Tritons punished for gambling violations
by Michael Frederick

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George Clooney hits hard

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Student aspires for a cure
**Statshot**

**WEEKLY WEB POLL**

Do you think the economy is improving?

Next week:
What do you think about the changes to the quad?

Submit your answer at www.thecurrent-online.com

![Pie chart showing 59% YES and 41% NO](chart.png)

*Courtesy CNN polls*

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**VERBATIM**

"What do you think the Touhill could do to make it more appealing to students?"

"Younger style seems to be a good idea, more concerts are also expected."

Sheila Newburn
Psychology Junior

"It's better if the Touhill has more advertisements, I seldom know what is going on inside."

Scott Weber
Management Junior

"More advertisement, ticket give aways are welcome."

Kristin Jordan
English and Philosophy Senior

"Free shows would be attractive."

Andrew Erdene
Business and Management Freshman

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**MCMA**

**AP**

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**ABOUT US**

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The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. The Current reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

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NCAA places Tritons on probation
UMSL athletics punished for gambling violations

MICHAEL FREDERICK
Sports Editor

National Collegiate Athletic Association officials placed the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons athletic department on two years probation.

According to NCAA documents, the 2004 through 2008 University of Missouri-St. Louis men’s golf coaching staff owned and operated high wager fantasy sports leagues with large entry fees and cash prizes. Part-time men’s golf coach Dustin Ashby and his volunteer assistant coach Adam Frillman also hired three unnamed UM-St. Louis golfers to act as league commissioners. Since 2007 NCAA rules state that paid and prize fantasy sports leagues, like Ashby’s World Championship of Fantasy Sports in Chesterfield, are by definition gambling and against collegiate eligibility and amateur rules. The former UM-St. Louis men’s golf coach and his assistant resigned in August 2009.

Lori Flanagan, UM-St. Louis athletic director, was not in charge of the university’s sports programs during the violations. “We fully cooperated with the NCAA’s investigation,” Flanagan said. In June 2010 the NCAA Division II Infractions Committee met with Chancellor Tom George, Flanagan and other UM-St. Louis representatives. Investigators at the closed door meetings in the Millennium Student Center’s century rooms questioned Chancellor George, Flanagan and others. Investigators and the committee concluded that UM-St. Louis did not educate student athletes and coaches about fantasy sports prohibitions. On Friday, September 3, the committee issued a 10 page public infraction report placing the university on two years probation. According to the report Ashby is restricted from coaching in the NCAA for the next three years. "Every coach should know that gambling of any type is banned by the NCAA," Flanagan said. "Ignorance is not an excuse."

NCAA officials also reported that Ashby and his coaching staff withheld information and lied to investigators. On page five of the report, where Ashby is not named, he denied any of his student athletes were working for him or his company. However, during August, September and October of 2008 three unnamed golfers were involved in paid online drafts. Ashby is the owner of a multi-million dollar fantasy sports company that holds its championships in Las Vegas. On his Facebook page the former golf coach has a picture dated February 1, 2009 of him presenting a $300,000 check for a championship fantasy sports event in Las Vegas. Ashby also has a website with the UM-St. Louis Triton logo and his fantasy sports company’s list as a sponsor. Troy Halterman, UM-St. Louis current men’s golf coach and Ashby’s successor, is listed on the Web site’s contact list. Coach Halterman declined to comment on the former men’s golf coaching staff.

During the four year period of the infractions UM-St. Louis went through two athletic directors. Pat Dolan, now special assistant to Vice Chancellor Glen Cope, served as UM-St. Louis’ athletic director between 1995 and 2007. Dolan was then replaced by John Garvilla who resigned in July 2008. "Garvilla did a lot of unethical things during his watch,” Jim Brady, UM-St. Louis men’s baseball coach, said. "It’s a shame that Lori has to clean up this mess.”

While Garvilla served as athletic director, Coach Brady stated in a Riverfront Times article that he collected 30 to 40 complaints regarding his policies and unethical treatment of staff and student athletes. “It was despicable under his regime,” Coach Brady said.

“We learned a lot from Mr. Ashby and the NCAA,” Flanagan said. “In the future we look to better monitor our coaches and student athletes.”

Ashby has not returned any of The Current’s phone calls regarding the infractions. He also has a radio show on the St. Louis ESPN radio affiliate entitled The Back Nine.
Creativity coming to Touhill
Exciting plans for performances at the Touhill

JEN O’HARA
Features Editor

The Touhill Performing Arts Center is preparing for its upcoming season. With around 250 performances in the near future, busy seems to be an understatement to describe the center.

Blanche Touhill began her vision for a performing arts center in the mid-1970s. More than thirty years later, the Touhill opened its doors to varying artists and those who wished to experience more of the arts. The Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall holds 1,600 persons, while the Mary and Desmond Lee Center holds 350.

Among the performances coming to the Touhill include the St. Louis Ballet, MADCO, Arianna String Quartet, Natalie Macmaster and Donnell Leary and comedian Martin Short. “The big headline we’re going to have coming up into November is Martin Short. That is going to be fabulous, especially on the heel of Lily Thomas last year. She was just amazing to watch. Her whole career just unfolded on that stage. Her energy and exuberance; you can just tell why she’s a master of her craft. I expect nothing less from Martin Short. He’s done everything from standup, to television, to film, and he’s going to bring it all together. So, I’m really looking forward to that one.” John Cattanach, managing director of the Touhill, said.

Theatre performances include Oliver and The Sweeney Letters. With the goal of bringing culture and education to students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as well as the general public, there have been varying efforts to encourage students to attend performances. Most performances are $10 or less to attend, in realization that several students cannot afford high-priced admission tickets.

“Our new campaign is to focus on student opportunity down here, so there is what we call the ‘Snap up your tickets’ program. The idea is really to make students aware that they do have this opportunity to see this world class entertainment as well as local organizations all together right here on campus. In addition to those $10 tickets, a lot of the academic performances they have special deals that they run during their performances so they could be $1 or $2, so that there’s really good value in that. It also allows others to come out and support your fellow fine art students. With our resident companies, they’re all in residence here on campus. All of them have banded together to offer free tickets to their performances for UMSL students. So that’s definitely another way to expand cultural horizons with very little risk,” Cattanach said.

The Touhill also has been working in collaboration with the University Program Board and student life to bring entertainment outside of the traditional fine arts to the performance hall, such as the Jason Derulo concert held last spring, at student-affordable prices.

“For the month of November, we are doing a lot of events over at the Touhill. For example, November 18 we’re having Dr. Maya Angelou come and November 30 we’re having Aaron McGruder come, the creator of Boondocks. We have a very good working relationship with the people over at the Touhill. Both the Touhill and the University Program Board make sure that the students get the lowest prices for tickets for the events,” Kristen Green, administrative chair at the University Program Board, said.

The inside of the Touhill performing arts center.
YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

UM-St. Louis gets engaged!
University applies for prestigious designation

SUZANNE MATHEWS
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is applying for the prestigious Carnegie Foundation Designation as an Engaged Campus. Winning this designation would place the university among some of the top colleges in the nation including the University of Missouri-Columbia which won the designation in 2008 for Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships. Two years in the making, the decision to apply came while UM-St. Louis was tendering to the accreditation process. The Provost Committee on Community Engagement, consisting of 20 members, was formed when the decision to apply was made.

The team was further narrowed to eight members and chaired by Dr. Peggy Cohen and Kay Gasen to focus on the application process. In the spirit of democracy, the application was put on a Web site so that students and professors alike could read and comment on the massive 39-page application which took 5 months to perfect. They received over 20 responses and inputs with various facts making the application more compelling and accurate.

See UNIVERSITY, Page 16
Jessica Hampton is leader on soccer field

CAITLIN E. L. MYLES
Staff Writer

Jessica Hampton, senior, political science, is a fullback for the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's soccer team and a good part of the team's backbone. According to Robert Lessentine, head women's soccer coach, not only is she the right side defender, "She's a vocal leader." Hampton often expresses her support for the team.

As a protective player, it is Jessica's responsibility to help defend her team, but according to Lessentine Jessica takes her roll one step further. "She always has a positive attitude which keeps the team going in a positive direction," Coach Lessentine said. "Jessica's very competitive and an excellent leader on and off the field."

