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Current, January 19, 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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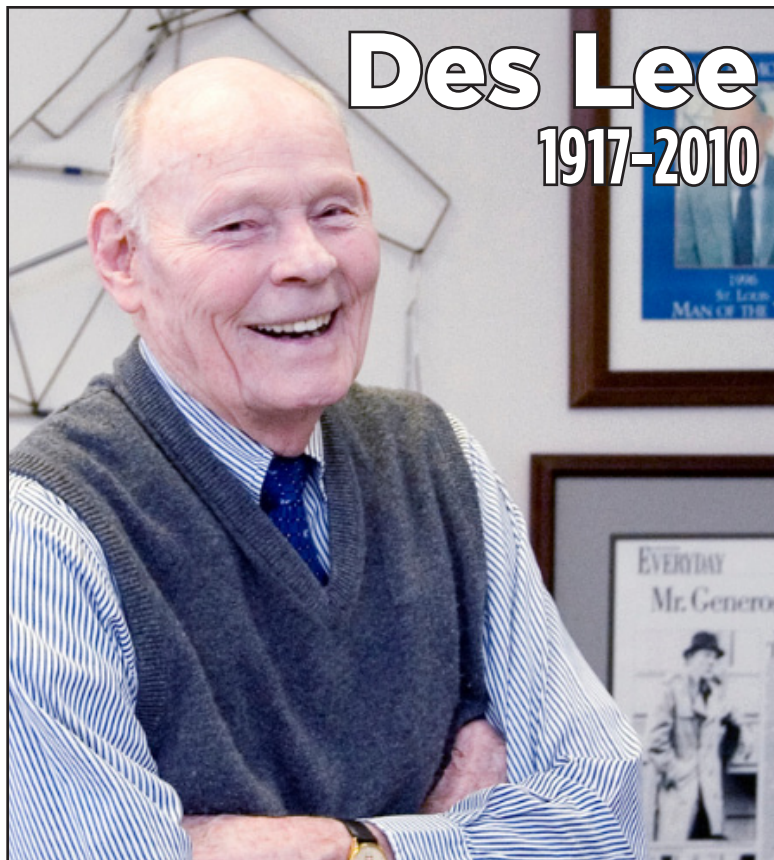
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The Current

JAN. 19, 2010

VOL. 43;

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Des Lee
1917-2010

COURTESY / UMSL

(Top left) Des Lee and Tom George playing their instruments. (Right) Des Lee in his office, behind him is the hanger invention his business was founded upon. (Mid left) Des and Blanche Touhill. (Bottom left) Des and a middle school student, go-karting.

► JESSICA KEIL
Editor-in-Chief

Last Tuesday, while middle and high school students filled the Touhill for the Des Lee Big Band Jazz Festival, the university's flag flew at half staff in remembrance of the life of philanthropist E. Desmond "Des" Lee, who died earlier that morning at the age of 92.

"He loved that festival," Chancellor Tom George said. "He loved big bands, he loved jazz. One of his favorite tunes was 'When the Saints go Marching in.'"

A World War II veteran, Des Lee was also a successful businessman who "started from scratch and built his own business" in Jackson, Mo. after the war, said George. By the

time he sold his business, the company was worth over \$80 million.

But for Des, giving away his money seemed to make him far happier than spending it.

"He's given away, clearly, when you count the dollars, nearly \$80 million, so he must have made at least that much from his company," George said.

"He always used to tell me, 'I've given all my money away!'"

Specifically, Des gave a significant amount of his money to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

See DES LEE, page 2

Students 'leery' of safety after assaults

► ANDY PHIPPS
Business/Tech Editor

As a new year and another semester begin at UM-St. Louis, fear still hangs in the air over two sexual assaults that took place on campus late last year.

The first incident took place on Dec. 8 in a ladies restroom in the Social Sciences Building on North Campus.

Though the victim was unharmed, her assailant did flourish a knife, Lt. John Schupp of the UM-St. Louis Police Department said.

"Just that act in itself constitutes a serious felony," Schupp said.

Despite a search of the campus, the assailant managed to get away.

Two days later on Dec. 10, a woman was assaulted off West Drive on South Campus. The assailant forced her into the backyard of a private residence in Bel-Nor and sexually assaulted her.

The location of the crime took this second incident out of UM-St. Louis police jurisdiction.

Bel-Nor police did arrest a suspect and both police departments have been co-

operating on the case. Both departments have also sought the help of other area law enforcement agencies in their search for suspects.

Student reaction to the two assaults was one of shock.

Pam Betts, senior, liberal studies said, "It's kinda scary. I don't travel to the south campus at all, but just the idea of [the assault in the SSB] is scary; it's not even safe to go into the women's bathroom." Betts said that though in the past she had felt safe on campus, the assaults have given her second thoughts. "Now it's kinda like, maybe I should be a little leery," Betts said.

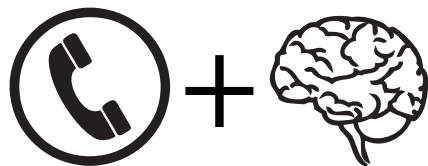
Matt Bohn, senior, criminal justice, was also shocked by the two assaults.

"I just think that it's crazy that it happened in our own backyard ... I guess we just take our safety for granted on campus," Bohn said.

The UM-St. Louis police department responded swiftly to the incidents to ensure that students would feel safe on campus in the wake of both incidents.

See SECURITY, page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

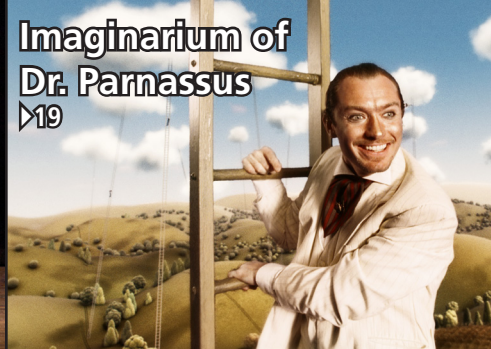


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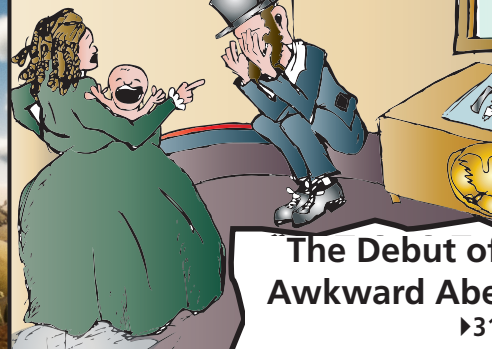
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TOP STORY
from page 1

Des Lee remembered

The veteran contributed over \$14 million to establish 19 endowed professorships and operate the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, underwrite scholarships such as the Des Lee Scholars program, and support construction on the Technology and Learning Center as well as the Touhill Performing Arts Center on campus.

His service in WWII might have something to do with his deep connection to UM-St. Louis, considering his alma mater is actually Washington University. During the war, Des led a unit of all African-American soldiers and would often talk of the discrimination he witnessed, which had a lasting effect on him.

"We serve more underprivileged and disadvantaged students than anyone else, we have the largest diversity population, [and] we have the largest group of African-Americans of any campus in the state, so the kind of campus we were, he empathized with. He saw us as a kind of

hope to the St. Louis region ... he identified with that, and wanted to nurture that," George said.

Des Lee's passion in life was education, his director for the Des Lee Collaborative Vision and good friend, Stefanie Rockette, said.

"He made his money the old fashioned way—through hard work—and education had made a major difference in his life," Rockette said. "He believed that every good kid deserves a chance at education ... he believed that regardless of wrong-doing, that people are good, and education was hope. He loved all of us."

Des Lee has been called "the man of 20 questions." Not only did he strive to ensure education for anyone who wanted it, he also had an insatiable appetite for learning.

"When he first met you he would ask you all these questions ... and they were genuine, he really wanted to know about your life," Rockette said.

All of Des' closest friends refer to him as a "people-person," someone who loved life, and loved to be engaged. That is possibly why Des wanted to start the innovative Des Lee Collaborative Vision, consisting of endowed professors who are required to spend exactly half of their time engaging and working with the disadvantaged in the community.

Des would often have lunch meetings with the endowed professors just to find out how their community work was going, while preferring an informal setting. Rockette, who frequently planned the meetings, said Des required three things at every luncheon: "an Arnold Palmer, chocolate chip cookies, and decaf coffee."

Des Lee essentially loved engaging and meeting new people, especially children. Rockette recalled a "beautiful sunny day" when a group of disadvantaged kids, through a program sponsored by Des Lee, were trying out their newly built go-carts. Des was

called to stop by and view the proceedings, but would not be satisfied by just watching. Standing at 6-foot-5-inches, Des squeezed himself in a tiny go-cart with a 9th-grade girl.

"She drove off like a maniac with Des in the passenger's seat," Rockette said, "and he was waiving and having the best time of his life. That's the Des I know."

Des Lee's memorial service was held Thursday, and Chancellor George, Stefanie Rockette, Blanche Touhill, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and his wife Mary Anne and three children were only a few of the near-500 people who packed the church in his memory. At the end, just as Des would have liked it, the congregation marched out of the church singing "When the Saints go Marching in."

"Des was one for the ages," Rockette said, "one that I dare say we will never see the likes of again."

Read our editorial on Des Lee's life on page 24.

SECURITY, from page 1

Within days of the two assaults the UM-St. Louis police department began holding town hall meetings with residents of the dorms to inform them of the incident and let residents know what they could do to protect themselves by providing demonstrations of self-defense techniques. "I think that the students left that town hall meeting feeling better than they did going in," Lt. Schupp said.

Campus police have also been looking at lighting in public areas around campus. At one point following the two incidents, lights went out on South Campus due to a power outage.

The police department responded by deploying temporary lights and a generator to the area.

Campus police patrols have also been stepped up in the aftermath of the two assaults and residential life be-

gan requesting that students leave events on South Campus in groups.

Requests for escorts also skyrocketed following the assaults.

Schupp said that the best thing that students can do to stay safe and avoid further incidents like these is to keep their eyes open and immediately report anything that seems suspicious or threatening to the police.

"We had an incident ...

where a girl called for an escort, and during the escort the girl said that she had seen someone who didn't look right earlier in the evening," Schupp said.

"The person could have been someone of profound interest, but by the time we got the information he was long gone. So, I cannot impress enough that when somebody sees something ... to call us and let us check it out."

WEATHER





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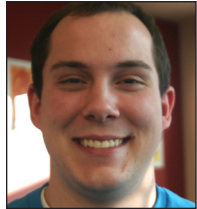


Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Erin Sturgess

Back to school!

What did you do over Winter Break?



"I played Borderlands and Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare 2 on the Xbox 360."

Eric Callaway
Junior
CCJ



"I got engaged over the break to Grace-Marie Ritter."

Josh Linn
Senior
Mathematics



"I went to Minnesota to visit some friends. I also went to Indianapolis."

Phillip Han
Sophomore
Pre-Pharmacology

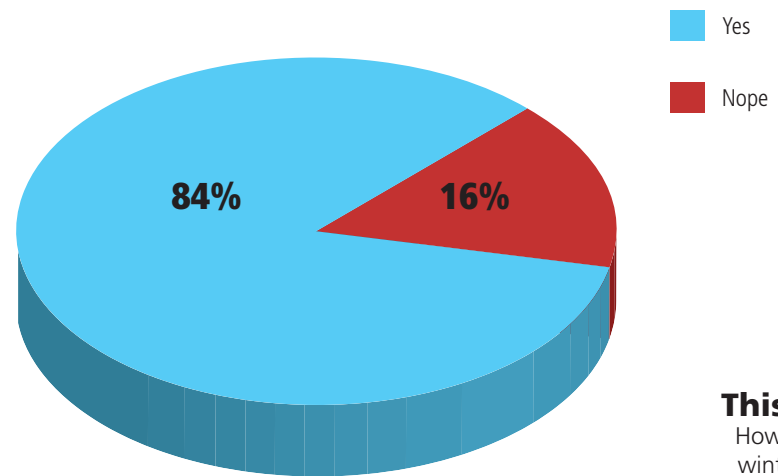


"I moved from Illinois to Missouri."

Rebecca Mokuolu
Sophomore
Economics

POLL

Do you have health insurance coverage?



This week:
How was your winter break?

Answer at
www.thecurrentonline.com

Stats taken from Gallup.com

CRIMELINE

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Property Damage/Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot WW

Sometime between 7:15 PM and 9:30 PM person(s) unknown broke out the window of a parked vehicle and stole a man's watch from inside. Nothing else was taken and there are no suspects in this incident.

Monday, Dec. 7, 2009

Burglary 2nd Degree - Provincial House

Sometime over the weekend person(s) unknown unlawfully entered into an office and stole a laptop computer and digital camera from inside. There were no immediate signs of forced entry into the area. The crime scene was processed and all items of evidence collected are being sent to the St. Louis County Crime Lab for analysis in order to identify a suspect.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009

Assault - Social Science and Business Building

On Tuesday 12-08-09 at approximately 4:20 pm a student was accosted on campus. The student was approached in the woman's restroom on the first floor of Social Science and Business. The suspect was not successful in his attack and fled the scene. A search of the area was conducted afterward, and the suspect was not in the building.

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Institutional Vandalism - Marillac Hall Men's restroom

Sometime overnight the men's bathroom in the lower level of Marillac Hall under the Barnes Library was vandalized. The suspect deposited human feces on the back of the toilet tank and flush handle assembly area. It appears from the investigation that the placement of the feces was done intentionally and not deposited by accident.

Friday, December 11, 2009

Road Rage/Fugitive Arrest - West Drive parking garage

The UMSL police were called about 2:00 PM for a suspicious vehicle occupied by several subjects following the caller onto campus and into and subsequently out of the West Drive Garage. The caller indicated that the other vehicle was following her and she was afraid for her safety to stop. The UMSL Police located the vehicles in question on West Drive and was able to stop them near the intersection of West Drive and Mark Twain. Once all of the information was gathered, it was determined that a "Road Rage" incident began off campus on Northbound I-170 at the Highway 70 Eastbound entrance ramp, and continued all the way to the campus. The two drivers are UMSL students.

VERBATIM

"I am thrilled to be joining the great team at Fox News. It's wonderful to be part of a place that so values fair and balanced news."

-Sarah Palin



"So she leaves for some reason, and bad guys come. He starts to fight the bad guys and the kids love him because he's a spy"

-Jackie Chan
on *The Spy Next Door*

"Jake should have abused his avatar and be fat and unfit and demand Neyteri to get him a beer."

-Sam Worthington
on his role in *Avatar*



"Life is hard sometimes, but we get through with laughter."

-Sandra Bullock

Business/Tech

A GUIDE TO SMARTPHONES

Which is best for you?



► **ANDY PHIPPS**
Business/Technology Editor

It used to be that everywhere you looked there would be somebody talking on a cell phone. Now, almost everywhere you look there is a person using their cell phone to surf the net, watch a video or play a game.

All of these additional distractions have been made possible by high-speed cellular data networks and new smartphones designed to make use of them. These technologies have changed average cell phones into incredible powerful handheld computers with prices that have fallen considerably.

But, just like in the 1990s when a flood of cheap personal computers created a platform war between Microsoft and Apple, competing mobile phone platforms and service providers are currently doing the same thing.

