Chartwells, the food provider for University of Missouri-St. Louis, is also
the food provider for Saint Louis University and Missouri S&T. At UM-
St. Louis, students can purchase food from Chartwells at numerous outlets
including the Nosh, La Cantina Loca at the Pilot House, Provincial House
Cafeteria, The Campus C-Store and Aromas Cafe.

Many students have complained that Chartwells has higher prices than
comparative food providers in the area. However, Lori Liming, Chartwells
coordinator for UM-St. Louis, said that Chartwells’ prices are actually “set to
be in line with local convenience stores and quick serve restaurants.”

“In many cases, our prices are equal to or even below what you might be
charged at a local convenience store or restaurant,” Liming said. “For ex-
ample, we are below prices on Qdoba at La Cantina Loca [and] our C-store
prices are on target for Walgreens.”

Liming said that the prices of sandwiches and grill items on campus are
also priced competitively with local quick serve restaurants such as Quiznos,
Jimmy John’s and Dairy Queen.

Tim Bryant, junior, accounting, said that for the quality of the food prod-
ucts, Chartwells is too expensive. Bryant said that there is very little variety
of food as well, and that “the only thing [he] ever really wants to eat is the
burgers.”

Maggie Schmidt, freshman, music, said that the quality of food at UM-
St. Louis pales in comparison to other universities. Schmidt said that in her
experience, different universities have had a better selection of food.

“I visited KU [Kansas University] over fall break and their food was amaz­
ing!” Schmidt said. “Plus they are open all day and provide breakfast, unlike
[Provincial House].”

Bob Ross, technical services at Ward E. Barnes Library, said that he feels
like on-campus dining is not reliable. Ross has been working at the University
for 18 years and said that he feels like Chartwells gives up on new products
before really giving them a chance to see if they are going to work.

“There doesn’t seem to be any real consistency,” Ross said. “They try things
out [and then] they let [them] go.”

See CHARTWELLS, page 2
FROM PAGE 1
Ross said that the hours of the dining outlets on campus can be inconvenient, and that the “hours are very limited” at many of the outlets. Ross cited the University’s C-Store as being a particular problem because it is never open during the summer for faculty and staff to purchase food items.

Liming said that Chartwells also tries to work with students to ensure that products students want to see on campus have the chance to be implemented. Liming said that two years ago, Chartwells was “approached about the need for fair trade coffee to be offered on campus.” She said that now the coffee at Aroma’s Bakery and Oak Cafe offer fair trade coffee to students. Liming said that last spring they were also approached to bring more eco-friendly packaging on campus.

“We worked with various vendors to ensure that our water cups and salad containers are made from greenware materials,” Liming said. “Additionally, our plates and to go containers are made from a paper bagasse [crushed sugarcane] materials which are also compost ready.”

Liming said that Chartwells decides what new implementations to make or new products to bring to campus based on student feedback. She said that through student feedback provided via [the] website, seminar surveys, and comments, Chartwells tries to give the students what they want food-wise on campus.

“If students have recommendations for items they’d like to see on campus, we will do our best to bring them to UMSL.” Liming said. Liming said that right now, Chartwells is working on bringing about a few changes to the cafeteria in Pro vincial House as well as the Nosh. She said that soon student feedback will be needed.

Student fee increases put to vote next semester

The SGA meeting this Friday had three unexpected guests, all of whom tried to convince the assembly to increase some student fees for the 2010-2011 school year. The deans: John Hylton, College of Fine Arts and Communication, Ron Yasbin, College of Arts and Sciences and Juliann G. Sebastian, College of Nursing individually gave their two cents as to why the new fees are for a needy cause.

By Jessica Keil

College of Fine Arts and Communication

What fee? A fee of $27.10 per credit hour for special equipment and supplies in certain theater and dance courses.

What courses? TH DAN 1900, Intro to Theatre Technology
            TH DAN 2020, Acting for the Camera
            TH DAN 2250, Stagecraft
            TH DAN 2290, Drafting for the Theatre

Rationale? The Theatre/Dance program needs maintenance, props, costumes, set pieces, disposable materials, and shop materials. "These" classes are hindered without equipment and supplies," Hylton said.

College of Arts and Sciences/College of Fine Arts and Communications

What fee? A fee of $4 per credit hour to hire four to five new advisors/retention specialists in the Advising/Retention Center in order to provide Developmental Advising. The fee would generate approximately $320,000 per year.

What courses? All undergraduate courses taught in the College of Arts and Sciences and Fine Arts and Communication.

Rationale? Developmental Advising will better prepare students through their college career, help retain students and shorten their time in college. "Developmental advising is in some cases a reality check for students," Yasbin said.

College of Nursing

What fee? A 4.5 percent increase to the current credit hour fee, making it $33.75 per credit hour to learn under an experience created by College of Nursing faculty and the Sexuality Transmitted Diseases/HIV Prevention Training Center at Washington University. The fee would generate approximately $3,385 annually.

What courses? N6530, Clinical Diagnostics for Advanced Nursing Practice
            N6737, Adult Primary Care I & II
            N6741, Family Health I & II
            N6743, Child Health I & II
            N6746, Women's Health I & II
            N6978, Evidence-Based Clinical Nursing Practice
            N6950, Advanced Nursing Practice
            N6952, Synthesis Practicum

Rationale? Costs of the STD program increased by 25 percent in FY09, and faculty time for clinical supervision also increased. The fee would help offset the increased expenses associated with the courses. ADDITIONALLY:

Fee: A 4.5 percent increase to the current credit hour fee, making it $55.83 per course to equip and supply the new health assessment laboratory built for students in 2009-2010. The fee would generate approximately $3,385.80 annually.

Courses: N6524, Health Assessment for Nursing Practice

Rationale: A new lab was built for the nursing students; however the equipment it was furnished with is not new. The equipment is getting too old (and we need to) generate funds for the replacements,” Sebastian said.

WEATHER

MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT | SUN

32 | 40 | 41 | 47 | 40 | 41 | 45 | 48

31 | 29 | 30 | 33 | 35
English dept has hope in new emphasis options

> SEQUITA BEAN
Features Editor

The new curriculum for the bachelor's of English degree will now offer several emphasis options for all English majors. Students will have the option to choose between ethnic and world literature, women's and gender studies, language and writing, theory and criticism, and creative writing emphasis areas, or a combination of several.

"We've never been able to do that before," Mary Troy, associate professor of English, said. "Most other universities allow people to get a minor in creative writing and our English department has never been set up that way before, so now it is."

Each emphasis area can be achieved upon the completion of three classes (nine credit hours) related to the subject. Students have to take 39, but no more than 48 hours of English coursework to satisfy the major requirement.

Eighteen of those hours must be 3000 level coursework, and a minimum of 12 must be at the 4000 level or above.

"In the past—I know this because I teach the undergraduate creative writing classes sometimes—I've hardly ever had English majors in them; because English majors had to take so many other things, they could never take the creative writing class," Troy said. "It was very odd to me."

The English major curriculum has changed, but the coursework will not be lighter. It is arranged in a different way to allow students room to pursue up to 18 hours of English classes outside of the required courses to fulfill up to two emphasis areas. Students still have to take the required 2000 level coursework, as well traditional grammar, and nine hours of 4000 level coursework in British and American literature.

The emphasis areas must also be at 3000 and 4000 level, and students cannot use the same courses to satisfy both the distribution requirement and an emphasis area, according to the English department's website.

The department decided to change the coursework because they wanted to acknowledge that English is a broad subject, and also allow students the freedom to explore different areas of interest.

"It kind of reflects, I guess, the times, and that there are so many different possibilities that some people may want to be an English major and specialize in world literature, in African-American literature, in African literature, in Chinese literature, or in ancient Greek literature instead of just the traditional English from England," Troy said.

The new curriculum started just this year and students who are already majoring in English can add on an emphasis as long as they have completed or plan to complete the required classes within the major. Some students may find that they've already completed enough classes within the emphasis area to be able to declare it with their degree.