Hampton was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 15, 1988, but grew up in Overland Park, Kansas. Taking after her big brother, Oscar, she started playing club soccer at the age of four. "I've always loved playing soccer," said Hampton.

Hampton played soccer as a forward all four years while attending St. Thomas Aquinas high school. During her sophomore, junior and senior years Hampton's team won state. Now she shares her practiced skills with the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Coach Lessentine suggested she try playing as a fullback, and she stuck with it ever since.

"I actually prefer playing back over forward," Hampton said. As a right fullback, Hampton plays closest to the goal, other than the goalkeeper, and puts up her best defense. Her offensive and defensive experience and her drive to do well makes her the excellent player she is today.

With practice every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and games every Friday, and Sunday, Hampton has little time to herself. Even in off-season Hampton is sure to keep up with her workouts to stay in shape.

This is Hampton's fourth year, three of which she was a starter, playing for the UMSL-St. Louis Tritons and she does not expect this year to fall short of any of her other successful years with soccer.

"I really like playing for UMSL," Hampton said. "I think we have a lot of talent this year, and I think we'll do very well."

"If Jessica continues to play like she has been, I think this year will be a great success. She's been working very hard," Coach Lessentine said. And the season brings nothing but chances for enhancement.

At every practice the team works on anything in a game noticed of needing improvement. The Tritons season began on Sunday September 5 against the Indianapolis University Greyhounds. Hampton started at right fullback and played most of the double overtime scoreless game.

"We don't have a captain named yet," Coach Lessentine said. "But Jessica is one of the leaders of the team."

The next UM-St. Louis home game is September 17 against University of Illinois Springfield.
A look inside UMSL baseball’s off-season
Tritons baseball is looking to regroup and retool

Brian McBride left it all on the pitch

Brian McBride, one of the best American soccer players of all time, will be retiring at the end of Major League Soccer's 2010 campaign.

McBride plays for Major League Soccer's Chicago Fire and first made a name for himself during his college career at Saint Louis University where his jersey number is retired.

After SLU, McBride went on to play for MLS's Columbus Crew and English Premier League team Fulham Football Club while also participating in three FIFA World Cup squads, 1998, 2002 and 2006. The long time forward scored 30 goals for the national team, third all time, and amassed 133 goals during his Columbus and Fulham career.

To those who know and love American soccer, the storied career of McBride is equal to other sports greats such as Stan Musial.

One singular event that stands out in his career is not an incredible goal in the dire moments of a game. It is not an assist or a motivational speech. Instead, it is what occurred during the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

During the tournament, the United States was grouped with eventual champions Italy. During minute 22 McBride went up for a ball against Italian midfielder Daniele de Rossi. With the score tied at 1-1 de Rossi threw an elbow at McBride’s blind side. The blow brought McBride to the ground with his left eye secreting a severe amount of blood. De Rossi, though, was given an instant red card by the referee, forcing the Italians to play with only 10 men the rest of the game.

Instead of waiting for a stretcher or gurney or taking himself out of the game, McBride got up from the ground without wanting medical attention. In spite of his protests McBride was attended to by the training staff that put a wrap around his open wound for the remainder of the game. The bruised up number 22 played the whole 90 minutes of the 1-1 tie.

Some things in soccer cannot be taught. An athlete can work on passing the ball, shooting it and lifting weights to get stronger. However, two elements of McBride's game that will never be measured in any statistic are his toughness and grit. These attributes, albeit cliché, do far more than just win games, score goals and stop shots.

For McBride, his toughness and true grit set the table for soccer players around the country. The way he played the game at the club and international levels exemplified the way every professional at any sport should do—play like you will never walk out on that field again.

A common sports phrase coaches and players often say is “so-and-so left it all out on the field.” As American soccer fans know Brian McBride left it all on the field for the United States men’s national team, no matter what the stakes. So hats off to you, Brian. You have earned it.

Michael Frederick is Sports Editor for The Current.
Local sports

Cardinals
St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said that centerfielder Colby Rasmus requested a trade out of St. Louis. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Rasmus and the Cardinals skipper have been feuding since before the All-Star Break. Former Cardinals third baseman Scott Rolen had a similar run in with La Russa.

Rams
St. Louis Rams season starts on Sunday, September 12 at the Edward Jones Dome against the Arizona Cardinals. The Rams won all four pre-season games and according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, rookie quarterback Sam Bradford will be the first string quarterback. In 2009 the Rams had a dismal record of one win and 15 loses.

Mizzou Tigers
Mizzou running back and team captain Derrick Washington was dropped by Coach Gary Pinkel's team for the remainder of his senior season. Washington, according to the Associated Press, is charged with sexually assaulting a football team tutor.

National sports

NCAA Football
College football is in full swing. Big name programs like Mizzou, Notre Dame and the University of Southern California won big in their opening week games. The Utes of Utah University defeated number 15 Pittsburgh in overtime. The defeat to defending Big East conference champions is the first upset of the college football season, according to ESPN.

USA Men's Soccer
United States men's soccer re-signed head Coach Bob Bradley to a four year extension through 2014, according to USsoccer.com. Bradley has been the national team's head coach since 2006. ESPN reported that Sunil Gulati, head of United States Soccer Federation, said after the Americans lost to Ghana in the round of 16 that he was disappointed with the team's performance. ESPN also reported that Jurgen Klinsmen, former head coach of the German national team, was interviewed for Bradley's job. Bradley's son Michael is on the US team.

NHL - New Jersey Devils
Ilya Kovalchuck of the National Hockey League's New Jersey Devils signed a 15 year, $100 million contract. ESPN reported that the left-winger's contract is one of the largest in NHL history. The original deal was 17 years worth $102 million dollars. NHL officials, though, required the Devils to amend Kovalchuck's contract.

International sports

FIBA Worlds Championship Basketball
The United States Men's National Basketball team is in the knockout round of the FIBA Worlds Championship basketball tournament in Istanbul, Turkey. Duke University coaching legend Mike Krzyzewsk leads a young team of National Basketball Association all-stars. According to Sports Illustrated, basketball has evolved into an international sport with Argentina, France, Serbia and other nations bringing talent to the NBA.

UEFA Euro 2012
The qualification round for UEFA Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine began last week. ESPN and UEFA websites reported that Portugal, without the injured captain Cristiano Ronaldo, tied European minnows Cyprus 4-4. On Tuesday Bosnia-Herzegovina plays hosts to a downtrodden French national team. The game and other qualifiers can be seen on ESPN3, com at 2 p.m.

USA Women's Soccer
The United States women's national soccer team will face the People Republic of China's team. The two exhibition matches will take place at Kennesaw State University's stadium in Georgia and at PPL Park in Chester, Pennsylvania. According to USsoccer.com, the matches are in preparation for the qualifying stage of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany this summer. The American are ranked number 1 in the FIFA World rankings.

Tritons tennis makes the grade

UMSL Tennis program picks-up multiple ITA academic honors

RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

When they are not out competing on the tennis court, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' men and women's tennis teams are making the grade in the classroom. Six players, two from the men's team and four from the women's, have been named by the Intercollegiate Tennis League (ITA) as scholar-athletes. In addition to these six individuals, the women's team as a whole has won the ITA All-Academic Team Award.

The ITA Scholar-Athlete award was given to Aya Gombo, senior, accounting; Katie Rynksiewich, junior, anthropology; Yuki Takashima, Masters Business administration and Stephanie Thompson of the women's team. Daniel Anthony, senior, management information systems and Felipe Narjano, sophomore, international business, were the two men to be given the award. Takashima and Thompson have since graduated.

"Since it was my last year on the team, it was great winning the ITA Scholar-Athlete award because I felt like I completed something and someone knows that I worked hard for it," Takashima said. "I've won [the award] every year while I was on the team but it meant the most to win last year."

Rick Gyllenborg, men's and women's tennis head coach, has been coaching at UM-St. Louis for 16 years. During that time he says he has noticed, "a pretty close correlation between how a player does on the court and in the classroom from a work ethic and discipline point of view."

To be named an ITA Scholar-Athlete a player must have earned a 3.5 GPA cumulative for the fall and spring semesters. To win the award as a team, the average GPA of every member must be higher than a 3.2. The awards are given once a year. Criteria for winning the award were recently changed to just being based on the previous two semesters. A student athlete's whole academic career used to be taken into consideration.

