False alarm over antique gun
by Ryan Krull

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False alarm over antique

Administrators say new policy is needed; response time needs to be decreased

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

At 11:30 a.m. last Tuesday, a campus-wide emergency email and text message went out to University of Missouri-St. Louis students. The message read, “Man with a gun seen in Lucas Hall. Police have been unable to confirm this. Older W/M, glasses, 5’8”. Avoid Lucas Hall. Secure in place. Don’t come to Campus. If this person is seen, call the campus police.”

The alert was sent out in response to an emergency call to the police made by a student in Lucas Hall. The man turned out to be J. Frederick Fausz, an associate history professor who specializes in Colonial America and the Lewis and Clark era. The gun was only an antique musket to be used as a teaching aid. Sergeant Thomas McEwen of the UMSL police department said that six officers responded to the call.

The sergeant described the incident as an instructor just trying to teach a class, but not thinking about the consequences of carrying something like this back to his office. McEwen also urged students who have not signed up with the emergency mass notification system on MyView to do so.

“We can’t force people to sign up, but in cases like this it really does help,” McEwen said. Ron Yasbin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that Fausz is very engaged and he really tries to get the students excited and he brought in a French musket to show them what it is like. We don’t have a policy on that.”

Yasbin said that Fausz did not do anything wrong, but that the incident alerted the university to the fact that a new policy needs to be in place.

Yasbin said that a policy is quickly being drafted. It will probably be comparable to the policy drama classes have to abide by that requires classes involving prop weapons or fight scenes to give the UMSL police advanced notice. The police department has also been cleared. They have been cleared. [The Emergency notification system] certainly kicked in. It’s just a matter of making it quicker.

Yasbin stressed that the money to pay for and improve these systems is replaceable, but life is not.

Degrees to be phased out or combined in coming years

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Staff writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has a total of 12 degree programs which have been tagged as ‘low-producing’ by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) this past year. These programs have, in recent years, consistently produced below a certain benchmark number of graduates on multiple levels and are being examined by the university.

“Low-producing is defined as a program that produces below the state of Missouri rules for the minimum number of graduates based on a 3 year average. Those minimum numbers are ten bachelor’s degrees, five master’s degrees and three doctoral degrees. The ‘low-producing’ label refers only to the average number of graduates falling below those levels,” Glen Cope, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said.

In this light, it is not even a standard UMSL-St. Louis itself has necessarily set, but rather one that is operated on a statewide level. While these numbers may seem inconsequential to some, it is essential for a program’s continuation that it produces graduates. See DEGREES on page 3
Tuition increase will likely not reach double digits

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

As The Current previously reported, tuition is almost certain to increase for University of Missouri-St. Louis students next year in response to expected cuts in state appropriations for the UM System. At a Student Government Association meeting held Friday, the administration gave a more detailed outlook of the tuition increases students can expect.

James M. Krueger, the vice chancellor of Managerial & Technological Services, said that UM System President Gary Forsee "has sort of sent a signal that there will be no double digit tuition increases."

In response to a question about just how much less money would be coming into the UM System from the state government, Krueger responded saying, "If you really want to be panicked, it could be 5 to 25 percent. The state budget is not in good shape." State appropriations and tuition are the two largest funding sources for the university.

Because the UM-St. Louis administration does not yet know the exact figure of the forthcoming budget decrease, several different scenarios have been planned for.

If there is a 5 percent reduction in state appropriations, tuition will increase 4 percent to $255.40 a credit hour for a Missouri resident undergraduate. A 10 percent reduction in state appropriations will increase tuition by 7 percent. If state appropriations are decreased by 15 percent, tuition will increase by 9 percent, the maximum President Forsee has signaled will be acceptable. The 9 percent increase will bring tuition to $267.70 for an in-state undergraduate.

Despite these tuition increases, the drop in state appropriations will create a budget shortfall. The shortfall could be as low as $4.5 million or as high as nearly $8 million. The smaller the reduction in appropriations, the less the budget shortfall will be. Any shortfall that is created will be negated through budget cuts.

"The budget and planning committee will have the task of making whatever cuts are needed," Krueger said.

Despite the expected budget shortfall, the university is planning a 2 percent increase in faculty salary and benefits.

A program which is not producing graduates still requires funding. Being tagged with this label does not instantly equal a kiss of death for any given program, although steps are being taken to receive this status. "A few will be combined to form degree programs that will produce more than the minimum numbers of graduates. Some will be made inactive, which means that current students will be able to complete their degrees and graduate, but new students won’t be admitted and the program will be phased out," Cope said.

While this may still not be excitingly reassuring concerning the state of UM-St. Louis' degrees, it is interesting to note that some programs will apparently be left alone entirely, in that no combinations or phasing out will occur in their case. "Some of the low-producing degree programs will be retained because they are essential to the mission of UM-St. Louis, even though their numbers are currently small," Cope said. "Programs to be combined include French, Spanish, German, which will become a major in Foreign Language with concentrations in French, Spanish, and German and possibly other languages in the future." Other programs cited by Cope as low-producing were those of sociology, philosophy and physics, in which both Bachelor of the Arts and Bachelor of Sciences degrees are in danger due to this identification. Sociology, in particular, has already been inactive, according to Cope. "It will be made formally inactive with the DHE as a result of this project," Cope said.