"I had a student who completed the [ethnic and] world literature emphasis requirement and didn't know it," Jennifer Mackenzie, associate professor of English and undergraduate advisor for the English department, said. "She took a class as an elective and it ended up fulfilling a requirement." Mackenzie helps students determine possible emphasis areas and what classes they would need to take to complete them.

In the future, the department foresees the addition of several more classes to beef up the emphasis areas.

"We really have to see where the demand is," Troy said. "Do people want world literature or do people want more creative writing? It's hard for us to guess until we figure out what people want."

In addition, students who are not English majors but are interested in getting a writing certificate can now pursue a creative writing certificate.
HIV/AIDS has plagued mankind for decades. Do you think that you will see a cure for HIV/AIDS in your lifetime?

- **Shaddad Alamri**
  Junior
  MIS
  "Yes, I think so because there are a lot of studies in this time about it. Also there is good news about that."

- **Nattapon Nattigon**
  MBA
  "Yes I think we will see a cure for HIV/AIDS in my lifetime because I believe in research system and I'm sure that they will discover the cure for HIV soon."

- **Kate Lilly**
  Sophomore
  Studio Art
  "I think science is progressing towards that and although I hope we get a cure soon, I doubt if we are that close to find a cure."

- **Dean Obermark**
  Sophomore
  Philosophy
  "Yes, advances in genetic engineering will eventually provide effective treatment. But more currently, Preventative measures must be more rigorously employed & advocated."

- **Nattapcm.Nattigon.**
  MBA
  "Yes, advances in genetic engineering will eventually provide effective treatment. But more currently, Preventative measures must be more rigorously employed & advocated."

**POLL**

Does everyone deserve their First Amendment rights?

- **Of course!**
- **Maybe**
- **Materialism kills the impoverished**

**This week:**
How will you spend your winter break?

Answer at www.thecurrentonline.com

**CRIMELINE**

**Monday, Nov. 30**

Burglary 2nd Degree/Motor Vehicle Theft - Seton Hall Garage
Person(s) unknown burglarized a garage in the rear of Seton Hall and stole a University owned van and a large quantity of tools from inside. The garage door was found open by the first employee arriving at work around 6:30 AM, and the burglary and theft were discovered shortly after that. The investigation revealed that once inside the garage the suspect(s) managed to get entry into the van and break the ignition out in order to start the vehicle; then load up the van with tools from the garage and leave. The van was later recovered in the City of St. Louis on a vacant street. The van was left with no wheels and tires, and all of the tools were also missing. The van was towed and later processed for evidence. All items retrieved from the scenes are being examined in order to try and identify a suspect(s).

**Thursday, Dec. 3**

Stealing Under $500.00 - Arrest Millennium Student Center Bookstore
A student was arrested for stealing books from the bookstore. The suspect was observed by employees and on camera stealing books by placing them inside of his coat and concealing them from view. When the suspect realized he was observed by employees he removed the items from his person. The suspect was arrested by the UMSL Police and brought to the Police Station where he was processed for stealing and released pending the application of warrants. This matter will be referred to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office and also sent to Student Affairs for violations of Student Code of Conduct.

**Friday, Dec. 3**

Stealing Under $500.00 - University Meadows Parking lot
Sometime between 8:30 AM on Wednesday 12-02-09 and 2:30 PM on Thursday 12-03-09 person(s) unknown stole the victim's front license plate from her parked vehicle. There are no suspects in this incident.

**Friday, Dec. 3**

Assault-Disturbance Mark Twain Gymnasium
During a "Step Show" event at the Mark Twain Building, a large disturbance and fight broke out inside of the building involving several juveniles and young adults. Two officers (who were working the event) tried to break up the fight unsuccessfully; the crowd was estimated at over 2,000 people. The officer was forced to use pepper spray to stop the fighting. After deploying the pepper spray, the fighting stopped and all suspects ran from the facility. Once outside, it appeared that several other fights were occurring stemming from the original incident. Surrounding Police Departments were notified and responded to assist the UMSL Police with the disturbance. Other possible suspects were also identified, but had left the area.
2009 World AIDS Day

Vaccine gives hope on World AIDS Day

ANDY PHIPPS
Health/Science Editor

This stuff still happens, it still kills hundreds of thousands of people all the time and we're getting closer on finding something for it but, we don't have anything for it," Justin Riddler, community liaison for PRIZM, said.

The "it" that Riddler refers to is the HIV/AIDS virus. Adding a new angle to the deadly dilemma is a new vaccine that could theoretically keep AIDS from killing hundreds of thousands more people.

In the late months of this year, the vaccine moved from the realm of wishful thinking to that of a tangible possibility. The news that an HIV vaccination could theoretically help the realm of wishful thinking to that of a tangible possibility. The news that an HIV vaccination developed and tested arrived in Thailand. The vaccine was begun in 1987 as a permanent but ever-growing memorial for AIDS. The quilt was begun in 1987 as a permanent but ever-growing memorial for AIDS.

In September, American researchers released their research findings from a trial in which they used a new version of an AIDS vaccine in Thailand. The vaccine is actually a combination of two others that had failed in clinical trials. When given to a sample of 16,000 volunteers, it reduced the risk of being infected with the disease by 31%.

Though this is not an answer to the problem, it does represent marked progress from the failures of previous attempts to test and create such a vaccine. Still, while some like Riddler see the vaccine as a great step toward protecting millions of people against the virus, they wish for nothing short of a cure for the millions who currently live with it today.

"It shows great promise that we are getting close to (the AIDS vaccine) but, if we can't say 'oh, we've got this vaccine that looks promising and, y'know, it looks promising so we can put that in the back of our minds and we'll call it an early victory right now,' because then supporting finding a cure goes out the door; it still sits there, it festers and lingers," Riddler said.

PRIZM hopes that through their efforts, students will become more aware of the presence of HIV/AIDS and its impact, not just on the global scale but within their own lives as well.

"It's really just our hope that people start realizing this is something they're at risk for and this is something that is bringing the world to a halt," Riddler said.

A timeline of the global AIDS pandemic:

1981: The Center for Disease Control identifies a group of five homosexual men in Los Angeles mysteriously suffering from similar symptoms. After similar groups are discovered in other American cities, the press names the new virus GRID for Gay-Related Immune Deficiency.

1982: After it is revealed that over half of those suffering with the disease are not homosexual, the CDC officially renames and identifies the virus as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

1984: Ryan White, a teenager from Kokomo Indiana, is diagnosed with the disease, which he acquired through a tainted blood transfusion. He is expelled from school, which draws massive attention to his case and the need for adequate HIV/AIDS education.

1988: The first World AIDS Day is recognized on December 1st.

1992: The first combinations of drugs that can give patients resistance to the virus are identified and used.

2005: The Clinton Global Initiative begins a campaign to bring drug treatments to those suffering from HIV/AIDS in Africa, one of the hardest hit areas of the world by the virus.

2009: Researchers in Thailand report a 31% success rate with a new AIDS vaccination.
5 ways to stay in shape over break

By Anna Marie Curran • News Editor

1. Stick to a routine
Try to get into a daily routine over break, albeit one less stressful than during the semester. If you work out four days a week during the semester, aim for three times and try to exercise at roughly the same time each day. Getting into a habit makes it easier to keep yourself motivated to stay active during the break.

2. Balance instead of deprivation
Deny yourself all the holiday foods you love is cruel and unusual punishment, not to mention sure to end in disaster. Just take into account the amounts you are consuming and it should not be a problem. For example, if you know there is a holiday party at night, try to eat healthier during the day to balance out the unhealthy party food you will consume later. In the end, it will balance out.

3. Get (a little) sleep
Studies have shown that lack of sleep is the number one reason people tend to pack on pounds during the holidays. With the stress that comes with the holidays, sleep tends to be the first thing to go. Aim for a few extra hours of sleep than your body is used to each night and who knows, you may find you lose pounds during the holidays.

4. It isn't all or nothing
Too many people get into the mentality that if they "screw up" eating healthy, they should just eat whatever they want until after the holidays. Not only is this an unhealthy mentality to have, but it will make it harder to get back into shape after the holidays. Take each day one at a time, and don't look at the break as one endless period of dieting.