Gyllenborg believes the changes to be positive. "Now if you have a really bad freshman year," he said, "you can still be acknowledged for your hard work and achievement as a sophomore or junior."

"I thank my God, my Coach, teammates and also the Athletic director for guiding me and also being supportive of me all year long," Daniel Anthony said. "Without their help and encouragement I could not have achieved this."

Both Gyllenborg and his players receive a certificate. Coach Gyllenborg says before moving offices, "I had all the certificates the players had earned on my wall and it was fun to see them accumulate.

"Our coach focuses on our academic success as well as so he gets very excited when we receive these kinds of awards," Takashima said.

UM-St. Louis tennis begins its season September 10 in Macomb, Illinois. Last season the Tritons qualified for the Great Lakes Valley conference post-season tournament.

Use your mouse better.

www.thecurrent-online.com
Women's soccer play to a draw:

Men spoil early lead in 3-1 loss

MICHAEL FREDERICK
Sports Editor

Before Sunday afternoon's men's and women's soccer double header at Don Dallas Field against Indianapolis University Bobby Lessentine, women's soccer head coach, was a man of few words.

"We're going to play hard and that's going to be the key for us," Coach Lessentine said. The second year head coach did not divulge his starting 11 until about 10 minutes prior to kickoff.

The Tritons started with a 4-4-2 formation, placing senior Jessica Hampton at fullback and Kaylee Neutzling at striker. Hampton, senior, political science, is considered by Lessentine to be one of the leaders of the squad.

"We do not have an official captain named," Coach Lessentine said. "Jessica, though, is one of the vocal leaders of the team."

The University of Missouri-St. Louis controlled the pace of the game. Despite the game finishing with a 0-0 tie UM-St. Louis had possession in Greyhound territory for most of the game. "I was very pleased with the way we played today," Coach Lessentine said.

Even though Neutzling, junior, criminal justice, frustrated the Greyhound back line, the Tritons had difficulty finding the finishing touch.

"We need to work on putting the ball in the net," Coach Lessentine said. "But all in all both sides played well."

The Greyhounds are picked to finish fifth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Last season, Indianapolis University qualified for the NCAA tournament.

Dan King, UM-St. Louis head men's soccer coach, said his team felt confident going into their fixture against the Greyhounds. "We won at Newman University in spite of tough conditions," Coach King said. "Now we have to gear up for GLVC play."

Tritons forward Kyle Wogrech, senior, nursing, scored the go ahead goal in minute 39, erupting the home crowd. UM-St. Louis went into the locker room at halftime with a 1-0 lead.

The old soccer cliche, though, is that games can be won and lost in the second half. Indianapolis University came out of the locker room firing on all cylinders, out shooting the Tritons 8-7 in the second half.

Number 52 Greyhound Roger Lee scored against Triton goalkeeper and team captain Adam Giesegh, senior, accounting. Three minutes later the Greyhounds took the lead with a goal by Corey Nelson, assisted by Scott Gyllenborg.

The game ended with UM-St. Louis losing 3-1. The third goal came off a corner kick in minute 87. With the loss, UM-St. Louis' overall record moves to 1-1-0 and 0-1-0 in GLVC play.

UM-St. Louis' next home game will be on September 17 at Don Dallas Field against Illinois-Springfield. The 7 p.m. game is also listed as Pat Hogan 1973 Championship Night. The women will kick off at 5:30 p.m. against Illinois-Springfield.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT
'The American' is a more thoughtful character study than simple action thriller

"The American" is a perfect example of how a preconceived notion of a film can spoil it for the audience.

The protagonist is an assassin but anyone expecting a standard action thriller will be disappointed in this thoughtful human drama. "The American" is much more a character study of a coldly professional man who finds his human side seeping through.

It is a tale that is moving, dramatic even somewhat romantic.

If you are looking for non-stop action or dizzying plot twists, this is not your film. Its suspense is more subtle, of the emotionally-harrowing variety.

But if you are looking for a thoughtful film with intriguing characters, with sterling acting and remarkable photography, this may be just the ticket.

George Clooney gets to show off the acting chops he demonstrated in last year's "Up In The Air."

The director Anton Corbijn's previous film, "Control," was a story more about the emotional unraveling of a promising musician than his music.

This story is about an invincible man whose armor is suddenly cracking.

American professional assassin Jack (Clooney) finds his cold, machine-like approach to his work unexpectedly undermined by the death of a woman (Irina Bjorklund) he is romancing at a remote Swedish lodge, when he is uncharacteristically caught unaware by assassins gunning for him.

The assassin is rattled by how the Swedes managed to find him, concerns he presses with his employer by phone. The employer promises to check it out but also caution him about losing his edge, letting the Swedes get too close. Meanwhile, he arranges for Jack to lay low in a sleepy Italian medieval village, a tourist destination, where he will pose as a photojournalist working on a travel article.

Jack is a steely, machine-efficient professional when he is called into action and otherwise aloof to most human contact but while killing in this quiet town, cracks in the facade are appearing. He is plagued by doubts about losing his edge but also is haunted by recurring memories of a woman (Irina Bjorklund) he is romancing.

Eventually, his boss does call with an assignment, to custom build a weapon for another assassin named Machilde (Thekla Reuten), a young woman who flirts with her stern-faced colleague when they meet.

On the street, Jack encounters the local priest Father Benedetto (Paolo Bonacelli).

The American, who gives his name as Edward, rebuffs his invitation to dinner, until the priest tells him that if you want to learn the secrets of a town, talk to the priest. Jack/Edward also takes to visiting a young prostitute, Clara (Violante Placido), who playfully teases him about having a secret.

Since it has a romantic aspect as well, "The American" may appeal more to women. It is not likely to appease popcorn-munching minions hoping to see stuff blow up but for the more thoughtful film-goer, who is willing to see it without preconceived ideas, "The American" is worth a look. E*

-Cate Marquis
'Interpol' is nothing but sloppy sound

Interpol's latest album, simply titled 'Interpol,' leaves the listener wanting a lot more than what is erupting from their speakers. Recorded at the Electric Lady Studios, one would expect a little bit more than unfinished sound and sleepy singing.

The 10-track album (or 11 if you pre-ordered on iTunes or live in Japan), seems to mesh together. Typically this would be an amiable quality to find on a CD, but not necessarily in this case. One song mixes in with the next creating a never ending flow of sound that is not bad until you realize that 20 minutes have gone by and you have listened to five songs not one.

'Interpol' starts off solid, but definitely not strong. The album pulls you in, but once you actually sit down and listen, you wonder why it is so depressing and tiring.

Why the music almost instantly makes you feel as if you should be crawling into bed and hiding from the sun.

The first song off of the album "Success" has definite promise though when you listen to it for the first time. It has wonderful driving rhythms throughout the entire song that make you hope that the rest of the album has more of the same still to come. However it is only lying to you and making you wish for something more, musically speaking, later on.

Skipping over a few tracks, the only other song worth listening to on the entire album is "Barricade." A beautifully written, beautifully composed song that displays the true vocal abilities of singer Paul Banks. "Barricade" brings back that driving rhythm once again and forces the listener to sway with the music. The lyrics are wonderful and anyone can relate to them ("It starts to feel like a barricade/ That keeps us away/ to keep us away/ It kind of does.")

The other 8 tracks leave for much to be desired. The overall sound is sloppy and amateur. If this was Interpol's freshman album, then there would be absolutely no issue with calling this outstanding. However being the fourth album from a distinguished band, this is not impressive at all.

Banks switches between whining with his already high pitched voice and layered chanting-like singing throughout the entire album. The guitarist, Daniel Kessler, just sounds lazy, off beat and seems to play the same boring riffs over and over again.

They throw random techno-esque beats in that do not match the bands overall sound in any way, shape or form. Childish piano intros also adorn the album.

If you are not into falling asleep while listening to your music or looking for some good background music for studying, I would definitely skip buying this album and just download "Success" and "Barricade." The other tracks simply are not worth the money.

C- -Janaca Scherer

The Harmed Brothers roll in from Oregon packing acoustic love

The Harmed Brothers perform a sparse, sincere and affecting country-folk-stomp bluegrass blend.