The big difference now is freedom of choice. If you are in the market for a smartphone these days, you have more than two choices. Here is a rundown of the five most popular smartphone platforms, models and service providers.



iPhone 3G/3GS (Apple)
Available through AT&T
Price: \$99 TO \$199 with contract
Storage: 8 TO 16GB
Web Browsing/E-Mail: Yes
Wifi: Yes
GPS: Yes
Camera: Yes, 3.0 Megapixels, Video recording only on 3GS
MP3 Audio/MP4 Video Player: Yes
Available Applications: 90,000+
Talk time: 300 minutes
Average monthly cost: \$109.99



Palm Pre (Palm)
Available through Sprint
Price: \$149 with contract
Storage: 8GB
Web Browsing/E-Mail: Yes
Wifi: Yes
GPS: Yes
Camera: Yes, 3.0 Megapixels, No video recording
MP3 Audio/MP4 Video Player: Yes
Available Applications: 300+
Talk time: 300 minutes
Average monthly cost: \$89.99



BlackBerry Storm (RIM)
Available through Verizon
Price: \$49.99 (With contract/upgrade from Verizon)
Storage: 1GB
Web Browsing/E-Mail: Yes
Wifi: No
GPS: Yes
Camera: Yes, 3.2 Megapixels with Video Recording
MP3 Audio/MP4 Video Player: Yes
Available Applications: 2,000+
Talk time: 300 minutes
Average monthly cost: \$89.99



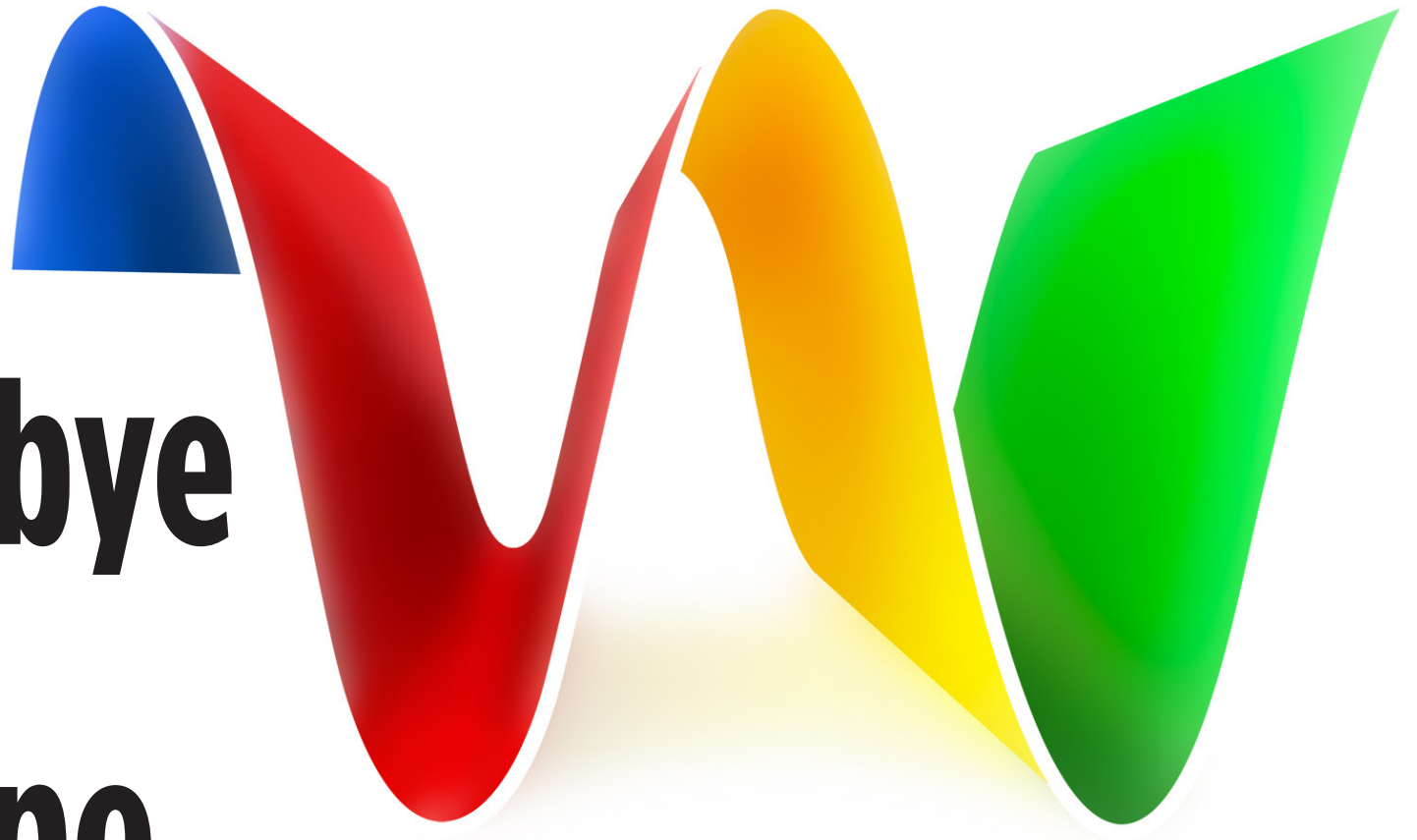
Droid (Motorola) with Google Android OS
Available through Verizon
Price: \$199 with contract
Storage: 16GB
Web Browsing/E-Mail: Yes
Wifi: Yes
GPS: Yes
Camera: Yes, 5.0 Megapixels, with video recording
MP3 Audio/MP4 Video Player: Yes
Available Applications: 10,000+
Talk time: 600 minutes
Average monthly cost: \$109.99



Omnia i900 (Samsung) With Windows Mobile
Available through AT&T and Verizon
Price: \$389
Storage: 8 or 16GB
Web Browsing/E-Mail: Yes
Wifi: Yes
GPS: Yes
Camera: Yes, 5 Megapixels with Video Recording
MP3 Audio/MP4 Video Player: Yes
Available Applications: 400+
Talk time: 600 minutes
Average monthly cost: \$109.99

Technology Review:

Wave goodbye to the hype



Google™ wave

IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE INC.

Google losing its edge on the Internet?

► **GENE DOYEL**
Design Editor

I finally got Google Wave. After months of being teased by the prospect of a new Google service (following up the awesome Gmail and useful Google Voice), and weeks of begging people for invites, I finally got it: Google Wave, the end-all be-all of internet applications. Or, at least that's what they want you to believe.

Google advertises it as an online tool designed to let the user "communicate and collaborate in real time." Or, less advertising-y, a bunch of people can work on a project together at the same time, only they don't have to be in the same room.

Anxious to get in my Google Wave account and get collaborating, I called my girlfriend (also a Google Wave user) to make our grocery list for the week.

The process is pretty straightforward: create a wave for the project and attach people you want to work on the project to the wave. Everybody can then work on it at the same time. What's great about the system is that it's a little richer in features than e-mail: the ability to add polls and embed video, for

example. Likewise, it's one wave shared by many, not a lot of e-mails flying back and forth from person to person cluttering up the inbox.

The grocery list was a resounding success, and a lot easier than calling back and forth on the phone, or wasting time writing everything down on paper and then scratching it out when I changed my mind. But this is a fairly simple collabora-

.....
"Communicate and collaborate in real time."
.....

-Google

.....
tion; what about more complex projects, like planning that vacation or the company's quarterly budget?

Impossible to know! Google's familiar beta-release system, which allows only select people to use their product at first while they work out the kinks and generate buzz about the

product, fails when applied to Google Wave. Collaborative projects like the ones Google Wave hopes to house usually work better with a lot of people, and the nature of only allowing select people in during the beta period makes the collaborative aspects of the system limited, if not nonexistent.

They do, however, provide you with a number of invites, so I suppose that you could get more people on, but at the same time, there's thousands upon thousands of people on the Internet that would kill or at least maim your enemies for an invite. And the invites take a while to go through; after having the system for a few weeks, I still only have 7 people that I can collaborate with.

In short, while Google Wave has enormous potential to change and improve the way that people work together, it will be interesting to see if it will catch on. Hopefully the current users don't stop using it while waiting for others to join up.

Rating: ★★☆☆

3-D technology: industry savior or just another false profit?



Andrew Seal

► **ANDREW SEAL**
Opinions Editor

For the past 43 years, the first few weeks of January have been home to the Consumer Electronics Show, or CES. This year's CES featured a wealth of new and fascinating technological products.

There were ultra-thin HDTVs, even-smaller tablet PCs and e-readers galore.

The oft-hoped-for Apple tablet was not present, but rumors about it swirled wildly on the show floor.

However, it was 3-D technology that had the largest presence at CES. At this expo, a lot of things were three dimensional: expensive 3-D cameras, a 24-hour 3-D TV channel (co-pioneered by ESPN, Discovery, IMAX, and Sony), new kinds of 3-D glasses, the first 3-D DirecTV broadcast, as well as a new generation of 3-D TVs and computer monitors.

But, does anyone really care about 3-D? It's hardly a new technology with the "modern" version of 3-D be-

ing nearly 30 years old. Remember when 3-D took the theater world by storm back in the 1980s? No?

What about when it debuted in the 50s? No again? Point in case.

The thing is, 3-D is a gimmick. It always has been, and it always will be. Sure, James Cameron's *Avatar* is taking the world by storm, with over \$1 billion earned so far and over 70 percent of its viewers watching the movie in 3-D.

But *Avatar* has also been in the works since 1994, and the decision to film in 3-D was only made as recently as 2006.

It was an isolated incident—but even if it turns out not to be, 3-D will still be regulated to theaters like it

has always been.

That's because watching 3-D at home is a cumbersome business, requiring each person to have a pair of 3-D glasses. It's all well and good when a new release comes with some; the movie *Coraline*, for example, came with four pairs.

Families or groups with more than four people are out of luck though, reduced to cannibalizing pairs from other releases that included glasses.

Moreover, now is not the time for pricey new televisions. There's an economic crisis currently in full-swing, and on top of that, home 3-D is usually lousy.

See **3-D**, page 15

TECHNOLOGY HOTWIRE

Cybercriminals take advantage of Haiti Tragedy:

In the wake of the earthquake that killed over 100,000 people in Haiti, scam e-mails quickly began appearing in e-mail inboxes soliciting donations to aid organizations that would wind up in the pockets of scammers.

People interested in donating to relief efforts are encouraged to give through the Web sites of aid organizations directly to avoid fraud.

Late night talk feud highlights a crumbling broadcaster:

The very public battle between Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien brought into focus the troubles NBC/Universal faces as its acquisition by cable provider Comcast draws nearer to completion.

The \$30 billion deal would take the broadcasting giant, which has seen declining ratings in recent years, under the management of the largest cable services provider in the United States.

Rumors swirl about supposed Apple tablet:

A product that was not even there dominated the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas: the greatly rumored Apple Tablet. The device, which will allegedly be priced between the \$199 iPhone and the \$999 MacBook they currently offer, is expected to be Apple's answer to cheap PC netbooks that have flooded the market in recent years. An Apple media event scheduled for Jan. 27 is its rumored introduction date.

IBM CEO says go green or get left behind:

In an address at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in the U.K., IBM CEO Sam Palmisano said that companies that do not actively work toward reducing waste in their operations would be left behind in the re-emerging economy.

Palmisano has previously embarked IBM on research endeavors aimed at providing solutions to businesses interested in reducing waste generated by their use of technology.

Wide variety of electric-hybrid cars make debut at Detroit auto show:

In the wake of the financial crisis and ongoing energy problems, the number of soon-to-be available electric/hybrid cars on display at this year's Detroit Auto Show was greater than it has been in previous years.

Toyota had its 2010 plug-in hybrid Prius model on display while American automakers had their own offerings. GM introduced a finalized version of the Chevy Volt hybrid while the 2010 Ford Fusion hybrid won best of show.

Easy targets *Small and valuable, electronics are high priority items for would be campus criminals*

► **ANNA MARIE CURAN**
News Editor

Students having items stolen while on campus has been a problem at college campuses for several years.

The police department at University of Missouri-St. Louis said that one of the reasons students often find their belongings taken is because they leave them either unattended and/or in plain sight for potential thieves.

The theft of digital devices such as laptops, phones and MP3 players are no exception.

Detective Marisa Smith of the UM-St. Louis police department said that while the theft of digital devices on campus does occur, it is not a common problem.

Smith also said that students often increase their risk of having their personal belongings stolen without even realizing it, simply by assuming that it is okay to leave them unattended.

"Our common problem is students leaving their property unattended, which allows a thief to steal anything from books, cameras, laptops, to money and credit cards,"

Smith said.

"This makes it easy for anyone to take items that do not belong to them."

Like the majority of crimes committed on campus, it is not usually students stealing the digital devices of other students. Smith said that "most of the suspects [that have been] caught have not been students."

Library employee Claire Beeman, senior, business administration, said that she has noticed there are some people who are "regulars" at the library who are not necessarily students.

"[Once] I was working at the library and this lady and a friend were studying.

She went down to smoke a cigarette, came back, and her laptop, which she had left, was gone," Beeman said.

"She saw a guy with [the same] black bag that was leaving and a couple weeks later he was back with the same exact computer."

Beeman went on to say that the man was a "regular" to the library and that other students had noticed him "eyeing their stuff."

See **TARGETS**, page 28

I'm a 46 yr old female, just divorced, have extra room/bath, lots of storage space in basement, looking for a roommate for me and my sweet miniature pinscher. Bedroom has hardwood floor. In Bridgeton, 5 min from 270 & 70, also 5 min from Dorsett. 10-15 min from UMSL. Washer, dryer in basement, internet cable, central air, dishwasher, disposal, your own spot in garage with your own opener. I'm very laid back, low key, quiet, not home much except on weekends. Taylor Ave, Bridgeton, MO. Call Margie at 314-362-9263 (M-F) or 314-298-2625 (weekends)

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The Current

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SPORTS WRITERS



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PRACTICUM



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sports

Men's basketball falls short to Quincy *Triton men getting ready for some wins at home*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

Quincy, Ill.—The last time the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team faced a nationally-ranked team with a 14-0 record, the Tritons soundly sent that team (Bellarmine University in Feb. 2009) home with its first loss of the year.

This season, UM-St. Louis had the same kind of opportunity as it traveled to Quincy University's Pepsi Arena last Thursday evening to face the unbeaten and No. 14 ranked Hawks.

Unfortunately, the outcome was not nearly the same as with Bellarmine; the Hawks built a big lead against the Tritons, then held on late for a 75-63 win.

"They're a good team," UM-St. Louis head coach Chris Pilz said.

"They're better than us right now. They were able to force us into bad shots in that first half. Just too many bad shots."

The Tritons shot a dismal 33 percent in that first half, making just 9-of-27 shots, including just 4-of-15 three-

point attempts. Quincy hit 52 percent of its field goal tries, including a sizzling 5-of-8 from three-point range, to grab a 40-24 half-time lead.

The second half began with more of the same as Quincy twice pushed its lead to as many as 22 points.

But in the final 10 minutes, UM-St. Louis mounted a furious rally.

Adam Kaatman, senior, accounting, got the Tritons going when he hit a three-pointer from the wing.

Eddie White, junior, elementary education, followed that with a lay-up that further cut into Quincy's lead.

Quincy's Tyler Burke answered with a three-point bucket for the Hawks.

However Kaatman answered back with another three of his own that seemed to fire up his teammates and forced Quincy to take a timeout.

After the timeout, White made two brilliant plays on back-to-back possessions, including a sprawling layup and three-point play that cut Quincy's lead to 12.

Burke made two free

throws on Quincy's next possession before Jeremy Brown, senior, physical education, made the game very interesting with back-to-back threes that cut Quincy's lead to 63-55 with just over five minutes left.

The Tritons twice cut the deficit to seven points with about three minutes to play, but Quincy's Billy Baptist, who led all scorers with 26 points, hit an 18-foot jumper, and Burke added a dagger three-pointer with less than a minute left to put the game away.

Starters Brown and Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, each scored 15 points to pace the Tritons on Thursday. Key reserves Kaatman and White came off the bench to make strong contributions.

Kaatman finished with nine points, and White had 11 points and four assists.