Students should remember that there is not necessarily a need to be concerned. "I think the most important thing to mention is that even if a degree is 'under performing' it does not mean that the degree will be canceled. Students could be preparing to graduate and the three year period was just a low graduation time for that degree," Daniel Rosner, senior, accounting, said. Cope supported these facts as well. The only concern then lies in the degrees to be lost. Naturally, it may be possible for programs which are essential to increase their numbers and thus remove this tag in future years. What of those programs to be phased out though? UM-St. Louis looks to potentially lose a few degree programs in the coming years if production levels of graduates do not increase.

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Men’s basketball

Tritons head coach Steve Tappeyneyer made his regular season debut with University of Missouri-St. Louis this weekend at the GLVC-GLIAC Tournament in Springfield, Illinois. Tritons men’s basketball split their round robin winning on Friday night against Northwood University 82-71. “We came out very strong in game one and we got them to turn the ball over,” Coach Luke Crump, men’s assistant basketball coach, said. “We dug ourselves in a hole in the second game but came up a bit short.” Against Lake Superior State University, UM-St. Louis trailed by six at half time. The Tritons lost the game 73-71. Men’s basketball’s first home game is on Monday, November 22 at the Mark Twain Gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. against Victory University. Admission is free to all UM-St. Louis students, faculty and alumni.

UMSL Men’s Basketball players playing a game during a practice session at the Mark Twain Building (Gym) on Wednesday.
SPORTS COLUMN

Cheaters never win

National Collegiate Athletic Association officials are investigating Auburn University quarterback Cam Newton for possible infractions. According to The Associated Press, Newton's father, Cecil, said it would take up to $180,000 for his son to play at Mississippi State University.

Newton signed with the Auburn Tigers and is the frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy, college football's best player. Before Newton committed to Auburn, according to The Associated Press, he played third string under Florida University head coach Urban Meyer, but left after he was caught cheating on exams and term papers.

NCFA Division I football and basketball programs attract coaches and athletes alike seem to see themselves as above the student body. Pete Carroll, Urban Meyer, Lane Kiffin and other big name collegiate football coaches are all guilty of major infractions. Yet university administrators keep hiring these coaches.

Former University of Southern California head football coach Pete Carroll and USC boosters provided cars and other incentives to several Trojan football players, including Heisman Trophy winner and New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush. Pete Carroll left USC amid sanctions and Bush returned his trophy. According to NCFAA reports, some of these incentives were funded by university money.

While most students struggle to make ends meet, balancing school, work or sometimes children, Newton and others like him are given free rides. Their education is paid for, their room and board is paid for and, in some instances, their books are too. Most University of Missouri-St. Louis students often have to scrape the bottom of the barrel just to pay for books. Some even work two or more jobs. At the University of Missouri-Columbia, or Mizzou, athletes are given special study areas and other facilities not available to the general student population. Tuition dollars and Missouri tax payers pay for these privileges. Why are these 18- to 23-year-old athletes held in such high regard? The answer is because of the amount of money they bring in to the university.

When stories came like Cam Newton, or former UM-St. Louis golf coach Dustin Ashley are reported, university officials and administrators often attempt to downplay the sanctions. Auburn University, for example, still backs up its prized quarterback saying that he is eligible to play every Saturday. However, NCAA rules and bylaws state that any player who accepts cash payments for playing a sport the student-athlete in question is no longer amateur and cannot play NCAA sanctioned sports.

It is time for administrators and others in major universities face the facts. They are not sending good messages to students, parents and fans alike. By condoning unethical behavior by coaches and athletes administrators are not doing their schools' any favors. Big time sports programs, like college football, are disgraceful.

Michael Frederick is Sports Editor for The Current.

Women's basketball prepare for 2010-2011 season

CHARDAI BASTIEN
Staff Writer

The Tritons women's basketball team hopes to become a force to be reckoned with. "I am looking forward to success this season. We have the potential to be a great team and really open people's eyes to UMSL's women's basketball," Kelly Hubert, senior, elementary education, said. "We have improved our team chemistry and are in the best basketball shape we have ever been in the 4 years I have been here. Everyone has worked on their weaknesses and it shows greatly."

This season's roster includes several players returning this season along with a couple new recruits. Three seniors Kelly Carter, Kelly Hubert and Kelly Mitchell hope to help lead the team in their role as captains. Coach Taylor expects this year to be the best season of her UM-St. Louis coaching career. "We have a good core back as well as some new comers that are adjusting well,” Coach Taylor said.

The returning student-athletes for the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons include Caitlyn Moody, junior, who ranked third in scoring last season, Kelly Mitchell who averaged 7.6 points last season, Kelly Hubert who shot the team best at 54.7 percent from the field and Kelly Carter who threw up an average of 8.4 points per game last season.

Also returning is Kearn Burgh, Kiki Robinson, Deaven Omohundro and Allie Hagan. Shaynelle Dominguez committed with the Tritons this season. She stands at 6 feet 2 inches and is a transfer from Lewis and Clark Community college where she averaged 9 points per game and 5.6 rebounds per game.

