St. Louis Public Radio teams with UMSL

By Minho Jung, page 2

Sarah Lowe / The Current

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News

New St. Louis Public Radio station building waits to be unveiled at Grand Center

New St. Louis Public Radio station is under construction at Grand Center, waiting to be revealed in the spring of next year

MINHO JUNG
News Editor

Moving St. Louis Public Radio station, which is owned by and licensed to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, to the new Grand Center building in the arts and entertainment district in Midtown St. Louis is a project that has been successfully ongoing.

"It's not just St. Louis Public Radio Station that is moving [to the area], it's an extension of University of Missouri-St. Louis," Phil Donato Jr., marketing, events and outreach manager, said. "The building is going to be shared by classroom space for the University and space for the radio station. It is not just a radio station, and it is not St. Louis Public Radio moving on its own. It is [occurring] under the direction of the University."

The relocation project was announced on November 12, 2009. The actual construction was initiated last April, and is expected to be completed sometime during the spring of 2012. The purpose of the project is to improve the quality of the programs by enhancing the facilities and providing more space for the station.

"[Currently], we are not under one roof. We will have more space to operate within the new building, which means more production of local news, programming and opportunities for our station to engage people in a completely different way than we do now," Donato said. "There is going to be an open space on the ground level where events can be done that we can't do in this station [because of a limited space]."

St. Louis Public Radio was founded in 1972. It has been with UMSL since then. Early June of next year will be the 40th anniversary. For nearly half a century, plenty of transitions and improvements have been made. "Since being founded here, the station continuously grew in listener growth and membership [as it] continued to provide great service to the community," Donato said. "There have been lots of different accomplishments along the way. [Our] reporters do a tremendous job, recognized by various organizations with awards over the years."

St. Louis Public Radio was recently covered by "Riverfront Times" for the special issue of Best of St. Louis 2011 for the best radio station in the region, proving the profound influence of the school in the community.

"I think it is always nice to receive accolades from folks. It's nice to be recognized," Donato said. "We are very happy. Our station was recognized as well as our jazz show was recognized in the publication. It's an honor."

The relocation of St. Louis Public Radio Station to Grand Center is also expected to offer more opportunities for aspiring current UMSL students and alumni, who have passion for careers in the media field.

"[Speaking of extended space the station will have], it will allow us to have internships for UMSL students and other students to come and engage the community in different ways than we do now," Donato said.

The major changes concerning the radio programs are not specifically planned at this point. However, more quality programs are expected to come out after the transition is made.

Corrections and our sincere apologies

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistake. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

In the previous issue, we mistakenly misstated an article on page 8.

The article in question was a review by staff writer David von Nordheim of a new album released by Cobra Skulls, "Agitations."

The title attributed to the article was a duplication of the previous article's title, and was supposed to read "Cobra Skulls' LATEST OUTING "Agitations" FINDS THE MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN JOHNNY CASH AND THE CLASH."

We apologize for this mistake in editing.

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WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM | NEWS
New university in China will consult with University of Missouri - St. Louis and Missouri S&T

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in-Chief

The University of Missouri - St. Louis is currently helping to establish a fully-American school in China. UMSL has partnered with Tianfu College - Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (TC-SWUF), in the Sichuan province of China, as well as Missouri University of Science and Technology (UMS & T) to help build, staff and begin operations of a Chinese-based, American University.

According to a presentation given to the University of Missouri - System Board of Curators, as well as the President of the UM - System, China's economy is in a state of rapid growth (over 10 percent in the past two decades), and a newly emerged middle class, consisting of "as many as 250 million people" are now in search of a "secure international (U.S.) education."

"There will be a waiting list for this university," Thomas George, chancellor, UMSL, said. With a desire to help secure this education and a recognition that "U.S. education credential is the second preference" in China, only to that of admission to very elite Chinese universities, this merged project is expected to be huge. "They are not worried about admissions at this point, due to the popularity of an American education," Joel Glassman, associate provost of academic affairs and director of the Center for International Studies, UMSL, said.

The proposed university will be named Sichuan Missouri University, and will be jointly operated by members of all three benefactors to its construction. "It will operate under a Board, its own Board, with a total of nine members. Four of these members will be representatives from the UM System: two from each UMSL and Missouri S & T," George said.

As such, SMU will not even truly be a member of the UM - System, but will rather be what Glassman referred to as an "Affiliate University." UMSL, Missouri S&T and SMU will have a strong relationship, but SMU will be entirely run by its own faculties. "They will fund it, operate it. They just want something which operates like an American university, but in China," George said.

This new university will provide a number of benefits to its partner universities statewide. Naturally, this will lead to enhanced study abroad opportunities for students from China, as well as students of UMSL and Missouri S&T. Additionally, professors who wish to try their hand at teaching in China will also be able to benefit from having a private, Chinese university so closely affiliated with the UM - System.

In addition, UMSL and Missouri S&T will receive not only compensation for their services to the construction of the campus, curriculum and services on the board itself, but will also share in the profits of SMU for their partnership. "This is a partnership which could eventually bring in at least three or four thousand dollars in profit alone per year," George said. "And that would actually be after they have paid for our services," Glassman said.

"What are you looking forward to most about Homecoming this year?"

"I'm looking forward mostly to meeting new friends at the Homecoming dance."

Maken Bolati
Computer Science Graduate

"I'm probably looking forward to dress shopping the most. This is my first UMSL Homecoming!"

Kristen Woodhall
Psychology Sophomore

"I'm very excited about the venue. Just hanging out with that many other students at the Chase Park Plaza should be great."

Joey Wagner
Computer Science Junior
UMSL scholar discovers that inflation drives down crime rate

Professor Richard Rosenfeld found a negative co-relation between inflation and crime rate

JOSEPH GRATE
Staff Writer

Richard Rosenfeld has been recognized as one of the most respected researchers in the criminology field by media. The interesting results of his recent research also brought him media coverage by such names as msnbc.com.

For years, criminologist researchers have been comparing crime rates with unemployment and recessions. MSNBC reported a new approach from a professor at University Missouri - St. Louis, Professor Richard Rosenfeld from UMSL's criminology and justice department. He stated that inflation is a big factor in rises and falls of crime rates.

Past research has found trends of high crime rates during recessions and low ones post recession. Then came the 2008 and 2009 recession that turned this idea around. Instead of crime climbing in an economic downturn, it shrunk, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Rosenfeld saw that this new data had him and other researchers looking into different variables that may have had an impact on crime. "Most recent recessions produce a puzzled economy and crime," Richard Rosenfeld, professor of criminal justice, UMSL, said. "You have to ask, why would the economy have an impact on the crime rate?" One observation he noticed was another oddity that occurred during 2009, a rare price drop.

Past research by Criminologists and Economists have studied to see if unemployment was a gage for crime rates. It is not surprising they did so, as Rosenfeld pointed out, high unemployment contributes to "persons home income" and "disrupts families and community."

The issue derived from this, according to Rosenfeld, was that there were studies showing unemployment affecting crime, not affecting it, or having no relation at all. Rosenfeld began looking beyond unemployment and focused more on the gross domestic product, consumer confidence and inflation rates. The theory was an economic practicality. When cheap stolen goods are less costly than legal goods, demand will go down, decreasing crime. If cheap stolen goods are more costly than legal goods, demand will go down, decreasing crime. What is it that regulates stolen goods? "It is inflation," Rosenfeld said.