The loss dropped UM-St. Louis' record to 10-6 on the season and 4-3 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play.

The Tritons will get several chances to improve those marks in the coming weeks,

as they'll host five straight home games at the Mark Twain Building beginning Monday, Jan. 18, when Bellarmine comes to town.

Quite possibly the biggest home game of the season will take place on Thursday, Jan. 21, when UM-St. Louis will host its Pack the Stands Night game against rival St. Joseph's.

That night, the university is hoping to set its attendance high for the season by inviting all current students, alumni, faculty and staff to attend both the men's and women's basketball games against St. Joseph's by offering free admission, free food and giveaways to all that attend.

Also that night, the university's new mascot will be unveiled to fans for the first time and the athletic department's new cheerleading squad will be making their debut.

The other three games on the Tritons' five-game homestand will be Saturday, Jan. 23 against Illinois-Springfield; Thursday, Jan. 28 against Drury; and finally Saturday, Jan. 30 against Rockhurst.



Gaurd Jeremy Brown in action against Christian Brothers on Dec. 21.

FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

Men's basketball 10-6, will begin semester with five home games *Our Triton men prepare for the final home stretch in the new year*

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

After starting the year with a 6-0 record for the first time in school history, and seeing that record go to 7-1 by the time first semester finals were completed, University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball coach Chris Pilz

said his team hit a bit of a lull during the first part of the winter break.

The Tritons lost three nonconference games in a row to close out December, and were in danger of wasting their red-hot start with a winter-cold finish to 2009.

"We didn't play real well in those games right around

Christmas," Pilz said.

"I don't really think the guys were distracted much. We just didn't play well in some games against some good teams. And when you don't play like you're supposed to, you're gonna get beat."

Fortunately, the Tritons managed to get their groove

back once the calendar turned.

They went on to win three of their first four games in 2010, including a record-setting win over new Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Maryville University, and two straight heart-pounding wins at home in the final seconds against Northern Kentucky

and Indianapolis.

That win over Maryville on Jan. 2 was quite a show.

UM-St. Louis set five program and three GLVC records with its 152-107 win over the Saints that night, UMSL sports information said.

The Tritons set new all-time marks for points scored

(152), points in a half (83, which UM-St. Louis scored in the second half), total assists (39), team shooting percentage (70 percent), and total field goals (63).

The 152 points scored was also a record for most points in a GLVC game.

See MEN, page 12

Super freshman, super sophomore

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

University of Missouri-St. Louis middle hitter, Weslie Gaff, sophomore, is one of the most imposing figures in all of Great Lakes Valley Conference volleyball.

The 6'1 Gaff recently became the GLVC leader in total blocks (78) and solo blocks (23) on the season, and is a major reason why UM-St. Louis was tied for second place with a 12-6 record heading into last weekend's play.

"The biggest thing for Weslie is she is tremendously stronger than she was last year as a freshman," head Triton volleyball coach Trent Jones said. "That's really important for her position, middle-blocker, because you have to be really strong and quick, and she's improved in both areas."

High praise from the coach for Gaff, who last year received the honors of being named the GLVC Freshman of the Year and the American Volleyball Coaches Midwest Region Freshman of the Year.

Most athletes are tested in some manner so as to evaluate them against their peers or to judge improvement from one point to another. According to Jones, in volleyball one standard is vertical leaping ability, or how high they can reach.

"She touches about nine

feet ten inches, off a three-step approach at the net," Jones said. "So she's about two feet above the net and that's what we look for. We want kids to contact the ball high above the net, because they can then hit it over blocks, and the angle of hitting the ball into the court is greater."

Even at 6'1 Gaff considers herself "a little short" for her position, and believes her

"...she's about two feet above the net and that's what we look for.."

-Trent Jones, Head Volleyball Coach

leaping ability helps her vertical reach. Jones agreed.

"She's a great middle-blocker (with) tremendous leaping ability," Jones said. "She's a really good side-out middle, which means when we're receiving serve and she gets the set, there is a really good chance she will get the kill there."

Gaff started playing volleyball as a youngster, but got into the game more seriously when she began to outgrow some of her other favorite activities.

"I started out dancing and playing volleyball," Gaff said, "but when I started getting taller, I kinda just stuck with volleyball. I just really liked it."

Gaff's training routine during the summer—where

she obtained this improvement over last season—was put together by Jones. It included lifting weights for 45 minutes—either upper body or lower body—and then running 20 minutes on an elliptical or 15 minutes of sprints.

Another aspect of her training is playing club volleyball for Illini Elite. It is a member of the Junior Volleyball Directors Association where teams travel all over and compete for the U.S. Volleyball Championships. When asked what she thinks of Coach Jones: "He's a great guy," Gaff

said.

"He's really personable, he really cares about his girls a lot, and tries to make things best for them and puts in a lot of extra time [for them]."

Gaff is also one of the more than 30 UM-St. Louis athletes who are members of the Pierre Laclède Honors College. No dumb jocks here.

When asked if there is something she wants UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff to know: "Volleyball is an exciting sport to watch," Gaff said. "There is always something going on. Like it is so much fun to watch a bunch of girls, we cheer all the time and help each other all the time ... and we're having such success and I want other people to see that."

Excitement on the volleyball court



FILE PHOTO / THE CURRENT

► **MATTHEW B. HENRY**
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team might be setting some kind of record for exciting matches this season.

Even when the Tritons do not play their best, they still seem to somehow make a match exciting, and it has been that way all season. That is what happened in both of UM-St. Louis' matches last weekend.

On Friday night the Tritons didn't play well, but still managed to take No. 13 Lewis University to five sets before finally succumbing three sets to two in a match at Neil Carey Arena in Romeoville, Ill.

Then, on Saturday, UM-St. Louis was absolutely dominant in the first two sets, then dreadful in the middle sets, before finally putting away Wisconsin-Parkside, three sets to two, in a match at the DeSimone Gymnasium in Kenosha, Wis.

Outside hitter Erin Higgins, sophomore, early childhood education, played her best two matches as a Triton in those two contests.

Friday night, Higgins had a career-best 16 kills with five hit errors in the loss to Lewis. Then on Saturday, she topped herself, posting a match-high 17 kills with only four hit errors.

Setter Kayla Kinzinger, junior, education, directed the UM-St. Louis offense with 43 assists against Lewis, and 51 against UWP. While the best libero in the conference, Carolyn Holstein, junior, business, lead the defensive effort with 32 digs on Friday and 25 on Saturday.

The 1-1 weekend gives the Tritons a 13-7 record on the season, and leaves them in a four-way tie for fourth place in the GLVC, with Drury, Rockhurst, and Southern Indiana. All four teams have a 4-2 conference record.

UM-St. Louis will get its chance to grab sole possession of fourth place, or maybe even move up in the standings this week, when it will host home matches against Drury and Rockhurst.

The Drury match will be Friday night at the Mark Twain building at 7 p.m. The Panthers are 12-6 on the season, and are coming off a loss to second place Northern Kentucky last Saturday.

The quick Triton homestand will conclude Saturday when rival Rockhurst comes to visit the Mark Twain building at 3 p.m. The Hawks had won four matches in a row, until they lost to Northern Kentucky on Friday.

But Rockhurst got back on the winning track Saturday, with a three games to none sweep over 10th place Bellarmine.

Triton women fall to 6-10 after 99-57 loss at No. 22 Quincy

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

Quincy, Ill.—Some seriously hot three-point shooting by the No. 22-ranked Quincy Ladyhawks proved too much for the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team when the teams played last Thursday at Quincy's Pepsi Arena.

The Ladyhawks hit 16-of-26 three-point attempts in the contest to turn what began as a close game into a lopsided 99-57 win over the Tritons.

Five different Quincy players hit at least two three-pointers against UM-St. Louis, led by senior Janette Burgin, who hit four shots from long range and led all scorers with 18 points.

Burgin's hot shooting erased what had been a fantastic start for the Tritons, who led 17-11 with just over 10 minutes left in the first half. UM-St. Louis had hit three early three-pointers of their own, including a 23-foot bomb by Lindsey Ransome, senior, communications, to give them the lead.

The Tritons fired-up start to the game managed to silence the Pepsi Arena crowd and

frustrate Quincy coach J.D. Gravina. But it was not long before the Ladyhawks got going.

Led by a mid-range jumper and back-to-back threes by Burgin, Quincy went on a 15-0 run to grab a lead it would never relinquish at 26-17.

MEN, from page 9

Still, the Tritons held the record for less than a week, as Southern Indiana scored 153 points against Maryville six days later to set a new mark.

Although the outcome of the Maryville game was determined very early on, the same could not be said for the two home games UM-St. Louis has played in 2010.

Both the Jan. 7 contest against NKU and the Jan. 9 matchup against UIndy came down to the final seconds, with the Tritons pulling out wins both times.

Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, had the game in his hands both times. And both times, the Tritons' starting point guard and leading scorer won the

game by sinking free throws with less than a minute left.

Against NKU, Beasley hit the second of two free throws with 35.7 seconds left, then helped force an errant game-winning shot attempt by the Norse to seal a 57-56 win for the Tritons.

Then two days later, against UIndy, Beasley broke a 60-60 tie with two free throws with just 2.4 seconds left to give UM-St. Louis a 62-60 win over the Greyhounds.

"We were much better [against Northern Kentucky and Indianapolis]," Pilz said. "[The GLVC] is the best league in the country, and it's gonna take that kind of effort for us to win games and get

where we're trying to go."

The Tritons are now 10-6 on the season, and will look to improve on that mark with five straight home games over the next two weeks.

During that time, UM-St. Louis will host GLVC contests against Bellarmine on Jan. 18; St. Joseph's on Jan. 21; Illinois-Springfield on Jan. 23; No. 22-ranked Drury on Jan. 28; and Rockhurst on Jan. 30.

Each of these very important matchups will be played at the Mark Twain Building.

Furthermore, they will go a long way toward determining when and where the Tritons might play when the postseason begins in late February.

while other teams have comebacks against you. What is it about this team that, no matter what, we as observers can be sure the game's going to be exciting at the end?

CP: We try to create an identity where we're going to be the hardest-playing and toughest team on the floor. If people come out and see guys like Eddie White, or Ryan Lawrence, or Zach Redel, people are gonna see what effort is. We've got guys that dive on the floor, and step over and take charges, and that's why I've enjoyed coming to practice with them every day, and why we always have some excitement in our games.

C: Coach, I know you're also a big fan of some other St. Louis area sports teams, and they've all got some major news going on with them. So I'm just gonna ask your opinion of a couple of other STL sports questions ... What do you think of the whole Mark McGwire controversy with his recent admission that he did use steroids while he was playing?

CP: Well, I'm about like anybody else from around here. I'm a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan. I love the Cardinals and cheer for

them every season. And I'm not one to make judgments on anyone. I enjoyed watching him play, and I think it's good that he spoke out and finally got it all out. I just hope that it helps other people, young people especially make better choices.

C: And finally coach, UMSL's Pack the Stands Night promotion is coming up, and that's going to be a pretty exciting night for UMSL basketball. What's it like for you guys getting to play in that atmosphere at home, with a big crowd, lots of noise and excitement, when usually you've some smaller crowds for home games this year?

CP: I can't stress enough how much it helps to have big crowds in our gym for games. I played here (in the late 80s and early 90s) back when we used to have a lot of big crowds. So I know it gives you a lot of excitement and energy to play when you see lots of people come out to see you play and you know they appreciate the hard work you put in and how you play.

Hopefully, we'll get a lot of those crazy students to come out and support us, and we'll have a lot of fun playing that game on Thursday night.

QUINCY, from page 10

Moments later, Kristi White, senior, accounting, had the highlight play of the night for the Tritons when she hit a three-pointer while getting mauled by a Quincy defender, for a four-point play that made the score 26-21.

Teammate Kelly Carter, junior, elementary education, followed up White's effort with a brilliant play of her own on UM-St. Louis' next possession. The 5-foot-7 guard from Bloomington, Ill., beat one defender off the dribble, then spun away from another to hit a dazzling fadeaway jumper, while also getting fouled for a three-point play that made the score 26-24.

The teams traded buckets on each of their next possessions before Quincy took control for good with

a 19-4 run, which included two more three-pointers by Burgin in the final five minutes of the half to lead at the break 47-32.

The second half began with a promising start for the Tritons as White made a layup and got fouled for a three-point play, and teammate Hailee Deckard, sophomore, secondary education, hit two free throws to pull UM-St. Louis within 50-37.

But that was as close as the Tritons would get in a second half when they were outscored 52-25. Carter, Deckard, and Ransome led UM-St. Louis in scoring in the game with eight points apiece, while White and Kelly Mitchell, junior, communications, added seven points each as the Tritons fell to 6-10 on the season.

Currently, UM-St. Louis sits in fourth place in the GLVC West with a 2-5 mark in league games. But the Tritons will get their chance to improve their record with five straight home games over the next two weeks.

This week, UM-St. Louis will host Bellarmine on Monday, Jan. 18; St. Joseph's on Pack the Stands Night on Thursday, Jan. 21; and Illinois-Springfield on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Next week, the Tritons will host Drury on Thursday, Jan. 28 and Rockhurst on Saturday, Jan. 30.

All five games will be played at the Mark Twain Building with the Monday and Thursday contests scheduled for 5:30 p.m. tipoffs, while both Saturday contests are scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Coaches Corner

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Each week, sports editor Cedric Williams will sit down with one of the UM-St. Louis coaches and have a conversation about all kinds of sports and life issues. This week, Cedric spoke with men's basketball coach Chris Pilz. Here is just a snippet of that conversation:

Ceddie: Well coach, you guys are 10-6 now, heading down the final stretch of the season. What do you guys have to do now to be the team you want to be when postseason gets here?

Coach Pilz: Where we're going to make our biggest gains is our preparation in practice. We've got to get our execution in practice, and our intensity in practice up a little bit more. We've got to take care of the basketball. And we've got to mature and grow, and know that every offensive possession and every defensive possession matters when you play in this league.

C: For whatever reason, it seems every game you guys play winds up with some kind of excitement at the end. You guys make comebacks on other teams,

Two sides of Tritons basketball

► MATTHEW B. HENRY
Staff Writer

In classic English literature there is that double figure representing the good of life and the bad of life: Robert Louis Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Triton basketball team is only halfway through their regular season, and they have had a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde first half of a regular season.

Opening the season with a win over Lindenwood on the Chuck Smith Court, Mr. Hyde, or the bad of life, appeared. Suddenly the Lady Tritons were 1-7.

One bright spot within that seven-game "bad of life" portion was Kelcy "I like to bang up on people" Hulbert's, junior, elementary education, first contest back when she manufactured a double-double, 12 points and 12 rebounds.

But because Hulbert sports #12 on her jersey, head women's basketball coach, "The Commander"

Lisa Curliss-Taylor said "As far as on the court, as far as earning even a number—even a uniform—you got to earn it."

Then queuing up that old phrase so often said in sports and repeated by winners everywhere, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," Dr. Jekyll arrived with the good of life.

The Lady Tritons created a record of 5-2 in their next seven games, finishing the first half with a record of 6-9.

When asked about this turnaround, "The Commander" Curliss-Taylor said "The chemistry is back. That was the biggest turnaround the past few weeks."

And one of those two losses in that second half of the first half of the regular season was to GLVC rival and then-ranked No. 16, Quincy.

In the Quincy contest the Tritons were down two times by 15+ points but dug deep and manufactured point runs to come back to

low single digit deficits.

The key to the Tritons' performance that night was the career-high 31 points by Kristi "The Captain" White, senior, accounting, or K.J. as she is affectionately called by her teammates.

Another bright spot in the 5 and 2 run was Hailee "Spin Move" Deckard, sophomore, secondary education, with a career-high 28 points in the win against Lincoln.