The four freshmen this season brought with them their high school experiences. Recruit Kaitlin Sweatman averaged 16.5 points, 8.7 rebounds, 3 steals and 3 assists. Brooke Liar from Bakerfield, Missouri averaged 12.6 pts & 5.8 rebounds while in high school.

"Everyone is a pretty big rivalry in this conference, it is a tough league. I definitely want to get some wins against teams that we have yet to beat over the past 3 years,” added Coach Taylor. Hard work and perseverance are just what the ladies have put into this season. Rewards and success are what they are sure to see come out of it. Captain Hubert wants to win at least 20 games this season. With the way things are starting, it looks like that is a very obtainable goal.

In their first game against Harris Stowe State University. UM-St. Louis came out of the gates with a big win over the Hornets, with a final score 88-55. Two of the freshman put up double digits. Looks like the Triton's opponents might be in for a run for their money this season. "We prepared differently than we have in the previous years for this season. We are a quicker team this year, so our preparation included numerous sprint workouts. We hit the weights harder and our practices are more up-tempo," Lisa Cursus-Taylor, UM-St. Louis' women's basketball coach, said.

The next home game for UM-St. Louis is December 2 against Wisconsin-Parkside University. Tipoff is at 5:30 p.m.
Joan Of Arc usher pairs onto their craft

MUSIC

Tim Kinsella's pet project, Joan of Arc, played at the Firebird on November 3, where they zipped through the entirety of their newest record, due out May 10, 2011, and played a few old favorites. The crowd was sparse, but brimmed with devoted fans, all smiles and friendly cries.

Kinsella and crew took the stage, said a quick "Hello" and told the crowd they were going to be guinea pig test subjects for Joan of Arc's newest batch of, as of now, not yet recorded songs. So please note some of the titles to be referenced herein may and are subject to change. That being said, Joan of Arc's show was riveting because it leapt unabashedly into uncharted territory.

Mapping out new possibilities live is rare and risky because audience reactions will not be as energetic toward new, unheard songs. No one will emphatically claim, "This is my jam," but a few insensitive types may cry, "What is this song? Where the hell are the songs I know by heart?" But watching Joan of Arc experiment was exciting and captivating. The crowd at the Firebird felt the same, full of die-hard supporters who loved Kinsell's artistic play, ambiguity and liquidity. It did not matter that no one knew the songs. The audience was treated to a secret performance, a preview of things to come.

With 12 albums and as many stylistic changes throughout as there are records, Joan of Arc is a hard act to aesthetically pin. Their catalogue features everything from brainy, tongue-in-cheek indie rock, see "A Tell-Tale Penis" to balls-out math rock and chamber pop. If their set at the Firebird was any indication, Kinsella's newest Joan of Arc release will be yet another departure from anything and everything attempted before.

Opener, "Morning" operated mostly like an a cappella. The song featured sparse instrumentation and Kinsella's snarky, swee vocal work, which conjured a wonderful sense of beginning and opening. The crowd loved the subdued energy, shouting, "I love you" and "Have my children!" During "Epic," Kinsella crouched in front of the tiny amplifier that pumped out his guitar crunch and tweaked the dials as the rest of Joan of Arc blasted away on bass, lead guitar and drums. The song cranked down to a low whirr as Kinsella returned to the microphone after a long, ear-shattering jam, to sing the song's last bit of verse before another power packed chorus. "What" and "Robot" featured the blinding squeal from Kinsella's old, wooden Gibson SG, a fat, punk-rock bass texture and a tinkered, meticulous guitar lead.

Joan of Arc powered through "Super," "Pig," "Cow," "Nate" and "Bubble"—the rest of their upcoming record. After the dust cleared, Kinsella told the audience how the last time he played St. Louis no one except his girlfriend and her parents showed up. The crowd let out a collective, disparaging sigh and shouted that Joan of Arc ought to return to St. Louis. One emboldened fan issued, "Make St. Louis the first stop on the tour supporting your new record!" Kinsella smiled, turned his amp up and took the picture snapping, adoring crowd on a three-song, knockout encore before he glided off stage for a cheerful meet and greet.

B+ - William Kyle
'For Colored Girls’ strikes a socially affecting chord

MOVIES

"For Colored Girls" is as relevant today as it originally was in the 1970s. The film is based on Ntozake Shange’s Tony-nominated play “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf” and tackles many tough issues facing African-American women, including rape, domestic abuse, HIV and abortion.

The story follows an ensemble cast of African-American women including Yasmine (Anika Noni Rose), a young, carefree dancer, her troubled teenage partner, Nyla (Tessa Thompson) and her promiscuous older sister, Tangie (Thandie Newton). Also in the mix is their fanatically religious, emotionally abusive mother, Alice (Whoopi Goldberg). Then there is mother Crystal (Kimberly Elise), who must deal with her alcoholic long-time boyfriend (Michael Ealy).

Other characters include a damaged war veteran; her boss, Jo (Janet Jackson), a rich, control-freak magazine editor caught in a distant, marriage; Kelly (Kerry Washington), a social worker and a smart, sassy, nurse Juanita (Loretta Devine), who cannot reconcile with her lover (Richard Lawson).