Led by Ray Vietti on guitar and vocals and supported by Alex Sakido on banjo, vocals and harmonica. The Harmed Brothers are a power duo.

Into their heart-sunk ballads of love, loss, addiction and world-weary pain, The Harmed Brothers bleed emotion.

The performance on September 1, at Off Broadway employed a drummer on a "broke" drum set, consisting of a kick drum, cymbals and a metal washboard in place of the snare drum. This added a nice element of rollicking swing and took the songs to the next level, twisting emotion, rock and pain into a sweet swirl of thumping mountain folk.

Ray and Alex opened the set with "Lone Tree," a strum-heavy dirty with harmonica accents. This song sounded like William Elliott White. More overlapped with The Avett Brothers with a dab of Two Gallants.

After the song, Ray asked the crowd, who was lingering near the bar, to come fill the empty space before the stage. Although the lackluster audience didn't budge, this did not diminish The Harmed Brothers' dedication to rendering their tunes.

"One Night" told the story of a boy staring vacantly across a bar only to discover the woman of his dreams. The chorus featured a compelling rhyme scheme couched in dual vocals from Ray and Alex and the song evoked love's first pristine sentiment, in a way not at all cheesy, but sweet.

See HARMED, page 12

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Sept. 7
Rev Peyton's Big Damn Band, Strawfoot, Kentucky
Knife Fight
At The Firebird
$12

Sept. 8
Seether, Pop Evil
At The Pageant
$25

Ludo
At Vintage Vinyl
(Entry with pre-purchase of new record)

Sept. 9
Jamie Lidell
At The Old Rock House
$15-17
BOOKS

‘Year of the Black Rainbow’ novel a worthy read

Claudio Sanchez is known for two things: being the front man of Coheed & Cambria and his breathtaking hair.

Despite his musical, lyrical and hair-related accomplishments, one thing he is not known as is a novelist. With the release of his book, “Year of the Black Rainbow,” just might change.

All of Coheed & Cambria’s albums function as concept albums, each telling a part of the ongoing story of Coheed & Cambria Kilgannon, as well as their son Claudio. The “Amory Wars” series is the theme series, starting with “The Second Stage Turbine Blade” in 2002.

The novel is something that Coheed fans have been asking for years: a full-length novel explaining the concepts and story behind the Amory Wars. Thanks to Sanchez and bestselling author Peter David, the fans’ dream is a reality.

The science-fiction rock epic supposedly concluded with “Good Apollo, I’m Burning Star IV, Volume Two: No World for Tomorrow” in 2007, but Coheed had one more album up their collective sleeve.

Earlier this year, Coheed & Cambria released their fifth studio album, titled “Year of the Black Rainbow.” The album is actually a prequel to the Amory Wars, chronologically taking place before the events of “The Second Stage Turbine Blade.”

Even better, the deluxe edition of the album came with the full-length novel, also titled “Year of the Black Rainbow.” The novel goes right alongside the album, and naturally is best when read while listening to the album.

It explains the origins story of Coheed & Cambria Kilgannon, the parents of future-messianic-figure Claudio Kilgannon. Coheed & Cambria are freedom fighters, engineered to be stronger and faster than anyone else.

Their creator, Dr. Leonard Hohenberger, created Coheed & Cambria to try and dismantle the oppressive reign of Supreme Tri-Mage Wilhelm Ryan. Ryan took over Heaven’s Fence a series of 78 planets interconnected by an energy beam known as the Keywork.

If none of this makes any sense whatsoever, do not worry. This novel, while primarily for the fans, also explains everything needed to understand the universe that Sanchez created and the band fleshed out with five albums.

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The book satisfies at every turn. Even the most dedicated Coheed-heads will find something in the book to surprise them. Yes, listening to the albums does paint a pretty vivid picture, but actually having Sanchez explain in a narrative the story is amazing.

The one only disappointment of the novel is its length. At 352 pages, the story ends much too soon, leaving the reader wanting much more.

What is also sad is that this novel is hard to get a hold of: the hardback version is only available as a part of the Deluxe Edition of the “Year of the Black Rainbow” album, and the paperback release is also a limited edition.

For non-fans, the novel serves as an excellent introduction to the world of the Amory Wars and despite possible difficulties acquiring it, is a must-read.

For Coheed fans however, the “Year of the Black Rainbow” novel is a great beginning to what will hopefully become a series of novels on the Amory Wars. It is also an excellent end to an excellent beginning.

—Andrew Seal

VIDEO GAMES

Persona 3 Portable: midnight is just around the corner!

Persona 3 Portable, recently released for the PlayStation Portable, is Atlus Incorporated’s latest release of one of their flagship series: Persona.

The story of Persona 3 is simple, yet convoluted. In the interest of space, and the retention of spoilers only the simple side will be provided.

The player takes control of a team of high-school students in a Japanese localized city known as Gekkoukan. Upon transferring to Gekkoukan High, the main character soon awakens to a power known as Persona. This power is the only chance humanity has against a dangerous force known as Shadows, which awaken during the Dark Hour, a secret time which is ‘hidden’ between one day and the next.

Most people are not aware of the Dark Hour, and transform into coffins. A rare few awaken during this time. Most of these individuals are consumed by the Shadows. A select few who retain functionality, however, are like the main character, in that they possess Personae.

The player must balance two lives in this game: both social and battle.

As the hero of the game, there is naturally a massive battle-oriented side to the game.

Shadows are abundant during the Dark Hour and can provide challenges unprecedented to the average gamer.

During the daytime, however, players must learn to develop Social Links with those around them. The development of Social Links will allow for the powers of Personae associated with the Links to grow.

PSP also happens to be the third installment of this particular story, following the original Persona 3, and its successor, Persona 3: FES, both on the PlayStation 2.

This bit of information may throw several seasoned gamers a caution sign: recreated games, after all, are often simply the original loaded down with extra challenges. PSP, however, is far from this stereotype.

Admittedly, the PSP port contains its fair share of challenge buffing.

An extra difficulty in which enemies deal two times regular damage, and all items within the game are twice as expensive, is available to veterans of the series (or those wishing to cry from frustration).

In addition, a new mode known as Vision Quest has been added, allowing players to rechallenge old bosses with massively increased statistics, new moves and, in some cases, brand new strategies.

So, what’s new in P3P?

Why would anybody want to pick up the port, rather than the PS2 version?

Simply put, this game contains an entirely new story, untold in the previous two installments.

See P3P, page 12

LATEST + GREATEST

MUSIC

The Acorn No Ghost

These Canadian indie folk rockers sound like a serene, melodic version of a level-headed Jeff Tweedy mixed with a zoned out James Mercer or like David Byrne crossed with “Woods.” The songs on this record are sure to ebb and flow with the wonder and calm of rural, down-home communities. Check out www.myspace.com/theacorn for a smattering of songs off the upcoming “No Ghost.”

Junip Fields

Junip is the Swedish singer, Jose Gonzalez’s ten-year-old pet project dating back before his successful “Veneer” and “In Our Nature” days. Junip took a back seat as Jose skyrocketed to folk fame, but now Jose is back to claim his project like a ring from the bottom of aonde-to-often dredged lake. Their music stands out with Jose’s signature, haunting vocals. Junip’s record streams for free on NPR.org.

Of Montreal False Priest

Of Montreal’s “False Priest” produced by Jon Prins, is rumored to follow the band’s trend of extraordinary experimentation and delve into soul and R&B. Promised to be imbued with the manic musical twists, turns and humor that defines Of Montreal, “False Priest” finds Kevin Barnes at the height of his game and switched to full-power. “Coquet Coquette” is available streaming at www.myspace.com/ofmontreal

MOVIES

Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D At most theaters

Paul W.S. Anderson writes and directs another installment in the horror film series, with Milla Jovovich as Alice, battling the virus-created undead.

Soul Kitchen Plaza Frontenac only

German comedy about a restauranteur (Adam Bousdkou) who leaves his ex-con brother (Moritz Bleibtreu) in charge while he chases after his ex-girlfriend in China.
Next the boys jumped into the shimmering “When I Get Back,” a doleful song about returning home from war “in a hearse” and still seeking the affection of the loved one.

The guitar hook supported the melancholy lyrics, and featured vocal eruptions and a string of questions that worked to convey the manic intensity of losing love.