Then came Caitlin "6-foot-3-inch" Moody, sophomore, physical education, with a career-high 27 points in the win against Missouri S&T, and Kelly "The Modest" Carter, junior, elementary education, with a career-high 22 points in the win against Northern Kentucky.

When asked which player's performance stood out the most during the 5 and 2 run, "The Commander" Curliss-Taylor was quick to answer.

See **TWO SIDES**, page 27

Faculty Spotlight

Jeffrey Sippel

*UM-St. Louis instructor
talks art experience*



► SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

Jeffrey Sippel is an Associate Professor of Fine Art at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. With a curriculum vitae as thick as a textbook, Sippel's art has appeared in 17 solo exhibitions and over 200 group exhibitions around the world. Recently, he was the only American artist to receive an award for the International Drawing Competition.

The Current: Were you an artsy child?

Jeffrey Sippel: Yes I was. Way back when, even in fourth grade when [classmates] would want a poster made, I would always volunteer; or they'd ask me to do it because I was always enthused and enjoyed doing that. As artists, some of us come from that background, but it was sort of ironic that [in my family] no one was really interested in art, so where that came from I have no idea!

TC: When did you first start printmaking?

JS: The college that I attended was the University of

Wisconsin Eau Claire. Initially I was a math major for two years, but I also had this artistic interest. My initial intention was to be a math major and an art minor, so I began taking some art classes and enjoyed them much more than the math classes I was taking. I think that we are directed in a certain sense with not only our passion, but kind of influenced by the instructors we have. I had a pretty good relationship association with both my printmaking instructor and my sculpturing instructor ... so I was pretty torn between the two, but I am happy I took the printmaking direction.

TC: What has been the most rewarding experience in your life?

JS: I taught at the University of New Mexico for ten years before coming here [to UM-St. Louis], and during that time we did a lot of international exchanges. My director came to me ... she had this envelope and she said, "Jeff, this is your invitation for your guest-artist visit for the Soviet Union." So I really hadn't started work there and they [were] already sending me off to the Soviet Union. Having a three-week visit at that time ... in the

Soviet Union, a communist country, it was just amazing. When I look back on [the experience], it's like, "Oh my God!"

TC: Who has been your favorite artist to work with?

JS: A long time ago I worked with a very recognized artist, his name was Jack Tworkov [who was a] color expressionist from New York. When I worked with him I was very young and he was more of a grandfather figure—like an older experienced artist. When I was working with him it was kind of like working with your grandfather because he was so humble.

TC: Who or what inspires you and why?

JS: I like to be inspired by other places and other cultures, but artists are a big influence. I don't know why artists are attracted to a certain trend or style, but for many years my art was very representational, but now the way I research—especially with new innovative materials—I don't want to spend a lot of time because it may not be successful ... my work is turned to be more expressive. I'm looking at the expressive side of art.

BETTER BOWLING NAME:

**COBRA or
LAZER?**

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1.21



5:30pm
Mark Twain Gym
Men's & Women's
Basketball

2.10



7:30pm
Touhill Performing Arts Center
Host of Loveline and VH1's
Celebrity Rehab

3.1



7:00pm
Century Rooms
Inspiration for the hit movie
'Precious'

3.11



7:00pm
Century Rooms
Star of the documentary
'Murderball'

4.21



All day
UMSL Campus
Spring carnival and concert

4.23



6:00pm-6:00am
UMSL campus
A walk to fight cancer

4.26



6:00pm
Century Rooms
Celebrate the achievements
of UMSL students

5.1



10:00am
A day of service to the
community

A legacy continued

Students, faculty, and visitors pull together for MLK day program

► SEQUITA BEAN & ANNNA MARIE CURAN

On Monday, Jan. 18, the University of Missouri-St. Louis celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy through the "Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday observance program," and the "Martin Luther King Day of Service."

The day was sponsored through Students of Service, the Office of Equal Opportunity, the Student Government Association, University Program Board and the Office of Student Life.

All of the volunteers for the service day reported to the campus at 9 a.m. to register and to have breakfast, after which they attended the observance program at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on campus.

At the Touhill were various speakers and performances, and the winner of the MLK essay contest read the winning essay.

Past president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Incorporated, Charles Piller presented the first place winner of the essay contest, Juliette Jacobs, senior, business administration, who moved the audience with her winning essay about not allowing fear and violence to overcome love, and strengthening communities. "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies," Jacobs quoted King in her speech, "but the silence of our friends."

UM-St. Louis' own Dickson Quartet performed String Quartet number 12 in F major for the ceremony, followed by guest speaker, author and former UM-St.

Louis English instructor Jabari Asim who spoke on the parallels of the life of Dr. King and the election of President Barack Obama.

"Martin Luther King's life and legacy is really about lessons to me.

He wasn't officially a teacher, but you know that's really what he was so what better place than universities to explore the meaning of his lessons?" said Asim in an interview.

"What better audience to absorb the lessons of King and carry them on than through people who are intellectually equipped to do something with his lessons?"

Asim also commented on the performance's quality, and congratulated the talents of all the students involved. Beatrice Washington, UM-St. Louis 1990 alumna, agreed with Asim.

"I am really so proud," Washington said, "to come back to UMSL and see this celebration really made my day. Dr. King was such an honorable man and to see him celebrated so beautifully by my alma mater makes me very, very proud."

After the show, the student volunteers returned to the Millennium Student Center at noon for lunch before breaking out to their service projects. The volunteers returned to campus at 5 p.m. for dinner and the closing ceremonies.

Josh Linn, senior, mathematics, and a member of the planning committee for MLK Day, said that the planning committee has been working on planning MLK Day since the beginning of the fall semester. Linn said that there are five or six committee heads, all

of which are overseen by Megan Hill.

All of the volunteers were assigned a "service site" to visit in the afternoon.

The list of service sites were all local and included a youth detention center as well as the construction of a house. Linn also said that none of the volunteers were aware of what their specific service project would be until they arrived for lunch.

"It's part of the experience that we're shooting for ... to get out there and meet new people and [for the volunteers] to not know where they're going," Linn said.

Megan Hill, the program's coordinator, said that one of the things that make MLK Day of Service unique is that it is not only students or members of the community helping out, but that it also brings the two together. Hill said that the volunteers consist of families, students, faculty, staff and kids.

"MLK day is a unique volunteer experience because it brings together community members with the campus," Hill said.

"And all the groups [were] split up where it's like a hodgepodge of community and students, faculty and staff. We [had] everyone volunteering, which is cool."

Linn said that he felt MLK Day of Service at UM-St. Louis was an important tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

"Today is a celebration of Martin Luther King Day and everything that he's done for us," Linn said.

"What better way to celebrate somebody who gave so much to the community than to do community service."

3-D, from page 7

Naturally, the new 3-D-enabled TVs announced at CES should help fix that. But sheesh, people! You had huge problems getting consumers to buy televisions that were digital broadcast-enabled!

3-D technology is nothing new. What are of greater interest to me are the new "augmented reality" glasses announced at CES. They're very similar to 3-D glasses, yet they incorporate cameras, screens, and a whole host of other interesting and expensive things.

Imagine being able to wear these augmented reality glasses and be able to view specially printed web links in magazines or books on the Internet in real time, right inside your glasses.

However, there are three problems: one, the glasses make you look like a pretentious idiot; two, the glasses cost \$800; three, the glasses make you look like a pretentious idiot.

It may be the Future soon, but it is definitely not right now.

Wake me up when the companies at CES start showing off virtual reality. Remember how VR spread during the 90s like wildfire? Yeah, me too.

THE RUNWAY

Skimpy not fashionable

There is a thin line between looking sexy and oversexed



Sequita Bean

People might be surprised to know that as a fashion enthusiast, I do not fancy television shows like the Style Network's "How Do I Look" and TLC's "What Not to Wear." While those shows and shows like them are entertaining, I do not like the overall theme of them: changing someone's appearance to make them more stylish. That vision of style is usually left up to the stylist of the show (who most of the time is a host), and the end result is always what the stylist envisions, with little input from the people themselves.

The contestant almost always looks uncomfortable which makes it truly agonizing to watch. People should be able to wear what they want without the opinions of

others. If their clothes make them feel comfortable, confident, sexy and beautiful, they should wear them regardless of how unstylish others deems them.

Rock on, I say, to everyone who is comfortable expressing themselves in a non-traditional way.

On the last season of "How Do I Look," show contestant and mother of nine, Chastity was made over from a raunchy, scantily clad chic to a classy career woman. I may sound contradictory, but in Chastity's case, her makeover was necessary.

During the show she mentioned several times that her clothing items were designer name brand, and that they were in fashion. Chastity should never have confused skimpy with fashion, regardless of who designed it. Besides, putting together raunchy pieces from several designer collections has little to do with the designer and more to do with the person wearing it.

As far as fashion statements go, skimpy attire is one of the most straightforward and the message is very clear. Given the associated hazards, why do we even bother with

skimpy clothes? There is no practical need for them, even when it's hot outside. It is not that women should dress like nuns, but there is a fine line between looking sexy and looking oversexed.

A good fashion rule is that 60% of your body should be covered in your sexiest outfit. Either legs or cleavage may be revealed, but never both at the same time.

Most of us women, from time to time, like to wear a short skirt, a revealing top or a tight dress, and honestly, most of the time looking sexy is the motivation. Sexual attractiveness has always been an influential part of our society.

The bottom line is: leave some of your allure to others' imagination. The fact is, you could be taking a risk that women will think you are trashy; guys may like it, but for all the wrong reasons. Yes, people should be able to wear what they want if it makes them feel confident and beautiful, but if skimpy attire truly makes a person feel beautiful, then they need to check their self-esteem.

Instead, let's leave the nipple pasties and hot pants to strippers and Lady Gaga.

Community composition

English students participate in service-learning project

▶ JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

President Obama has been encouraging altruistic activities, and while men in the general population are doing their share, servicing others also takes part in the education system.

Deborah Maltby, assistant teaching professor in the department of English, started service-learning opportunities in her 3100 Advanced Expository Writing class as a way for her students to experience new environments, populations and

values. She was inspired to add community service into her course by colleagues at William Jewell College.

After arriving to teach at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, she began her plan to implement service learning into her curriculum in hopes of not only benefiting the community, but also her students.

"I had two main goals in offering service-learning as an option in English 3100," Maltby said. "My first, simplest, and most important goal was to help my students improve their writing. For the students who do the service-learning, a considerable amount of the course writing is related to the service-learning project. They become extremely engaged in the project, and students simply write better if they're engaged in their topic."

Maltby's second goal in creating service-learning involved uniting her students with the outside community.

"Connecting with the community is a significant aspect of service-learning, along with hands-on learning, as reiterated in the literature about best practices in service learning," Maltby said.

The students in her class volunteer at different places, including an after-school program in Normandy, Ready Readers, and Maltby's first community partner Berkeley Middle School.

Her students involve themselves in activities such as assisting students with homework, writing skills, reading aloud to children or just stopping in to visit.

It is necessary to mention that "service-learning" is not synonymous with "volunteering," although that can, and often is, a part of service-learning.

"For volunteering to be service-learning, the volunteer work

must enhance the course content," Maltby said. "The literacy theme provided an obvious connection with volunteer work connected to reading, writing, and learning."

This program not only benefits the students being tutored, but also the students in Maltby's course. In addition to a goal of writing improvement, there is also a self-awareness aspect.

"I really saw how I made a difference in a lot of those kids' lives over just a six week period," Brittany Hill, senior, biology, said. "I looked forward to seeing those kids every week, no matter how wild the class may have been. The experience really inspired me to continue to take strides in the future to do what I can to help out our youth, and continue to encourage them and inspire them."

Hill took Maltby's class during the spring semester 2009. She opted to volunteer in the program, and worked at Berkeley middle school over a six week period.

In the fall semester, all of Maltby's 60 students participated in some form of service-learning.

Those who could not or did not wish to volunteer at the schools spent time working in a group researching and writing about situations in St. Louis schools and urban school reform. The fall students provided a total of over 600 hours in volunteering. Campus Compact, an organization promoting service and community involvement, estimated the value of volunteer time at over \$20 an hour.

"I would absolutely recommend the class to another person and have done so already," Hill said. "Aside from just getting the life changing experience from participating in the service learning project, the whole course expands your thinking, thought processes and the way you look at things. I felt enlightened at the end of the course."

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MICHELLE KAUFMAN / THE CURRENT

The 'new-and-improved' U *Radio show revamps for the new year*

▶ JESSICA KEIL
Editor in Chief

In its four years of existence at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the campus radio station, The U, has moved locations, gone through budget constraints, fired DJs for playing offensive music, and continually grown and learned from the experiences. This year the station is getting a makeover, or at least a tummy-tuck and eyelift or two.

The station's manager, Keith Robinson, is the force behind the revamp of The U.

"We are changing how we do things internally and externally in the radio station," Robinson said. "Our focus this semester is on trying to give back to the university, and trying to work more with student organizations, and just [to] try to get the word out to the campus about what we do."

To do this, the station is implementing "focused formats" for their shows. DJs will be expected to read public service announcements sent in by organizations, the campus calendar, or some sort of University news.

Additionally, the station is working with the University Meadows apartments and Oak Hall dormitory to play music on South Campus during the weekends when The U is closed. In the past, The U attempted to set up "Studio C" in Oak Hall and even secured a room, but it was taken away when the station did not have enough SABC funds to make use of the space. Now, Robinson plans on trying again, this time through their "Mobile DJ" team who would travel over to South Campus and broadcast music for the residents.

Another aspect of The U's revamp is the station's plans to focus more on UM-St. Louis athletics. John Edwards is the sports director for The U and hosts "Triton Zone." Triton Zone focuses solely on UM-St. Louis sports and will be newly formatted this year to include an interview of a Triton coach

or athlete during every show. However, what Edwards is most excited for are the live sports broadcasts, which started last semester.

"I am looking forward to expanding the university's sports coverage in the near future to doing more live games," Edwards said. "We currently had a 36-game schedule from this academic year to hopefully 50 [for] next [year]."

Edwards will broadcast five men's baseball games and five women's softball games over the 2010 spring semester.

Along with broadcasting live Triton games, The U is also broadcasting itself live through the newly installed webcam and the TV set outside the studio.

The recorded radio shows will be archived on The U's website, and will include interviews with bands or other guests. The TV set outside the studio will play music videos and visual representations of the PSAs read on the air.

Mainly, Robinson hopes the changes will benefit not just the station but also the university as a whole, such as the other student organizations.

"We believe all the organizations here are just as important as we are, and we have a station here where we can actually get the word out to a lot of people, and we want to use that at the benefit to all the other organizations here," Robinson said.

To listen to The U when not walking across the MSC bridge, go to their Web site at umslradio.com. Do not expect to hear the "standard thing that you hear usually on the radio," Robinson said. Anticipate listening to an eclectic mix of talk or an obscure genre of music like "J-pop," short for Japanese pop.

"I think that with the formatting that we're doing for the station and the other things we're doing, [it] will show that we're here for not just us, but for the entire university," Robinson said. "Hopefully more people will tune in and support what we're doing here at the station because of it."

Computers and classrooms *Instructional computing keeps you learning*

▶ MATTHEW B. HENRY
Staff Writer

The Information Technology Services department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis contains a support division called Instructional Computing that keeps the campus up and running. But don't try and find its headquarters. That would be like trying to find Q's department in a James Bond flick or Batman's cave.