All of these women connect through a New York apartment building where they either live or know one of the residents, run by manager Gilda (Phylicia Rashad), who serves as their maternal figure. In the building, their stories intertwine and their relationships build, especially after witnessing Crystal’s boyfriend Beau commit a crime.

"For Colored Girls’" strength is its visual presentation. It easily transitions between the characters’ stories by placing them near one another (down the hall, across the street) and panning over to the next character. The strongest example of this is the opening, when each character reads a section of an opening speech as they begin their day. These transitions help when the characters seem very isolated in their own subplots.

The film also depicts violence against women honestly and does not shy away from topics such as brutality. For example, it effectively uses soundtrack dissonance by playing a slow lyrical aria over a slow-motion rape scene, emphasizing the raw force and pain of the act in the disparity between the music and the action. This kind of choice is interesting in light of Perry’s decision to discuss his own history of sexual abuse on “Oprah,” which might be why the scene has such a strong impact, especially if an audience member knows that beforehand. Despite these strengths, the film’s second half has one giant flaw: overly preachy dialogue. After the rape, a murder and an abortion, the characters constantly break into poetic speeches about these subjects, as well as their relationship statuses and heterosexuality. While these speeches would work well as monologues on a dark, empty stage, they seem oddly out of place in a movie that tries to depict real-life situations. They are often heavy-handed and cover these tough subjects in ways they are often handled in gender studies classes. Still, some of these monologues, such as Yasmine’s speech about the changing definition of rape, do work, and when they do, they are extremely powerful. Overall, though, they tend to be hit-or-miss. The strongest cast, led by Rashad, turn our excellent performances that manage to lift the story above any dialogue issues. Elise, Rose and Newton stand out especially as women trying to deal with different types of abuse. The cast really makes this a good film, and for Perry, this is a step in the right direction, after years of niche comedies and dramas.

While not perfect, "For Colored Girls" is for anyone who wants to see African-American women dealt with adversity in their daily lives and know that hope is out there if they ride out the storm.

B -Mary Grace Buckley

Matt & Kim’s latest worth the listen

MUSIC

Matt & Kim fans once again have reason to get up and dance because on November 2, the duo released their third studio album entitled 'Sidewalks.' The album is filled with the dance rhythms that the pair have become almost infamous for in the indie scene.

'Sidewalks,' which made it up to #3 in the iTunes chart, has been awaited with high anticipation. Matt & Kim have not released an album in almost a year and, although all of their songs are extremely catchy, listeners needed something new to get the moving.

And they more than got it. The entire album is amazing. Keeping up with their cheery style, the pair mixes in some new touches throughout the album. The single from 'Sidewalks' is a perfect example of this. "Camerons" is a very typical Matt & Kim song, with the same intense energy and drum beats but with horns and an odd melody that makes appearances throughout the song. The best way to describe "Camerons" would be Matt & Kim meet marching band chic. As entirely lame as it may sound, they manage to pull it off with extreme rockability.

Aside from the single, the rest of the album continues on in the same instantly awesome fashion. No song requires the skip button and as soon as it is over, listeners will instantly be reaching to have it start over again. For instance, "Good For Great" will instantly have listeners singing along. Matt & Kim take their new and improved sound even further by adding multiple piano parts, female vocals (which have only happened as backing vocals in past albums), a string orchestra in the background and little melodies that will instantly put a smile on even the most sour listener's face.

"AM/FM," the second track on the album is a fun song that combines possibly one of the best musical inventions ever. Any kind of simple chant set to extremely catchy melodies will not only make listeners feel involved during concerts, but give newcomers a chance to belong as well. Surely this was not their intention while writing the song, but it ends up being an awesome move nonetheless. Give this song just one listen and the "Ah ooo" and "Oo ahs" will be stuck in the head for the next week.

But not only have Matt & Kim finally gotten the recognition that they deserve in the music world, they are still humble about it. Posted on their official website Kim Schifino, drummer for the band says, "I didn't imagine it would ever come close to that and I just wanted to thank everyone so much for supporting us." She continues on saying how reading all of the Twitter and Facebook responses they have gotten about the album is overwhelming. But if any band deserves a response this huge, it is definitely Matt & Kim.

A+ -Janaca Scherer
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Vietnam Night
A glimpse of another world

The second annual Vietnam Night, sponsored by the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), was held at 6 p.m. last Friday. A night filled with Vietnamese culture and food was presented inside the C.C. Penny auditorium on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus.

When guests first walked into the building, the first thing seen was a hearty buffet filled with Vietnamese cuisine. The lingering smell ceased guests ready to eat. Dinner was served after the performances.

Kenson Tang, VSA President and event organizer, began the night with a short introduction. Tang thanked the staff leaders of VSA for making the night possible. One of these staff members, Leonard Trudo, International Admissions Officer of International Student Services and event advisor, spoke next. Trudo thanked the audience for coming and announced the next cultural events to be held at UM-St. Louis.

"I chose to perform 'Di Hin' because it is a traditional and meaningful song; it is twenty years since I immigrated to America," Nguyen said. "It is not too fast or too slow. It has a medium pace to it, so it is easier for me to sing." Hoede, senior, economics, said.

The last performance was a fashion show. Female VSA members in traditional Vietnamese formal attire walked on stage to the vocals of Tuan Le.

