 23, 1967, and part two was printed on March 9, 1967. The publication of part two of Schoemehl's letter was followed up by a response from The Current.

A young Vincent Schoemehl, Jr. expressed concern that UMSL would fall victim to a scenario similar to the Berkeley riots in 20 years. The Current's editorial editor Michael Hughes agreed with Schoemehl in his response and stated that student power meant that students needed to work in collaboration with campus administrators.

Graduating from UMSL in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in history, Schoemehl was elected the forty-sixth mayor of St. Louis. He served from 1981 to 1983. During Schoemehl's term as mayor, he was involved in historical preservation and urban design, as well as promoting the public and private partnerships that led

to more than 600 successful rehabilitation projects. Schoemehl was the founder of Operation Brightside, a city beautification program, and Operation Safe Streets, a home safety program. Schoemehl is currently the president and CEO of Grand Center in the Midtown St. Louis Historical District north of St. Louis University.

Sites at the Grand Center include the Fox Theater, Powell Symphony Hall, KETC Channel 9 and the new facilities of St. Louis Public Radio, which is within walking distance of the Grand Metrolink.

The letter from Schoemehl is significant not only because of the issues of that time, but because this letter is from one of the greatest alumni in UMSL history. The issues that Schoemehl addressed in his letter and its response from The Current are still relevant to student attitudes toward campus administration to this day.

Read Schoemehl's letter at thecurrent-online.com

The Current has been part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus's fiftieth anniversary, we are re-printing articles from our archives. This week, we discuss a Letter to the Editor from 1967.

Shanelle Gabriel performs 'def' poetry at Pilot House

ALBERT NALL STAFF WRITER

Shanelle Gabriel, who is described by critics as a dazzling prodigy, performed her "def" poetry on Feb. 7 in the Pilot House at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Gabriel's appearance was sponsored by the University Program Board.

Gabriel is a spoken word poet who is also a singer and lyricist as well as an advocate for Lupus Awareness.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Gabriel has performed at colleges and various other sites in the U.S. and internationally. Gabriel both opened and was featured in the sixth season of HBO's "Def Poetry Jam," appearing with Jill Scott and DMX, and is often compared to hip-hop sensation Lauryn Hill. Gabriel performed as a singer and actress as a student at Utica College, a private university in New York where she earned a bachelor of arts in communications.

Gabriel was a Def Jam college promoter and a leading radio character on WPNR 90.7 in New York.

Gabriel appeared at UMSL to perform her poetry, which is often the inspiration for the songs that she writes. She is also a member of the alumni association Zeta Tau Alpha.

An hour before her appearance at 8 p.m., Gabriel addressed 50 members of the UMSL chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha at a workshop. Gabriel said that she will always be connected to her sorority. She stressed the importance of the impact that the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha have in making time for service on their campus.

Also, Gabriel spoke of the networking opportunities that a sorority provides. She urged members of the UMSL chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha to pair up with each other for events. "Membership in Zeta Tau Alpha is about mature women who love and enjoy each other, and the purpose is you," Gabriel said.

Gabriel opened up with high energy, urging the audience to "throw it back at her and have

a good time. Everything you hear from me is the truth; hip-hop is poetry," Gabriel said.

Gabriel opened with a song about her first crush. The song was about a crush who you get "cooties" from at age 5, who you expect to marry by age 10 and who finally notices you at age 15. By age 25, according to Gabriel, "He doesn't pass the bar; he sets it!"

Gabriel performed an excerpt from a song that she wrote for Black History Month that she said was influenced by the book "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration of Afro-American Men" by Michelle Alexander, an associate professor of law at Ohio State University. Gabriel cited from Alexander that the policies of the penal system in the United States are comparable to the Jim Crow rules of generations past.

"A black president is a beautiful thing, but racism doesn't go away, and the criminal justice system is still biased against black men. You can't trust a

system that doesn't trust you," Gabriel said.

"Black people can be racist too, and it needs to be ended on all levels. Black is part of who you are and your heritage. You can love your brown," Gabriel said.

Other themes that resonated throughout her show included the messages that she got from her grandmother. "Keep your heads up and your skirts down," Gabriel rapped.