He referred to a "trade-down" effect, which is when people find themselves strapped for cash and they look at alternative outlets to buy the products they desire. For instance, people who use to shop at Macy's will trade-down to Wal-Mart to save money, and Wal-Mart shoppers will trade-down dollar stores. So, "where do the lowest [household incomes] trade-downs?" Rosenfeld said. He said they go to the street markets, which can be good and bad. Thrift stores and flee markets are in this category, but so are illegal stolen goods and theft.

The research Rosenfeld undertook involved statistics from homicides, serious assaults, robbery, burglary, larceny and vehicular theft. It does not include internet or white-collar crimes. Nor does it disprove the efforts of the police force in the nation. Yet, his work gives good answers on why crime has dropped in a time where it should have thrive.

"It is not surprising," Rosenfeld said. "It is inflation," Rosenfeld said.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics there is a rise in the consumer index prices since 2010. Rosenfeld believes this could potentially create a rise in crime rates. But for now, a nationally low crime rate can be one comfort during this recent recession.

UMSL Professor of Criminology Richard Rosenfeld. SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

MADCO: PULSE! OCTOBER 7 & 8 / FREE

JAZZ ST. LOUIS YOUTH CONCERT OCTOBER 9 / $5

MARSHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY OCTOBER 14 & 15 / $10
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THE HOUSE OF SPIRITS OCTOBER 14-16 & 19-22 / $5

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AVAILAIBLE AT THE TOUHILL TICKET OFFICE with a valid UMSL Student ID
Quantities are limited.

FOR INFO VISIT TOUHILL.ORG/STUDENTTIX
The Forest Park Balloon Race took place at Forest Park on the Central Fields on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17.

**Monday, October 3**

**What do directors do?**
From 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Located in Gallery 210 Auditorium and open to all.
Join us for a conversation with Steven Woolf about his recent production of John Logan's prize-winning play, "Red."
For more information, call Stephanie Ross at 314-516-5634.

**UMSL's Month of Giving 2011 kick-off**
From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located at MSC in the Nosh and open to all.
October is UMSL's Month of Giving. Join us to learn more about the UMSL annual charitable giving campaign for United Way and Community Health Charities taking place this month.
For more information, call Patricia Zahn at 314-516-5267.

**Tuesday, October 4**

**Understanding financial statements**
From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Located in the JC Penney Conference Center and open to all.
Designed for business owners, managers, accountants, bankers and consultants who want to learn how to turn financial statements into useful management tools. They will learn how to capture information from income statement and balance sheets, calculate several useful ratios and learn to make better informed business decisions. Cost: $99.
For more information, call Erica Candela at 314-516-5908.

**Wednesday, October 5**

**Make the most of your learning style**
From 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Located at MSC in the SGA Chambers and open to students.
Find out how you learn and process information best. Do you learn easily by listening, watching or doing? Maybe a combination of all three is best. Hemispheric dominance (right or left-brain) will be explained.
For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

**Writing your teaching philosophy statement**
From 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in Lucas 589 and open to all.
Begin working on documents for third year, promotion, tenure review and award nominations. Learn to craft this statement with structure, guidance, resources and examples provided by faculty colleagues. Laptops helpful, but not essential.
For more information, call Margaret W. Cohen at 314-516-4508.

**Thursday, October 6**

**Free depression screening**
From 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located at MSC second floor and open to all.
University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services is offering free confidential screenings for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder to all members of the UMSL community.
For more information, contact Christopher Sullivan at 314-516-5711.
'Addams Family' gives delightfully funny Halloween treat

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Someone once said every family looks normal from the outside. Well, maybe not the Addams Family.

The new Broadway musical "The Addams Family" is haunting the Fox Theater through October 9. You may know them from the TV show and the movies, but before that they were a clever, bizarre comic in the New Yorker magazine. Cartoonist Charles Addams created a wide-ranging cast of characters, but especially popular were the scary, spooky family who turned conventions of normal suburban life inside out with delicious dark humor.

Playing around with what is normal and what is well, not so normal always has been at the center of "Addams Family" humor. This Broadway production draws more from the ironic, macabre cartoons than the TV show, but the familiar elements and characters are there. The playful, funny show opens with that finger-snapping tune from the TV show, but otherwise it is a brand-new score filled with comic song-and-dance numbers, interspersed with snappy patter and rapid-fire jokes worthy of stand-up or late night TV.

The show is the perfect comedy mix of Broadway and Halloween, appealing across generations. Especially for those who love all things zombie, creepy and Halloween, this is your ticket. Humor and fun are the big emphasis, but the comedy is surprisingly fresh. While there are a few standard "Addams Family" sight gags, like Pugsley delightfully being tortured on a rack by his sister during the song "Pulled," there are plenty of tossed-off quips on wide-ranging subjects. Quick, biting jokes and asides on topical subjects like Charlie Sheen or the red state-blue state divide all fly past so fast that, if you do not laugh at one, there will be another along in a minute.

All the familiar characters are here - Gomez (Douglas Sills) and Morticia (Sara Gettelfinger), butler Lurch (Tom Corbell), Uncle Fester (Blake Hammond), Grandma (Pippa Pearthree) and the children Pugsley (Patrick D. Kennedy) and Wednesday (Cortney Wolfson). Other favorites also appear.

But daughter Wednesday is now grown up and she is bringing home a boy, Lucas (Brian Justin Crum), to meet the parents. Lucas is likeable, steady and normal and he also is bringing his very conventional parents, Mal (Martin Vidnovic) and Alice (Crista Moore) Beineke, along from Ohio to dine at the Addams' New York home.

In some ways, it is like any seemingly mismatched families meeting. However, the Addams bring out the Beineke's inner weirdness as the Addams try to be normal. There is further family turmoil when Wednesday confides in daddy that she and Lucas are secretly engaged, leaving Gomez to face keeping a secret from his wife, something he has never done. Young Pugsley worries about losing his sister and both Gomez and Morticia worry about their little girl growing up. The Beinekes are just worried.

The Broadway staging is on display even before the show begins, as the stage is draped with a plush, gorgeous red curtain. The curtain is not just pretty, but also brings home a boy, Lucas (Brian Justin Crum), to meet the parents. Lucas is likeable, steady and normal and he also is bringing his very conventional parents, Mal (Martin Vidnovic) and Alice (Crista Moore) Beineke, along from Ohio to dine at the Addams' New York home.

The question of what is normal is a big theme of the play. The Addams think of themselves as a normal family - it is everybody else who is strange. In their world, collecting instruments of torture is a harmless hobby, kids play at poisoning each other and Mommy reassures there really is a monster under the bed. Of course, they really do love each other too.

The songs and production numbers are great fun, staged with a Mel Brooks flavor. The production good-naturedly spoofs Broadway musicals with Rockettes-meets-Rocky-Horror comic style.

Appropriately, the musical begins in a graveyard. Gomez and Morticia lead the troupe in singing the praises of family in "When You're an Addams," while visiting the family crypt for their annual resurrection of their dead ancestors. After all, as Morticia says, "Living or dead, they are still family."

The ancestors provide a high-energy chorus line, dressed in pale, ragged costumes through the ages. They include a 1920s flapper, a 1950s airline stewardess, a World War II soldier, a French aristocratic victim of the guillotine and, of course, a conquistador. This dancing chorus of the dead provides a lot of fun throughout, with high kicking and acrobatic comic dancing.

Sills plays Gomez with a boundless energy, while Gettelfinger is dingly cool as Morticia. Uncle Fester and Grandma are comic standouts, with a late turn by Lucas. Singing is uniformly good, but young Patrick D. Kennedy as Pugsley wowed the audience with his solo "What If."