5. Do not psyche yourself out
Don't let worries of gaining weight keep you from enjoying your holiday. Recent studies have shown that on average a person gains roughly one pound during the holidays. True it may be one pound more than you want, but at the end of the day it is still just one pound, whether that equals a week of eating especially healthy after the holidays or working in an extra 30 minutes on the treadmill for a few workouts.
Early Christmas present for UMSL sports

Four high school players sign on as future Tritons

CEDDIE SAYS...

What's in a name? 'Eye Win' takes flag football tourney

I watched almost every one of the 19 Campus Rec Flag Football Games that were played this fall, and I have never predicted that a team of first-year optometry students would come out of nowhere to win UM-St. Louis' coveted Flag Football Championship.

But that's what happened last Thursday when Eye Win defeated the Suicide Kings 21-19 in the Flag Football Championship game.

To their credit, the Eye Win guys brilliantly executed a superb gameplan of zone coverage on defense and short, quick passes on offense.

Having a good gameplan proved a key factor from the start, as Eye Win's defense stifled the Kings on their first drive.

Eye Win's best athlete, the tall Brandon, was credited with two sacks on that opening drive when he used his long reach and quickness to snag King quarterback Chris Cusumano's flag before he could throw.

Then Eye Win marched right down the field, completing several short passes before quarterback Steven Branstetter, junior, optioned, scrambled in, for a short touchdown run to make the score 7-0.

The Suicide Kings had two other drives in the first half, but couldn't do anything with them, as Eye Win refused to let the Kings break loose for any of the big plays the speedy Kings had been known for.

The Kings finally got a break when they forced Eye Win to punt late in the first half. Special team plays can often be the most dangerous in a flag football game because the only player running at full-speed is usually the player returning the kick. That often makes it difficult for defenders to grab his flag.

Knowing this, the Kings sent their fastest player, Carl Shelton, junior, zoology, back to return the kick. And Shelton didn't disappoint, racing through the entire Eye Win team for a dazzling punt return touchdown to put his team on the board.

See EYE WIN, page 16
First blood: Savage defeat mars perfect record

CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team's historically successful unbeaten start to the season ended last Saturday, when the Tritons suffered a 74-65 loss to Great Lakes Valley Conference rival the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

The game was played at UWP's DeSimone Gymnasium in Kenosha, Wis., and was a see-saw battle from the outset, featuring six ties and nine lead changes. Neither team ever led by more than nine.

Zach Redel, sophomore, undecided, led the Triton attack with 19 points and nine rebounds. Teammate Ryan Lawrence, junior, criminology, added 17 points and six rebounds, including a brilliant steal and layup that tied the score at 63 with 3:40 left in the game.

But UM-St. Louis never regained the lead, as UWP's Jeremy Saffold, who had a game-high 24 points, nailed a three-pointer with 3:03 left to put the Rangers back in the lead for good.

The loss was UM-St. Louis' first of the season, after starting the season 6-0 for the first time in the program's 43-year history.

The Tritons moved to 6-1 with a 73-62 win over GLVC foe Lewis University last Thursday.

Point guard Beaumont Beasley, sophomore, undecided, was UM-St. Louis' leading scorer that night, posting 20 points and a career-high 11 assists for the Tritons. Teammates Redel (15 points), Lawrence (14 points), and Sam Buxton (10 points), sophomore, international business, also reached double-digits in what was both UM-St. Louis' and Lewis' GLVC opener.

That game was tied at halftime. But Beasley hit a three-pointer, and another jumper to open the second half that gave the Tritons a lead they would never relinquish.

Lewis pulled to within a point on a couple of different occasions early in that second half.

However, during a key stretch from the 16 minute mark to the nine minute mark, the Tritons held the Flyers without a single field goal, and stretched their lead to as much as 10.

A second field goal-less stretch from the four minute mark to just over a minute left allowed UM-St. Louis to extend its lead to its highest point, 14 points, with 1:49 left.

With final exams coming, the Tritons will mostly be practicing the next couple of weeks. Their next game will be a home contest, this Saturday, Dec. 12, when they'll host Robert Morris College-Springfield at the Mark Twain Building at 3 p.m.

UM-St. Louis will get the entire week of finals off before hosting their next home game on Monday, Dec. 21, when Christian Brothers College (Memphis) will visit the Mark Twain for a 7:30 p.m. game.

The Tritons will then close the month with a Christmas trip to Lakeland, Fla., where they will play two games in the Holiday Inn South/LEDGET Classic hosted by Florida Southern University.

When UM-St. Louis returns from Florida, they will play two road games at Maryville University and at Missouri S&T before hosting its first two home games of 2010 against Northern Kentucky University (Jan. 7) and the University of Indianapolis (Jan. 9).

One important date fans should circle on their calendars is Thursday, Jan. 21. That night the Tritons will host GLVC rival St. Joseph's in their annual "Pack the Stands" promotion, when the team asks any and all UM-St. Louis students, faculty, alumni and fans to "pack the stands" by attending what both the men's and women's teams expect to be their biggest game of the year.

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Cusumano's Pizza
Maplewood

2 draft beers for a dollar
10pm - 1am $5.00 cover
2 for 1 rail drinks 2 for 1 bottle bear
10pm - 1am $1.00 SHOTS
Better Specials than any other Bar
Pool Tables - Games - Disc Jockey's
Bus Loads of Groups Welcome
The Party is here every night

Plan B
Morning After Pill
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Whatever you call it,
Planned Parenthood has it
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That's a bingo!

Students blow off finals week steam in savage south campus standoff

By evening's end, all of the food and most of the prizes had been cleared and the electric atmosphere of competition had faded.

If Bingo Night is any indication, next week's Trivia Night promises thrills untasted in this world for those brave enough to attend.
Tsunami survivors speak through photos

JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the children of Sri Lanka have a lot to say.

A photo exhibit featuring images taken by children in Sri Lanka opened last week at Gallery Visio. In January 2009, five cameras were given to students from the Macaldeniya School to share amongst themselves.

They were instructed to take pictures of what they valued the most. Their photos inspired the "Kids with Cameras" event, and nearly four hundred people attended the opening reception.

The coordinator for the event, Dr. Jody Miller, professor of criminology and criminal justice, is also the coordinator for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Sri Lankan educational fund. She began this project as a civic engagement project in response to the 2004 tsunami to get others on campus involved in helping tsunami victims, and primarily with Sri Lankan schools. The project developed into a continuing effort to support the impoverished population. A book of the children's photos entitled "Tea and Me" was put together to help raise money for the country.

"We started working with the school about two-and-a-half years ago, and we've done all kinds of great things," Miller said. "The book is really exciting, and the exhibition, because the photos are so gorgeous."

About 35 pictures taken by Sri Lankan children are displayed on the gallery's walls. Photos include pictures of children, families, friends and the elderly. They also include several shots of nature and the population's lifestyle in general.

The photos not only portray the world through the children's eyes, but give viewers a sense of Sri Lankan lifestyles. "Their life, it's like, original compared to modern life; just very different," Gerry Xin, junior, finance and international business, said. The pictures were taken by children under the age of 15, most of them around the age of 11.

"You know, most of these kids have never picked up a camera in their lives," Sara Keller, Gallery Visio director, said. "And you know, just to see the amazing talent they have, just like shooting their friends and family, and you know, their surroundings without being bombarded by what a good photo is supposed to look like. They can just shoot, you know?"

All the photos are for sale for $25, and 100% of the funds will go to the Sri Lankan Educational Fund. Also for sale is the book "Tea and Me."

It includes some of the photos shown in the gallery as well as ones not being shown:

Profits from the book will be used to start a vocational training center in Sri Lanka to start new employment opportunities that do not involve estate labor.

Miller hopes that the pictures will speak to its viewers in a positive light. "They show very clearly that they're living in very challenging circumstances," Miller said. "It shows the manual labor, the living conditions, and that sort of thing."

"But at the same time, they also really kind of capture the joys of childhood and... things like the importance of religion in the kids' lives, the importance of their families in their lives," Miller said. "I hope that these photos show a balance of those things. I don't want it to be an exhibition of 'Look at these poor, poor, poor children.'"