Gabriel also spoke about parents. "Parents are like God on earth, but when you get older, you realize that they make mistakes. Parents did what they thought was best at the time," Gabriel said.

Gabriel read a poem entitled "Learning How to Shoot," which was dedicated to her father.

A more rousing theme that Gabriel addressed during the performance was the importance of testing for HIV. Gabriel told a story about a young man in a moment of lust with a beautiful wom-

an who inflicted him with a sexually transmitted disease. "The angel gave him a STD; the STD could be HIV," Gabriel rapped. Later, Gabrielle invited a young man onto the stage, where she serenaded him with a song she wrote.

Finally, Gabrielle told the audience about how she was diagnosed with Lupus during her junior year in college. Gabrielle said that Lupus is a disease that results in the autoimmune system attacking healthy cells, and this resulted in her being sick for a year. She also read a poem about her experience with Lupus. "My Lupus cannot hold me," Gabriel said. Gabriel then answered questions from the audience before the performance ended.

Material from Gabriel's CD "Start Something" can be found on iTunes, Rhapsody and Amazon. For more information about Gabriel, visit her website at shanellegabriel.com.

ABC middle and high school step teams showcase skills

HUNG NGUYEN STAFF WRITER

Now in its second year, the Associated Black Collegians once again triumph in presenting some of the area's aspiring talents in the art of step dancing, or "stepping," a percussive form of dance where extensive footwork and hand movements are used to produce rhythms and sounds. On Feb. 2, several high school and middle school step teams showed a panel of judges what they could do with a little talent, a lot of hard work and a love for dance.

Like other forms of dance, routines were rooted in a narrative or skit that served as the basis for the performance. Each team wrote their own scripts and made their own mixes of popular tunes to help tell the story. The performances ranged from a presentation of black history to the righteous rant of a frustrated group of troopers. A large number of parents attended the event, and they cheered encouragingly. But they weren't alone. Performance after performance, it looked as if the showcase was really just that, a showcase. The crowd was wild, they were having a good time, they loved the kids on the stage and they were touched by

what these kids could do.

The JGE-Retro duo brought the audience to their feet as the ballots were tallied. In the high school division, Platinum took home the champion title, earning 11 more points than Gentlemen of Vision, who came in second. The second runner-up was Kreativ Motion. In the middle school division, Elite won first place with 16 points more than the runner-up, Young Men of Vision.

Many times during the performances, several people muttered to themselves, "They are in middle school, and they're doing this." The next sentence, before they were cut off by the fanfare for the results, was perhaps, "What will they do when they've had more time?"

Since its success last year, ABC has continued to work hard to provide an even more exciting event. "The goal is to create a large-scale event that will highlight all the best things about UMSL but also build a good, lasting relationship with these local students," Demetrius Reynolds, senior, business and marketing, ABC member, said.

SNAP UP YOUR SEATS FOR \$10 OR LESS

HURRY! QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED!
Special pricing available only at the Touhill Ticket Office with a valid UMSL student ID.

Carmina Burana
February 21-24
\$10

St Louis Jazz Orchestra:
A Night of Count Basie
February 26
\$10

Paco Peña: Flamenco Vivo!
February 28
\$10

Arianna String Quartet:
Razumovsky
March 1
All Snapped up

Tema Choir of Ghana
March 2
FREE

Four By Tenn
-UMSL Theatre
March 14-17
\$5

MADCO: Momentum
March 23, 2pm
FREE

Chick Corea & Béla Fleck
March 23
All Snapped Up

The Second City
April 5 & 6
\$10

University Percussion,
Afro-Cuban Ensemble
& Vocal Point
April 8
FREE

The Kinetic Chamber Project
April 11-13
\$5

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival:
Monterey Jazz Festival
April 19
FREE

Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival:
Doc Severinsen
April 20
FREE

Basile: Greek Comedy
April 21
FREE

[On sale dates may vary.]