Instructional Computing is specifically designed to provide support to all open classrooms and computing labs. Some of those services are accessed by management of classrooms and labs, providing real-time technical support, managing the online testing centers, providing training workshops, and "short courses" on a variety of technology related topics at no cost to the user, the Instructional Computing July 2009 flyer states. Ken Voss, Director-Computing Services, has Chris Scheetz, Supervisor-Instructional Computing. Scheetz has Doug Williams, Christopher Boyce and David Maczynski who work as

Site Supervisors. "I started as a student here at UM-St. Louis helping provide classroom support and have been [working] full time since 2001," Chris Scheetz, supervisor of instructional computing, said. "From a classroom support point of view we are responsible for ensuring that the technology in the classroom works."

Those classrooms can be a very basic one, or what is called an "advanced learning studio." Clark 400 is an example of one where flexible technology of laptops, dual projection, multiple instruction points and flexible seating are used.

On UM-St. Louis' campus there are over 1100 computers available for use between the labs and classrooms and also 16 computer labs.

The biggest lab is in Social Science Building 103 which stays open until 1 a.m. many nights during a semester.

"I started here in 2003 after completing my Computer Science degree from Webster University," Doug Williams, site supervisor for I.C., said "My main responsibility is the staff

of student workers we hire to work and maintain of the six computer labs we have on campus. I interview, hire, supervise and train them. The computer labs have 30 to 40 students in its staff."

"We will write the content [for the I.C. 'short courses'], provide the power points, and teach," Williams said. "I came here in September of 2005 from the University City school system where I was a technology instructor," Christopher Boyce, site supervisor, said.

"I have a staff of 14 to 17 and [I] am in charge of the technology classrooms. We have over 100 on campus."

Boyce works with David Maczynski, another site supervisor, who has a staff of about six, and mainly handles south campus.

"My goal is maximum uptime, to not lose a class, and to make sure everyone is fully functional," Boyce said. "My staff is also responsible for responding to problems reported from the instructors with their classroom systems."

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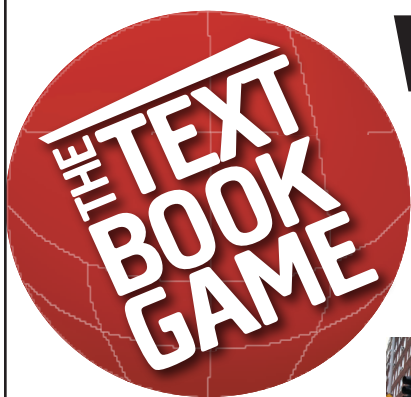
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A&E

A 'Strain' to read

Ho-hum vampire novel nothing new

Vampire novels are virtually everywhere these days. There are the Bellas/Edwards for the tween crowd, the Sookies/Bills for the older audiences, and the good-old-fashioned Mina/Dracula for the classic literary junkies.

Now more than ever, the vampire sub-genre of supernatural horror is quickly becoming over-saturated.

Luckily, every few years a truly remarkable book comes along that turns the tired concept on its head and revitalizes the whole genre. Stoker's "Dracula" is the most well-known; King's "Salem's Lot" is another.

"The Strain," by Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan is not one of those remarkable books. In fact, it is anything but.

The novel follows the exploits of one Ephraim Goodweather. Yes, you read that right. The main character's name is Ephraim Goodweather. No, he is not an old man dedicated to annihilating everything vampire - though the book does have one of those.

The problem with "The Strain" is not the ridiculous way the characters are named (Sure, there is Zack and a Nora...and then there is an Ephraim, a Fet, and an Eldritch. ELDRITCH. I kid you not). It is also not the hackneyed writing.

The problem is that the book reads like a combination of a Wikipedia entry and an essay on literary clichés.

For example, the book opens with a mystery. After an overseas flight makes a successful landing at JFK International Airport, the plane goes silent. There are

no lights, no movement inside, and repeated attempts by the tower to hail the plane go unheeded.

Naturally, a whole host of government agencies are called in to assess the situation. One of those is the CDC and Ephraim.

Of course, everyone on board the flight is dead. So far, so good - the opening is an homage to Stoker's iconic image of Dracula arriving in Britain. That can be appreciated.

Unfortunately, that scene signals the beginning of the end. Ephraim and a co-worker discover a mysterious coffin-like box aboard the plane, and it just so happens that it is not listed on the cargo manifest.

For that matter, it is also empty except for a layer of soil in the bottom. This would be the point where at least one of the multiple doctors in the book should say, "Hey! This seems familiar. Didn't this happen in a movie or a book?"

Instead, every single character goes on to ignore the empty coffin, just kind of disregarding it. In the great number of people that examined the plane or its passengers or cargo, there was not one person who had read Dracula or seen a vampire film ever.

Thus begins "The Strain," which goes on to introduce a Holocaust survivor/pawnbroker who has encountered vampires before and just so happens to be situated in New York City right when the vampire arrives from Europe. Him, and a rat catcher who also happens to be a remarkably apt vampire hunter.

See **STRAIN**, page 21



COURTESY / SONY PICTURE CLASSICS

Former 'Monty Python' member Terry Gilliam has crafted a visual smorgasbord in the fantastical 'P.S. I Love You,' in which mysterious stranger Tony played by Heath Ledger (top) is "transformed" half way through the film into three versions of himself played first by Johnny Depp (bottom left), then by Jude Law (bottom center), and finally by Colin Farrell (bottom right).

Be sure to bring your imaginarium: it's gonna get weird

Terry Gilliam is the kind of recognizable, idiosyncratic and skilled filmmaker that your friends who go to poetry readings refer to as "an auteur." This means a Gilliam film is always going to be just that, and his direction is more influential on the tone and content of the project than the cast, script, production, etc.

With "The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus," he has finally found the proper venue for his visions. Here is the film that "Brazil," "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" and even Gilliam's sketch sequences with Monty Python, have been pointing to. It is an ambitious, heartfelt, weird and lingering film. It also does not readily lend itself to plot description.

The essentials are as follows: Doctor Parnassus (Christopher Plummer) runs a traveling show along with his saucy daughter Valentina (Lily Cole), his guttersnipe hired help Anton (Andrew Garfield) and comrade Percy (Verne Troyer). At some point, Parnassus may or may

not have become involved with The Devil (the one and only Tom Waits) in a way that affects Valentina, who may be 12 years old, or 16, or much older.

The whole scheme is turned on its head when the traveling group spots Tony (Heath Ledger's final, incomplete performance) hanging apparently dead from a bridge. This unsettling introduction to Ledger's Tony is the catalyst for the film's plot, which is odd and somewhat hard to follow, though in a way that manages not to be bothersome.

When a political thriller takes an unnecessary tangent or a fantasy film is hazy about who has what powers, it loses something. Yet when "Imaginarium" spends 10 minutes in a visually extravagant rendering of a poor Londoner's psyche, or shows us a group of monks who keep the world existing by repeating an endless story, or simply drops in on the conversation of a young couple, it all somehow seems to fit. Gilliam's own imagination and obvious love for story-

telling becomes the engine that drives the film.

The movie's mechanics mostly hinge around Parnassus's special mirror, which is actually some sort of portal into Imagination. Here we are shown the deepest (and vivid, colorful, and expansive) desires and dreams of the person who has entered the mirror. Do not even ask what happens when two people enter. This is Gilliam's way to draw up surrealistic canvases that are part Lewis Carol, part Salvador Dali, and part Biblical.

Plummer, a true actor's actor, embodies the Parnassus role with gravity and theatrical woe. Ledger, playing a character whose own true nature and intentions do not develop until late in the film, is intriguing, physical, and impossible to look away from. Halfway through the film, Ledger's Tony goes through three consecutive "transformations" which are sort of explained and sort of fit.

See **PARNASSUS**, page 22

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COURTESY / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

George (Golden Globe nominee Colin Firth) is a grieving man who finds solace with artist Charley (Julianne Moore) as he deals with the loss of his lover.

Searing drama used to explore gay grief in closeted world

In "A Single Man," actor Colin Firth turns in a remarkable performance as middle-aged college professor George Falconer, who is secretly grappling with his grief over the loss of the love of his life, in a film that also features breathtakingly beautiful visual images. The grief is secret because his lost love is another man, and the story is set in homophobic 1962. The script is based on a story by writer Christopher Isherwood, who also wrote "Berlin Stories," the basis for "Cabaret."

"A Single Man" is set in an earlier time when even a hint of being gay could mean a lost job and exclusion from society. The film opens with the death of the professor's long-time companion Jim (Matthew Goode), as George (Colin Firth) comes to grips with the anguish he is not permitted to openly express. The professor is a bespectacled, reserved British ex-pat living a quiet closeted life in

the suburbs, where he keeps his private life discreetly hidden. He and his long-time companion shared a house, but nothing in public called attention to the idea they might be more than just roommates.

For the most part, George is alone in facing his grief but he does have one friend nearby who knows the truth. Flamboyant, artistic Charley (Julianne Moore), another British ex-pat, is his closest friend and with her, he can share some of his pain. But their shared history is complicated and strained further by her own self-absorption.

Although the story is about a gay man and has some social commentary on that, the larger focus is on the human experience. Along with Firth's Oscar-worthy work, Julianne Moore delivers a striking performance as the fiery, needy Charley, a mix of affection and selfishness.

One of the most stunning things about this excellent, heart-rending drama is the remarkable dream-like and lovely photography. Beginning with an opening sequence underwater, images that capture the emotion of a person drowning in a sorrow that must be kept hidden, the

cinematography both skillfully conveys the plot and the feelings of the moment while adding sheer visual beauty. Director/writer Tom Ford, better known for costume design and his business turnaround of Gucci, does an amazing job in his directorial debut.

The emotionally-moving story is told through one day of the professor's struggle to keep going, with flashbacks to memories, including meeting his lost love and their life together. Although his day starts grimly, small events throughout the day—an encounter with a little girl at a bank, kindness from a student, an evening with an old friend—add more reflective, philosophical and even hopeful layers to his experiences in the bittersweet day. We are left to ponder our common humanity, no matter who different we seem, and our common mortality but also the power of small kindnesses.

Strong acting from both Julianne Moore and Colin Firth, coupled with the lovely photography and skillful, thought-provoking direction, "A Single Man" is a moving drama well worth seeing. It is now playing at Plaza Frontenac. **A** —*Cate Marquis*

STRAIN, from page 19

Several segments of the book attempt to detail exactly what Eph does at the CDC, complete with medical jargon and step-by-step analysis.

The cardinal rule of fiction is "show, don't

tell". "The Strain" has a whole lot of telling going on.

If this book is any indication of what is to come, then avoid it. Avoid it like the bright, burning light of the sun. **D-** —*Andrew Seal*

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

Avatar. James Cameron's soaring tribute to colonialism details the trials of a noble, pure human captured by a savage race of aliens known as the Na'vi, who spend their time practicing the kinds of pseudo-mystic pantheistic planet worship that would make any yuppie who's ever been to a crystal shop proud. When they're not doing this, the monstrous Na'vi are mounting everything in sight with their tail tendrils which are either sex organs or some kind of ultra USB port. Either way, nobody is safe—neither sacred trees nor flying dynobirds, nor other Na'vi. None of this, however, detracts from the fact that visually, watching this movie is like bathing in a marine biologist's beautiful dream. **B+** —*Chris Stewart.*

Sherlock Holmes. No, he's nothing like the Holmes you know; but let go of your attachment to the brilliant Arthur Conan Doyle novels and you'll have more fun at this movie than should be allowed. Makes most popcorn flicks seem dull, unromantic, and crass. A winner, though again, bearing nearly no remembrance to the somber, contemplative, Baker Street original. **A-** —*Chris Stewart.*

Up in The Air. Clooney doing the usual, Reitman doing the usual, and an increasingly familiar range of meta-indie "truths" being explored. Still, the script is sharp and tries hard (fairly successfully) to be grown up. What it never is, sadly, is surprising. **B-** —*Chris Stewart.*



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The Current is back!

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Year's funniest play

'39 Steps' at Repertory Theater is humor and Hitchcock

"The 39 Steps," a wildly-comic stage version of Alfred Hitchcock's classic film, may be this year's funniest and most enjoyable, theater experience.

The Mainstage production, now running at Repertory Theater of St. Louis, located on the Webster University campus, "The 39 Steps" has both thrills and laughs. Four actors take on 150 roles in a story set in pre-war 1936 Britain, which includes a train to Scotland, a hunt with bloodhounds, a plane crash, romance, crazed Scots, intrigue and Nazis.

Hitchcock's films are known for suspense but also their sly humor. This stage version of "The 39 Steps" takes the comedy already in the movie, takes it up several notches and then runs all over the place with it. Of course, it helps if you are a classic movie buff, but you do not have to have seen this particular Hitchcock film to enjoy this wild romp. But if you have, it does add a layer of delight.

Paul DeBoy plays the lead character, an amateur sleuth unwillingly thrown into a mystery plot, with Marina Squerciati playing all the female roles (well, all the attractive ones). Michael Keyloun and Tyrone Mitchell Henderson play everybody else. Due to clever costume changes, resourceful direction and sheer acting aplomb, the result is not chaos but comedy. Side-grabbing, snorting, guffawing comedy delight, the kind that leaves your face hurting from laughing.

After an evening at the theater to see a performance by a mind-reader called Mr. Memory, man-of-leisure Richard Hannay (Paul DeBoy) is relaxing in his London apartment when a mysterious woman with a Russian accent (Marina Squerciati) breaks in and begs him to hide her. Pursued by secret agents, she tells him of a secret society with Nazi ties, and a plot to steal British military secrets. Hannay is skeptical but a murder launches our reluctant hero on a run that takes him to Scotland, with one wild encounter and double-cross after another, not to mention enough farcical twists and comical characters to take anyone's breathe away with laughter.



COURTESY / REPERTORY THEATER OF ST. LOUIS

The Repertory Theater's riotous "39 Steps" recasts the tense World War II Hitchcock thriller it is based on, proving that with a snappy script and a little crossdressing, any situation can be funny. Running nightly through the month of January.

Many Hitchcock films feature an innocent man caught up in circumstances, who must race to solve a mystery in order to save himself, usually with a beautiful woman caught up in the same current of events. But in this case, that man is a wise-cracking, resourceful amateur sleuth, a character from a series of classic British detective novels.

This cast may be small but they are mighty talented, especially Michael Keyloun and Tyrone Mitchell Henderson, who play all those roles while camping it up and mugging at the audience. With so many roles and some many locations to cover, the cast—and the props and sets—are in constant motion. The Rep works its usual magic in this area, with sets that

roll in from off-stage, drop from overhead or spin around and become something else. The rapid pace means costumes must transform quickly, and if nothing else, we are astounded by the actors' ability to take an item or two and create a new character, and to make all those changes without crashing into each other. And all the while, winking at the audience and looking like they are having a great time themselves.

In short, "The 39 Steps" is non-stop and non-stop funny, one of the best comedies to grace local stages. It runs nightly at the Rep until Jan. 31. With its thrust stage, there are no bad seats at the Rep and student discounts and bargain "rush" tickets are offered. **A+** —Cate Marquis

PARNASSUS, from page 19

These new Tonys (all of whom look, essentially the same) are played by Johnny Depp, Jude Law and finally, Colin Farrell.

The film never sinks under the weight of its imagery, and while some may be put off by Gilliam's not caring to explain anything, ever, it is overall a fittingly overwhelming experience. It is a work that evokes much, asks much, and—like the carnival its char-

acters run—wants to show something larger, grander, and more incredible than we've ever seen before. Gilliam has always striven for that, bordering the line between macabre and magnificent. But he has never had characters so oddly appealing, or a story that makes for a great listen, even if it occupies a world that nobody but Gilliam may ever completely understand. **B+** —Chris Stewart

Read more reviews online at www.thecurrentonline.com

Exquisite food warms the soul at the Ice Kitchen

The newest member of the Drunken Fish sushi restaurant and lounge family is the Ice Kitchen, located at Westport Plaza in Maryland Heights, Mo. This gem of a restaurant opened in April of last year, but having already been awarded "Best Small Plate" by St. Louis Magazine, its youth is of no consequence.