Uncle Fester is particularly good, a kind of twisted romantic trying to help the young lovers while dropping tons of one-liners in a vaguely Bronx accent. His production number "The Moon and Me" in Act Two is particularly much a showstopper, as he serenades the moon in hilarious and cleverly-staged fashion. Grandma is feisty, funny, crazy and a bit stuck in the 1960s, but offers straight-shooting advice to a confused Wednesday.

Cortney Wolfson's Wednesday and Brian Justin Crum's Lucas are completely believable as contemporary young lovers. Their spooky duet involving a crossbow, "Crazier Than You," shines.

"Addams Family" is just plain fun, and just the thing to put one in the Halloween season spirit.

Grade B+
Bangles’ ’Sweetheart of the Sun’ a real hit after 8 years

ANGIE O’DELL
Staff Writer

The Bangles began in the 1960s, but became extremely popular in the 1980s with hits such as “Manic Monday” and “Walk Like an Egyptian” and features Susanna Hoffs, Vicki Peterson and Debbi Peterson.

While some of the songs were sitting on the back burner for ten years, according to the band, the new “Anna Lee (Sweetheart of the Sun)” pays tribute to the likes of Carol King, Carly Simon and Joni Mitchell influences on the band. The folk-acoustic influence of female singers like these legends seem to have influenced the band’s more folk-laden sounds, while chunky guitar beats mixed with new wave edge seem to influence some of the other songs on the album, such as drummer Debbie Peterson’s “Ball N Chain.”

“Mesmerized” is one of the other songs that lends an upbeat to a listening ear, as does “Circles in the Sky,” and the light and airy rendition “Under a Cloud.” About one third of the songs in the album are really catchy. The album could stand to be a little more upbeat and have a few more really edgy songs, but overall its delivery is excellent.

To fans of 1990s alternative bands such as Cake, a similar edgy guitar riff can be heard a good deal. This is in most of the songs and is appealing to fans of a wide variety of music. An absolutely high quality mixture of styles is represented here, with styles such as 1980s new wave, 1990s alternative, punk, pop and folk and 1960s style folk. Fans of any of these styles are in for a real treat. 1980s music fans and British new wavers should especially be happy. The Bangles are making their long anticipated comeback.

Swaying heads are likely for songs attributed to relationships, such as “Sweet and Tender Romance,” “One of Two” and “I’ll Never Be Through with You.” Faster going and less edgy, these songs offer melodic listening in pure form.

Picking up again near the end of the album, we have the reflective song, “What a Life,” reminiscent about the life that one has and upbeat about it at the same time. An exceptional song, all listeners are bound to love this one. Appealing to the ears of listeners is what this album attempts to do and mostly succeeds.

Grade: A-

New earth is a punch in face away on TV’s ’Terra Nova’

ALADEEN Kلونowski
Staff Writer

The Fox TV show “Terra Nova” lays most of its cards on the table in the pilot episodes. Earth in the year 2149 is synonymous with dysopia. People are forced to wear “rebreathers” to filter the air. There are laws in place to control the population. A billboard in a panoramic scene in the first thirty minutes reads “a family is four.” This establishes the problem the protagonists, the Shannon family, face. They have three children.

Jim and Elizabeth Shannon have Maddy and Josh, their legal children, plus Zoey, their illegal 2-year-old whom they have been hiding. Jim is a cop and Elizabeth is a highly educated doctor, so it is unclear why they have decided to chuck the birth control in favor of breaking the law. The only explanation comes from Jim Shannon to the leader of Terra Nova, Nathaniel Taylor. Jim says it “seemed like a good idea at the time.” Eventually they are caught, which becomes their motivation for a one-way ticket to Terra Nova. Early on the show establishes that it is about the family unit, and the viral marketing for the show stresses the importance of the family bond as well.

Months before the release of “Terra Nova,” fans could visit liveterranova.com for an interactive selection process for what it called the eleventh pilgrimage. The site connected with Facebook so the user could pick their family group. It allowed six people to be chosen as candidates and whisked them down to our through tough questions about who might steal, or who would be left behind in an emergency. Once four have been selected as the best candidates, it moves on to skill-based games with a warning that a member of your family is being held hostage and if the game is lost, so is the member. If there is something Fox does right, it is viral marketing.

The show did have the cliches that seem to come with pilot episode territory. They provide the viewers with a base knowledge. The plot does not have to dish out years of character development if they are based on a stereotype the viewer is familiar with, such as the “I have issues with my father” dynamic established between Jim and the headstrong Josh. Although “Terra Nova” does play with this, having a minor character point out to Josh that he is probably just like his father was just that.

What it lacks in strong characters, “Terra Nova” makes up for in action and dinosaurs, which is all anyone is watching for. From start to finish, Jim Shannon finds himself in bad situation. He has to break out of prison, break into “Terra Nova,” tackle an armed gunman and generally save the day. Plus, a gang of emancipated teenagers sneak “OTG” out the gate what? To make moonshine in the jungle. This show peddles its wares to every demographic.

“Terra Nova” had plenty of man-eating dinosaurs, one-of-which really did eat a man. Plus a lot of dinosaurs getting shot in the face but, alas, only the beloved Brontosaurus made an appearance as a good dinosaur. That is a cliche also but, come on, who did not want to see those big guys in the first episode?

Grade: B-
Renowned violinist Janet Sung delivers great recital

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

You do not have to go to far to listen to world class musicians, as the Department of Music here at University of Missouri - St. Louis once again brings in special talent to the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater.

World recognized violinist Janet Sung performed alongside American pianist William Wolfram in a free concert sponsored by the university's artists-in-residence, the Arianna String Quartet, on Thursday, September 29. Both musicians have international experience, and anytime you have two musicians with this much talent and experience on stage, you are in for quite a show.

The show started off very slow and ominous, with the musicians playing pieces written by Anton Webern in the early twentieth century. The notes for these pieces were very precise; it was a fast, moving musical piece with good range among notes and transitions.

This was the first display of the true talent of the artists, and the difficulty for this musical selection was much higher than the previous ones. The two artists displayed great harmony here. This was a more true classical sound, setting the pace for the rest of the evening.

The second piece set a romantic tone. It gave the feeling of falling in love for the first time, or perhaps loving someone whom you cannot have. Anytime a song can capture an emotion for the audience, you know it is good.

The third song was the cheeriest of the evening with quick notes and rapid transitions. The final song in that set was very classical sounding with Wolfram playing a flawless rendition of Beethoven, but with a name like that, how can you not kill it? The two artists had a very powerful harmony while closing this selection, drawing a large reaction from the audience.

After the intermission, the musicians came out again with a serious and somber tone. Wolfram's fingers played rapidly all across the piano for this one, making it seem like he played every note the pianist had to offer. This piece had a very interesting tone with movements of somber jubilee, as if you had just gotten away with a serious crime or you had just seen something beautiful being destroyed; sometimes it gave a feeling of nervousness, other times contentment.

The final piece maintained the same tone, but a little more light-hearted and free-spirited as the notes were very quick. Sung really got down to this song, displaying her amazing skills on the violin. She played in rapid succession for minutes at a time, even playing while turning the pages of her songbook. Wolfram really showed his emotion in this piece, showing more body language and passion than he had all night and playing the hell out of the piano.

Sung and Wolfram had an incredible finish, playing powerfully and harmoniously in a picture perfect finish, making the crowd rise to their feet in applause immediately upon finish. The Q&A session followed the performance.

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TheCurrent-Online.com
Surprising comedy ‘50/50’ gets cancer experience right on nose

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

A young man with a cancer diagnosis seems like an unlike basis for a comedy, yet writer Will Reiser turned his own real-life bout with cancer into just that in “50/50.”