VISIT TOUHILL.ORG/STUDENTTIX

Iceage's sophomore release 'You're Nothing' is black and blue and gray all over

DAVID VON NORDHEIM A&E EDITOR

It seems like every year finds a plucky new batch of nihilistic 20-somethings eager to overthrow the radio-friendly tyranny of pop punk, but Iceage could very well be the real deal. The Danish no wave revivalists, debuting in 2011 with the vicious "New Brigade," seem determined to excise the "post" from "post-hardcore." Boasting a production standard primal and savage enough to peel the sheen off even the most radio-friendly punk poseur, the refreshingly primitive album was one of the year's finest debuts. (The fact that not a single member of the band was old enough to legally drink in the U.S. at the time of its recording made the feat all the more impressive.)

The two years since their debut's release has clearly done nothing to brighten the group's outlook, and their sophomore release, the deliciously titled "You're Nothing," finds the group continuing the assault from exactly where they left off.

"You're Nothing" clips by at a brisk 12 tracks in 29 minutes, the longest cut being the three-and-a-half-minute "Burning Hand." Other than a few sparse synthesizer interludes throughout, each track careens into the next with breakneck abandon, giving listeners precious little time to steel themselves for the next sonic thrashing. The end result is an album entirely devoid of wasted space, a swift and satisfying kick in the head.

Given the album's gut-wrenching abruptness, it is best viewed as one grand, furious suite of cynical noise rock rather than as a collection of individual tracks. Jagged, angular guitars pierce through the suffocating mix, fighting for air against the frantic, anarchic blast-beat drumming propelling the album to its bitter detente. The effect is not so much repetitive as pummeling, assaulting and battering the listener into uncomfortable numbness.

Although the harshness of "You're Nothing" could easily become exhausting in less capable hands, Iceage has a terrific sense of dynamic that prevents the album from devolving into an exercise in musical masochism. The group

has a terrific sense of dynamic, evidenced on the martial drumming and feedback hisses on the album's eerie "Interlude" and the unsettling, piano-driven "Morals." "You're Nothing" shows Iceage expanding their gutbucket aesthetic into more nuanced, but still appreciably unsettling, territory.

Although the signature mope and murk of Joy Division has been endlessly revived, murdered and revived again over the years, Iceage draws their post-punk nihilism from more subtle sources (although their nom de guerre is ostensibly cribbed from the Joy Division single of the same name). A clear point of reference is the breakneck attack popularized by groups like

Wire, a band whose affinity for succinctness has clearly rubbed off on Iceage. Poland's Siekiera, the coldest of the so-called cold-wave bands, is another emissary of the distinctly eastern European strain of nihilistic art-punk Iceage pays homage to.

"You're Nothing" is everything a follow-up release should be: it expands the uncompromising bleakness of Iceage's debut, adding even more shades of gray to their monochromatic palette. If their excellent sophomore release is any indication, Iceage will not be thawing any time soon. Long live the New Brigade!

Grade: B+

Despite strong cast, 'Beautiful Creatures' has more to offer teens than adults

CATE MARQUIS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Beautiful Creatures" is a supernatural-drenched romantic fantasy adventure set in a Gothic South, a tale that revolves around a small-town teen boy and a magical new girl in town, a member of a wealthy, reclusive old local family rumored to be involved with witchcraft.

Magic, voodoo and history all play a role. Ethan (Alden Ehrenreich) is a 16-year-old who is longing to leave the small Southern town where he's lived all his life. The new school year brings a new girl to town, Lena (Alice Englert), the niece of the town's wealthiest and most reclusive resident.

The mysterious Ravenwood family has long been rumored to have supernatural dealings, and the high school's narrow-minded girls are anything but welcoming to the world-traveled yet sheltered Lena. Yet Ethan is drawn to the reserved, dark-haired girl.

Based on a young adult novel, the visually pretty "Beautiful Creatures" is clearly aimed at the "Twilight" audience, but it has a bit more to offer than one might expect. One thing that sets this teen flick apart is that, much like the "Harry Potter"

series, it features some serious actors in supporting roles, including Jeremy Irons, Emma Thompson and Viola Davis. Its story of magic and good-versus-evil also might appeal to "Harry Potter" fans. The film's young stars Alden Ehrenreich and Alice Englert are attractive and have a certain chemistry in their scenes together. The story mixes in elements of Gothic romance, a Civil War curse, family intrigue, supernatural adventure and star-crossed love, giving it considerable potential for its PG-13 audience, particularly girls.