One gets a sense of being at a swanky New York night club with the cool, dark atmosphere encompassed in blue and silver hues. The martini bar literally takes center stage, trimmed with blue lights and surrounded by a unique bar that keeps patrons drinks at the perfect temperature.

The menu is a "culinary fusion of American, Asian, Mediterranean, and Latin tapas and entrees," as stated on

their Web site.

The entrees are listed as "small plate" and "large plate," but this does not necessarily refer to portion sizes. As explained by Jose (a.k.a. server extraordinaire), it can refer to the robustness of flavors.

We selected two appetizers: a trio of soup flight (roasted corn chowder, tortilla and elephant garlic) and assorted spreads. Akin to presentations seen on TV's "Iron Chef," the soup was served in what look like large shot glasses that were lined up on a long, white serving platter. The assorted spreads were similarly presented with the breads tucked in between the serving bowls.

The favorite of these was the elephant garlic soup or "heaven in a bowl," if you will. There simply is no way to describe

the uniqueness of this simple soup that is named for the type of garlic used. Topped with small croutons and a bit of melted cheese, there simply cannot be a better soup in St. Louis.

The assorted spreads may have been a bit out of our league as we discovered that we are not fans of baba ghanoush. However, the asiago crustini was a flavorful delight in and of itself—no spread needed. The entrees we selected were surf and turf (hanger steak and tiger shrimp served with Israeli couscous and brown butter bearnaise sauce) and grilled wild salmon with black beluga lentils, golden pea tendrils and a truffle-saffron vinaigrette.

See ICE KITCHEN, page 28

Super Mario Bros. 4 is a must buy for any Wii owner

▶ **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Asst. A&E Editor

Wii owners have had reasonable gripes with their system's lack of games. Nearly the only company that knows how to utilize the Wii system to its fullest potential is Nintendo, and they have proved it once again with the new Super Mario Brothers 4. This is the first Mario game for the Wii that brings traditional two-dimensional Mario to Nintendo's newest gaming system. Nintendo masterfully blends the original 2-D platform's former elements with new innovations so well, one wonders why it took this long for a new Super Mario Brothers game for the Wii to be made.

The first Super Mario Brothers was developed in 1985 for the original Nintendo gaming console.

More than 28 years later, the newest iteration still feels like classic Mario. Anyone who has played any of the previous Super Mario Brothers games will feel



COURTESY / NINTENDO

right at home. The controls are simple to learn and easy to pick up but take time to master. The game requires only a Wii-mote turned sideways. The addition of wall-jumping and turning in mid-air to gain extra distance on long jumps dedicates devoted players who want to achieve the impossible.

Super Mario Bros. 4 offers many new features. The best new feature by far is multiplayer. Up to four players can join up or compete with each other for coins throughout the levels. This is where the game truly shines, as multiplayer is a blast with friends or family as you struggle for control of the screen. Players

may find themselves tempted to sabotage other players by picking them up and throwing them off cliffs or speeding through the stage and killing their teammates who were too slow to keep up.

In multiplayer, players can bubble up if they are about to die.

See **MARIO**, page 28

Venice cafe's Open Mic sings the blues with class

▶ **JOE SCHAFFNER**
Asst. A&E Editor

Going to open mic nights is an affair that proceeds with trepidation. All too often, a kitschy knockoff of Jack Johnson takes the stage, hoping to pull girls, look cool, and avoid any legitimate musical pursuits he might have.

The Venice Cafe, however, is home to a tasteful array of progressive art, from glittering mosaics to cubist portraits. Though the open mic (every Monday at 9 p.m.) strikes more from the vein of classic vaudeville, this pleasant if slightly ironic mixture of old and new makes for an equally tasteful night of laughs and music.

The charm begins with the host, Miles Long, a local artist who practically grew up at Venice Cafe under the wing of his father. Long now provides tasteful accompanying instrumenta-

tion for the variety of acts that take the stage. That is, of course, if they don't mind. After all, the whole idea of the Venice Cafe's open mic is to provide a welcoming environment for the creative output of the eclectic community that supports it.

And there is a good deal of eclecticism. The first man to take the stage was elderly and wore a weathered scarf, a cowboy hat and a raincoat. He muttered several songs about that proverbial one that got away, reminiscent of the half-finished mental hell that Alexander "Skip" Spence conveyed on Oar.

This fellow was a regular, apparently. So were the bulk of musicians that took part in the ensuing hootenanny. From "Miss" Molly Simms gutturally belted blues, to Jon Echlls' "invention" (an ankle strap with a tambourine attached), the people of Venice Cafe's Monday night already knew how to create a warm and

poignant atmosphere together. Long played a banjo, and apart from the oddity of one woman's a cappella poetry, everyone kept in line with the plainsong aesthetic of his lead.

Worth mentioning is the solo work of Jon Bonham, who plays folksy acoustic songs. The combination of his raspy vocals and surprisingly tight hooks were impressive. Bonham will be playing at Chuy Arzola's off Lindell Blvd. on Jan. 22 and 29, and the show will surely be worth a look.

By the end of the night, ordinal co-host Dave Hagerty (of St. Louis band Fattback) played bass along with Long's banjo and Paul H. Alpert's guitar and vocals for nearly a full-length set. Though a seemingly routine act, Hagerty's rhythm and improvisational ability were holding the trio together with an organic and fluid ease many more established bands in the area would be proud to develop. Reeling with energy after

a song, Hagerty expressed his shy confidence in the matter: "We're going to continue to blow y'all's minds. That is, unless you sign up and help us blow minds." Of course, these folks didn't start off eating the bar with their radiantly positive energy. It takes time to get there. Miles Long spoke of this as one of the most exciting aspects of hosting an open mic. "Some nights it can be pretty frustrating, but there's usually a silver lining.

It's fun to watch people who start off rough get better and get more gigs around town," Long said.

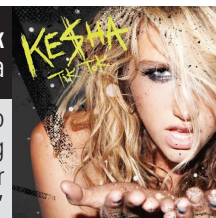
So sure, the next Henry Townsend probably won't get his start at Venice Cafe. Nevertheless, there is always the off-chance that he just might. In the meantime, the confluence of artists and musicians that gather there on Monday nights will continue to rouse up a good time with effortless grace.

SWEET JAMS

This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current's Chris Stewart

1

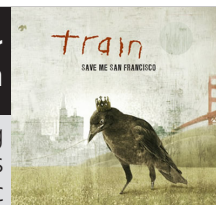
Tik Tok
Ke\$ha



Ke\$ha, what deep fears are you trying to run from with your wild "getting tipsy" and your outlandish "partying"? Is it the same thing that makes you sleep with the lights on? Is it why you're so scared to love? Who hurt you, Ke\$ha? Let's talk.

2

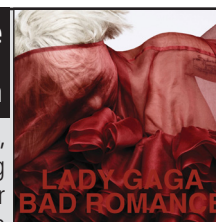
Hey, Soul Sister
Train



Yet another burbling love song with lyrics that try to be poetic and whimsical and end up with lines like "Your lipstick stains on the front lobe of my left-side brains." One simply can't sing like they're Jason Mraz and write lyrics like they're Orgy.

3

Bad Romance
Lady GaGa



Lady GaGa, it seems, will keep reigning over her little corner of the world until she has run out of ways to say "I like weird, crazy, dirty shit" or her hair finally all falls out from chemical poisoning. Sadly the strongest song this week.

4

Replay
Iyaz



It's got everything a pop hit needs: catchy hook, sentimentality, and of course, some "nah nah nah nah"s. What more could you ask for? It's not like music is actually supposed to be art, right? A venue for experimentality and soul? Please. Iyaz knows better than that.

5

Blah Blah Blah
Ke\$ha



Ke\$ha has discovered that when one can't sing, one can always chant. And in this song, she is absolutely determined to let some silly boys know that they need to just forget about it, because Ke\$ha is here to have fun, not get cooties from yucky boys.

Opinions

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board:
 Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Anna Marie Curran • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel
 Anthony Padgett • Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal

Haiti did make deal with devil: us

There is no question that the earthquake that rocked Haiti to its very foundations and threw the entire country into chaos was a terrible thing.

It is so heartwarming to see everyone pitching in and volunteering their money and time to aid those who were involved and injured in the catastrophe.

Especially in this time of economic woes, the amount of people coming forward and willing to donate is staggering. There has been such an outpouring of support from not only the U.S., but also around the world.

While these efforts are indeed noble and admirable, where was the outpouring of support and aid for Haiti, a nation with an 80 percent poverty rate, before Jan. 12?

In a world where the international focus is always on other things (the Middle East, oil prices, and war), events like the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, the daily atrocities in the Gaza strip and the criminally poor citizens of Haiti often go unnoticed.

In an article entitled “Haiti: the land where children eat mud” from May of last year, the New York Times took a detailed look at why, exactly, Haiti is the “poorest country and only Third World nation in the western hemisphere.”

To make a long, sordid and nauseating tale short, it is the western world’s fault that Haiti is the way it is today.

In 1804, after 12 years of war, Haitian revolutionaries finally defeated Napoleon’s

Caribbean forces and declared their independence from France.

However, that was only the beginning of the end.

The French demanded reparations to the tune of 150 million gold francs.

Haiti is the only country in the entire world where former slaves were expected to pay a hostile foreign government for their freedom.

According to the Times article, Haiti was “spending 80% of its national budget on repayments” by the year 1900.

On top of that, in order to pay back France faster, Haiti took out several high-interest loans from countries like France (itself!), Germany... and the U.S.

The last reparation payment was made in 1947. With the yoke of repayment lifted, things should have gotten better for Haiti.

However, a scant 10 years later vicious dictator François “Papa Doc” Duvalier forcefully took over the country and bankrupted it, taking out even more high-interest loans to pay for his lavish and corrupt lifestyle.

The Duvalier family reigned over Haiti for 30 bloody years, killing tens of thousands of Haitians with the financial assistance of countries like the U.S. The rest of the world turned a blind eye, ignoring the Haitian peoples’ cries. Finally, a 1986 rebellion was successful at overthrowing the Duvaliers and ending their reign of terror.

Today, Haiti is still trying to pay off the massive debt of a cruel dictator that the world



ILLUSTRATION BY ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT / THE CURRENT

ignored for 30 years. Also, the western world refuses to forgive Haiti’s debt.

All that we at *The Current* are saying is: do not stop offering your money, your support, and your aid once Haiti has gotten to its collective feet. We all need to continue to support them and help them to rebuild entirely—not just their homes and work places, but their entire country from the ground up. If we can do it in a country where many of the

inhabitants hate us, surely we can do it in a small island nation.

Televangelist Pat Robertson said that the earthquake happened because Haiti made a deal with the devil. Maybe, just maybe, Robertson is right.

Haiti did make a deal with the devil. It agreed to bankrupt itself to pay the western world for its freedom, and we greedily accepted.

Des Lee: an example that will be hard to follow

The University of Missouri-St. Louis community was shocked to learn of the death of the campus’ largest donor and good friend E. Desmond Lee last Tuesday. Desmond, called “Des” by most and “Desi” by some of his close family members, contributed over \$14 million university and countless more dollars to the St. Louis community.

His death is not only mourned by *The Current* and UMSL, but by Washington University (his Alma mater), the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Missouri Botanical Garden, most St. Louis high schools and school districts, and arguably the entire St. Louis region.

On the St. Louis Public Radio show “St. Louis on the Air” on Monday, Steffanie Rockette, Des’ director for his collaborative vision, estimated that Des’ contributions reached over 500,000 people in St. Louis a year.

Truly, the man’s generosity was incredible, and his impact on the St. Louis community, immeasurable. It is unlikely that our campus or city will ever see a person quite like Des Lee again.

Yet, in mourning Des Lee it is counterproductive to think of his death as the end of an era. Instead, his life should serve as a reminder of what collaboration, hope and generosity can do for a community.

In the same way that the recently celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday reminds us to love and help others, so should the life of Desmond Lee, a man who strived to help the underdog, provide education to all children, fight discrimination and support the arts. Des Lee’s legacy has set an example for all of us, especially for those of us in college who understand the importance of an education.

A rich man, Des certainly could have spent his money on lavish vacations, parties, mansions or cars, instead of scholarships, endowed professorships, fine arts programs or intercity school districts.

He was an upstanding example for the wealthy, that money should be spent to help others and not oneself. His generosity was likely the key to his happiness, as all his closest friends describe him as a lover of life, children and all people. Des has

also been described as a jokester, a man of 20-questions (who never stopped at just 20), and an energetic drummer, who would drum with a middle schooler and then the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

It was said by Chancellor George that Des Lee chose to donate so often to UMSL because he believed in our campus and identified with it. Des saw how diverse our campus is and wanted to support that and help foster our growth. Now that he is gone, we must remember what Des loved about our campus and continue our struggle for diversity, be that in our student body or in our departments, from biology to the performing arts.

Des believed in our university, saw something special in it, and we should do the same.

E. Desmond Lee was a gift to St. Louis and his legacy lives on in the innovative Des Lee Collaborative Vision, the scholarships in his name, the buildings he helped build, and the countless lives he changed for the better. He will be dearly missed.

The Joys of Bureacracy

GUEST COMMENTARY

In defense of the Thomas Jefferson Library's hours

A Response to "Extended library hours at UMSL are overdue"

Dear Anna Marie,

While I appreciate your concerns about access to quiet study areas, I feel that I should respond to your Opinion piece about extending library hours. That may seem like an easy thing to do, but it really is not.

The libraries are open 85.5 hours per week.

The Thomas Jefferson Library building is open until 10:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and the W.E. Barnes Library is open those days from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., with the Research Commons computer labs closing 1/2 hour earlier. (SSB 103 computer lab is available until 1 a.m. on those days).

The libraries have extended their hours on the weekends by four hours.

TJ Library now opens an hour earlier than previously on both Saturday and Sunday (8 a.m. and noon, respectively), and the Barnes Library closes an hour later on those days (6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 p.m. on Sunday). The SSB lab is open until 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 a.m. on Sunday.

Free access to the libraries is a benefit of being a student, but library buildings cannot be open without supervision.

With the valuable collections—books, electronic resources, art work, etc.—it would not be a responsible choice for us to have the buildings accessible without providing staff/security, which would require addi-

tional funds.

We have no way to isolate certain areas of the Libraries to allow for even limited access.

Our monetary resources are limited by the same fiscal issues being faced by the rest of the university.

We would all like to have access to additional funding, but are doing the best we can with what we are getting.

The libraries have done studies and kept statistics of the numbers of patrons in the buildings at any given time, and the numbers just do not support maintaining late night extended hours.

As for "rude" behavior from lab technicians, I would ask that you walk in their shoes.

I bet they would like to get off at the appointed time so that they can go home, too. Of course, truly rude behavior is entirely different, and should be reported.

In my opinion, it appears that the greater part of your request is for a quiet area where students can get away from noise and distractions.

I am not sure that extending library hours is the best, most cost-effective means for that.

As to your last point, we are investigating the possibility of extending hours during finals.

Sincerely,
Frances Piesbergen
Co-Leader
Reference Leadership Team
Thomas Jefferson Library

Note: The original article appeared in our Nov. 30, 2009 issue.

The rise of airport idiocy in 2009



Andrew Seal

What is it about airports that makes people abandon all of their common sense and logic?

This past holiday season was especially terrible for both the American and international breeds of "airportus nincompoopum," more commonly called the "airport moron."

It all started with the botched bombing attempt by the now-infamous Crotch Bomber. He is also known by his decidedly-less-funny name of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

This intelligent, lonesome soul was reportedly encouraged by an extremist Islamic cleric to annihilate himself and a plane full of people for the glory of his peace-loving deity.