With a strong cast headed by Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen, “50/50” finds the dry humor and heart in coping with a scary disease, while avoiding tear-jerking or false-seeming sentiment. And who better to find that perfect balance than someone who has gone through that battle themselves? Will Reiser’s personal experience lets “50/50” find the humor in enduring chemo, the laughter in friendships formed with fellow patients and the embarrassments of the many indignities of the disease.

Adam Lerner (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is a quiet, unassuming 27-year-old who is so cautious that he will not even jaywalk. Life is good for Adam. He has a job he likes at NPR, a beautiful girlfriend named Rachel (Bryce Dallas Howard) and longtime buddy Kyle (Seth Rogen) to hang out with, who helps Adam stay in touch with the goofy side. Doing the right thing is Adam’s mantra. He recycles, flosses, eats right and exercises. It may not be exciting, but Adam has a smug confidence that his play-it-safe approach protects him from life’s worst.

The last thing he expects is a cancer diagnosis. His chances are put at 50 percent - 50/50. Facing that shock with him are a host of beginners feeling their way through this very foreign territory. His support group includes his impulsive, crude friend Kyle, who thinks his buddy’s cancer diagnosis is a good pick up hook for pity sex, his flighty, artsy girlfriend Rachel and his overbearing, nervous mother (Angelica Huston) who wants to hover over her only child.

Add to the mix a newbie therapist named Katherine (Anna Kendrick) plus a host of incomprehensible doctors and a large confusing treatment facility. Everyone wants to be supportive, but figuring it out is tough. It is all so absurd, Adam has to laugh, which, as the saying goes, is the best medicine. Tragedy and comedy have always been closely linked, something exploited by earliest comic masters like Charlie Chaplin.

“50/50” is about friendship, survival and love, all in one unexpectedly funny, touching and true package. There is not one false emotional note in this funny, human story.

The real-life based script is a great asset but so is the amazing cast. Joseph Gordon-Levitt continues to astound as an actor, giving Adam just the right doses of appealing vulnerability, irritability and hidden inner strength as he learns to let others help in their own odd ways. His character is always fully human, always complex, never pat and predictable.

Seth Rogen’s comic instincts soar, but his character is also nuanced and surprisingly complicated. Few of the people turn out as you expect, with strong ones buckling and weak ones standing up, just as real life brings out the unexpected in people. Angelica Huston is wonderful as Adam’s mother, with whom Adam has a prickly relationship, Anna Kendrick is a charming mix of warmth, well-meaning missteps and disorganization.

The film is never maudlin and comedy is its heart. Yet sometimes, one can have too much of a good thing. The film avoids all the expected clichés and is always clear-eyed and honest. The guys Adam meets during chemo become like buddies at a favorite bar, trading jokes and insider tales about life with cancer.

They also become like war buddies, trading quips with a similar dark humor and an acknowledgment that not all will survive. However this is a comedy, so do not look for gritty medical realistic details of the course of treatment and the disease. Those matters are handled with some taste and restraint.

“50/50” is a sure winner with audiences and likely to garner some Oscar buzz, especially for its gifted cast. Funny yet inspiring, “50/50” is accessible to those who have not experienced cancer, yet true enough for those who have. It features brilliant acting and an inspired comedy script, present with a sure directorial hand.

“50/50” is a must-see film.

- Grade: B+

Concert by band Hymn for Her saves night at Crack Fox

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

The Crack Fox, a concert venue and art bar located at 1114 Olive Street, recently played host to the band Hymn For Her on September 23. Band members Lucy Tight and Wayne Waxing are touring for their new album “Crack Fox, Waxing/The AmARican Stream,” in a vintage Airstream camper.

Could Hymn For Her really bring their complicated sound to life on stage? That should have been the question of the night. Except “why is there a dog in this bar?” and “why did the opener sound check and then wander off for an hour?” became more relevant to the immediate experience.

The front door was propped open. A man nonchalantly entered and his dog followed, a large black lab that could best be described as jaded. Many of the patrons called out to it, wanting to pet the puppy, but they were ignored. The dog—heartlessly sniffed around as its owner chatted at the bar. After a few minutes, man and dog strolled out just as easily, leaving one to assume this was a bar for its regulars.

There had been hope initially, the place looked nice. It boasted “concert venue and art bar” under its name on the special menu. There was some interesting stuff on the walls. There are a lot of things that qualify as acceptable when it comes to art. Unfortunately for The Crack Fox, a poorly caricatured chalk outline of an overly endowed woman on the women’s bathroom door is not one of them. That is just tacky.

At 9 p.m. there were about ten people. There was a chance that some of the people who might have been there normally were at Taste of St. Louis a few blocks away. Or they had been and had gone home to sleep off the food coma. The bar seemed hopeful that if they postponed the show by an hour, more people would show up.

When the show finally started, the opener was a band called One Take. There were four members and each played their instrument well, but they lacked in stage presence and energy. Their music had a lounge quality that, coupled with the depressant nature of beer, had the audience ready for bed.

At long last, Hymn for Her took the stage. Wayne Waxing was a musical tour-de-force, playing up to four instruments at a time. He used a foot each for the hi-hat and the bass drum, and alternated between a banjo, an acoustic guitar, and the band’s homemade cigar box guitar, which ran through two separate machines to produce the impression of two distinct instruments. He sang, played the harmonica strapped to his neck and looked like a rock star doing all of it, complete with aviators.

Here is the kicker, even though Waxing split his attention and Lucy Tight seemed sleep deprived, the music remained absolutely theirs. It was recorded in such a way that what you heard on their CD, “Lucy and Wayne and The AmARican Stream,” was exactly what you got from the live show.

So, if fans of their latest album will love watching it come to life in person when this duo cuts through St. Louis in their shiny chrome camper.

- Grade: B
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE AT UMSL PRESENTS:

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Missouri women honored for accomplishments through exhibit

ANGIE O'DELL
Staff Writer

Women are the future of Missouri, a fact proven with the induction of five excellent women into the “Outstanding Women of Missouri: Traveling History Exhibit.” In the Millennium Student Center Century rooms on Wednesday September 28, Dorothy Gaynor Blake (deceased), L. Gaynor, Frankie Freeman, Dr. Blanche Touhill and Margaret Wilson (deceased) were honored for their outstanding strides in Missouri and their communities.

Sponsored by The Missouri Women’s Council, the master of ceremonies was Heidi Glaus from News Channel 5, KSDK. “I am very excited. What an honor to be a part of this and be in the same room as all of these strong, determined, passionate women,” Heidi Glaus, News Channel 5, said. Glaus proceeded to honor the five inductees with an excellent welcome speech, paying additional homage to women in general.

University of Missouri-St. Louis Chancellor, Thomas F. George, was in attendance and delivered the most warming speech to the ladies of honor. Keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, also came out to welcome the honorees with stories of Missouri women who had triumphed through struggles and made a name for themselves.

President of Dietrich Lockard Group, Dorothy Gaynor-Lockard was the namesake of her mother, honoree Dorothy Gaynor, composer, singer and pianist. She accepted awards on behalf of her mother and her grandmother. Her grandmother Jessie L. Gaynor was a pioneer of music in the Saint Louis Public Schools, composer and concert performer. “I feel it is lovely that they are looking at posthumous women of distinction that were strong and made a positive contribution to the world and I hope they are an inspiration to younger women,” Gaynor-Lockard said.

Accepting the induction award for Margaret Bush Wilson was Saint Louis Family Court Judge Anne-Marie Clarke. “I think it is a tremendous honor. I am very proud of her and saddened that she is not here to be able to accept for herself,” she said.