The president Kenson Tang and Jennifer Lam talking about the number game at the Vietnam Night event on November 5.
Mary Troy wins Best Book award

JEN O' HARA
Feature Editor

“Beauties” was barely printing off when Mary Troy, associate professor and director of the MFA program, received word that it had won the title of “Best Book in Literary Fiction.” “Beauties” is a novel of two cousins with opposite looks and attitudes running a café in south St. Louis.

The Current: What inspired this book?

Mary Troy: It’s based on a short story I wrote quite a few years ago called “The Alibi Cafe.” And these two women, Bev and Shelly, were in it. I knew someone once years ago who claimed to have some of the same deformities as Bev does and I always wanted to write about that. When you’re writing, your characters kind of talk to you. You don’t necessarily create them, you’re not always aware of it. In that short story, Shelly said, “Well, I’m just naturally beautiful.” When I re-read it, I thought I wanted to expand that into a novel.

TC: Have you written other books?

MT: I have three collections of short stories; “Joe Baker is dead,” “The Alibi Cafe” and “Cookie Lily.” All those stories were set in Hawaii because I used to live in Hawaii.

TC: What was your reaction to finding out you had won an award?

MT: I was stunned! The book isn’t even out yet! I don’t even have a copy. The publisher sent my book out for the award and it was for all books. To be called the best book of literary fiction was astounding to me. I kept thinking it was a mistake. So I kept looking at the web page and thinking every time I looked, it would change because I didn’t believe it at first. It was very nice.

TC: How long did it take you to write “Beauties”?

MT: Many years. I probably finished the first draft in 2002, but then I published two collections of short stories in between. Still, I was always working on this so then I did at least two, maybe three drafts. You keep going through it and adding scenes and taking out characters, you’re just trying to make it better. The thing that always worried me about the book is that it is told in first person. Shelly tells a chapter, then Bev tells a chapter. I didn’t want that to be confusing to the reader but they both had to tell because they both don’t know everything.

TC: What advice would you have for those interested in writing a book?

MT: First of all, read a lot and then just do it. Realize that good writing is very difficult. If it’s easy to write it, it’s going to be hard to read it. Things that seem so easy and simple took forever to get just right. Sometimes, you have to do a little research. If you want to do a novel, go ahead. But understand it will be three, four, 10 years of your life.

TC: What is your favorite part about teaching?

MT: Students. When you are a fiction writer, your subject is people. That’s what you are most interested in; people, personalities and what makes people what they are. I teach creative writing to mostly graduate students. Sometimes, I teach the undergrads too and you get to know people really well by what they write about, by what they’re interested in. I just like getting to know people and like seeing people improve.
Cinderella syndrome in Japan

If students have an interest in Cinderella or are fans of Japanese drama, last Wednesday satisfied both needs as Dr. Laura Miller, professor of anthropology, presented to University of Missouri-St. Louis students. Miller was the informant on how much "Cinderella syndrome" has an effect on current Japanese culture.

"[The] Cinderella story has been very popular from the very beginning. However, over time, the meaning of Cinderella has been broadened in Japan. Now it includes different themes," Miller said.

Cinderella, which is the animation character created by Walt Disney in 1950, has been adored by the Japanese since the film was introduced to Japan.

"It is very interesting, because Cinderella is so appealing not only to girls, but also to men and boys as well," Miller said.

In Japan, Cinderella means more than just a charming princess. The Cinderella tale reflects the rewarding success story after hard work. Miller explained how Cinderella represents transformation and the internal and external change of the self. According to Miller, many see the story as meaning that anyone who has a difficult life can overcome it through hard work and good soul.

Self-help ideology is also pervasive in American culture. As the old saying goes, "No pain, no gain." However, the difference between Cinderella syndrome in Japan and America involves the famous Prince Charming. In the American story, romance is more involved. Cinderella is required to marry a prince to be a princess. In Japan, Cinderella's hard work and her trials in life are more of a focus.

The significant role of mass media cannot be overlooked in terms of spreading Cinderella syndrome throughout the country. Many Japanese companies have commercialized Cinderella's character in a variety of ways, capturing Japanese consumers' attention.

"Surely, mass media played a major role in adopting Cinderella culture and spreading it out. However, if the consumers did not like the message, it doesn't matter what the media does. So, it seems like media picked up the sentiment the consumers like," Miller said.

After a 20-minute introduction about the significant influence of Cinderella syndrome on Japanese culture, the film, "I Want to be Cinderella," was played.

"I think the Cinderella syndrome the film demonstrates still exists in our culture, [saying] you can reach your goal after the hard work. But, I think that value is getting weaker and weaker, especially in young generations," Kana Morishita, Japanese visiting professor, said.

More than 40 students came to the event, showing a strong interest in Japanese drama.

"I think the film was a good mix of comedy and drama. I think it is cool they make a lot of Cinderella stories out of a single character. It seems like it has versatile meanings," Kevin Grigoryan, computer science, senior, said.

The next Japan Drama night will be held next semester. In addition, anyone interested in further learning about Japanese culture is encouraged to take classes.