“The Harmed Brothers” noted the instrumentation of the Indigo Girls with its beautifully fingerpicked banjo and staccato guitar. The song was of family addiction and bemoaned the speaker’s station of repeating the chemically abusive ways of his forebears. The song did not blame the drugs and alcohol, rather the user who so harmfully fell under their influence.

“Kansas Wild” shuffle-whirled with its shouted “Woos” amidst handclaps, washboard work and lilting guitar. “Celebration,” a new tune, garnered a high level of interest from the audience and sounded sentimental enough to emerge on a television drama where the two lovers are finally and forever parting ways.

“One In The Garden” offered a switching back and forth of vocal duties from Alex and Ray, who blended calm and raucous energy to cultivate a delicious soundscape.

The set closed with “Christmas is Cancelled This Year,” a B-Side off “All The Lies You Wanna Hear,” which, being about the world ending on Christmas 2012, encouraged everyone to get drunk. The song, a power-packed pendulum swinging away from the meditative quietude of “One In The Garden,” allowed The Harmed Brothers to end on a lasso, rocking and playful note.

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“Cryin’ Shame” channeled the instrumentation of the Indigo Girls with its beautifully fingerpicked banjo and staccato guitar. The song was of family addiction and bemoaned the speaker’s station of repeating the chemically abusive ways of his forebears. The song did not blame the drugs and alcohol, rather the user who so harmfully fell under their influence.

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The University of Missouri-St. Louis' welcoming party, which is sponsored by student life, was held at Oak Hall last Friday.

“We have arranged the event since May of this year. I'm really excited about meeting new people, and I hope many students come and enjoy what we had planned for a long time.” Katie Green, a student from administrative chair, said.

During the event, students from the administrative chair handed out free school supplies and helped students to enjoy the event by answering the questions they asked.

“I am an exchange student from [the] University of Northern Iowa. I am very excited about my first semester at UMSL, and it feels great that I won the limbo game. It seems like they have a lot of good stuff on the table for the winner,” Skylar Mayberry-Mayes, senior, finance, said.

About 200 UM-St. Louis students attended the party, enjoying a variety of events arranged for them. However, some students pointed out that more promotion about the school event is needed in order to boost participation from students.

“I am a residential assistant here at Oak Hall. That is how I found about the event. I would not know if I did not work here,” Katie Hatcher, sophomore, business, said.

Other participants said that students need to be more active to take advantage of what the school offers for students.

“If you actually pay more attention to what they offer, there are a lot of selections here. I found out about this event when I checked out the University Program Board, so I decided to show up. I met a lot of cool people today. It has been a lot of fun,” Chris Mantei, sophomore, criminal justice, said.

A variety of welcoming events have been continuing since school started and are expected to continue through the beginning of September. Students can find more information about the upcoming events by visiting the Calendar of Events on the school’s website.
New semester brings good times and food
Catholic Newman Center held a welcome barbecue event

MINHO JUNG
Staff Writer

A welcome barbecue party was held at the Catholic Newman Center last Monday for University of Missouri-St. Louis students.

"This event has been lined up in order to provide UM-St. Louis students with an opportunity to meet and naturally build their new friendships with other students from a different background," Father Bill Kemptf, Catholic Campus Minister, said. "Therefore, any students, whether they are Christians or non-Christians, are welcome to join us. There is plenty of food."

A variety of food was arranged for students who just kicked off their new semester. About 60 students visited the Catholic Newman Center for the event.

"This is my first semester at UMSL. I found out about this barbecue party from another school event, [the] Expo, which was held just the other day. I feel really refreshed by meeting new friends here, but it seems like not many students are aware of what school offers for them," Soojin Lim, a student from the English teacher training course, said.

Currently, approximately 500 students are directly and indirectly involved in the Catholic student organization on campus. "We expect more students to come and be a part of the group this semester. Especially for new students, this is a great place to start," Kay Dieckmann, a director of development of the Catholic Newman Center, said.

The Catholic Newman Center was founded in 1965, two years after UM-St. Louis was established in 1963. Since then, the Catholic Newman Center has been playing a major role in fostering relationships between UM-St. Louis students through various activities. It has also contributed to boosting community participations among students by providing students with opportunities for volunteer work for the local community.

"Including myself, we have three official members and nine student leaders to provide welcoming, social and spiritual environment for students who need spiritual services," Rachelle Simon, campus minister, said.
STUDENT PROFILE:

Student in school to give back to the community

Future medical student wishes to help others fight hemophilia

CATE MARQUIS
Assoc. A&E Editor

Joe Moleski is a student, advocate and has hemophilia. Now a senior, Moleski has applied to over thirty medical schools to get his medical degree in hopes he can give back to his community.

When did you decide you wanted to become a doctor?

Joe Moleski: I would say it was my freshman year of college. It all sparked in my junior year in high school, I got my first 4.0. I was like, "I can do this." In my freshman year of college, I said, "I want to be a hematologist," and then I started working for an entomologist, Dr. Byron Santos. He really encouraged me to pursue a career in medicine and he helped me with books, etc. He was my biggest mentor.

Why do you want to be a doctor?

Joe Moleski: My biggest thing is I need to give back to the hemophilia community. I don't know any hematologist that is a hemophiliac. We have all these hematologist or oncologists but have they ever walked in a hemophiliac's shoes? No. I feel like that's my determination, and that puts everything into perspective. I need to be there for the future generation, and I need to be there for my brother. It's almost like, you have a patient-doctor relationship, but this takes it to a whole other level, because I've walked in their shoes.

Why did you choose to come to the University of Missouri- St. Louis?

Joe Moleski: Coming from SLU, I knew I needed a different option and I checked [UM-St. Louis] out on the web. I came and visited the school and it seemed like it was somewhere I could enjoy, the people were inviting here. The atmosphere here was positive and it seemed a really neat place to be. I was like, "This is it. I'm going to go here." That was reaffirmed when I started taking classes. I thought "Wow this is a really good university."

Who is someone you look up to?

Joe Moleski: One person I really look up to is actually one of my best friends. His name is Gregory Price and he works for Affinity Biotech. I look up to him because he's 27 years old and he has hemophilia as well. He is one person I can relate to. Whenever I have questions about my factor or what should I do about my bleeding episode, I would go to him. He works for this company and it has helped me out so much. He's the type of person I can go to whenever I have any questions or anything like that, and I just look up to him. I've never met any other hemophiliac that wants to make the quality of life for his patients better.

Is there any advice you have for people?

Joe Moleski: No matter what you're faced with in life, take it as a learning opportunity to grasp what you have.
The deadline for the application was September 1 and all universities that were selected will be told of their new status in December of this year. The Carnegie Foundation Designation as an Engaged Campus program began back in 2006. It is given every two years and only to the most deserving schools. Given the involvement of UM-St. Louis throughout the region and the state, this should not be a problem. UM-St. Louis is currently involved and in partnerships with Boeing, Express Scripts, Gear-Up, Child Advocacy Center, XtremeIT, Center for Emerging Technology, The St. Louis Zoo, The Missouri Botanical Gardens, The Pupil Project, The Des Lee Collaborative Vision, The Siteman Cancer Center and the student MLK day of service. UM-St. Louis is so committed to community engagement that it is mentioned in the UM-St. Louis Accreditation itself "...self-study and community engagement is in the DNA of UMSL..." "The vision is that the campus would use this designation, should it be granted to UMSL, in all recruiting and marketing materials along with inclusion in all public speeches and talks from campus leadership in various forums around the region," Patricia Dolan, special assistant to the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said. "Community engagement is what we do and we do it well. It is time to receive official recognition for all the work UMSL students, faculty and staff do in the community." Dolan continues "...the formal recognition of this designation [will provide] structure and insight into the types of educational experiences the students and graduates experience. I would also view it as a badge of honor, something the students and faculty can be very proud of.”

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OUR OPINION

Man not always dog’s best friend

A dog is a man’s best friend. That is, until man decides to do something stupid to the dog.

In July 2009, over 500 dogs were rescued in the largest dog-fighting raid in the United States history. For almost a year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been planning to bust those in charge of the dog-fights after receiving a tip that a “known domestic terror group” was guarding the fights in Missouri. The FBI trained their own dogs to fight to go undercover and document the events. Twenty-six people were arrested, totaling in over 100 felonies. In dog fighting, the strongest win. So, what “professional” dog-fighter owners do is train and mutilate their dogs to be the epitome of vicious.