The exhibit runs through December 17 and is free and open to the public.

Holiday fest fundraiser "will continue for future years"

ANNA MARIE CURAN
News Editor

Holiday Fest is a fundraiser that hosts various events throughout campus to raise money and awareness for various charities. For the last 25 years, Holiday Fest has been hosted at University of Missouri-St. Louis. In a letter released to the UM-St. Louis community, Holiday Fest was said to be held because with the holiday season soon approaching it is once again time to come together as campus community and help those in need.

This year the donations were taken for Pagedale Family Support Center, St. Louis City and County Foster Care, and disadvantaged students within the Normandy School District. Donations were dropped off during regular work hours at the Office of Student Life in the Millennium Student Center.

Persons and organizations unable to drop their baskets off were encouraged to inform the Office of Student Life before Wednesday, Nov. 25 so that the Office of Student Life could then arrange to pick the basket up.

D'Andre Braddix, chief coordinator of Holiday Fest, said that the event has expanded beyond its initial function to collect strictly food items.

The items collected now vary greatly. This year, Braddix and co. asked for non-perishable food items, school uniforms, monetary contributions, hygiene products, and gently used and new toys for ages ranging between 3 and 17 years old.

People were also encouraged to volunteer their time at the Pagedale Family Support Center to distribute the donations Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. until noon.

"Though we seek food donations every year, we add other items based on the needs of the community," Braddix said. "Otherwise, the event stays rather consistent from year to year."

The donation drive is open to everyone in the campus community, and according to Braddix, more than 40 campus departments signed up to participate this year. Also unique to this drive is a collaboration with local business Dunham and Smith Agency to carry out a toy drive.

"We welcome any other outside groups to help donate to the cause, but we understand that many organizations and companies are being solicited by other charitable organizations and we do not want to take donations away from those endeavors," Braddix said.

This year the Holiday Fest events included the lighting of the Holiday Tree and the display of holiday artifacts in the Nosh. Holiday Fest takes place between Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Students were encouraged to get involved and instructed to contact Braddix himself or to visit the student life website.

Braddix said that because of its success, Holiday Fest will likely be a continuing tradition here on campus.

"Holiday Fest has always been a success and will continue for future years," Braddix said. "Like always, we will use the needs of the local community to help shape what the event looks like."
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Alan Byrd: I was a journalism major and I wanted to be a sports journalist. I did have opportunities to work for small newspapers, but I also had an opportunity to work in the Office of Admissions at my undergraduate institution. I really enjoyed what I did and I never really considered working in higher education because I really didn't know what I could do, but after working as a recruiter I definitely felt like I could make a difference after I saw the impact I could make on students. Once I gave admissions a try I definitely knew I was in the right place.

TC: You lived in Cape Girardeau for almost a decade, what made you want to come back to St. Louis?

AB: I was born and raised in St. Louis, so the ultimate goal always was to return home. The reason I left Cape Girardeau was because for one, I wanted to get my Ph.D. I actually went to Kansas City with my fiancee and enrolled in the doctoral program at UMKC.

My goal was to finish my doctoral program and then come back to St. Louis to look for jobs. Fortunately, my brother called me one day and said, "Hey, did you see that UMSL has a director of admissions opening?"

So I saw that as an opportunity that I couldn't pass because when I graduated from UMKC there was no guarantee there would've been an opening. I saw this as a good opportunity, especially since I'm pretty invested in the St. Louis community.

TC: How has your upbringing shaped the man that you've become today?

AB: Everything that I do is because of my upbringing. The reason I have such a passion for education and helping students is because I had a unique educational experience. I started off in the St. Louis public schools and then I got bussed out to West County for the desegregation program. I saw two different worlds. St. Louis is so segregated both racially and economically, so when I saw the way people in West County lived compared to the way I lived, I wanted to know why. I saw education as an avenue in order for me to live a better life.

It definitely worked out for me and now I want to make sure that every student has an opportunity. I want them to know that your life has everything to do with you taking school seriously and making the best of your opportunities.

TC: What are your plans for UM-St. Louis admissions in the future?

AB: UMSL is a unique type of institution. When you have a major metropolitan research institution in the middle of the city, the dynamics are different compared to all of our competitors ... we offer a different type of experience.

The one thing that I want us to do is to not accept being a commuter campus. My goal is to increase freshman enrollment, and in order for us to do that we have to do a lot of things differently. We have to create a residential environment that's appealing to freshmen. We have a lot of students who just go to class and go home, and that's not good for retention.

We need more students on campus and engaged in activities, more students at the games, and more social opportunities for our students outside the classroom. I see a lot of potential at UMSL but we will never reach our full potential if we keep doing what we're doing.

TC: What is your favorite movie and favorite musical artist of all time?

AB: The one movie that had the biggest influence on me is Malcolm X by Spike Lee. I read the book, but when I saw the movie I really felt like I had a sense of responsibility to really make the most out of my life.

As for my favorite artist, I'll have to go all the way back and say Stevie Wonder. He has produced so much meaningful music over a time span.

Other than Michael Jackson, I don't think anyone has ever done that.
“Left 4 Dead 2” better than original in every way

When Valve announced “Left 4 Dead 2” back in June, the “Left 4 Dead” community was thrown into chaos.

“Why don’t you release a sequel only a year after the first game?” some outspoken community members cried.

“It will never be as good as the first! A year is not enough time to make a good game!” But they were wrong. Oh, how they were wrong.

“Left 4 Dead 2” is the perfect sequel, very nearly the perfect game. It improves upon its predecessor in almost every way.

The “Left 4 Dead” series follows four survivors through their struggles to stay alive in a world where a rampant virus outbreak has created the zombie-esque “Infected.”

“Left 4 Dead 2” takes this concept south this time around, as the survivors make their way to New Orleans to be evacuated to safety. Nick is a sarcastic gambling man who, despite the ongoing apocalypse, is wearing a white suit. Coach is a former high school football coach (naturally), whose affinity for food is frequently rife on by the other survivors.

Rochele is a broadcast journalist and, sadly, the least fleshed-out character. The last survivor is Ellis Savannah, a young mechanic with a penchant for NASCAR, bib-overalls and telling tall stories about his friend Keith at the worst possible times.

The game features five full campaigns: Dead Center, a Dawn of the Dead-esque shopping mall; Dark Carnival, a circus full of incredibly-creeplust cover Infect; Swamp Fever, a Southern shantytown full of mule-wearing Infect; Hard Rain, quite possibly the best campaign in the game; and The Parish, an intense, balls-to-the-wall romp through New Orleans culminating in a magnificent bridge-crossing finale.

Hard Rain takes survivors through the shattered remains of a subdivision, to an abandoned sugar mill and then across a field thick with crops—and then the rain really lets fly.

Once it begins pouring, the survivors have to make their way back the way they came, through the rain-drenched field, past the now-flooded sugar mill and submerged subdivision.

It is brilliant.

All five of them are fully playable from the outset as single-player campaigns, online multiplayer campaigns, versus matches (with 4 survivor players fighting 4 infected players), survival rounds (4 survivors players trying to last as long as they can against the hordes), and scavenger rounds.

Scavenger is new to the “Left 4 Dead” series and is kind of like a hybrid of Survival and Versus, with 4 survivors fighting against 4 special Infect to collect 16 gas cans scattered around the map before time runs out.

The “Left 4 Dead” series is known for, among other things, its iconic special infects. The sequels is new exception, featuring the triumphant return of the Hunter, Smoker, Boomer and the Tank, as well as introducing three new ones: the Spitter, the Jockey and the Charger.

On top of that, Valve has upgraded their revolutionary Director AI to a 2.0 version, which means the game better anticipates players actions and directs the flow of the game.

Sadly, there are still a few bugs that should have been ironed out before the game shipped. The game is prone to crashing, particularly in the middle of a tense moment.

“Left 4 Dead 2” is the perfect sequel in every way: it has more content, more gameplay modes, more guns, more everything. Those naysayers who thought “Left 4 Dead 2” would never be as good as the first were completely wrong.