"Anyone interested in Japanese culture [is] welcome to take wonderful Japan-related courses the school offers. I'll be teaching," Miller said.
We are a newspaper; we are not here to please the masses

More often than we should, The Current receives complaints from University of Missouri-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and administration about certain stories that we publish. Any time we publish actual news stories about the crime or safety on campus, there is always a negative backlash.

Perhaps some people are confused about what it is that a newspaper actually does. We are not here to give student organizations free publicity. We are not here to ignore the crime that happens on our campus. We are not here to write fluff pieces about how great the university is. We are a newspaper and we report the news—good or bad. It would be irresponsible of us to ignore any crime that happens on our campus for the sake of the university's reputation. It is quite sickening that many people expect us to.

It is really a shame how much the people of UM-St. Louis try to censor The Current through nasty emails, destruction of our news racks and angry letters to the editor. Even getting a decent student activity allocation from our fellow peers on the student activity budget committee (SABC) is unheard of. And the budget that we are asked to work with each year? Laughable.

If a Greek organization raised $1 million for breast cancer research, that is newsworthy and we will cover it. If a dead body was discovered in the same organization's fraternity house, we will cover that as well. There is an old saying that says something along the lines of “Don't shoot the messenger.” Be mad at the situation and those who have caused it. Do not be mad at the news publication that informed everyone about it. Administration and campus police should take the heat for abduction cases, car-jackings and rapes on campus, not the student newspaper. Think about it: who is more likely to put prevention methods in place so that violent crimes are least likely to happen? A bunch of students writing news articles or the people who are paid to keep us safe?

Instead of sitting behind a computer and writing The Current angry letters, do something constructive. Join the campus safety committee, participate in the campus Safe Walk, suggest crime prevention methods to administration and spread the word. If more people stand up against the crime on campus administration will have no choice but to listen. When enrollment starts going down and their pockets are affected, maybe something will finally change.

In the meantime, do not waste that anger on The Current. We will report what we want and when we want. We have been around for 44 years. We have broken national news stories. We have a dozen of successful alumni. We have hundreds of state and national awards. Obviously, we are doing something right. We are a newspaper and we report the news.

What do you think?
Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com
SCIENCE MATTERS

Engineering disaster in New Orleans, post-Katrina

Why would government agencies charged with scientific tasks not use current science, especially if doing so meant saving money and doing the job more effectively?

That question may have come to mind for those with a science background watching news reports on the massive tainted egg recall and then the often puzzling slow response to limit environmental damage from the large BP oil spill.

Even before those events, there was another case of government science gone wrong: the flooding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

But Katrina was a natural disaster, right? Not if you ask the engineers.

That fact is spelled out clearly in a scientifically-based documentary, "The Big Ugly" which is being shown at the St. Louis International Film Festival. This informative, surprisingly entertaining documentary shows how New Orleans was ripe for this disaster and how the stage was being set for a repeat.

"The Big Ugly" focuses on a scientific assessment of what happened during Hurricane Katrina, revealing what much now is presented as fact about the flooding is inaccurate. The documentary puts on camera respected civil engineers, hydrologists and other scientists who were part of the post-Katrina assessment team, who worked with U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on the levees and pumps before and after Katrina or are otherwise intimately familiar with technical details of waterways and the environment of New Orleans.

Facts make clear that Katrina, which was only a Category 1 at landfall, actually made further east on the coast, was not the major factor in the disaster - it was the failure of the levees built by the Corps of Engineers.

According to these experts, the Corps sometimes used engineering standards from the 1950s and storm surge assumptions based assessments of hurricane strength that were decades out of date. Further, the Corps has a long history of failure to heed information on the role of wetlands in mitigating storm surge and other facts critical to building levees and canals that are both cost-effective and appropriate for the job.

More alarming, the film makes clear that how the levees are being rebuilt may lead to a repeat disaster. One Corps engineer overseeing the testing of pumps on a new levee recounts repeated failures and tests run under lower and lower standards in an attempt to find a level at which they would pass. Independent engineers describe a levee-pump system designed with modern engineering methods rejected in favor of a more expensive, less effective Corps design using out-dated engineering. There seems to be a tendency towards going through the motions rather than getting the job done or saving money.

This disturbing trend of using out-dated science and non-responsiveness to input from scientists is not limited to the Corps of Engineers. Serious questions have been raised about other science agencies as well.

Part of the problem may lie in how the Corps and other government science agencies have changed in recent years. In the case of the Corps, what was once an organization of engineers has largely become an agency of project managers, many with little engineering expertise. The real engineering is often contracted out to private companies. While the Corps is still effective at its original mission serving the Army, its secondary mission of managing our waterways has become problematic.

Why should this country have government agencies using inefficient, out of date science and more-costly methods not up to standards? If we are going to build levees, have oversight on food safety and respond to environmental disasters, why not use modern science?

Cate Marquis is Associate AE & E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

50,000 words in 30 days

November is the home month of possibly some of the most looked forward to month long processes. Of course, this is not No Shave November (be on the lookout for extra hairy male classmates during the upcoming weeks), but the lesser known NaNoWriMo.

NaNoWriMo stands for National Novel Writing Month. Writers across the country, and the world, will be typing away at their computers and writing their hands to the bone in hopes of reaching the end goal on November 30.

While most people will not know what NaNoWriMo is, it is something that anyone with a willingness to write can participate in.