When police arrived to rescue the dogs, they not only found hostility in the animals’ attitudes, but also physical deformations such as amputated limbs so that the dogs without did not have a delayed reaction of any sort. This was aside from the physical features other dogs who survived fights endured, such as missing eyes or mauled legs. What makes people think that it is alright to purposely abuse animals for the sake of entertainment?

Perhaps one of the reasons is that the conscience is less burdened since it is “just an animal.” One of the most disturbing facts about those who participate in animal cruelty, is that most come off as what we consider “normal people.”

Churchgoers, respectable jobs, dog lovers, yet, the same people get pleasure from the violence and mistreatment of their own dogs.

To make it short, dog fighting falls in the same category of immoral as a lot of other things do. Purposely training any animal to be hostile is nor any better than teaching children to be violent with others. Putting aside the pure inhumanity of the dogs’ treatment, dogs are one of the more domestic animals that live among us. What would have happened if one of these dogs escaped? Violence is what most of the dogs had known since they were born. Should the escaped dog found another person in its path, the only thing it would have known to do is attack and/or kill. Dogs in general are probably the most naturally friendly creatures in the animal kingdom. It is amazing that humans take something so innocent and purposely destroy it.

Several others believe it was wrong of those undercover to use their own animals to fight, just so they could bust those who practiced it in everyday life. More than likely, if any other method were possible, agents would have refrained from using it. If nothing else, just so they would not come off as hypocrites to the public. The FBI used these dogs solely for the sake of uncovering a major set of felonies. This is completely different from what those practicing dog fighting were doing, which was solely for entertainment purposes.

Considering this was on the same level of murder and severe abuse, those serving in federal prison have everything they deserve happening to them. Luckily, a year later, several of those pit bulls rescued in the raid have been well into their road of recovery and some have even been adopted into families. Unfortunately, there are just some scars that cannot be healed.

WHAT’S BEAN HAPPENING?

No justice for police brutality victims

In 2008, twenty Philadelphia police officers beat three men suspected of murder and the entire ordeal was apured on a video released by Fox29. A grand jury found all 20 police officers not guilty of criminal action because the three suspects “eluded police” and the police officers “used reasonable force” when they were videotaped kicking the victims repeatedly during the 14-minute video.

Also in 2008, two undercover Denver police detectives stopped a man because he ran a red light on his bicycle. The officers dressed as civilians pulled the man off of his bike, grabbed his hair and slammed his head to the concrete breaking his two front teeth. The entire ordeal was recorded on video camera. The two undercover officers did not face any charges.

Last week, a police officer with the St. Louis County Police Department resigned the same day that he was being investigated for allegedly assaulting a prisoner. The officer suffered non-life threatening injuries during the alleged beating on July 18 and the officer is currently being investigated for third-degree assault. Investigators are currently reviewing surveillance footage to verify any wrongdoing.

While the St. Louis County case has yet to be carried out, it would not be a surprise if the officer accused of misconduct would be found innocent. That is seemingly the theme of all police brutality cases—even the culturally impactful Rodney King beating resulted in four police officers being acquitted after they were videotaped assaulting King.

The police brutality problem in our society is swept under the rug far too often. Members of the police force assault someone, it gets reported on, people get angry and the assailants are never charged with any crime. The saddest thing is that in more recent years the crime has been caught on video and still no justice is served for the victim. Police officers essentially get away with murder. Don’t think that this is an exaggeration?

In 1995, 31-year-old Johnny Gammage was asphyxiated to death by police officers in Allegheny County, Pa. after they applied pressure to his chest and neck during an arrest. In 1999, 23-year-old Amadou Diallo, an unarmed civilian, was shot 41 times by NYPD police officers because they thought his wallet was a gun. In 2006 Sean Bell, another 23-year-old unarmed civilian, was shot at 50 times by undercover NYPD detectives because they thought one of the passengers in Bell’s car had reached for a gun. All of these victims were unarmed and all of the officers in their cases never faced any criminal charges for the murders they committed.

When police officers break the law in any fashion, they should be treated like any other law-breaking criminal. Being a police officer should not give someone special privileges in court and furthermore, it should not excuse them of their crimes. There is no justice for families who have lost their loved ones or for the victims of police beatings when the assailant is a police officer and they are never punished. It is no wonder why so many people do not trust the police.

Who exactly does the law protect?

Sequita Bean is Editor-in-Chief of The Current.

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Seal of Approval

Military ban on Medal of Honor game unwarranted

Last week, American combat troops left Iraq after seven long years of action. The war in Afghanistan continues, however, with American troops fighting a resurgence of the Taliban.

This week, the Army and Air Force Exchange Services banned the new “Medal of Honor” game from being sold on-base. Developed by Electronic Arts, the game is not even out yet—but once it is, it will not be available for purchase on military bases around the globe.

The reason for the preemptive ban is that in the multiplayer portion of the “Medal of Honor” reboot, gamers are able to play as Taliban insurgents. Note that the game is not being banned from being played on-base, but only being sold.

Both the popular “Call of Duty” series and the recently rebooted “Medal of Honor” series have featured insurgent/terrorist-themed enemies. In CoD, they are known as the “OpFor,” short for Opposing Force; an unnamed group that rose to power in the region had an automatic base that has, or possibly will, witness combat in real life.

Military games have always had to straddle the line between fact and fiction, and believability and incredulity.

The recent “Battlefield: Bad Company 2” (BFBC2), for example, features an alternate-reality Cold War in which Russia begins to invade the U.S. In multiplayer, one side is American troops, and the other Russian. The main difference between the two is the spoken language heard.

With “Medal of Honor” unreleased, it is hard to measure how real its multiplayer is. While BFBC2 presented opposing forces with technologically similar standpoints, the true nature of the Taliban is that they are an insurgent group, not a world player like the U.S.

So if Medal of Honor is going for realism in its multiplayer, will players have the ability to create improvised explosive devices? That remains to be seen. A great deal rests on how the Taliban is portrayed in the new game.

But really, have not soldiers done enough for their country? They deserve to be able to purchase “Medal of Honor” when it comes out from the comfort of their military bases.

Andrew Seal is a staff writer and columnist for The Current.

Staff Viewpoint

The good that came out of Iraq

Last Tuesday, President Obama said that “the American combat mission in Iraq has ended.” Well, maybe it has and maybe it has not, but one thing is certain: it is starting to look like history will not be as condemning of the war and those who decided to go ahead with it, as many once thought it would be.

It was not too long ago that the Iraq War was essentially synonymous with the word “guerrilla” throughout the last seven years there has been no shortage of high profile politicians wanting to throw in the towel. In 2007, Harry Reid went as far as to say “this war is lost.” Around that same time, any candidate in a presidential primary who could prove his opposition to the war from the beginning had an automatic leg up on opponents (then candidate Obama and Ron Paul being the most notable instances on their respective sides of the aisle).

The opposition to the war was not limited to factions in Washington. For the majority of 2005 to 2008, public disapproval of the war and its handling was solidly in the 60 percent range.

But despite the political posturing and popular belief otherwise, Iraq has come a long way.

Before the war, less than 1 million Iraqis owned a telephone, now over 21 million do. A recent Gallup poll found that 69 percent of the population rated their personal finances positively. According to the United Nations International Monetary Fund, Iraq’s unemployment is only at 15 percent. That is only 5 percent higher than it is here.

So, while the living conditions in Iraq are not to be envied, they are markedly better due to American intervention.

Oil production in Iraq is back to prewar levels and some analysts are predicting that oil exports in that country may soon be able to match those of Saudi Arabia. The most important thing that has come out of this for the United States is that we now have an ally smack dab in the middle of the Middle East.

All of that is on top of the obvious: Iraq is no longer run by an anti-American totalitarian who routinely gassed, raped and beheaded its own people.

This progress has come at a very high price most people would choose not to pay if it could be done all over again. But there would have been costs if we had not gone to war too.

What would the Middle East be like if Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Saddam Hussein were running countries right next to each other? Iran and Iraq had already fought one war. How would Saddam react to Iran’s nuclear program? I doubt his response would have been measured and diplomatic.