Valve has a real contender for game of the year here. The kicker is that it only took them a year to turn it out.

Andrew Seal
'Precious' will Push you to the edge

"Precious" must have been a hard film to market. Here is the sales pitch: it is a story where the only thing more painful to watch than the main character's systematic abuse is the grotesque portrait of an America often swept under the rug. What do you think of Natasha Bedingfield in the background of TV spots? As it stands, cable ads feature an odd hodgepodge of images from the film's fantasy moments intercut with real life scenes in an ugly duckling narrative. The ads end, inexplicably, with the sound of various characters angrily yelling "Precious!" as if dark secrets in her life echo in the shadows of her uplifting journey. In reality, the film is the opposite. "Precious" tells a powerful and disturbing story based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire. The film is gritty and ugly, barely shying away from scenes of rape, incest and child abuse. Precious is our hero, a sixteen-year-old girl who is pregnant with her second child and, as our story opens, is kicked out of public school because of this. Both the film and novel give us a real person in Precious, running far from traditional heartstring-tugging images of innocence abused. Precious is often angry and even apathetic. She steals. She passes on rough treatment to the sweet kid in her apartment complex who just wants to play with her. At first, our only glimpses of her true joyful self are in fantasy sequences when she is a superstar with light hair, fawned over by paparazzi and flanked by shirtless young men. These sequences usually occur at the height of Precious' abuse, most of which is by her mother, played by an utterly shameless (in a good way) Mo'Nique.

Things change for Precious when she begrudgingly enrolls in an alternative school for the gifted (she has a natural aptitude for math, thanks to her crush on her white math teacher whom she dreams will marry her and take her away). There her new teacher, Ms. Rain, slowly begins to bring Precious out of her shell. The film is shot with more visual flair than might be expected in such a rough story but, overall, the camerawork makes way for the acting. In the title role, Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe makes all of the right choices, not giving us much until we register every smile and hint of laughter, finally realizing the sweetness and compassion within Precious. This sweetness is never shoved down our throats nor does it suddenly appear in some caterpillar-to-butterfly transformation. Rather it is slowly coaxed out by those around Precious and by her determination to be a good mother to her new child.

Sidibe will be nominated for an Oscar for her acting and so will Mo'Nique, who gives a guttural performance that makes words like "brave" and "raw" seem trite. Her portrait of a savage, abusive, tragic wounded monster culminates in an astonishing final scene where we finally, once we catch our breath, get a picture of how someone as damaged as Precious could turn out, should she make all of the wrong choices. Precious makes the right choices, gets slapped around for it and makes them again. That is why we are compelled to love her, human as the film jaggedly shows her to be. A- -Chris Stewart
A Christmas Story is a perfect holiday treat

The Rep plays Santa placing 'Christmas Story' under theater-goers’ tree

As holiday treats go, it is hard to beat "A Christmas Story," the dryly funny '80s movie about Christmas from a kid's eye view in the 1930s small town Midwest, with a tongue stuck to frozen flag pole, a relentless bully and weird little younger brother, and a boy in glasses pining for a Red Ryder BB gun.

Now the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis offers up a new treat; a stage version of the charmingly quirky kid-centric holiday movie which, best of all, is not a musical.

The stage version retains the child's perspective, the humor, and the charm of a trip back in time to a radio-dominated childhood where Christmas was the best day of the year.

Actor Jeff Talbott provides hilarious narration on-stage as the grownup counterpart to Ralphie (Jonathan Savage), the glasses-wearing Indiana boy dreaming of that Red Ryder air rifle. As Ralph reminisces about childhood days of radio adventure series with secret decoder rings, magazine contests and comic book ads for air rifles that your mother says will "put your eye out," we see scenes of Ralphie's world played out before us.

As the excitement of Christmas builds, Ralph scampers around the stage, setting the narrative groundwork for the scenes in comic fashion.

We meet Ralphie's best friends, confident Schwartz (Jarrett Hackett) and little Flick (Taylor Edlin), who seems a magnet for bad luck, especially at the hands of the coon-skin cap wearing bully Scut Farkas.

At school, we find Helen (Sarah Koo), the smartest girl in the world, Ester Jane (Julia Schweizer), with long curls in hair ribbons and velvet-trimmed coat, and teacher Miss Shields (Susie Wall) who is exacting about margins.

At home, Ralphie's younger brother Randy (Caden SfH) seems to be always hiding under something and The Old Man, Ralphie's eccentric Dad (Jeff Gunner), is bedeviled by the neighbors' barking dogs and a bulky furnace. Ralphie's ever-cheerful Mother (Marnye Young) is always cooking meatloaf and knows the answers to all the questions for the contest quizzes her husband fills out.

Ralphie's dream is to get a Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas, the one he saw advertised in a kid's magazine.

He fantasizes about being the cowboy action hero Red Ryder rescuing damsels in distress and saving the day, just like in the radio and movie serials.

And as the holiday approaches, Ralphie cooks up schemes for getting his wish, even though his mother's response to the idea of a BB gun was that he would put his eye out.

The play does a wonderful job of translating the movie to stage under director John McCluggage. The use of the narrator, who scampers about the stage providing access to Ralphie's inner life, his action-hero fantasies and other dreams are played out with great fun and some clever staging. Everybody in the cast brings great comic energy to their roles, especially the adults whose roles are the most bizarre in this kid-centric reality.

Susie Wall is especially fun as the teacher in her fantasy scenes, wearing a huge medallion of Shakespeare while praising Ralphie's essay and in a scene with "Wizard of Oz" touches. The kids do a great job as well, with Jonathan Savage playing Ralphie as the calm center of sanity in the pre-Christmas excitement and all the cast playing their roles with just the right touch of comic exaggeration.

Stereophonics play it safe, disappoint on latest album

Stereophonics, the Welsh rock band, recently released their seventh studio album, Keep Calm and Carry On, in the past month.

The band, originally formed in 1992 in Cwmaman, Wales, is formed of Kelly Jones (lead vocals and guitar), Richard Jones (bass and background vocals), Javier Weyler (drums) and Adam Zindani (guitar and background vocals). The original drummer for the band was Stuart Cable. The name is rumored to come from a World War II poster recently gaining popularity.

"Keep Calm and Carry On" begins with the electric sound of "She's alright," introducing the album perfectly and pulling the listener in with decent hooks even if the lyrics are somewhat repetitive.

A few strategically placed distorted guitar riffs pull the song together. Another song on the album and lead single, "Innocent," is saccharine-sweet pop, almost too sugar, so swallow. A notable track, the song has a catchy beat and chorus that practically dares you to try to stop your foot from tapping, albeit not quite the raspy rock 'n' roll sound characteristic to Stereophonics.

"I Got Your Number" is a track worth a listen or two but probably not destined to make its way onto anyone's most-played list. The track is filled with more fuzzed guitar lines and an overly simple chorus that is slightly rectified by a few creative verses. Another song on the album worth a few plays is "Uprooted," which sounds like an inferior (but-still decent) cousin to "Dakota," highlighting Jones' gravelly voice and pretty good instrumentation.

If there is anything notable to be said about this album, it is that Stereophonics provide a great deal of contrast between songs, sticking the gritty guitar lines of "Trouble" next to the relaxed (and slightly melodramatic and generic) mood of "Could you be the one." The contrast demonstrates the versatility of the band but also highlights the tracks on the album where the band really seemed to fall flat. Some of the songs seem to be half finished, with the potential to be something great but cut short, either from laziness or reluctance to taking risks.

For a decent album, this latest work of Stereophonics definitely makes the grade.

However, as a whole, the album falls short. The album plays it safe in all the wrong parts, providing a taste of something new and interestingly different with the occasional great song only to slip back into the mediocrity of some of the others. A solid album, "Keep Calm and Carry On" will probably be an album listened to in pieces rather than as its own work. The album as a whole does not flow well and listeners may find their money better spent on singles from the album rather than the product as a whole.

—Anita Marie Curnan
"Everybody's Fine"
Not a comedy but true-to-life family drama

Even when you are all grown up, the desire to please your parents and make them proud often remains.