The guidelines for participating in NaNoWriMo are simple. Merely register online at nanowrimo.org, start the novel from absolute scratch, write 50,000 words (or 175 pages worth of writing) and complete the novel by midnight of November 30.

The reasons that NaNoWriMo gives its on its web site have to do with anything from preserving a writing style, making fun of past novelists and being able to drop obscure references from one's novel while out and about. The main idea is to be able to write without obsessing over every detail. They are not focusing on quality in this writing competition, just fun.

Other than the few rules set out, all one has to do is the writing. After registering online and setting up a profile on the NaNoWriMo web site, the only responsibilities that are really given after that are to update the word count on a semi-regular basis. A set schedule for writing is not given. It is free writing at its finest. If one wants to write down every single word in red crayon he or she could, as long as the word count is considered.

Every novel that reaches the 50,000 word count before November 30 at midnight will be placed in the Winner's Page and will receive a certificate and web badge. Not to mention the bragging rights. How many people can actually say that they have written a novel?

Do not finish in time? No worries. The main thing is that the folks at NaNoWriMo want is its writers to have fun! Besides, there is always next year to try and reach the 50,000 mark, like over 30,000 people did last year.

All in all, NaNoWriMo is a way to write and have fun while doing it. Quality, comprehension and planning aside, the only thing that really matters in the end is the length.

On the web site, NaNoWriMo sponsors even say that they prefer "valuing enthusiasm and perseverance over painstaking craft..."

Anyone with a slight passion to write should be able to crank out a story if it does not have to make sense.

Novels are not exactly everyone's thing, but hey, that is OK too. Just wait until April when writers can participate in Script Frenzy. The same basic idea of NaNoWriMo applies to Script Frenzy.

Start on April 1, end on April 30 and write at least 100 pages of a script. It can be script for TV programs, a play, even comic scripts are allowed during Script Frenzy.

Writers across the globe can pull out their favorite word program and sit down with mass amounts of coffee. Classmates could be typing away at their 50,000 word count goal while sitting in class. It is possible that they could be the next big American novelist. All thanks to NaNoWriMo.

Janaca Scherer is a staff writer for The Current.

Does science matter?
Let us know at thecurrent-online.com.

We agree with Janaca.

Do you?

www.thecurrent-online.com
Birth control is a preventative health method and should be free

Since President Obama's health care plans have kicked in, there have been a lot of changes. Almost all of the changes came with some controversy and a tucked away proposal in the health care reform is causing more.

This month, a panel of experts is meeting to determine what preventative methods for women should be covered under the health care reform.

The debate is so highly controversial because under dispute is whether or not birth control should be free to women.

On average, birth control costs anywhere from $5 to $50 as an insurance co-pay. For those who do not have insurance, the costs skyrocket. Even with insurance, money makes a huge difference.

Five dollars is a couple of metro tickets to get to and from a job someone needs to keep the roof over their heads. Five dollars can buy a box full of ramen to feed a family in poverty (or a college student...). Imagine the difference $50 a month could make to some people.

The biggest problem people are arguing is that pregnancy is a generally healthy occurrence women experience. Under the stipulations in discussion, it should not be something worth preventing.

To argue that, there are a number of other uses for birth control besides preventing pregnancy.

Without getting too graphic, birth control is used to regulate periods. Some women experience more or less menstrual bleeding than the average woman, which is both inconvenient and sometimes medically dangerous. Birth control can also be used to eliminate painful medical problems, such as endometriosis.

Endometriosis is when the uterus lining becomes attached to pelvic organs and causes overwhelming pain every cycle. Birth control reduces the amount of tissue in the uterus, thereby relieving pain.

In addition, birth control pills can be used to prevent things like ovarian cancer, premenstrual symptoms and cysts. Also, some women's bodies cannot have children for medical reasons so where women could die from childbirth or just by carrying a child.

Would it be fair to just assume or ask that they should stop their sex lives? And, of course, there is always the non-serious but helpful fact that birth control also minimizes acne.

Putting all that aside, there are also a number of reasons why birth control should be free anyway. In other countries where birth control is free, there is a lower rate of teen pregnancy and abortions.

As of January 2010, almost half of teens falling in range of 15 years and 19 years-old have had sex at least once. In addition, ten percent of United States births are to teenagers.

According to gtrmsacher.org's fact sheet, teenage pregnancy has actually declined due to steady contraceptive use. If more teens and families were able to afford birth control, fewer teen pregnancies would occur.

Free birth control would also most likely mean that there would be a decline in foster care needs and children's homes as well, because children of unexpected pregnancies tend to go there as a result of the unplanned pregnancy.

For those who say free birth control would be too much of a cost to the government, just imagine all the money we would save by preventing overpopulation, additional children in the foster care or adoption systems and other medical expenses.

Jen O'Hara is Features Editor for The Current.

Letter to the Editor

So what did we learn Tuesday with our gun threat in Lucas?

Students aren't too worried about the possibility of a guy wielding a gun on campus. Aside from the girl in heels running for her car crying, or the two guys running around Lucas yelling about "a suspicious person in lot K" I saw more students head towards Lucas Hall than away from it. Most of us sat outside waiting for something dramatic to happen while we called or texted the people we knew. We were like the people of New Orleans when the threat of Katrina was announced.