With all these strong elements, one would think "Beautiful Creatures" would cross over with both young and more grown-up audiences, yet the film never quite gets there.

The mysterious family is the source of town gossip about supernatural dealings going back to the Civil War. The truth is that they are witches, although they prefer to be called "Casters," and 15-year-old Lena is at the center of a family struggle within their magical world.

Jeremy Irons plays the girl's reclusive wealthy uncle Macon Ravenwood, the last of the

old family inhabiting the seemingly decaying antebellum mansion. But like the family, looks are deceiving. Irons and Thompson deliver some acting sparks in good-and-evil family showdowns as they struggle over Lena's fate.

Emmy Rossum adds a nice modern touch as a seductive cousin in a red sports car, and the family's globetrotting ways give it a touch of sophistication. Thomas Mann plays Ethan's best friend Link and Margo Martindale plays Lena's supportive Aunt Del in two nice performances.

The story is set in a small Southern town, and elements of Gothic romance and even horror abound, giving the film a touch of "Jane Eyre," as well. The literary is sprinkled in elsewhere, and in fact the two teens bond over an interest in books.

The movie makes good use of its atmospheric setting, and it features some nice special effects, particularly a scene during a Ravenwood family dinner involving a spinning table. The visual elements are lushly attractive and appropriately magical and spooky. Director Richard LaGravenese manages



Ethan (Ehrenreich) and Lena (Englert). PHOTO: JOHN BRAMLEY/WARNER BROS

to cleverly mix in a few comic elements and a touch of social commentary.

Despite all that, Lena and Ethan live in a more realistic high school world than "Twilight's" Bella and Edward. They deal with some of the same issues other teens do - their differing social standing, disapproving adults, high school cliques, gossip and the pressures of small town life. The touch of realism is refreshing and unexpected.

Still, "Beautiful Creatures" is geared to the teen movie audience, and adult filmgoers need not run out to catch this one, although its excellent supporting cast gives

it a little more acting heft. The "Twilight" audience might find that the supporting cast lacks the same banquet of young eye-candy that franchise did. The story is good but too teen for most adult audiences, which puts the film in an awkward place for crossover appeal despite the fine supporting cast. But for those looking for a nice PG-13 romance with a little supernatural entertainment, the pretty, mysterious "Beautiful Creatures" might do.

Grade: C+

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History prof discusses Irish Rebellion of 1798

ALBERT NALL STAFF WRITER

Years after the American colonies were free of Great Britain and became the new United States of America, other nations around the world fought in an attempt to emancipate themselves from British rule, and Ireland was one of them. This was the basis for a lecture given by Dr. Daniel Gahan on Feb. 7 in the Social Sciences & Business Building from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. The theme was "A Whole Countryside on the March: The Rebellion of 1798 and the Making of Modern Ireland."

Gahan's appearance was sponsored by the Smurfit-Stone Endowed Professorship in Irish Studies and the International Studies Program at UMSL. Irish Studies Program Director Eamonn Wall introduced Gahan to the audience of 75.

Gahan earned his bachelor's degree at St. Patrick's College, a private Roman Catholic seminary in Maynooth, which is a village 15 miles from Dublin, Ireland. After completing bachelor's degrees in history and geography,

he moved to the U.S., where he graduated in 1979 from Loyola University in Chicago and then went on to get his doctorate in agrarian history from the University of Kansas. During his teaching career, Gahan taught European and American history in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Gahan is the author of the book "The People's Rising: Wexford 1798," which was published in 1995.

Gahan gave the audience some insight into the Irish Rebellion, which was an uprising against British rule that took place between May and September of 1798. The main force was a group called The Society of United Irishmen, a republican revolutionary group that was influenced by French reformists.

The major Irish provinces where the uprising took place were in Ulster and Leinster, which were outlined on a map that Gahan passed out to the audience. Gahan said that the Irish revolutionaries were under the impression that the French

would intervene and acted ahead of French Republic troops. The rebellion was crushed by some very bloody fighting in which 30,000 people were killed.