Honoree Dr. Blanche M. Touhill, former Chancellor of UMSL from 1991-2002, contributed in numerous ways to The University, adding over 30 academic programs, 17 new buildings, the first student housing and the Mercantile Library, among numerous other improvements to the university.

Dr. Touhill was also the first woman at UMSL to successfully go through tenure. “I am just delighted because I do think Missouri women have made great strides in my lifetime and I hope women will continue to do that,” Dr. Touhill said.

Civil Rights Activist and Attorney Frankie Muse Freeman was an inductee that was in attendance. “I am very delighted. I have worked and been a lawyer practicing in Missouri and handled some cases that ended segregation and am a member of The Chancellor's Council and proud to be involved and work and make this community,” Frankie Muse Freeman, said.

Attendees had positive things to say about the event as well. Yolanda Robinson, President and Founder of Women in Vision, Inc. said that she thought that it was inspiring to see women step out of their comfort zone and make this event. “I think it was good to learn about the contributions of women, particularly in Missouri, because most of the time we think about our heroes, they are usually men,” Dr. Malika Horne, President of the Executive Leadership Consortium, said.

The ceremony was an astounding success, as is the program each year. The event, sponsored by the Missouri Women’s Council, promotes the economic success of Missouri women by connecting them to programs. Programs include the Outstanding Women of Missouri Traveling History Exhibit, a Resource Guide, “A Women’s Edition Monthly” publication, an Award of Distinction and Conferences and workshops. Since 2002, the exhibit has been honoring outstanding Missouri women for their many accomplishments.
Alpha Fraternity hosts “Welcome to the Yard” at Wash U

ENDEA WILBERT
Staff Writer

“Welcome to the Yard” was held Sept. 28 at Washington University’s Anheuser-Busch Athletic Complex.

The event was coordinated by the Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Phi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Iota Phi Beta.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was incorporated on Dec. 4, 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and was one of the first Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternities. It was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and was one of the first Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternities.

The event was held to encourage the highest and noblest forms of manhood and to aid downtrodden humanity in its efforts to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status. The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was incorporated as the first Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity.

The Alpha Fraternity hosts an event every year called “Welcome to the Yard” which is to encourage the highest and noblest forms of manhood and to aid downtrodden humanity in its efforts to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status. Alpha Fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and was one of the first Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternities.

Pierre Laclede Honors College challenges the student body

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

What are the names of the four railroads in a standard game of monopoly? St. Louis was the first host of what event? Is drinking beer while sitting on the curb of this city considered illegal? These were some of the many questions answered in the Museum Room by the Pierre Laclede Honors College students’ association on Sept. 29.

The event was “Are you Smarter than the Professor?” and its purpose was to help students prepare for the upcoming test.

We wanted, as admission, for people to bring two canned goods to get into the event tonight and the heads or tails game that we play in between. All donations go to the St. Patrick’s Center, Jessica Bleile, junior, mathematics, said. “They do a variety of services for the homeless and people who are seeking jobs and need food and clothing.”

What are the names of the four railroads in a standard game of monopoly? St. Louis was the first host of what event? Is drinking beer while sitting on the curb of this city considered illegal? These were some of the many questions answered in the Museum Room by the Pierre Laclede Honors College students’ association on Sept. 29.

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*VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.thecurrent-online.com*
HISLA joins forces to promote Hispanic Heritage Month

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

“The Hispanic culture, in particular, is one of the fastest growing groups in the United States and in the St. Louis area,” Ashlee Roberts, coordinator of diversity and service for the Office of Student Life, said.

Throughout this month, the University of Missouri - St. Louis’ Hispanic Latino Association, along with other clubs, organizations and associations, have been spreading Hispanic heritage among the student body with free dance lessons, theater and guest appearances by distinguished lecturers. September 15, they chose to kick off the celebration with Zumba lessons on the patio of the Millennium Student Center.

“This is Hispanic Heritage month and it starts in the middle of September and goes along through October. Salsa Night has been one of the main events that we have had every year since my freshman year,” Chan­tal Rivadenyra, senior, management information system and international business, HISLA president, said. “We recruit a lot of members because of the types of events that we have because people are able to merge in what we do.”

September 21, the association hosted “UMSL Explores Ancient Mexico,” a panel in which assistant professor of anthropology, Dr. Michael Ohnert, discussed the research he directed at Chacalalita, Nayarit, an ancient find­ing associated with West Mexico’s Aztec culture. He actually goes to Mexico every summer and does research and different archeology things. They had Zumba class outside on the patio; which was kind of the kick off event. This was very successful, as a lot of people came and it has been really good so far.

September 22 was Salsa Night for HISLA in the Pilot House. All of those who came out were given a free salsa lesson. “I am liking learning how to salsa dance. I have never done it before and I have two left feet,” Jesika White, freshman, psychology, said.

Inexperience did not stop students from participating. The experienced came out just to have a good time. The event was disc-jockeyed by Keith Robinson, senior, information systems BSIS, of the U-Student Radio.

“I am apart of the U-Radio and I am also apart of the U-News. I decided to come out here today and help teach salsa because I love to dance and it is right up my alley. Alexis Jackson, sophomore, biology and pre-law, said. I am really enjoying myself. Jackson spent the night shimmying in her purple sequined boots.

Following Salsa Night, the Office of Student Life and Prizm (Queer-Straight Alliance) hosted the bilingual play “Duende de Lucha” on September 26. It showcased the life of Spanish poet and dra­matist, Federico Garcia Lorca.

HISLA has not been the only group to promote Hispanic Heritage month. Some of the other participants include the Office of Multicultural Relations, Office of International Student Services, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Office of Student Services and Scholar­ship and more. The Office of Student Life acts as coordinators of Hispanic Heritage month.

“I coordinated Hispanic Heritage month as far as contacting different entities and departments to get them involved in producing more of a recognition in celebrating Hispanic Heritage month of UMSL’s campus,” Roberts said. “Hispanic Heritage is very multifaceted as far as people are not monolithic so you want to be able to present different aspects of a culture and of people and not just one view. We are not just going to focus on chips and salsa very cliché things that people think of, because any culture is going to be deeper than what is presented in glimpses.”

With Hispanic Heritage Month still taking place, HISLA has already made plans involving the future of their club. “Right now, we have at least 25 members that have already signed up. We want to be able to offer the student body the opportunity to be able to speak with a native speaker,” Rivadenyra said.

UMSL’s own “Hat-Man” displays Cardinals hats at MSC

BADEA EAD
Staff Writer

Tom Lange, also known as “The Hat-Man”, is a mail carrier at UMSL and has worked here for over 15 years. He has received attention for creating and donning St. Louis Cardinals hats to games, awarding him the opportunity to meet some of his favorite St. Louis Cardinals icons. His full St. Louis Cardinals hat collection is currently on display in the Millennium Student Center next to the book store.

The Current: What do you think of the display case of your St. Louis Cardinal hat?
Tom Lange: I am so honored. It has been unbelievable how many people have made comments to me about them.

TC: What prompted you to make your St. Louis Cardinals hats?
TL: I made my first Cardinals hat to try to get tickets to opening day at New Busch Stadium. I had been to 26 opening days before 2006, but ticket purchasing changed to online only. I tried to come up with something to get tickets. I knew that they sometimes gave tickets away at the rally before the game for unusual things, so I made my first hat. Then they won the World Series that year, so I made the “10 Times World Series Champions” hat and the tradition started.