If the nuclear India/Pakistan situation keeps analysts up at night, imagine how troubling a nuclear Iran/Iraq cold conflict would be.

Because of the United States, democracy has come to Iraq and democracy has proven itself elsewhere, not only to be uncontroversial, but also stabilizing. Democracy is going to be the only way that the general populations of Middle Eastern countries can benefit from the wealth of their own nation’s natural resources.

The obstacles are great, but not insurmountable. Iraq has a chance to become a thriving nation state governed by its people and a beacon of light in a region consistently subjected to the darkest aspects of humanity.

Ryan Krull is a staff writer for The Current.
Point

Should the Loop Trolley be built?

Yes: Want jobs? Loop Trolley can bring them

If the St. Louis area were offered a proven tourist attraction, would that be considered a good investment?

The Loop Trolley offers just that—a crowd-pleasing tourist draw like ones that have already boosted cities like San Francisco, New Orleans and even nearby Memphis. Nothing adds charm and fun to an area hoping to draw in families of visiting tourists. And tourism means jobs, adding an influx of money from visitors.

Chicago and Memphis have long recognized the benefits of being tourist-friendly. St. Louis is much less tourist-friendly, yet it has a great untapped potential as a destination for vacationers hoping to soak up the history and culture of a city that has played a pivotal role in the exploration of the west and the history of the blues. Even in a recession, entertainment makes money and tourism brings in money from other places.

Running an old-fashioned trolley has been a huge boon to other cities with storied historic areas, giving visitors a fun way to get around without worrying about parking or directions. A ride on the trolley even becomes an attraction in itself. What family visits San Francisco without riding the cable car? Or New Orleans without a streetcar named Desire? Even though our original Loop Trolley vanished in the early 1960s, bringing back an old-style trolley revives that history, in a way a bus never could.

Trolleys combine the romance of the past with modern interest in green energy options. Some may find the cost of the Loop Trolley daunting but it is important business truism that you must spend money to make money. In this case, the whole region stands to benefit.

To compete with other cities, metropolitan areas must invest in regional projects to create jobs and business opportunity, even to hold on to what we have. People generally see that need, as with the plans for revamping to Gateway Arch grounds to connect them with the downtown area.

The Loop Trolley's main proponent, Joe Edwards, has a solid record on business ideas that not only strengthen his own businesses but led to an economic flourishing for the whole Loop area.

St. Louis has untapped potential in tourism, particularly the Loop area, which was recognized nationally as one of the country's "great streets."

We should cash in on that, something that Edwards, a man with a business degree and years of success, knows well. St. Louis has a sad history of missing out on opportunities, failing to build on the attention we got during the 1904 Worlds Fair and again with the Gaslight Square era. The Loop's current moment in the spotlight may be a smaller example, but it is an opportunity nonetheless.

Some community investments are better than others. In other cities, trolleys have appealed to visitors sense of nostalgia, history and romance, while offering an easy way to get around and see the sights. They have proven a solid investment. By comparison, projects similar to Paul McKee's plan to clear and redevelop a large swath of north St. Louis, largely with tax-payer support, have a much poorer track record of past success—here and elsewhere. McKee's "build it and they will come" project is based on a hope for job-creation centers, created by other business that inexplicably appear to fill his buildings.

Much better to bet on Joe Edwards' proven history of success and the great track record similar trolleys have had in other cities. Build the Loop Trolley and tourist dollars will come.

No: The Trolley would be a total nightmare

The Delmar Loop is quite possibly one of the most diverse areas in St. Louis. A combination of both history and the future combining in one place with people of different views and backgrounds that make for one of St. Louis' biggest tourist attractions.

With talk going around lately about The Delmar Loop Trolley, it is shocking to find out that one of their biggest reasons behind the construction is to increase tourism. Would a trolley ride really influence your decision to visit a city?

The Loop Trolley would be an added bonus if anything to going to The Loop, not reason in itself.

Part of the awe of being in The Loop is walking down the street and going in the shops. Riding the trolley will take away from the actual experience of being in The Loop: running into people on the sidewalk, smelling the food as you walk past the restaurants and the music coming from inside the unique stores.

The trolley will only cover the area in between the Museum of Natural History to the University City Lion's Gate. Both of these places are easily accessible by the Metro Link and a short walk. The suggested stops that have already have high traffic and poor parking. Adding trolley stops in front of these places will only increase traffic issues exponentially.

This brings us to the issue of congestion and parking. Anyone who has been to The Loop knows that parking and traffic issues are horrible, no matter what day or time it is. The Loop Trolley's Web site says that only a few parking spaces will be needed in order to make room for the tracks and that these few spaces will be made up for by people who are taking the trolley instead.

The actuality of the situation is that many people taking the trolley instead of driving to The Loop is not realistic in any way. Tourists will have to drive to get there, those who live in St. Louis County will drive to get there, and even those living in University City will still probably drive to get closer.

But what about during the initial construction of the tracks? A three-lane road in an already congested and high-trafficked area is not a good idea. The construction alone would probably cause a decrease in those visiting The Loop for those months due to horrible construction traffic. Spending an hour to get from one end of Delmar to another is not a pleasing idea.

The developers cannot even decide if they should build the tracks on the side of the street or in the middle. Both of which will cause issues, not only with stupid people trying to cross the street, but with either parking spots being lost or drivers who have no idea what to do around a trolley.

Perhaps if there was an option for street expansion, the Loop Trolley would be an excellent idea. But seeing how an already crowded, three-lane street that is surrounded by historical landmarks separated only by a sidewalk is what The Delmar Loop is comprised of, expansion is definitely not an option.

All in all, the idea of putting a space waster in The Loop is a horrible idea. One that costs way too much money, takes up way too much valuable parking space, and will not generate as much revenue as what developers are thinking.

What do you think?

Let us know at thecurrent-online.com.
Students need live music

Live music is out there, like the rhythmic heart-thump of the jungle's most feral and fearsome cats and more people, students in particular, owe it to themselves to strike out and enjoy it. Why more of us do not get out to the live shows is a conundrum gnawing at my jelly parts like an army ant mandible-scutting a green leaf.

On a number of occasions this year, friends, acquaintances and staff writers of this very paper have dipped out on attending a live show for feeble reasons such as "Hey man, I just don't really want to go" or "If I can't go for free I don't want to go." Now, this is not to say there are not viable excuses for missing a show, yes indeed, and they are many, but this alters not my point: the University of Missouri-St. Louis student and faculty—our community—needs to get out and experience more live music, no excuses. Live music is soul food of the richest kind.

Why not see a live show once every two weeks? OK, once a month? Support the arts instead of vegging in front of the computer. Go watch a tiny local band at Dressel's, The Venice Cafe, or The Broadway Oyster Bar—free! Or pay $12 and witness some indie glory at The Firebird or Off Broadway—drop $25 plus and witness a national act at The Pageant, The Duck Room, or Old Rock House. Then, of course, there are the arenas, but we tend to stay away from there, but let's face it: the humongous venues mean more spectacle than, shall we say, listening pleasure.

St. Louis is not the best music town in these connected states, but it certainly is not the worst. Every week, nay, every day there is something worth hearing. Whether it be jazz, blues, funk, opera, rock, rap, cover songs, or open mic. St. Louis is home to many bars and venues that offer live music. Where does one begin looking for what is playing where, but because Pollstar features only national acts, KDHX.org is what you want for the local scene. Nonetheless, taken together, these two sites will point you toward maddeningly good tunes.

The music doctor prescribes live music. No more excuses. Whether tunes be local, underground, aboveground, national or cover riddled, Ardent! Clap, cheer and whistl! Shake the weary mist of the lead singer, pat the drummer on the back, meet new people and become part of the scene. Let's face it: YouTube doesn't cut the cake and never will.

William Kyle is A&E Editor for The Current.

The chicken and the egg: CAFOs, disease and overcrowding

Last week, another columnist wrote about the recent egg recall for salmonella contamination and made some excellent points about the sorry state of food regulation in this country.

But the tale of the massive recall of eggs contaminated with salmonella is not quite done. There are new revelations about appalling living conditions for hens at two Iowa factory farms involved in the salmonella contamination egg recall.