The issue in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, according to Gahan, pertained to privileged aristocracy and the minority Anglican Church of England against the Catholic church, of which 70 percent of the Irish were members. At that time, the international media had a role in the hostilities between the Irish and the English.

The United Irishmen were influenced by pamphlet literature from France. Also, Thomas Paine, a revolutionary in the American colonies, had an impact on the spread of English populations in Ireland along with the influence that the American Revolution had on the Irish nation in general.

Gahan was born in Birmingham, England to Irish parents, who returned to their homeland, where the Rebellion of 1798 has its roots. "My family owned a farm in Wexford

where the rebellion took place, and the farm was burned. The Irish government under British rule terrorized rebels, who were executed. People to this day still remember the lore from that era," Gahan said.

"The belligerents in the rebellion included renegade Catholic priests Michael and John Murphy, who were on the outs with the British leaders in Ireland long before the fighting took place. The Murphys were ordered by the British government to choose sides and were eventually executed," Gahan said.

Among the legacies of the rebellion that were cited by Gahan during the lecture was an industrial revolution in Wexford that would lead to competition for jobs as well as a shift in population.

Daniel O'Connell continued the Irish quest for emancipation from English rule by way of peaceful political reform. O'Connell sought to make a statement by way of a peaceful mass movement of resistance.

"Irish nationalism was even more important in the nineteenth century because reformers saw the importance of resisting the urge to do violence in social challenges and revolutions of the future," Gahan said.

"Finally, a spillover brought about by the Irish Revolution was the emergence of language issues. The indigenous poor lower class joined in the social protest of an English-speaking Ireland," Gahan said.

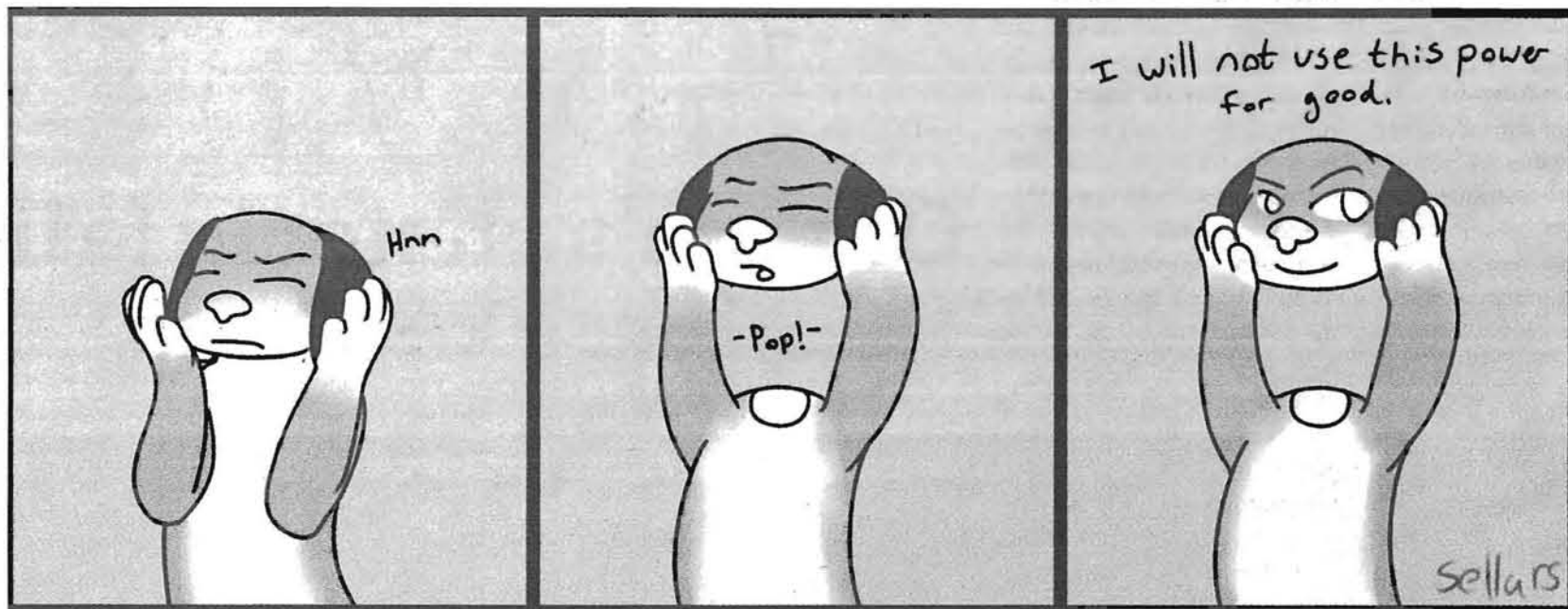
An upcoming event in Irish Studies is "A Celebration of New Writing from Galway," conducted by Susan Millar DuMars and Kevin Higgins, which will take place on March 5 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in SSB 331.