Our mass alert system can't send messages in the right order to everyone or even some people at all. I heard numerous students say that they received the all clear message first and others say they received both texts before the email and others still that didn't get any notification, text or email. Maybe the past experiences at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech and the plethora of other schools around the country aren't enough to make us think for a second that it might happen to us, even after it's been announced that it has, in fact, happened to us. Maybe there are enough people on campus who were already "holding" as one student so eloquently shared with those of us in hearing distance.

Better yet, and I think this MUST be the case, Chancellor George doesn't care about college students.

--Justin Antonacci
Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars

Question Marks by Stephen Peterson

They teach that? by Sam Kayser
CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
This week is going to be extremley difficult for you to manage. Try to lay off any hardcore drug until at least Thursday.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
You're feeling great about your position in life, college is awesome and your love life has never been better. Don't forget to take your VD meds and it's smooth sailing from here.

TAURUS
(APRIL 20 - MAY 20)
Taurus, you normally stay home and cry in a large puddle of your own excrement. Make tonight different and hangout downtown wearing that new dress that doesn't fit you. You are pathetic.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You just keep shaving and all that happens is more hair. No one will ever understand the pain of being a hairy monkey. Stay in and chill out with a few bananas tonight.

GEMINI
(MAY 21 - JUNE 20)
Your twin has been following you around all over. You should just take a minute to lay down some traps, like oil puddles or something. Think about it. For reals.

CAPRICORN
(DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19)
You're a stubborn person that doesn't listen. You would rather punch nails that say your sorry. When you get older you are going to think twice about this.

CANCER
(JUNE 21 - JULY 22)
Ever think you might be crazy? I bet you do. And hey, because you stopped covering yourself with foil the voices will be back soon enough.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 22)
You have your lion's share of problems this week. The rainy season is late and the cubs haven't eaten in weeks. Plus that guy with the gun doesn't look friendly.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
The is so much water, you don't know what to do with it all. You need to make a water park, because your boring and poor. Poor people aren't cool and you want to be cool right?

VIRGO
(AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)
You are a complete tease. You can't make up your mind because, well, you are just dumb. Stop wasting everyone's time and hook up with someone. Remember, you only live once.

PIZCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Books are your best friend, and Oprah's is a close second. Too bad this week you are going to be brainwashed, love glee and then make-out with a guy who has really bad teeth. Lame.

CURRENT CROSSWORD

ECOSYSTEMS

Down:
2. A consumer that gets it's food straight from a producer
4. A more complex version of a food chain, also includes more energy transfers in an ecosystem
8. When new members join a group of organisms the population
10. The relationship between a cow and a tapeworm
12. An organism that produces food for itself and others
14. A living organism
16. A consumer that gets it's food through a primary consumer

Across:
1. A diagram chainlike diagram showing various food energy sources for organisms
3. A breaks down dead organisms as food sources
5. An example of an abiotic factor
7. The relationship between a bee and a flower
9. An animal hunted by a predator
11. Photosynthesis is when plants use ______ to convert water and carbon dioxide into their food sources
13. An organism that hunts for it's food
15. Wildlife competes for food and ______
17. The relationship between organisms when one organism benefits and the other is not effected

Classifieds

SERVICES
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EMPLOYMENT
Earn $1000-$3200 a month to drive our cars with ads. www.AdCarDriver.com

HOUSING
2 Bedroom Home for rent includes living room, dining room, kitchen, basement, enclosed back porch, fireplace, and central air & heat. Bi-State bus at corner and .3 mile from UMSL transportation. $750.00 monthly plus $26.00 for monthly security monitoring. Call Ms. Bond @ 314-550-6298 or Email msbondrental@earthlink.net.

Use your mouse better.

www.thecurrent-online.com
The University Program Board Presents:

an evening with

dr. maya angelou

November 18, 2010 a 7pm
Touhill Performing Arts Center
UMSL Student Tickets $5
(Limit 2 with valid student id)
General Admission $20

Questions? Please contact the University Program Board 314-516-5531 upb@umsl.edu
At the Wayside Community Garden on Saturday, students and teachers gathered to help and donate to the needy.

Monday, Nov. 15

Strasbourg Program Information Session

At 3 p.m., an informational seminar about the July 2011 faculty-led Strasbourg French Summer Language Program will be held in 305 Clark Hall. For more information, contact Sandra Trapani at trapani@umsl.edu

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Grammar Workshop

From 12:30 - 1 p.m., grammar workshop in which students can learn to use nouns correctly, will be held in Clark 308. Also covered: when to use 'a,' 'the,' or neither. For more information, contact Nancy Mayer at 516-5182.

Wednesday, Nov. 17

Campus Town Hall Meeting

From 1 - 3 p.m., President Forsee will have a campus town hall meeting to give an update of university activities, challenges and opportunities and welcome questions from the audience in the Summit Lounge at the J.C. Penney building. For more info, contact Candi Agnew at 314-516-5254

Thursday, Nov. 18

SGA Athletics Committee Meeting

From 2 - 3 p.m. students are invited to come prepared with ideas to promote UMSL athletics in 316 MSC. For more info, contact Jerich Selby at 314-479-2547.