The ads and movie trailer make "Everybody's Fine" look like a family comedy with a Christmas theme. Robert DeNiro and Drew Barrymore in a too-familiar, heart-warming family comedy, a role that seems to be becoming a DeNiro staple.

But that image is false. Although "Everybody's Fine" has comic moments and a final scene at Christmas, this film is actually a well-crafted drama, well-acted and surprisingly true-to-life, about a far-flung modern family.

"Everybody's Fine" story of grown children still trying to please their widowed father reverses director Kirk Jones' previous film equation, yielding a drama with comic touches. Jones' successful, previous films were the comedies "Waking Ned Devine" and "Nanny McPhee," but both comedies featured dramatic messages and warmth under the laughs. Jones wrote those two scripts but he adapted the screenplay for this one from the original Italian 1990 film, "Stanno Tutti Bene" ("Everybody's Fine"), directed by Giuseppe Tornatore ("Cinema Paradiso").

When his children cancel, one by one, on a family gathering, recent widower Frank Goode (Robert DeNiro) decides to take an impromptu road trip of surprise visits to his children scattered around the country. The father, who spent his life working in a factory, is proud of his accomplished, successful children, particularly those in the arts. As he shows a fellow train passenger photos, he talks about his sons Robert (Sam Rockwell), the classical musician, and David (Austin Lysy), the artist, and his daughters Rosie (Drew Barrymore), the headlining Vegas dancer, and Amy (Kate Beckinsale), with a successful husband and her own advertising career. Frank offers an image of a perfect family, but the fact that no one visited the ailing older man makes us wonder what is missing from his version.

A family picture far less rosy than the initial portrait emerges, but one with more warmth than suspected. This film offers strong drama but avoids overblown sentiment, in a story that will resonate personally with many in the audience. The drama focuses on the aging father's efforts to understand and connect with his grown children, with more focus on the son and daughter played by the gifted, overlooked Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale, in a rare break from vampire and werewolf action roles.

It is a delight to see DeNiro return to a dramatic role and, not surprisingly, he fully delivers as Frank, a man who loves his children but does not connect. More unexpected is Kate Beckinsale's well-crafted, layered career-woman Amy.

"Everybody's Fine" is not a flawless film but its cast creates a realistically-flawed family and director Jones skillfully avoids the over-sentimental pitfalls that sink so many family dramas. In "Everybody's Fine," both realism and heart win out.

B - Kate Marquis

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**CHIMAIRA**, from page 13.

One gets the impression that the very term "heavy-metal" is being redefined and, as the crowd becomes an unstoppable wave of motion, the die-hard fans leap into the maelstrom of the pit beneath the stage, swinging their arms Townsend-style and throwing each other back and forth.

The band rocked out favorites like "I Hate Everyone" and "Nothing Remains," and had the crowd screaming along, begging for more. Camera phones flashed. Metal-horns flared. Cans of over-priced Stag were chugged, honoring the metal band with one of the darkest names in Greek mythology.

"Eye Win's defense stiffened and denied the point-after.

The clock ticked down to 20 seconds when Shelton ran around the left end and into the endzone to make the score 21-19. But that was as close as the Kings would get, as Eye Win's defense swarmed Shelton's pass, forcing a drop and securing the championship for the Eye Win guys.

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SCIENCE COLUMN

Good science, bad science
Lack of understanding has created a gap between the media and science

Recently, there was a disturbing report on a mainstream news program. What was disturbing was not its content, but that it was being reported on a prime-time news program rather than circulated through blogs, e-mail forwards and by right-leaning talk shows.

The report was about e-mails between scientists discussing some findings on global warming. The e-mails were hacked into by individuals who think global warming is a hoax. The non-scientists who obtained the e-mails were circulating them as proof that global warming is not really occurring but is a hoax by a vast scientific conspiracy.

What the news report really showed was a profound lack of understanding about how science works, both on the part of the e-mail hackers and those reporting the story. Science is, perhaps, like sausage-making.

Scientific facts do not leap cleanly and wholly formed out of the earth. Often scientists discuss among themselves the significance of raw data and what analysis is needed to discern the facts underlying that data. One of the things scientists might discuss is whether to include anomalous results, or occasional “outliers” that seem not to fit the rest of the data. Outliers might tell you something significant or they might be random noise that muddies an analysis.

These kinds of discussions take place all the time, not because scientists want to fudge the data but because they want data to accurately reflect what is really going on. Any scientist reading this e-mail exchange would see it for what it is: ordinary back-and-forth discussion. But to the non-scientist, especially someone who believes scientists conduct their work in the same manner as business people or is prone to ascribe them evil motives, it is possible to misconstrue the discussion.

Nothing is more important to a scientist than their reputation and the trustworthiness of their data.

In the business world, things like cherry-picking information for reports, framing information in the most advantageous light and even fudging facts, are unremarkable, even forgivable and forgettable, conduct. In science, honesty and accuracy is everything.

A scientist who fudges the facts has committed a career-ending offense. But even if these particular scientists were engaging in questionable behavior, the enormous amount of data and the consensus of thousands of scientists on the meaning of climate data remains.

The report did have a brief clip of a scientist saying the whole thing was a non-story that no one would take seriously, which raised the question about why it was getting such attention. But the report seemed far more interested in the thrill of scandal-mongering than in accurately reporting facts to the public.

This is not a good trend in our media coverage of science.

FASHION COLUMN

Tipping the fashion scales: Let’s talk weight

Weight is the most controversial issue in fashion. It’s debated to tears by people on both sides of the discussion and there is never a winner. This issue is so old and people are tired of talking about it, but it’s always up for discussion until something changes.

Back when Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell reigned supreme, being super-thin meant you weren’t being fed well at home, or that your high metabolism damned you.

Being lean became the new black when naturally thin British model Twiggy hit the scene in the mid-1960s. Her arrival was met with criticism from people concerned that her instant popularity provoked an unhealthy body image among women at just 91 pounds. Her look was regarded as a fad, however Twiggy mania swept the world and she is now regarded as one of the most iconic models of all time.

But that model was not the last to fall victim to the weight issue. After the untimely death of her close friend Heath Ledger. Ward fell off the fashion planet and secluded herself to her home. Almost two years after her sabbatical, pictures of Ward resurfaced. She was 25 pounds heavier and almost unrecognizable.

The media pounced on her. Rude headlines like “Gemma Ward is fat and she knows it” and “Gemma Ward: Roll Model” were on countless newstands and blogs across the globe. The negative attention hurt the model so much that she released a statement on November 9 that she will no longer model.

How did we get to a point where embracing natural weight became such an issue? Despite what some may think, a lot of models are not naturally thin and they have to work to maintain their physiques. Models of all sizes should be able to command the runway. The sole purpose of modeling is to display clothing to consumers and convince them to purchase the clothes, so having different variations of models makes sense to fit the differences among consumers.

There is too much elitism when it comes to fashion. There is no purpose of holding a model to a standard of beauty that is nearly impossible to achieve. The people who are making the rules that models must be tall and super thin are not tall and super thin themselves (see Karl Lagerfeld). Luckily, the recent boom in plus-sized-fashion revenue has gone up, so let’s support models of all sizes. Our economy needs it, and so does the self-esteem of consumers.
Social Awareness 101

I love to people watch, and the sociologist in me loves to analyze situations and beliefs that I once took for granted.

For example, many will argue that girls and boys naturally gravitate toward specific colors, but the decision to feminize pink and masculinize blue was consciously made after WWII in an effort to bridge the gender gap. Prior to WWII, pink was considered masculine as it was a watered-down version of red.

This and other beliefs are commonly but incorrectly attributed to the biology of our sexes. I have put together an introductory list of beliefs to start you on your path to social self-awareness.

(mis)Belief #1: Males are naturally more aggressive than females.

If you have spent time with young children, you know that girls hit, kick, bite and scream just as much as boys. However, at around the age of 3, parents begin to discipline girls to control their anger while boys are allowed more freedom to express themselves aggressively.

This is understandable, especially if the parents already believe that their son’s aggression is natural and immutable.

(mis)Belief #2: Girls are naturally more aggressive.