TC: What are your favorite St. Louis Cardinals hats that you’ve made?
TL: Each one is very special to me. When I made the World Series hat, people gathered to see it. Even I was amazed. The “Tribute to Stan Musial” hat was seen by Stan and his family, after I was told he wanted to meet me and see it. Ozzie Smith was very impressed when he first saw his hat. He gave me the thumbs up DVD from the World Series trophy.

TC: What sort of attention have you gotten?
TL: It is a great feeling to see the people’s reaction to the hats, especially the younger crowd. Some have pictures with each of my hats and they watch for me to see (my new) hats. The first hat was on the cover of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and in the book, Busch Stadium: The First Season. I’m in the Official St. Louis Cardinals Championship DVD from 2006, and have been on Sports Illustrated, com, St. Louis Cardinals yearbooks and the All Star Game year book. I have been interviewed by all of the local networks and even TV stations from other cities covering the games.

TC: Are you working on any new Cardinals hat? Describe what they look like.
TL: I always look for a theme. Maybe the Eleventh World Series trophy in 2011! I had an idea to honor the thirtieth anniversary if the 1982 World Series champions, so that is in the works now.

TC: What is your advice for UMSL students who might want to take up an unusual hobby like you have with making your hats?
TL: Just do it! So many people have great ideas but never follow through. Go on and take the challenge. Be creative. Show the world your talents.
Men's soccer notches big conference victory with overtime

Owen Shroyer
Sports Editor

Friday night, conference rival Drury came to town for a battle of conference rank. It took extra time to decide a winner. University of Missouri St. Louis and Drury were both trying to win their second game in a row, and gain an edge in the conference.

In the first half, the Tritons successfully played a game of possession soccer. They dominated the ball, passing fluidly and trying to get a slow build up for an offensive opportunity. Most of these opportunities involved Almin Sabotic, who was at it early and often. The first scoring opportunity for the Tritons came just over ten minutes into the game on a quick build-up close to the box, where Peter Hyde made a close touch pass to Sabotic, and Sabotic quickly played it through to David Schwer, who just touched the ball too far, and the keeper forced his off-balance shot wide. Sabotic and Schwer displayed their chemistry again minutes later, as they passed it back and forth, but it was punched out by keeper, earning the game’s first corner. In the thirty-second minute, Sabotic made a great run on the net, beating the last defender with a spin move, missing just left of the goal. The first half was dominated by UMSL, with Drury’s little opportunities in their offensive half being squandered by sloppy possession.

The second half played differently, a much quicker pace with possession exchanged constantly. It looked like the Tritons might get on the board early when Sabotic sent a through ball to Schwer that looked to get through the last line of defense for a square on goal, but was booted out at the last second. Drury’s only shot on net for the game came in the fifty-third minute on a cross from the left side that got just under the crossbar, only to be punched out by Tim Boruff.

The Tritons had a nice buildup in the fifty-fifth minute, with Sabotic making a run towards the box then crossing it to Schwer. His shot was saved, and Hyde kicked the rebound opportunity over the net. The closest anyone came to a goal was Bruce who shot a hard grounder on goal from ten yards out that was just barely saved by the goalie’s fingertips on a fully extended dive.

The Tritons continued to have opportunities in the closing minutes, with Sabotic, Bruce and O’Mara all generating shots, but none could beat Drury’s goalie Stephen Conner, who had a solid night, keeping the Panthers in the game and getting them to overtime.

It did not take long in overtime to decide a winner, as the Tritons quickly built up an attack in the offensive zone, driving the ball deep into the box where Sabotic crossed it in, and Hyde touched it off the crossbar and in for the Tritons’ victory. This was Hyde’s first goal as a Triton. “It feels great, this is a big win, and we needed it. We have been struggling a little bit to win games, so it’s nice to get one to win,” Peter Hyde, senior, business administration, said. This was the first time the Tritons had beaten the Panthers since they entered the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

This win jolted the Tritons back into the postseason picture and gives them some momentum heading into a matchup with seventh-ranked in the nation, Missouri S&T. A victory here would establish the Tritons as a true contender in conference.
The University of Missouri - St. Louis women's volleyball team recorded another solid conference win Wednesday night, beating the University of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles in four sets at home.

This was an important win for the team since Southern Indiana has had their number in the past, winning the last four meetings between the two. The Tritons dominated statistically with highlights including sophomore Chelsea Burkale's 18 kills, and fellow sophomore Anna McNulty's whopping 50 assists.

The Tritons came out swinging in the first set, recording a 25-19 win. McNulty and Freshman Alisha Skaggs each recorded a service ace and the team as a whole recorded a match best nineteen kills. The Tritons also bested the Screaming Eagles in hitting percentage .333 to .225. The team would carry the momentum of the first set over, winning the second set in convincing fashion 25-16. Chelsea Burkale tallied two service aces and Alisha Skaggs notched her second of the night as well. Clean play was key to winning the second set, with the team only notching 14 kills but recording a team beat hit percentage of .407 and only three errors. In comparison, Southern Indiana posted a game low .143 hitting percentage with six errors.

The Screaming Eagles rallied back to win the third set, holding on to an early lead to win the set with a score of 20-25. USI played their best set of the night statistically in the third, recording 19 kills and an impressive .500 team hitting percentage. UMSL was able to keep the set close by playing a clean game and hustling but still found their lead trimmed to 2-1 through three sets.

The Tritons, however, were able to recover to bring home victory in the fourth set, with a final score of 25-20. Early on in the set the team was behind by five points, but they were able to get it together and take advantage of USI's game high eight errors to score the comeback win.

Tritons head coach, Ryan Young, credits quick thinking and defensive intensity as key factors in Wednesday's game. "They played with no hesitation and made the plays that they needed to make to get the win," Young said, after the game. "The past few days in practice we've been working really hard on defense and not letting a ball hit the floor and I think it showed during the game," said Chelsea Burkale, senior, nursing. All of the team's hard work in practice payed off, and the crowd of 156 cheering parents and students were treated to a great game and a satisfying win.

After picking up the victory, the Tritons are now ranked second in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West division with a conference record of 5-2 and an overall record of 9-4. USI fell to third place in the East with a conference record of 5-2, .500 overall.

Looking forward, the Tritons will face twenty-first-ranked Lewis at home before they begin a three-game road trip October 5, when they will play at McKendree University, St. Joseph's College October 8 and at the University of Indianapolis on October 9.

Coming up with wins in these important matchups will help the Tritons to shore up a guaranteed spot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament, which is what this talented team expected heading into the 2011 season.
Point/Counterpoint

Should capital punishment remain a part of the justice system?

The death penalty is a practical and even necessary aspect of U.S. criminal justice

On September 21, 2011, the state of Georgia executed a man named Troy Davis, convicted years ago of murder. After the execution, some were shocked, some were saddened and all were sobered at the fate of a man whose guilt was in question. Whether he was a convict who got what some say he had coming or a tragic victim of our legal system, no one will know for sure. Davis’ case dragged a controversial issue to the forefront of the nation’s mind once again, that of capital punishment and whether it has a place in our justice system.

Amnesty International staunchly opposes capital punishment. Their website currently reads, “The state of Georgia shamefully executed Troy Davis on September 21, 2011 despite serious doubts about his guilt. But our fight to abolish the death penalty lives on.” They cite the fact that Davis’ conviction was weakly supported by eyewitness testimony, including testimony from another suspect of the crime he allegedly committed, and the fact that the majority of this testimony was later recanted, as a reason for their opposition.