Luckily, his bomb making skills were as bad as his choice in undergarments. I mean really, whitey-tighties? Everyone knows that the fashion-conscious wannabe terrorists are wearing boxer-briefs these days. Sheesh!

Regardless, all Abdulmutallab managed to do was to ignite his junk and get tackled by irate Christmas travelers. Ouch. I wish more terrorists were like him, though; they'd practically defeat themselves!

Next on the list of "airportus nincompoopum" is the "he-should-have-known-better" exploits of Haisong Jiang, a Rutgers graduate student who shut down part of the Newark airport for the better part of six hours after he eluded security and got into the terminal without being screened.

Foreign national or not, Jiang should have known better than to deke security after all, he only shut down Terminal C for six hours, inconveniencing thousands of passengers in order to follow his girlfriend and give her a farewell kiss.

Have Americans become so jaded that we cannot appreciate a "hopeless roman-

tic" (as his friends call him) jumping security to sneak one last dramatic kiss from his departing girlfriend? I think not!

Surely that's worth grounding a few planes for a few (six) hours, right? Surely.

There is an oft-forgotten subspecies of airport moron that put in an appearance this holiday season as well: airportus nincompoopum aqueous-virginus the "first time flying over water" moron.

I refer to one Joseph Hedlund Johnson, who got angry that he was not able to stow a carry-on bag below his exit-row chair during his flight from Oregon to Hawaii. So what does he do?

Like any smart, cool-headed airline passenger, he writes a vaguely-threatening note... and then hands it to a stewardess mid-flight.

She of course notified the captains, who turned the bird around, landed back in Oregon, had Hedlund taken into TSA custody, and then took off again for Maui—sans Hedlund.

His note, by the way, sounds like a 5th grader trying to explain an episode of *Lost*: "I thought I was going

to die, we were so high up.

I thought to myself: I hope we don't crash and burn or worse yet landing in the ocean, living through it, only to be eaten by sharks, or worse yet, end up on some place like Gilligan's Island, stranded, or worse yet, be eaten by a tribe of headhunters, speaking of headhunters, why do they just eat outsiders, and not the family members?"

Thank goodness there is not a stupidity checkpoint at airports, eh? Talk about long lines.

Last, but not least, is an extremely recent event. On the 16th, JFK International airport was shut down for "several hours" after an unknown person or persons triggered an alarm after opening a door marked for airline employees only.

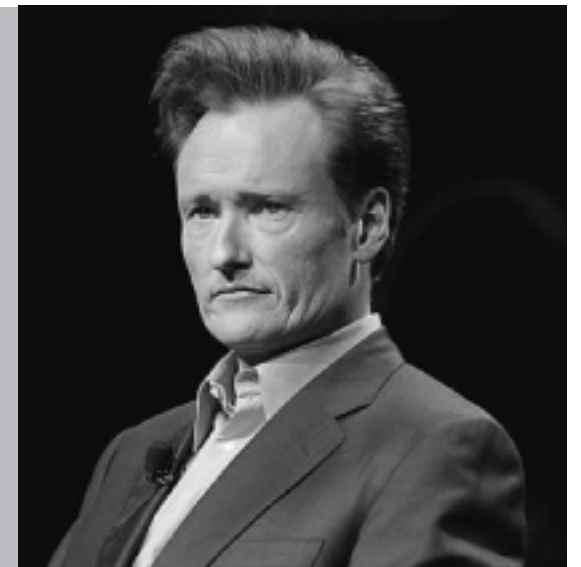
Clearly, this is an obvious case of airportus nincompoopum. The holidays are a hectic time for everyone, particularly airline passengers.

All I am asking is that if you belong to one of these not-as-rare-as-you'd-think species of airport moron:

Stay off my plane, please!

Upset about something we've said?
We want to know, honest we do!

www.thecurrentonline.com



THE PHIPPS PHACTOR

Glenn and Sarah sittin' in a tree...



Andy Phipps

A little more than a year ago, Glenn Beck was a marginal character in the world of right wing talk, and Sarah Palin was the Governor of Alaska.

Since then Palin unsuc-

cessfully ran for vice president and became the starlet of the right, and Beck has moved from the insomniac-Ted Kaczynski-with-cable timeslot to prime time on Fox News.

Both of these personalities now reside there as commentator and expert. Beck is now the televised Pentecost of the fringe-right movement that takes guns with them to go see the president, and Palin is their sex symbol—in a non-perverted way.

Or so they swear, because they supposedly believe in abstinence and the Bible.

If I had a nickel for every time Glenn Beck used the word “tapped” in reference

to Palin, I would be a fairly wealthy man in petty cash and change. Were it all off Fox News, I might be able to pay my electric bill with the payoff. It seems to be some kind of motif they have developed sometime after her “drill baby drill” comment that was mildly sexual in nature.

This is only if you have your mind in the gutter, and this constitutes assuming that the minds of defenders and fans of both do.

And I do.

The love affair between them began right after she took the stage with John McCain in the presidential elections of 2008 and stood in

front of a TV camera anytime afterward.

The greatest hits have been recorded in the annals of recent political history. But forget all of the ‘I can see Russia from my house’ stuff. What matters is the lost material.

For instance, the first time Beck and Palin spoke in 2008, it was a true meeting of soft heads. Beck started by talking about her newborn son and congratulating her and her husband Todd on their gracious handling of the situation; which has an awful lot to do with politics.

And that was just the first two minutes of the interview.

Fast forward to 2010, when Beck used Palin’s Fox

News contributor status to get an hour-long interview with her.

He began it by reading an entry from his journal that day: “Tomorrow I meet Sarah Palin and her family for the first time. I’m actually a little nervous, as she is one of the only people I can see that can possibly lead us out of where we are.

I don’t know yet if she is strong enough, if she is well enough advised, or if she knows that she can no longer trust anyone.”

After explaining his paranoid delusions about the government, Beck asked Palin who her favorite founding father was. Her response was

drawn from the Katie Couric vintage, as she replied “all of them.” Beck called the answer out as “Bullcrap.”

So, perhaps Glenn Beck’s greatest fears have become reality. Perhaps Sarah Palin really isn’t the hot-to-trot saint of the right, but just the air-head the rest of us have suspected her of being.

But beyond that, the real question is why we are listening to and taking seriously the political opinions of a former alcoholic disk jockey and a failed beauty queen in the first place?

For anyone who sees either of these two as a beacon of real truth, I have no sympathy at all.

SCIENCE COLUMN

No faith required

Why empirical logic and the scientific method are enough to trust



Cate Marquis

A week or so back, an author was on the radio discussing his book, which was one of those works like “Freakonomics.” As he explained his view of the world, he got around to climate change and its skeptics.

The author said that he felt that too many people

who dismiss the science on climate change had not done their due diligence to become educated on the subject, and with more effort they could really look at the scientific data on climate change themselves, the evidence the author thought was overwhelming.

Then he said something startling: that while he could follow the scientific research to a point, beyond that, understanding it required a “leap of faith.”

He went on to contrast scientific information to logic arguments, which he could follow more easily and therefore found more verifiable, such as the assertion that globalization had benefited people in both developed and developing countries.

Ironically, what makes science different from other systems of gaining knowledge is that no leap of faith is ever required because it is based on empirical evidence.

Scientific information is gained by experiments designed using the scientific method. Variables are controlled so results can be attributed to only one factor. Scientific results must be reproducible by that scientist or by another researcher. Results must be measurable, quantifiable, and not subjectively determined. As the experiments are repeated, confidence in the results and the conclusions become stronger.

This is the strength of scientific method.

In order for a study to be published in a reputable sci-

entific journal, it must undergo peer review, meaning other scientists and experts in that field check the experiment for any errors in its structure and its conclusions and that the results can be reproduced.

This is not to say that design flaws or mistaken conclusions cannot be drawn, but scientists are constantly rechecking the work of other scientists or conducting new experiments that shed new light on previous results and conclusions, meaning errors tend to get corrected over time.

Some conclusions are strengthened over time by repeated empirical evidence. Most people would call them facts, but scientists are naturally cautious about absolutes

and certainties. They always want more proof.

Any reasonably intelligent person can always make the effort to educate his or herself enough to read a scientific paper. After all, the scientists, like all people, had to learn how to interpret these results.

Logical arguments are something else. The arguments might be easier to follow and take less preparation, but there are numerous pitfalls. Logical arguments can be biased by incomplete information and are also prone to differing interpretations. False logic arguments (all sharks are fish, all salmon are fish, and therefore all sharks are salmon) can appear.

Criteria can also differ. For example, if one asserted that globalization has been good

for both developing and developed countries, what are the criteria for good?

Using the median income of the wealthiest and the poorest can give the impression that most or all incomes rose, but picking another measure, like the income of the greatest number of people, may reveal that most people’s incomes fell and it was mostly the already-wealthy who benefited. These are two very different outcomes.

Logic arguments are prone to false conclusions from faulty assumptions and incomplete information. It requires a leap of faith that you have all the facts and the right criteria.

No such leap of faith is required for science, just the reproducible data.

Social networking sites do more than just connect you with friends



Jen O'Hara

MySpace, Facebook and Twitter could be considered social revelations of the 21st century.

Friends we otherwise would have long forgotten from junior high are now at our disposal on a Web site.

Now, instead of college students spending money on phone bills calling friends and family, they can leave messages and send mass party invites via the "Event" application.

It is easier to display pictures and videos for multiple people to see at once than to spend six days sending it through e-mail to every person who has asked.

Plus, artists, celebrities, the media and causes have been able to find their way into some free advertising within these Web sites.

However, take a moment to visualize that awesome party that went on last week.

The 60 tagged pictures are now up on an internet gallery, which would not have been so bad if grandma had not seen the tower of beer cans and her grandchild's half

naked body on the web.

That "About Me" section? The whole "I like to party hard and live a rock star life" synopsis is supposed to be cool, but really it just makes people take you less seriously.

Besides the danger of having proof of so-and-so's stupidity, it will also cost the office job so-and-so recently applied for.

These social networking sites do more harm than good sometimes.

It is nice that there is a much easier alternative to keep up with friends.

However, we now have the capability of creating alternative conflicts that arose from these sites.

Instead of "You never call me anymore," it is now "How come you never comment on my wall?" or "How come I'm not your top friend anymore on Myspace?"

People have also been known to attack each other online.

For example, a girl comments on another girl's boyfriend's profile saying "Hey! Love your shirt!"

Soon enough, the boy's girlfriend is ranting and cussing out the other girl, saying she better back off or else.

What the girl did not know was that was her boyfriend's sister.

While it is ok to do what we like, there is now evidence from that friend-of-a-friend who took pictures or that incriminating comment on our wall proclaiming how awesome whatever it is was.

Several employers have taken initiative to use social networking sites as a background check when considering prospective employees.

They look for signs of maturity in pictures, comments, notes, statuses, and other things that might hinder the company's appearance.

Something as innocent as posting a status declaring one's frustrations and anger after a bad day could come off to employers as immature or overly emotional.

In addition to the private information they make public, these networks are taking over our actual lives.

Instead of going home to pick up a book to read, we log onto Facebook instead.

Instead of learning a new hobby, we are more interested in what so-and-so did or said today.

Despite all this, these social networking sites seem to be becoming crucial parts of our lives, as texting and the internet have.

My advice is to just be weary of what you post online.

It is very easy (and somehow logical) at the moment to take frustrations out, or to not think about the pictures that are being posted online.

Also, realize that behind the computer are actual people.

Taking things out on the keyboard seems easier at the time because we do not get the full idea how much it actually will affect a person, including ourselves at times.

Chosen ones: For UMSL Tritons, is it a matter of faith?



Matthew B. Henry

The owner of the Baltimore Colts is said to have discovered Johnny Unitas playing sand lot football. The then-head men's basketball coach of Indiana State University coaxed Larry Bird off of the back of a garbage truck in Larry's home town. The WNBA's Becky Hammond was undrafted out of college.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis there are many student/athletes who have come from near and far and by some of the odder paths.

Shweta Galande, freshman, psychology, who is ranked No. 3 golfer in India, and Daniel Anthony, junior, management information systems, who was ranked No. 6 men's tennis player in India, have both come from half way around the world. He also claims God sent him here.

Hailee Decker, sophomore, secondary education, and Caitlin Moody, sophomore, physical education, are Lady Triton basketball players. Decker could have

gone D1 and Moody purposely played in organized outside high school leagues to be recognized.

The women's tennis team has Stephanie Thompson, junior, international business/marketing, who came here from Canada because of a recommendation by her sister's boyfriend.

I count as one of my closest friends a man who received his full ride D1 football scholarship by a huge accident, as the coaches said.

I was a starting D1 OLB and he was across from me on the offensive scout team. He went on to be an All-American and was drafted in the 3rd round by the NFL's Chicago Bears. He was coached by Mike Ditka, played with RB Walter Payton, QB Jim McMahon, MLB Mike Singletary and DT Refrigerator Perry. He won a Super Bowl there.

I've played against others who were D1 All-Americans and others that have won Super Bowls.

Father God sent the prophet Samuel to Jessie's house to anoint the new king of Israel. Jesse, a human, didn't think to include his youngest son who was out in the dark of night guarding the sheep in the group Samuel first viewed.

But Father God, the creator, didn't let Jessie's opinion of David prevent His choice for king to be overlooked by humans. Samuel told Jessie to go get him.

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty," the Holy Bible, I Corinthians, chapter I, verse 27 [KJV].

I played D1 and started as a freshman. In D1 as in D2 all student/athletes have to go to class, study, train, practice, watch films, play and travel.

In D1 your books, tuition, tutors, meals, room, fees are all paid for. Your travel arrangements are usually much better. I traveled in a chartered jet.

In D2 the Athletic Department often provides a partial scholarship, and then government loans and other scholarships make up the difference. But a job may still be necessary and traveling isn't by chartered jet.

From my time walking around the Mark Twain Athletic Complex and watching these D2 student/athletes doing everything I had to do, and for so much less, makes me think, that the real cream of the student/athlete crop, resides at the D2 level and not the D1 level.

To me often players get to greatness oddly. Are any of the student/athletes here going to be Johnny U or Larry Bird or my friend? Why don't we just come out and watch and cheer? And wait to see what Father God makes happen.

TWO SIDES, from page 11

"I think Kelly Carter is coming along well at her new position. She was struggling a little bit when we first switched her to the point position, but I think she is feeling more

comfortable now."

"Our biggest challenge is that there is not one team we play that is going to be 'easy.' Every team in this conference is tough. We hope to

keep our toughness mentally as well as physically," Curliss-Taylor said. "Our team has the highest G.P.A. for all the athletic teams this past semester. I am proud of their effort in

the classroom as well as on the floor this year. We are achieving that balance of being a student/athlete. We had at least 3 players that had 4.0s." No dumb jock jokes here!

Some of the information obtained for this article came from the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Athletic Department Records.

Classifieds

Classified ads are **free** for students, faculty and staff. Other rates vary. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to thecurrentads@umsl.edu, or call 516-5316.

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your announcements, including legal announcements, wedding announcements, lost & found items, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

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Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your transportation needs, including ads selling cars, trucks, vans, campers, boats, trailers, motorcycles and more. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

300 EMPLOYMENT

Become a DJ at the U!

The U is looking for new DJs for the Spring Semester 2010! If you are interested, please email umslradio@umsl.edu or visit umslradio.com for more information!

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your employment needs, including help wanted, sales positions, office positions, internships, child care wanted, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

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500 SERVICES

Computer repair/Website hosting developing

IT networking services at competitive pricing. By students for students. Please contact 636-614-4413.