Piggy-backing on #1, girls have to learn different ways to express their anger, and gravitate to the power of harshly chosen words.

Combine this with the ideal of girls staying clean and pretty—it takes too much time to restyle hair, so physical contact with the enemy is a no-no (you have seen Jerry Springer and the flying hair weaves, right?).

(mis)Belief #3: Men are visual.

Last time I checked, everyone I know is visual, but of course this refers to men’s desire to gaze upon us lovely ladies.

Well, I would be more visual too if the majority of billboards, magazine covers, television commercials, horror films and music videos were laden with buff men posing and dancing for my entertainment. Let’s face it: opportunities are designed differently for boys and girls.

Coupled with male encouragement and female discouragement of sexual expression, conditioned responses are understandable. But make no mistake: Ladies enjoy seeing hot guys too.

(mis)Belief #4: Women hate sports.

Female fans love sports just as much as men. Unfortunately, the majority are never invited to participate, be it pickup games of soccer in the schoolyard or attending hockey games with brothers.

Typically, girls are steered in different directions, where their interests for other things grow.

When I interviewed Riverwomen soccer players for my thesis, each said they got into sports because their fathers encouraged them to participate, and they ultimately benefited from their involvement by receiving university scholarships.

Opportunities and social education—which begin at home—make us who we are today, but we box ourselves and others around us in when we make uneducated assumptions about people based on their particular sets of plumbing.

My uterus has yet to prevent me from fixing my car’s brakes, and testicles truly do not make cooking and dusting impossible.

With a bit of introspection and awareness, we can all begin to make significant changes. I recently witnessed the fruit of my labor when my 17-year-old daughter grabbed tools from the trunk of my car to change a flat tire.

And she did so without messing up her hair.

A farewell to columns

Lately I have been thinking a lot about the last 4 years of my life. I can hardly believe it, but I’ve reached the final week of my college career. All of the grades, papers, tests, professors and late-night studying are coming to an end.

All that remains are a few frantic days of finals and a diploma-receiving ceremony. This has been a week of coming to terms that sadly, not every relationship lasts forever.

With a week left of classes, boxes are abandoned, questions are unanswered and there is an unclear future frightening the hell out of me.

My mind fights to keep those thoughts from intruding with daily life that walks me steadily towards graduation.

Over the last few years I have become everything I have always wanted to be—accepted, lively, funny, sexy, smart, thoughtful, artsy, crazy fun and wickedly good at new things.

Then I realize: I’m not as accepted, lively, funny, sexy, smart, thoughtful, artsy, crazy fun, or as wickedly good at anything as I thought I was, but that lady next to me probably is. Once I acknowledged that, I realized and accepted that I’m not so bad off myself and began to truly enjoy college life.

I have done all that I wanted at UMSL. I have ignored my advisors when they told me that I could be a great lawyer, gave up dreams of being a baller dancer, an astronaut, a professional hockey player, a painter, a doctor, a stripper, a teacher, and the first female/non-American president of the United States. But no big deal—I found new dreams and still held on to the one where I change the world.

I have fallen in love with love, then realized that it was make-believe.

I have made amazing friends, and then lost them on the court of stupidity. I have made amazing friends.

I have tried, failed, learned, changed, grown and did all the jazz that comes with college life, then unexpectedly fell into myself.

I have enjoyed all of the crazy/beautiful times I spent at The Current and appreciate having had the opportunity to know and work with incredible people.

Through these relationships, I have learned so much about the kind of person I am and the kind of person I do not want to be.

I will miss The Current and the relationships that I have built there. I will miss the parties and the hustle and bustle of it all, and I will greatly miss this university and the people who made it home for me.

Honestly, who knows what lies in the future? This might be goodbye, or just the beginning of a whole new chapter for me. There is always grad school.

My wish is that all international students follow my lead, and have as much fun while in The States as possible.

Step out of your comfort zone, then expand it by miles.

So I sit here and struggle on my last few sentences, still thinking about how to say a proper goodbye to this chapter.

I cannot help but be so very appreciative that I am void of words for everybody and everything.

So I cheat by ending it the way I began—the only true way to say goodbye: don’t.
Coming to a museum near you: CDs and records

One of the oddest things I encountered during my Thanksgiving Break was the ghost of my favorite CD/Record store in my hometown, Lake Ozark, Mo.

Not the biggest of towns, the one CD store monopolized all the music business when I was growing up.

Throughout junior high, my friends and I would spend every meager babysitting check we received on the newest albums out, ensuring we had a complete collection of music.

The store, "Music for Less," closed several years back right around the same time iTunes, Limewire and YouTube were beginning to make it big.

A new company has moved into its spot at the mall, but I still feel a twinge of nostalgia when I see navy sweaters and corduroys in the display window instead of music posters and aisle after aisle of albums.

I remember the first CD I ever owned; embarrassing as it may be, it was the Hanson's first album (you remember, I'm sure... "Dundundundundundundundundundundry wop..." or something along those lines) and at the time it was my most cherished possession.

A Christmas gift from my sister, that piece of plastic went everywhere I went, whether it was spinning in the walkman I found laying one of my dresser drawers—a forgotten prize from a forgotten event—or playing in the background of one of my parent's cars while they exasperatedly told me to turn it down (to which I rarely obliged.)

It seems strange to think the next generation of listeners will memorize their first favorite album on YouTube through hundreds of plays on a video instead of from a car stereo.

I miss the days of flipping through rows of albums at a record store and then facing the agonizing deliberation of deciding between several different ones.

However, nostalgic as I may be for the age of CDs, I still realize the potential the changing music industry holds.

I've heard numerous times that all the money in the music industry is shifting to the live show.

The availability of the music to fans is surely important, but it is beginning to gain the reputation of a flyer to promote the live show than the feature product itself.

"You used to sell plastic and vinyl. Now, you can sell interactability and souveniers," Seth Godin, a music writer, wrote in his column.

As Godin points out, this is the only way to make it in the business anymore.

Reaping profit from performances and using digital music to promote seems backwards when one is used to the inverse, but when thought out it makes sense.

So the age of CDs may be over but it seems like another one is coming in that has the potential to be just as impressive.

With the bulk of an artist's salary coming from their live performances, artists are sure to step it up and provide a quality show.

Personally, I am intrigued to see the next way the top dogs (and maybe even the newbies) find to keep us interested in the music business, and the new music and artists they have to offer.

'Tis better to save:

How to keep a little cash around in a season of giving, and more

Sweets and Treats: Most everyone has a sweet tooth, and this is probably the easiest, cheapest way to give out several gifts.

Get bags of candy or whip up some cookies or brownies.

To add a personal touch, wrap them in plastic and place the goods inside a coffee cup or basket or on a decorated plate.

Compare and contrast: Consumers may not find the lowest price for an item on the first shopping trip.

Even if they do, how do they know it is the cheapest? Compare prices with other stores through ads and include quality comparison.

Back away from the credit card: Probably the top payment method, especially around the holidays, is the credit card.

This is the most dangerous thing to do because it can quickly get users into debt.

While the "swipe now, pay later" system seems easiest to do, avoid this by planning ahead and start a "Holiday Savings" account at your bank.

Get together with friends: Most are taking a punch with the economy as it is. With your friends, decide on a spending limit. This way, everyone gets something, and others are not feeling guilty for not stepping it up.

Fun ways to spice this up include Secret Santa or Rob Your Neighbor. Also, you can team up with friends to get a mutual friend a bigger gift.

Coupons: Often times, people do not realize there are coupons for things outside of food.

Check the newspaper, entertainment books, and online to see if stores have any available.

Bundle gifts: The trouble many people face is trying to give gifts to each of their ten siblings and their spouses. Why not bundle gifts?

With this idea, you are both buying and stressing out less. For example, instead of trying to figure out what your brother, his wife and three kids all want, give them a family movie night.

Pick out two or three family movies, add some popcorn, hot chocolate mix and some "theater" candy, and bundle it in a basket.

Savings: Parents, children are not going to care if $2 or $2,000 are spent on gifts.