For more information about Irish Studies events, contact Eamonn Wall at (314) 516-5589 or e-mail him at walle@umsl.edu. For International Studies events, contact the International Studies Office at (314) 516-5229 or contact studyabroad@umsl.edu.

COMICS & GAMES

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BY LEE SELLARS



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STAFF OPINION

Do Dorner's actions negate his grievances?

HEATHER WELBORN
STAFF WRITER

"No one grows up and wants to be a cop killer," Chris Dorner wrote before becoming the most notorious man in the nation last week.

The former officer-turned-fugitive accused of killing four people made headlines after leading police on a nine-day manhunt before being burned alive in a shootout in California.

Leaving behind an online manifesto accusing the Los Angeles Police Department of racism and wrongful termination, the man who wanted so desperately to "clear his name" will never get that chance.

And why should he? Plenty of people saw him for what he was — a murderer attempting to out-run justice sought against him for taking the law into his own hands. No one doubts that Dorner was a criminal and perhaps fit the diagnosis for numerous neuroses, but there is debate about whether or not his vicious acts rob his pursuit of virtue. Does criminal intent negate the truth? It's hard to say, making it difficult for the public to condemn him completely.

Despite the severity of his actions, many of us can't help but sympathize with the former soldier, scorned as he said he was by the system he served dutifully for years. A surprising number of people show overwhelming support through social media, even after his death.

The Facebook page "We Stand With Christopher Dorner" has over 22,000 likes, not from pro-murder trolls, but from like-minded individuals who identify with the ideas espoused in his manifesto.

Dorner has become something of an antihero to some, an embodiment of our own shared frustrations with a system we feel failed us. "I have lost faith," he wrote, and too many of us agree. You don't need to live in Los Angeles to have experienced unequal treatment from law enforcement.

Whether racially, financially or aesthetically motivated, readers can relate to the frustration of injustice in the face of those not just sworn to protect you, but paid to do so. This shared suffering forges

a strong bond between strangers and makes it hard to cast Dorner's motives as merely the whims of a madman.

"In the face of evil, those who remain quiet are participants in that evil," Newark mayor Cory Booker said recently regarding the arrests of men who stripped and beat a man on film to settle a \$20 debt.

He said this with slow deliberation, as if he wanted to scream it, as if he could not fathom having to remind his citizens to behave humanely and speak out against violence. His words echoed those found in Dorner's manifesto — "those of you who 'go along to get along' have no backbone and destroy the foundation of courage."

It is hard to accept the motives of those among us who would sooner upload the footage of an assault they witnessed than report it to the police, just as hard as trying to understand why a former cop would resort to such desperate means to prove his point. Does the pursuit of entertainment and convenience trump that of social integrity and justice? Does an ongoing professional disagreement justify taking innocent lives? How can we be content as we watch officers open fire on civilians and burn cabins to the ground in the name of suspect apprehension? How can we silently accept a system that sees the gun violence in society and suggests banning weapons as a preventative measure?

It is difficult to support an argument whose sides share equally in both righteousness and wrongdoing. Even the elderly couple Dorner took hostage were unable to speak ill of him to the press.

I can't accept cars riddled with bullets or cabin ashes still smoldering as a job well done. Nor can I commend the illegal actions of a man who, in his last piece of public prose, rambled on about orphanages and Anthony Bourdain. I, like so many, have burning questions that will never be quenched.