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for people advertising services, including home and lawn care, business services, roofing, siding, cleaning, tutoring, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

600 RENTALS

Take advantage of a Free Deposit + Spring Semester Lease

Take over my lease at University Meadows and I will pay your deposit + \$100
Call 314-724-4279 or ask for APPT. 433 Gary Rizzolo 008290380

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for people advertising services, including home and lawn care, business services, roofing, siding, cleaning, tutoring, and much more. Call 314-516-5316 or you can e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

700 MISCELLANEOUS

December 9, 2009, Work-in-Progress Presentation

"An Analysis of the Motto Adduced by Wittgenstein for the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus", Thomas P. Knoten, BA, JD, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, 3:30 pm, Dean's Conference Room, Third Floor, Lucas Hall, free, (314) 516-5631

Your classified ad here! *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for most anything at all. If your classified doesn't fit into the above categories, simply request an ad in the Miscellaneous Section. Some restrictions may apply. Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrentads@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

MARIO, from page 23

Pressing the A button places the player inside a bubble where they can float to safety to be popped by an ally, but if all the players bubble up, the game ends.

Bubbling is a great addition to the Mario franchise; it allows for many close calls while removing any cheap deaths, and allows the game to perform smoother during multiplayer.

In addition to multiplayer, two new power-ups have been added. The propeller hat propels the player into the sky and slowly levitates them to the ground. The penguin suit allows players to shoot ice projectiles and slide on their belly.

One of the biggest concerns with game is replay value. This game has plenty of it, thanks to the amount of collectibles that unlocks an extra world, rainbow road, which includes eight levels and the new multiplayer mode.

In addition to great design, tight controls and high replay value, the game continues the tradition of quality music from Nintendo. One may find oneself constantly humming songs from several different stages.

There are a few small gripes about the game. Using the Wii-mote is a must, as no other controllers are supported due to the game supporting the unique features of the

Wii-mote such as the sensor bar. There should be a mode supported by other controller types so the traditional controller for the Wii could have been used.

Also, some people may complain about the less-than-a-second of lag when a player in the game dies, as the screen freezes for a moment.

These complaints are minor compared to the overall success and creativity of the game.

Super Mario Bros. 4 should have already been out on the Wii years ago. The game is a huge success and will keep bringing you back again and again, alone or with friends.

TARGETS , from page 7

The police were called regarding the woman's laptop and the man was arrested for stealing.

Smith also encourages students and other members of the UM-St. Louis community to take precautions that will help the police department recover stolen property.

According to Smith, students need to be sure to have the serial numbers for their digital devices because it is difficult to track the devices otherwise.

The serial number is often on the underside of a laptop.

"Students need to know that without a serial number from their digital devices it is almost impossible to track their property," Smith said.

"In most cases there [are] hundreds of one type of digital device manufactured which makes it hard in our attempts to track down the victim's property."

\$5,000 - \$45,000 PAID. EGG DONORS for up to 9 donations. +Expenses. Non-smokers, ages 19-29, SAT>1100/ACT>24/ GPA>3.0

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Just across the highway**

**231 Emerling, Cool Valley, MO 63121
3 bedrooms, 1 bath, family room, garage
\$81,000**

Call 636-219-5610

EMPLOYMENT!!!! SECRET SHOPPER NEEDED? You will earn \$400 being a mystery shopper. Your employment package will include funds for the shopping, a training assignment which will be sent to you after you receive payment for the assignment. Contact Mr. Mark Brown for more information about this job.

mbrownholdings002@live.com

We love you



Thursday, January 21
UMSL vs. St. Joseph's

women's game: 5:30 pm / men's game: 7:30 pm
eat food / win prizes / cheer on the tritons!



unveiling of the
new UMSL mascot

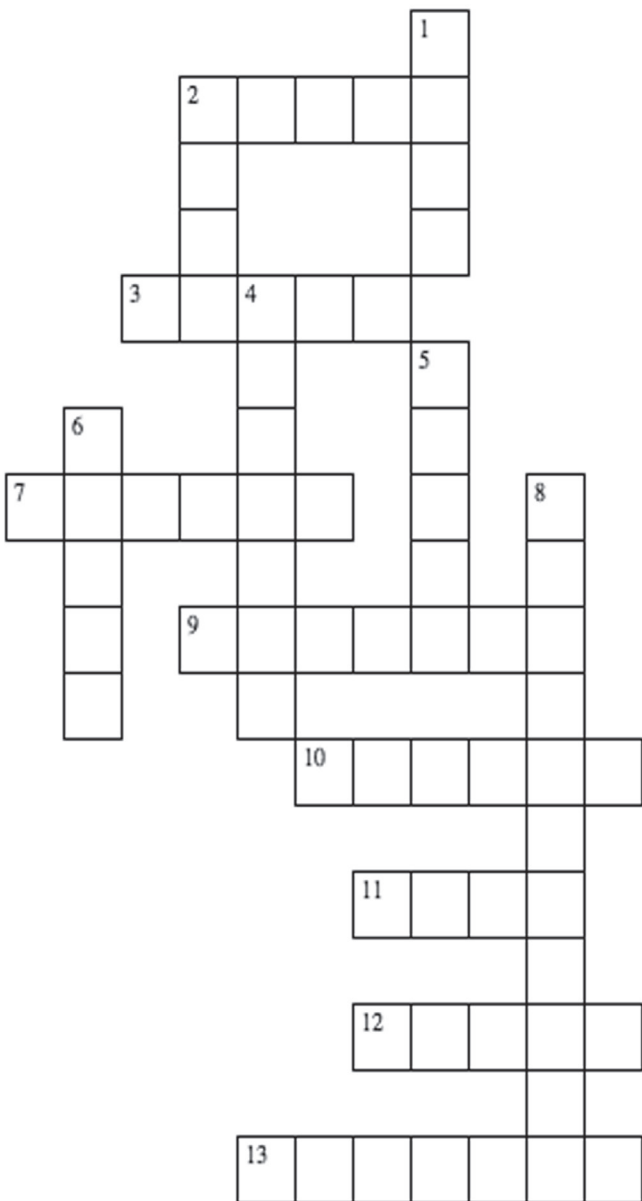
free for students, faculty, staff
and alumni with an UMSL ID



Questions? Contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291

Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. This longtime computer maker announced they will have a major announcement on Jan. 27.
3. Afghan capital that was boldly attacked by militants.
7. Internet company not happy in China.
9. He now wants to talk about the past.
10. This movie moved past the \$500 million mark.
11. Would have been 81 on Jan. 15.
12. Over the hill QB who's one win from the Super Bowl.
13. English maker of chocolate eggs to be acquired by American cheese maker Kraft.

DOWN

1. Senate Majority leader who evidently still uses the term "negro"
2. Shot The Pope in '81; released from prison in '10
4. Speed star got her highest accolade of her career
5. Suffered a devastating earthquake
6. NFL team that's galloping through the playoffs
8. The Hollywood Foreign Press' favorite comedy this year.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES



ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Your financial situation is bound to improve this week. You might also be feeling an unusual creative spark, so use your imagination and any extra money you have to enliven your home.



TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This is a good week to accomplish things you've been putting off for a while. Just remember to take a little break now and then to stay as productive as possible.



GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You'll be working hard this week, and it will definitely pay off. Keep it up, but don't stress yourself out too much; make sure you give yourself enough time to relax and unwind.



CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

This is a good week to work on forgiveness. Consider letting go of things that have been bothering you, and try to work through conflict you've been having with a loved one.



LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Your cash flow may run a little low this week. It's a very minor, temporary problem and everything will soon be back to normal. In the meantime just watch your spending and you'll be fine.



VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

If you've been feeling a little under the weather lately, things should be improving in the near future. Take it easy for now, though, and save any exerting activities for later.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

This week, temper optimism with a healthy dose of practicality. Don't get carried away with grandiose plans. Turn to friends to help you focus on priorities; they'll be happy to offer advice.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Don't spend too much time worrying about work this week. Instead focus on balancing your social life with your need to have time for yourself, some friends take it badly though.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Now is the time to try to make new friends and become more social. If you've been feeling at odds with your acquaintances, work on meeting people who share your passions.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You may be experiencing a lot of lucky accidents and happy coincidences this week. This stretch of good fortune will last quite a while, so enjoy it, and keep an eye out for new opportunities.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Be open to new ideas this week and you'll find inspiration in the most unusual places. It's a great time to look at what you're doing in life, and see if there's anything you can improve on.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

This is a week for change, but you should be able to handle it on your own terms. Just take your time and be flexible. New opportunities are headed your way if you keep your eyes open.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:



(Easy)

Last week's answers

9	2	5	1	6	4	1	5	7
8	1	3	2	5	7	8	4	6
6	7	4	3	9	6	9	3	2
3	8	2	5	1	9	7	2	5
7	6	9	4	8	1	6	8	3
4	5	1	9	7	2	4	9	1
1	3	6	7	2	8	3	7	4
5	9	8	6	4	5	2	1	9
2	4	7	8	3	3	5	6	8

Last week's rating:
Very hard

2	4	9		6				
						8		1
		7	4				2	
	3			8			6	
7	2		6		4		3	8
	6			9			1	
	9				8	4		
3		6						
				1		3	8	5

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

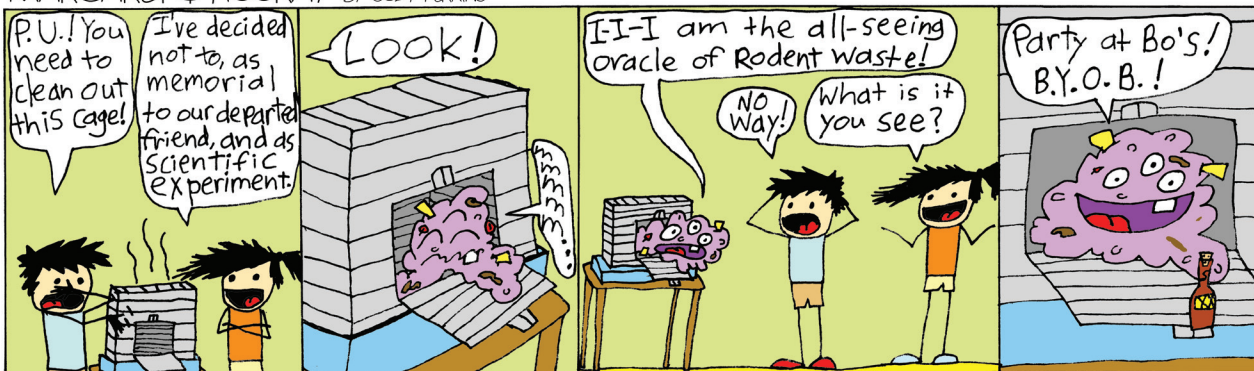
Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: D=A)

KDWH D JUHDY GDB DQG, IRU YKH
UHFRUG, L DP YUXOB ZRUUB DERXY PB
KDLU; LY'Z DOVDBZ EHHQ YKDY VDB.

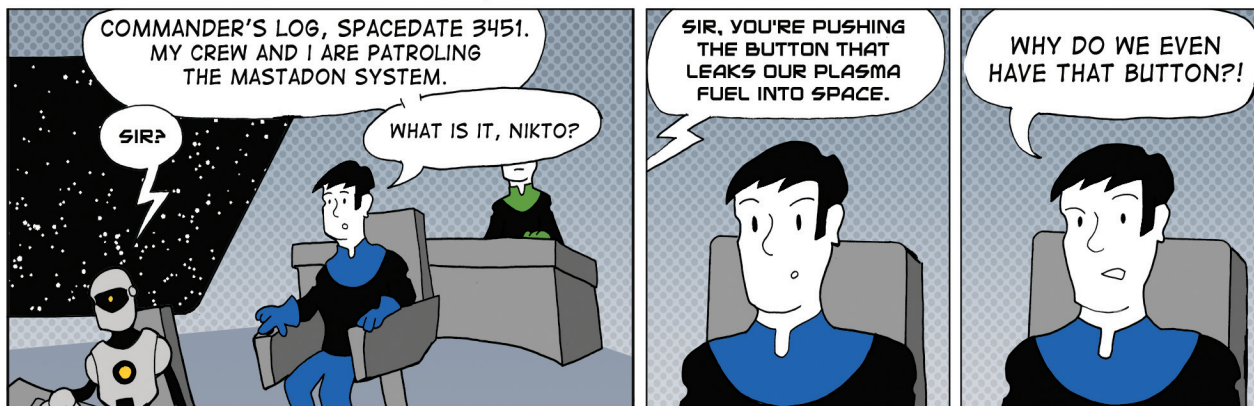
The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt when we get more in.

Comics

MARGARET & HOORAY BY CODY PERKINS



STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



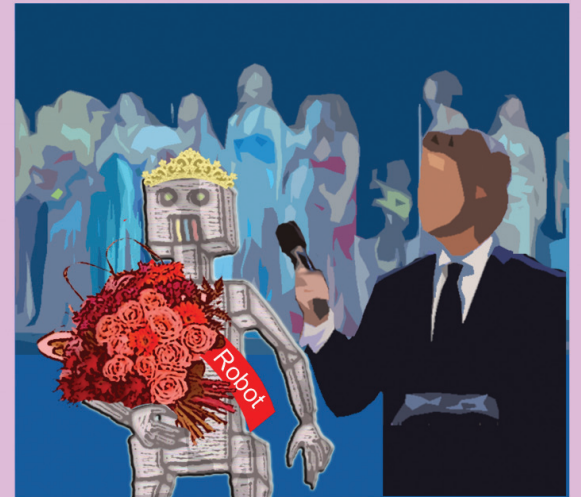
Awkward Abe

by Andy Phipps

"1862 Lincoln intervention"



The Happy Robot #1 by Paul Maguire



"THANK-YOU-TO-MY-CRE-A-TOR, THE-PRO-FESS-OR."

CAN YOU DRAW THIS WELL?

(or better?)

Apply to be a Current cartoonist!

Perks include:

- Your comic printed in *The Current*
- Pay for your comic
- Throngs of adoring fans

If interested, drop off an application with some samples of your comic at 388 MSC!

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

UPB: Winter Expo School has resumed and it's time to make a fresh start. The University Program board wants you to get involved and meet new people. So we have organized an Expo where you can meet and experience many of the organizations on campus up close and personal. Located in the MSC Rotunda at 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. For more information contact Darren Nesbitt at 516-5531.

Kosovo Showdown: How the US and Russia almost came to blows Come to an engaging presentation on this epic piece of Cold War history. Please call 516-7299 if you require a parking permit. Located in the MSC Century Room A at 7:00 PM. For more information contact Bob Ell at 516-7299.

Thursday, Jan 21

Pack the Stands Cheer on the Tritons as the Women's and Men's Basketball teams battle St. Joseph's. There will be free food, free tshirts, and the NEW TRITONS MASCOT will be unveiled! Free for students, faculty, staff, and alumni with an UMSL ID. Located in the Mark Twain Center at 5:30 PM. For more information contact Miriam Huffman at 516-5291.

Friday, Jan. 22

Kuniko: Magic, Mask, Mime and Music of Japan Charming Japanese folktales are combined with traditional musical instruments, magical masks, origami and mime to create storytelling that will have audience spellbound in their seats. A favorite performer at Disney Epcot Center and The Kennedy Center, Kuniko Yamamoto's presentations promote cross-cultural communication and understanding in entertaining way. Located in the Lee Theatre at 8:00 PM. Call the Touhill box office for more information at 516-4949.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN/THE CUR-

Among the guests at Chancellor George's invitation-only luncheon held at his residence after the university's MLK programming were student and faculty performers from the Touhill program. Also present was the program's keynote speaker Dr. Jabari Asim.

So, do you think your band rocks?



Then you should enter The Current's BATTLE OF THE BANDS!

If you have a band and would like to participate, drop off a sample CD at MSC 388. You can also send us a link to your band's website at thecurrentevents@gmail.com



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE, PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*