With most kids, bigger is better. Consider large items such as sleds or easel art kits. Also, do not try and show how much love is there by piling up the gifts.

I promise they will love you just the same.

Be sentimental: In the end, the holidays are never about who gets or spends the most. Handmade gifts never go wrong.

Think about personalized calendars, holiday decorations (wreaths, tree skirts, etc) and framed handprints of little ones for the grandparents.

SO... HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR? BE HONEST.
I MEAN, WE KNOW YOU'RE OUR FRIEND, BUT REALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOURS, The Current
Copywrong: new technology leads to absurd new laws

A few weeks ago, 22-year-old Samantha Tumpach was thrown in jail for two nights for recording her older sister's surprise party.

The party took place during a screening of "New Moon," the latest entry in the "Twilight" series.

Naturally, Tumpach wanted to record the occasion for posterity—and not the whole event, just the singing of "Happy Birthday" and a few videos of her sister and friends clowning around before the movie started.

Instead, she found herself charged with "one count of criminal use of a motion picture exhibition," an article in the Chicago Sun-Times said.

Granted, she acknowledged there were clips of the movie on her camera—totaling about 4 minutes. She claimed that they were only there because she was trying to figure out her new-ish camera.

She was arrested after managers noticed her and called the police.

You read that right. Instead of politely asking her to stop—call it a warning, if you want—the managers immediately called the police, and after Tumpach was taken into custody, the managers insisted on pressing charges. It seems like a bit of an overreaction, but it makes sense. By failing to report a possible copyright infringement, the managers could have risked their jobs.

But failing to act like a compassionate human being by offering a warning? That falls squarely on the shoulders of the managers. Now Tumpach is facing charges that could land her in jail for three years.

On top of that delightful little nugget is that as a convicted felon, Tumpach would lose her right to vote, her ability to work with children, and her right to hold public office. Oh yeah—and any job she applied for that required a background check? Boom. Felon.

All that, plus three years for four inadvertent minutes of a crappy teen vampire-romance flick.

Granted, she should not have been fiddling with her camera as the movie started, but the facts in this case are fairly obvious: she was not trying to record the movie on purpose.

The proof is in her camera: It is a digital still-frame camera with added video support. Real cappers use straight-up pure video cameras to get the highest quality possible in a camcorder. Also, they do not do their camcoring right in front of the managers.

This poor girl is going to be railroaded by the Motion Picture Association of America for a crime she did not commit. This is, quite simply, moronic.

This is hardly the first time that the MPAA or its sinister cousin, the Recording Industry Association of America, has pulled dirty tricks like this.

They seem to think that crucifying innocent everyday common people will somehow force the "cappers/tappers/copiers to stop. The people recording and releasing cam copies of movies who could care less about Samantha Tumpach.

Newsflash, guys: making an example of people not even remotely tied to the camcording scene will not work. Now, catching a major and well-known "capper in the act—that’s a start.

These outdated and draconic copyright laws need to go. I am all for protecting the rights of content creators, but when those same laws are used to harass and destroy a young woman’s life and her future? That’s sick.

The theater managers need to drop the charges, and Tumpach should walk free. MPAA, try going after the people that are hurting your business, not the ones buying tickets and supporting it.

Now, about singing "Happy Birthday" (a copyrighted song) in the theater (a public space), well, you are on your own for that one. Samantha.

In my professional opinion, these dreams mean that you are sexually attracted to The Current and will not find true peace of mind until you pick it up and make sweet read to it all day long.

Franken’s fight against rape: And the bizarre right-wing backlash

Franken drafted and proposed the amendment after learning about the case of Jamie Leigh Jones, a 19-year-old former employee of KBR who was allegedly drugged, raped by multiple male co-workers and locked in a shipping container.

She was unable to take her case to court because of stipulations in her contract. For their part, the 30 male Republicans that voted against the amendment (including Missouri’s Kit Bond) did not explain their reasoning very well.

Overall, they backed their votes against it because they thought the amendment would be unfair to contractors who are unaware of such stipulations in contracts from their parent companies.

Another argument was that the amendment would be difficult to apply as law as many of these companies and the offenses themselves would take place outside of U.S. legal jurisdiction.

But it was Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama (R-AL) who received the center of attention when he claimed the amendment was a political move by Democrats aimed solely at Halliburton, a company many consider synonymous with greediness after their no-bid Iraq contracts during the Bush administration.

Ultimately, the amendment passed and became part of the bill, but the backlash against these senators from the left was harsh. Within a day of the vote, there was a website, republicansforrape.org and left-wing pundits on television were loudly throwing the "pro rape" label around.

As soon as the branding began, the GOP attempted to fire back, though their response was something akin to an angry whisper. According to politico.com, these senators are upset that Franken has not come to their defense in the face of the criticism that has been hurled against them for voting against his amendment.

"I don’t know what his motivation was for taking us on, but I would hope that we won’t see a lot of Daily Kos-inspired amendments in the future coming from him," Sen. John Thune said in reference both to Franken's amendment and a liberal blog that had nothing to do with the issue.

But I have to ask what these senators expected. When it comes down to it, this does not look like a trap that Sen. Franken set for them, but it might as well have been.

Even though there are hairy legal issues that the amendment’s application as law will bring up, the protection it will provide women is needed.

Regardless of what you may call these senators, they voted against protecting women. And no matter what, any protection of them is better than none at all in my book.
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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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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!

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Computer repair/Website hosting developing
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Please contact 636-614-4413.

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#### 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

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#### 700 Miscellaneous

December 9, 2009, Work-in-Progress Presentation
"An Analysis of the Motto Adduced by Wittgenstein for the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus ″, Thomas P. Knothen, BA, JD, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, 3:30 pm, Dean's Conference Room, Third Floor, Lucas Hall, free, (314) 516-5631

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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.

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The Current takes you serial, even when no one else does. Know of something super serial going on around campus? Send it to us at thecurrent-tips@umsl.edu
Good Guys by Phil Freeman

Soon I'll have my revenge against the good guys!

Uh sir, why exactly do you need the world? I mean, you're rich, you rule an island! You have thousands of henchmen! What more could you possibly want?

You're fired...

Random Minds by Jeffrey Grossman

My secret weapon! Something that will get that sporty-salesboy friend of mine off that couch and finally notice me!

Don't tell me you went and bought more perfume?

This is different! They had all kinds of brand-name scents at the mall and the counter-girl recommended this for me personally!

Hey why do I smell rubber, stinkurft and lime Gatorade?

Ill the same brand that the Rams cheerleaders wear! "Just drop it hopeless hypnose the big lug in your life!"
Monday, Dec. 7

2009 Holiday Fest With the holiday season soon approaching it is once again time to come together as campus community and help those in need. This year’s Holiday Fest will take place December 1st-December 7th. On Monday, November 30th, we will display holiday decorations in the NOSH in the Millennium Student Center in anticipation of the arrival of food baskets and donations from offices, organizations and individuals across campus. Please visit the Student Life website to find out how to get involved.

Coed Wallyball Tournament Tonight is Campus Recreation’s 3-on-3 Coed Wallyball Tournament. Wallyball is a fun, fast-paced game of volleyball played in a racquetball court. Fun for everyone, regardless of skill! A & B Divisions. Teams Must register in advance at the Campus Rec Office. Located in the Mark Twain Gym at 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain at 516-5326.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Annual Holiday Concert Enjoy an evening of well-loved holiday music at this performance of the University-Community Chorus, University Singers, Vocal Point, and University Orchestra at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Touhill Performing Arts Center from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. For more information contact Ashley Paterson at 314-516-5948.

Friday, Dec. 11

Conversations about Teaching & Technology: Customizing Course Informal discussions designed to introduce colleagues to the essential ingredients for developing effective blended or fully online courses. Co-sponsors: ITS Faculty Resource Center and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Located in the Mark Twain Gym from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact Cheryl Bielema at 314-516-4508.

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

Holiday Jazz Performance

Charles Clements, sophomore, music, performed with fellow members of the UMSL Jazz Ensemble last Monday at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This was a free concert for the UMSL community. Presented by the UMSL Department of Music.

AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE The Current