The particulars of the Davis case are not directly connected to the death penalty. Questions about eyewitness testimony and issues that the criminal justice system must address separately and resolve in order to avoid convicting the innocent. The fact that the justice system does have loopholes and soft spots has nothing to do with the death penalty, which receives too much attention compared to the other flaws in the legal system that allow wrongful convictions and Davis-esque mistakes to occur.

DNA testing has been used as an argument against capital punishment, even though the ability to scientifically prove guilt through DNA should make death penalty cases even more ironclad. According to ProDeathPenalty.com, “Death penalty opponents claim that since 1973, 102 people in 25 states have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.” This claim is completely false. DNA testing should give the legal system more justification to use capital punishment, since there is little danger of false accusation or wrongful execution of criminals whose guilt was proven through testing.

The practical application of the death penalty cannot be denied. According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, it costs $47,102 dollars to house an inmate for a year. This money comes from taxes, and there are few who like the thought of their income going to support a prisoner. Moreover, our prisons are underfunded and overcrowded, and the fewer inmates that prisons need hold, the easier it is for everyone else.

However, concern for monetary or space practicality should not override caution. There is no question that a judge and jury are morally obligated to be sure beyond a reasonable doubt of a person’s guilt before sentencing them to death. The death penalty is an appropriate sentence for particularly heinous crimes.

Troy Davis’ fate was sobering and regrettable, for his guilt was clearly in question. However, it does not demonstrate that the death penalty does not belong in the American criminal justice system, but instead that care must be taken to ensure it is used properly.

America’s death penalty is guilty of being unethical, as well as outdated, overused

The case of the State of Georgia v. Troy Davis is like something out of a television crime drama. Unlike in a TV ending, though, the conclusion of Troy Davis’ story - his execution on September 21 by lethal injection - leaves more questions than answers.

Davis was sent to Georgia’s death row for the 1989 murder of off-duty Savannah police officer Mark MacPhail. Over the years since Davis received his death sentence, a large group of supporters has accumulates. They claim his conviction was unjust and that he was the victim of mistaken identity.

Davis’ attorneys claim that seven of the nine witnesses who testified against him at his trial now disagree either all or part of their testimony. It is clear that his death was a prime example of the flaws of America’s death penalty. His guilt is the million dollar question on the minds of many. However, that question is irrelevant now. Davis will never be able to prove his guilt or innocence. Officially, Georgia’s legal system considers the case to be closed.

The larger problem at hand is that the state of Georgia allowed a man to be put to death despite the large amount of evidence suggesting he may have been innocent. In Georgia’s attempt to uphold Davis’ conviction they turned a blind eye to the fact that the majority of the witnesses against him disputed their testimony.

The criminal justice system in America was created with a number of check points in place, in order to ensure that the guilty receive punishment and the innocent go free. Davis slipped through these check points. Because of this, he died strapped on top of a metal gurney.

Davis’ death is a blaring indication that the death penalty is outdated. These days the criminal justice system is rapidly changing. Forensic sciences and technology are advancing at a record pace. The media’s coverage of crime is constantly expanding. The notion of a convicted person being executed in front of a small room of spectators seems almost barbaric.

Capital punishment truly is the ultimate form of retribution. The death penalty is a form of good-old-boys justice that does not fit into the due process model of America’s criminal justice system. Additionally, it is notoriously difficult to get a death sentence overturned or even reduced, even when new evidence is brought to light. When a person’s life is on the line, despite whatever horrendous crime they are accused of committing, every measure absolutely must be taken to be positive of their guilt. Quite often, and especially in Davis’ case, those measures are not taken.

There are bad guys in the world, far worse than anything that haunted our nightmares as children. There is evil inside of some people that is frightening and dangerous, and crimes are committed every day that tear lives apart. Supporters of the death penalty often believe that it is supposed to be reserved for the worst of the worst, those who are so unshakably rotten to the core that the only way to stop them from committing crime is to execute them. In real life, things don’t work out that way. If the death penalty is not abolished innocent people will die and the fairness of our justice system will be in doubt.
Opinions

OUR OPINION

Obama’s new tax regimen: to anger the rich, poor, or both?

Class warfare is a fairly controversial topic. Whether it is spouted off by those with or those without, it is commonly used as a cover-all term for any situation in which one class finds themselves improperly treated by another. This is often a situation in which one group of persons, herein referred to as a “class,” feels they are being denied something which they feel entitled to. This has been felt by both sides over the years. The upper classes believe they are the victims of class warfare anytime the lower classes wish to raise taxes on the rich. In return, the poor then feel they are the victims of class warfare in any instance where the rich cut government spending on social service programs such as welfare, Medicaid or unemployment.

However, in this particular case, it is clearly the rich who simply will not see the light of day. Yes, studies have shown that stratification of income has helped to spread societal growth in the past. However, that study really has no relevance now, unless America plans to return to Feudalism. Are we, as a nation, really going to begin “spreading out” and taking over other lands in order to help with the problem of stratified economies? No. The time for such a course of action is far in the past. The rich refuse to recognize that it is their own frivolous behavior which has led to this crisis in the first place. When the United States is importing more luxuries than we could ever hope to export, and it is the rich who are stockpiling such things at a rate so alarming, even the subjects of shows such as “Boardwalk” will be appalled, something is truly wrong.

Beyond even this point, it is not even all the upper class who believes Obama’s plans to raise taxes on the rich to be a form of class warfare. In traditional political partisan behavior, the Republicans have simply grabbed on to the first phrase they believed would serve their interests in gaining some form of emotional support, and are now throwing it around as a coverall term for anything Obama does which does not ring true to Republican interests. This is backed up by the fact that both the upper and lower classes believe that Republicans are only interested in helping out those with money, whereas a majority of those polled believe that Obama’s new plans are not class warfare, whether they are of the upper or the lower class.

Republicans need to realize that while Obama may not be the savior he was made out to be in the polls, this does not mean that all Americans are stupid. Obama’s plans to raise taxes on the rich are not “class warfare,” but rather a simple measure in order to attempt balancing of this country’s immense deficit to the rest of the world, before the rest of the world decides to balance it for us. Face it America, most rich Republicans care only for one thing: their own pocket book. If you touch their ability to spend nine months out of the year on vacation, they will bitch and moan. Make a decision: anger the majority, or the minority. One way or another, the debt is solved.

Unsung editorial reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current’s Editorial Board: Matthew Popoleski, Minho Jung, Ashley Atkins, Cate Marquis, Jennifer Meahan, Jeremy Zschau and Janaca Scherer.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

Fair and balanced: Media bias more even than some think

One of the most enduring concepts to have come out of the 2000 presidential election was the idea of media bias. While it may not have been a new concept, conservatives turned it into a buzzword in the fall of 2000 with their claims that the media was being unfair and harsh to their candidate, George W. Bush, especially in comparison to their treatment of his Democratic opponent, then-Vice President Al Gore.

Of course, the media’s supposed hatred of George Bush didn’t stop him from winning the election that year, but neither did it stop conservatives from playing what would soon become one of their favorite cards. In the decade since, nearly every unfavorable portrayal of a prominent conservative in the media has been met with accusations of bias. Fox News won over its viewership by decrying the liberal bias of the mainstream media to anyone who would listen, while putting out its own tinted version of events all the while.

The visceral reaction of conservatives against mainstream media might lead one to believe, then, that most media outlet are little more than paid shills for the Democratic Party. (This is, at least, what many at Fox seem to wish people would think, at any rate.) But can this be true? Well, in the world of Fox News, perhaps, but things in reality are a little more complicated than that. Even at the height of the Bush administration, there were plenty of mainstream pundits who lined up with Fox’s lineup of immoderately cofiured talking heads to defend the president against his critics in the media and the liberal blogosphere. Neither has his successor, President Obama, been handled with kid gloves by the media. Even MSNBC, regarded as a progressive counterpart to Fox, has been critical of the current president. Liberal bias, where are you?