As the national audience, we bear witness, unified in our anger and confusion, and continue to ask anyway.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

State of the Union shows Obama's new strength

President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address was exactly what America needed. Obama appeared strong throughout, remarkably ambitious in his goals and serious when necessary, and he was ultimately very effective at expressing his goals for this year and explaining his motivations for the actions he will soon take.

For supporters of the president, the speech was an almost perfect victory dance. The president finally had license to say what he really wanted to say and push what he really wanted to push because his future as a president, determined in the turbulent election last fall, is finally safe.

Obama's long list of lofty goals illustrates his ambition for America's future and his

intention of actually ensuring that the things he finds unsatisfactory will change and shows that he will spare no amount of necessary force.

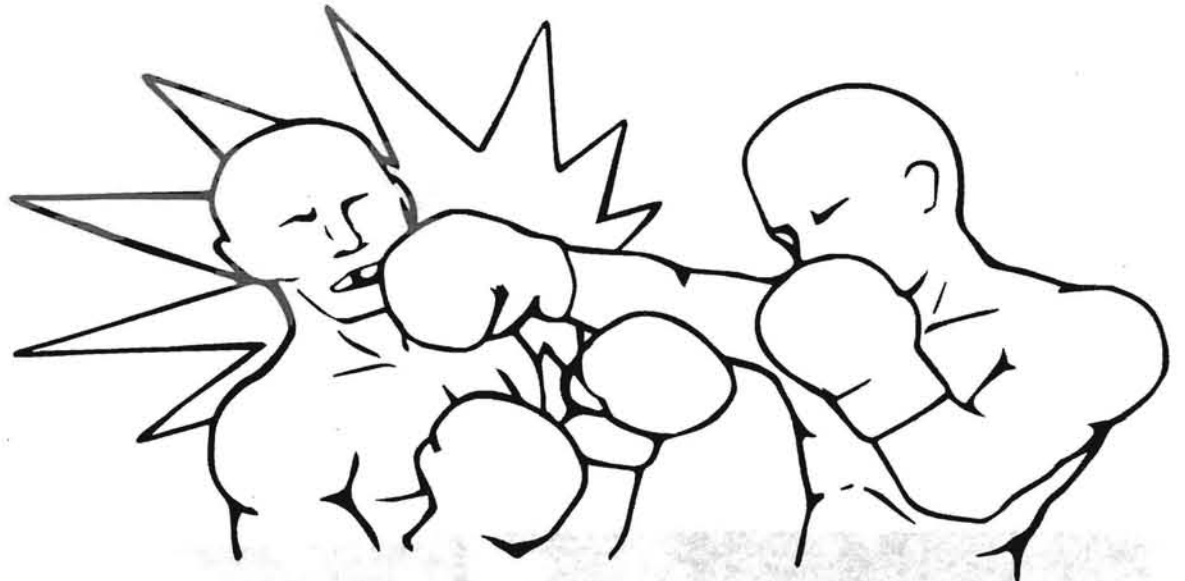
Now that Obama is free to throw around his full presidential weight, he can be a stronger leader, and his political opposition that seeks to place him in a stalemate by strategically blocking his every initiative had better look out.

For those opposed to Obama and his policies, the State of the Union did not provide the same warm and fuzzy feeling as it gave his supporters.

The Republicans may complain that Obama was too vague or that his ideas are unsupported by Congress, but in reality, they are just blowing smoke and shaking

in their boots. They are quaking because they know that progress has come for them at last. And their criticisms of Obama's address mean a lot less when we realize that they come from blindly mad Neanderthals who have been rendered impotent and are terrified by the ground sliding under them.

This first State of the Union Address after Obama's second presidential election was certainly a turning point. He told the nation what he really wanted to do and how he wanted to do it, and all that is left for Americans is to watch him, reassured by the strength of the voting majority behind him, carry out his goals.



Obama's rhetoric fails to enforce reforms

Now is the time to remind President Barack Obama of the former NFL football coach who let an opposing team with a weak quarterback off the hook a few years ago. "We let them get away!" the coach ranted after the loss.