Both use confined-feeding operations, or CAFOs, to produce eggs. In CAFOs, hens are crowded into buildings in cages they never leave. Animal-welfare groups and environmentalists both have concerns about CAFOs, some of the worst-case examples being now uncovered in Iowa, in big egg operations with deplorable facts.

According to the FDA report, conditions at the Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms locations were truly filthy, with manure so deep that doors to the buildings either could not be closed or opened. Inspectors found evidence of salmonella but other post-outbreak findings included chicken manure piled as high as 8 feet, liquified manure leaking from hen house foundations, live rodents, live and dead flies and maggots. There was evidence that wild birds were also living in the crowded hen houses. Think bird flu to see the significance.

Both scientists who study wild populations and epidemiologists can easily see the hazards inherent in confined feeding operations. Crowding hens into cages may be cheap but animals in overcrowded conditions, with no easy escape, sharing very similar genetic profiles, is a situation ready for disease, in which introduced infections can quickly spread. One hen sickened by contaminated feed, infected by rodents or flies, or a visiting wild bird, can quickly spread that disease to the whole population. CAFO operators often try to counter the disease threat by dosing with antibiotics, creating selective pressure to evolve resistance microbes.

The appalling conditions exposed in the two Iowa operations brings to mind the hundred-years-ago expose of slaughter houses that created food regulations. It also brings to mind a number of current trends on thinking about food, including the slow food movement and the economic and health benefits of supporting local small family farms.

Increased regulation and oversight are needed, although we need to remember that large, factory farms were the source of the outbreak, not small traditional farms.

Maybe it is time to rethink how we produce and buy food. Apart from a few crops, like banana and coffee, many common foods can be grown nearby, although not year-round. Once upon a time, farmers let chickens run in the yard and sold eggs at roadside stands. The documentary "Food Inc" and books like "The Omnivore's Dilemma" have explored how that bucolic image of the old-fashioned farm is no longer the case for food production in this country.

But we can make other choices—to buy from small, local farms. Small local growers sell eggs, produce and meats at farmers markets, like the nearby Ferguson Farmers Market, popping up all over the St. Louis area. They often use organic methods, which are essentially just traditional methods or a modern version of the same.

Chickens that run in the yard and eat bugs, as chickens are wont to do, are now free-range chickens, something that sounds more modern than it really is. Chickens that have access to grass, bugs, and fresh air are often actually in moveable pens—a moveable feast for poultry—but the results are the same—less population density, less chance for disease to spread rapidly, less chance that use of antibiotics to suppress outbreaks will breed super-bug diseases.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
8a-5p millennium student center
REGISTER ONLINE AT:
https://fusion.umsl.edu/studentlife/retreat/

After all is read and done,
Please Recycle!

-Your friends at the The Current
The Current needs cartoonists

CAN YOU DRAW?
ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?
IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP BY 388 MSC
AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP,
ALSO.
YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

Dave and Nike by Grace Searle

They Teach That? by Sam Kayser

Will you do me the honor of marrying me?

Of course Dave, you have made me the happiest...ZZZTT...in the world.

The voice-box for my Mannequin girlfriend kept going out on the word "woman" for some odd reason...
I3 Colonies

Across:
1. This colony is south of Virginia
3. This colony is north of Georgia
5. The thirteen colonies were colonies of what country?
6. This is the southern most colony.
8. What colony is located west of Rhode Island.
10. This colony use to be New Netherlands.
11. This colony was founded in 1632
13. Was originally New Amsterdam
16. This group of colonies produced iron.

Down:
2. What is the smallest colony?
4. The state of Maine was part of this colony?
7. This was the first colony founded in 1607.
9. This group of colonies lived on large plantations.
12. This group of colonies did not have good farming land.
14. This colony was founded in 1638
15. This was the last colony that was founded.
17. This colony was founded in 1623.

Labor Day

Across:
AXNWF LWMFOLCITHYZNRL
YQISXGRIMGIJNAJUFSR
LSECHZABZSGEDFNPYSBZ
RYENMJJKSMMLSDBICDGH
LZELXAZOTYNLMGGNORYR
IXDUBBOEONRCJJRZVWRN
LSQRDNZLORTALSOSITY
RHJYHPCICISRYFUTTSG
IETOTIMISUXWEDCJDIAUW
HEDFQYYNSFEPLBFFLDH
GKVNOYWERKDRTEZUNK
AIUPQMSSSGFTECNBIS
URRVEPPLTVNBAMMEMBME
MTFJSAQTYADNOMEHBMVM
VSGZHRXZELWLVPMYEH
RSMLANBDKFMSXNJRUT
ARTLADPLUTEURHTVZNL
EAEGBEQSKAFNCXFJVIXE
FGCVTPSRSPMEQEGHLOQV
GSGCQXLABORDAYDJNTO

Current Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
Slow it down, back it up...
Expansive Jupiter moves back into Pisces after spending three months in your sign. Like a rubber band that's been overstretched, you need to "go limp" for a while.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20)
Who's eligible to play on Team Taurus? This week, expansive Jupiter slides back into your house of group collaborations. All summer long, you may have felt more flowy and separate than usual.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Get off that bench, Gemini. Jupiter sends you back to the Big Leagues as it enters your tenth house of ambition and career. You already got a taste of this energy in the first quarter of 2010.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Who are the people in your neighborhood? This week's new moon plants seeds in your house of local initiatives. It's time to connect with your home base.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Contracts, agreements, the sharing of resources. It's time to make things a bit more official with the people you collaborate with. This summer has been about learning, exploring and expanding for you, Leo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Lucky Jupiter slips back into your sector of partnerships for the rest of 2010, bringing two-person ventures into focus. Devote more time to developing your key relationships. You're looking for equality in your partnerships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Body love is on order this week, as Jupiter slips back into your sector of healthy routines for the rest of the year. Many Libras have cleared the decks of relationships this summer, or initiated new ones that were more in line.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Your romantic inclinations return this week after a long, summer hiatus. Love planet Venus enters Scorpio until January 8, 2011 and you begin craving a deeper emotional connection with that special someone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
After an active, energetic, and somewhat frenetic summer, you're ready to cool your jets for a spell. Your ruling planet Jupiter backs into your domestic fourth house for the remainder of 2010.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
The travel bug bites this week, thanks to a new moon in your house of long-distance adventures. Whether for business or romance, it's time to set your sights on opportunities that live beyond city limits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
After a summer of exploring, learning and venturing out into the universe, it's time to pull back and organize your base camp. Jupiter slips back into your second house of finances and work.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Lucky Jupiter moves back from Aries to Pisces, making you the zodiac's most fortunate soul for the rest of 2010. You already had a taste of this energy earlier this year, as Jupiter was positioned in your sign from January until early June.
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| Tuesday, Sept. 7 | Lunch and Learn with Regions Bank  
From 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., Regions Bank will be holding a class designed to help students become financially independent in Century Room C of the Millennium Student Center. For more info, contact Jaime Wacker at 314-516-5531. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 8 | Resume Reviews in the Nosh  
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Nosh, UMSL Career Services will be reviewing resumes for UMSL students. Students can pre-register online at careers.umsl.edu. For more information, contact Alaina Kantner at 314-516-5111. |
| Thursday, Sept. 9 | Phi Mu Alpha Piano Smash  
From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity is having a piano smash. Half of the proceeds will go to VH1 save the mission foundation. One dollar a swing and six swings for five dollars. Please wear shoes to this event and not sandals. For more information, contact Molina Cesar at molinacesar@gmail.  
Student Travel Opportunity  
From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., International Student Volunteers will be holding information meetings every hour on the hour in MSC room 314 (MC Room). The program involves students traveling and doing volunteer work all over the world. For more information go to www.isvonline.org, or contact Hannah Welch at 714-779-7392. |
| Friday, Sept. 10 | Tai Chi Qigong at noon  
From 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Office of Student Life will hold its first community service event of the school year: rehabbing a home in Pagedale with the non-profit group Beyond Housing. Lunch will be provided. Sign up at the front desk of the OSL. For more information contact Ashlee Roberts at 314-516-5291.  
Office of Student Life Fall Leadership Workshop  
From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Office of Student Life will hold its annual Fall Leadership Workshop in MSC. For more information contact Miriam Huffman at 314-516-5291. |