As another example, compare the rise of the Tea Party with the current Occupy Wall Street movement. When the Tea Party first began as an expression of undirected political anger, it was covered almost as a curiosity, the flavor of the week and little more. As it morphed into a slightly more coherent political organization, one with a decided conservative bent, more coverage followed, until not a day could pass without some bit of Tea Party-related news making it onto the airwaves. Given the undirected nature of the movement in its early days, it’s quite possible the Tea Party would have dissipated in time if not for the heaps of publicity they received from all that news coverage.

So, in a way, we have the supposedly liberal media to thank for the existence of the Tea Party, and the prominence of people like Michele Bachmann. Think about that for a moment. The Occupy Wall Street movement began in a similar way: an expression of anger against the movers and shakers in this country. In this case, though, the protesters were liberals and progressives directing their voices against the financial establishment instead of the political one. It’s a protest like nothing that’s been seen in this country since the tumultuous days of the 1960s, complete with police brutality, tent cities full of protesters and the whole nine yards. Yet, in comparison, the protest is receiving almost no news coverage.

Of course, just as in any other profession, both conservatives and liberals work in the media, and they are as human as anyone else, each with their own inherent opinions, beliefs and biases to one side or another. Newton’s Third Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Similarly, conservative bias exists as much as liberal bias in the world of the media. Bias goes both ways and the sooner we can accept that, the better off we’ll be in the long run.

Jeremy Zschau is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.
SCIENOE MATTERS

It is not hysterl to worry about too many listeria outbreaks

Reports of people sickened and even killed by listeria-contaminated foods has dominated the news in the past week. First, it was cantaloupes from Colorado, then it was romaine lettuce from California.

As of last Friday, 84 people had been sickened by contaminated cantaloupe and 15 people had died in either state. It is the deadliest food poisoning outbreak since 1998. The 1998 event was caused by listeria too, when 21 people died after eating listeria-contaminated hot dogs and deli meats.

The contaminated cantaloupes were shipped to 28 states, including Missouri and Illinois, according to the Food and Drug Administration. The melons were sold in Wal-Marts, Safeways and other big retail chains between July 29 and September 10. The recall of contaminated chopped romaine lettuce has been extended to 21 states and Canada, although no cases of illness have been reported yet.

We seem to increasingly hear about food contamination, something that once seemed rare. While repeated food recalls have made salmonella and E. coli familiar disease-causing organisms, listeria is less so.

Listeria monocytogenes is a gram-positive, rod-shaped bacterium often found living inside animals. In small concentrations, it rarely sickens people, but it can do so if populations of the microbes grow large. Unfortunately, the microbes are able to multiply at low temperatures so it can grow even in refrigerated foods.

Infection with listeria monocytogenes is known as listeriosis. The infection has the potential to cause severe illness and even death but these worst outcomes are usually in older people, pregnant women or people with weakened immune systems.

A person is infected by eating contaminated food. Initial symptoms resemble the flu, with muscle aches and fever. Some may also develop gastrointestinal symptoms. The disease can then develop into serious infections such as septicaemia, meningitis or encephalitis. Infection in pregnant women can lead to stillbirth. The infection can only be confirmed by lab test, culturing the microbe from blood or cerebrospinal fluid.

One problem with determining how many people may have been infected in the recent outbreak is listeria's long incubation period, which can range from three days to three weeks.

What are the potential sources of contamination? Listeria can persist on food processing equipment, even for years. Proper cleaning and pasteurization kill it but foods can be contaminated after cooking and it can then grow on the refrigerated product. Cleanliness, cooking and careful food-handling in commercial facilities help prevent it. Not letting foods stay around too long, helps too by not allowing microbes to multiply.

At home, raw foods should be washed before being cut or peeled. Hard-skinned melons can be scrubbed before cutting. Do not use a knife or peeler on unwashed produce and then washed produce. Otherwise, it is basic kitchen cleaning and safety - surfaces and tools such as knives and peelers washed after every use, spills cleaned up, refrigerators kept clean and cold enough.

Annually, there are approximately 800 laboratory-confirmed cases of listeriosis in the United States. Outbreaks are often associated with deli meats, unpasteurized cheeses or refrigerated smoked seafood, so these recent outbreaks associated with fresh produce seem even more striking.

These outbreaks have to raise questions about how safe our food is and how good a job the FDA is doing in monitoring it.

Before the 1980s, people ate raw eggs and did not worry about salmonella. But then egg production moved from family farms to factories, and overcrowded chickens infected with salmonella became common. We adjusted by assuming all eggs had salmonella.

Taking care with one's own food, washing produce and storing food properly is reasonable but not to the extent that we are enabling carelessness about food safety by producers or tolerating an ineffective food-safety system. Those who hate regulation might suggest we eliminate the FDA and take our chances. But most of us would prefer an effective agency as a watchdog on food safety. More funding for the FDA, not budget cuts, is the more prudent step.

There is plenty of real waste to cut.

Cate Marquis is Arts and Entertainment Editor and a columnist for The Current.
**LIBRA**
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your nasty boss, that filthy pig, has been chasing you around all day for your red raspberries. If you can't get rid of him, don't be a baby. Just dive off a cliff.

**SCORPIO**
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
When your sibling takes over the living room to watch "The Little Mermaid." Resist the temptation to finish your complicated science fair project in your bathroom.

**AQUARIUS**
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Stunt people, you know who you are! The creamed corn has left the building. A hot audit is scheduled at the next James Bond musical! You know what you must do.

**PISCES**
(Feb. 20 - March 20)
It's easy to feel suspicious about the recent funeral for your aunt, who died of a hangnail. But that's totally believable. Don't go digging in the American government's business.

**GEMINI**
(May 22 - June 21)
It's useless to go online shopping for your genetically-engineered rootbeer floats. All in all, they're just loud and insulting. They are never quite exciting, either.

**CANCER**
(June 22 - July 22)
Everything is perfect. Your flying monkeys have finally arrived. A sultry George Washington is waiting for you at home, and there's almost no chance you will spontaneously combust this week.

**LEO**
(July 23 - Aug. 21)
We know you've been trying to avoid the ginko trees fad. It seems quite silly, but you need to eat some veggies, and the corn on the cob in your fridge looks fuzzy. It might be time to just give in.

**VIRGO**
(Aug. 22 - Sept. 23)
I've heard distinguished gang members surf the net for their spiders and penguins. But as a casual, yet spunky buyer, you're better off just talking to Clark Gable for your supply.

**CAPRICORN**
(Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Those Sunday drivers may look adorable, but under their cheesecake surface lies a hot lava flow of wild, zany conspiracy theories. Don't trust Clint Eastwood.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
"Pamela" often haunts the Sagittarius. This is completely normal. However, an eccentric brain surgeon might be able to fix that for you.

**ARIES**
(March 21 - April 20)
You're going to need to be courageous when you go to the haunted house next weekend. Ignore the power tools, step around the piranhas, and you'll be fine.

**TAURUS**
(April 21 - May 21)
In the middle of the semester, going to school can feel like quite the chore. So, try to spice it up by skateboarding to class with a mysterious mortician.
Okay, let's see how this new shirt looks on me...

Oh good, it looks great on me.
Now I just need pants...

Life is calling. How far will you go?

Information Session:
Monday, Oct. 10th at 3:30 pm
278 Millennium Student Center
Conference Room 225

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