The opposition to gun control still takes the position that citizens have the right to carry the assault weapons that are being used to murder children that Obama vowed in his State of the Union Address to protect.

Our nation needs to implore the president to put a stop to the National Rifle Association, not when those in Congress who oppose gun control want to stonewall a scheduled vote, but now.

There are many who feel that

Obama has let people down by validating the conservative opposition to his previous promises to provide legal American citizenship to children of immigrants. And while Obama's proposals on health-care reform were good, with a statement of benefits and more mandates for Congress to act, the president needs to deliver on a plan to enforce ObamaCare.

The conservatives who belittled the president in his first term are now on the ropes. Obama should be careful that he does not let his guard down with Congress as he has in the past.

If the past is an indicator of the future, Obama's speech was not effective in convincing Americans that he will finally take a stand with a "do-nothing

Congress" and not enable them to elude responsibility on issues.

Obama needs to get the message across to dissenters in Congress that taxes must be raised on the wealthy so that social security obligations can be met. He needs to take a stand once and for all on gun control. And he needs to stop letting conservatives dictate the agenda and breakdown jobs and the growth of the economy.

Obama needs to bring the fight to those in Congress who dare to obstruct the social and economic reforms stated in his speech.

Tell Obama to not let the conservatives off the hook on passing reform.

UMSL falls into third place tie

LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team has a hole in its defense. That point was brought home when William Jewell secured a road victory against UMSL 80-75 in a close game. Forward/center Dillon Deck scored a game-high 29 points in the Great Lakes Valley Conference game.

The UMSL and GLVC websites said that with the win, William Jewell is at 11-11 overall and 7-7 in the GLVC. UMSL is at 14-8 overall and tied 7-7 for third place in the conference.

Assistant Coach Dale Ribble said that UMSL ran into trouble in the second half.

"I thought that we did a good job early in the second half. We made some plays, but then we turned the ball over and they then scored [some easy baskets]," Ribble said.

William Jewell made plays when needed as they converted 52 percent of the shots from the field in the win. William Jewell received contributions from Devonte Bell, who scored 11 points, and Andrew Scodfield, who scored eight points, had four assists and nailed two free throws to close the door on UMSL.

However, William Jewell's biggest advantage was that they were able to put Kevin Dwyer, junior, business, in foul trouble

with only two points in 19 minutes. To counter William Jewell's advantage in the paint, McCoy connected with four three-point baskets on nine of 20 shots overall for 23 points in 29 minutes.

Ribble said that William Jewell was able to control the game late to win.

"We had trouble when Aareon [Smith, sophomore, business] missed that dunk and got a technical [for hanging on the rim], and then we missed some shots. Also, we could not guard their center late; that's when the game turned on us," Ribble said.

William Jewell also held an advantage at the free throw line as they shot 25 free throws, converting 22 free throws for 88 percent compared to UMSL's 11 of 12 free throws for 92 percent, according to the William Jewell website.

William Jewell opened the game with a 15-6 lead before



Darian Cartharn advances the ball upcourt.

PHOTO: LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT

they commanded their biggest lead at 27-17 at the 6:41 mark in the first half. UMSL then used a 14-4 run that tied the game at 31-31 on a jumper by Justin Jones, senior, exercise and sports management, in the paint with two minutes left in the half.

UMSL trailed 38-36 at the half and began the second half on a 14-5 run capped by a three-point bucket by Joshua McCoy, senior, communications, to

assume a 50-43 lead.

That bucket gave UMSL their largest lead of the game. McCoy contributed eight points during the run.

UMSL then went cold, missing eight of its next nine shots as William Jewell regained the lead.

Darian Cartharn, junior, communications, added 13 points, two assists and three steals but shot four for 13 overall and three for nine from the three-

point line. Cartharn also turned the ball over three times in 35 minutes.

Later in the second half, William Jewell went on a 14-2 run and added a three-point field goal with 5:27 left to assume a 69-67 lead that William Jewell would not relinquish. McCoy's fourth three-point field goal made the score 76-75 with 1:03 to play, but those were UMSL's final points of the game.



Aareon Smith, sophomore, business, passes the basketball to a teammate.

PHOTOS By: LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT