

The Current

June 9, 2008

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1250

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Hats off to you Mr. Postman

Tom Lange, or Cardinals Hat Man, shares the history behind his creative hats.

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Tropical Oasis

Caribbean met Reggae at the Touhill for a night of dance.

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Shakespeare, circus and opera, oh my!

Take a look at some of this summer's hottest performing arts programs.

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Challenge your mind with a crossword

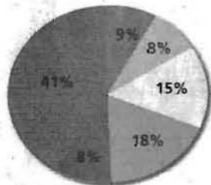
Check out *The Current's* crossword and test your trivia knowledge.

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ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results:
What was your favorite part of the '07-'08 year?



- Gary Forsee becoming UM president
- Mirthday
- Drag shows
- Earthquakes
- Becoming Tritons
- The end

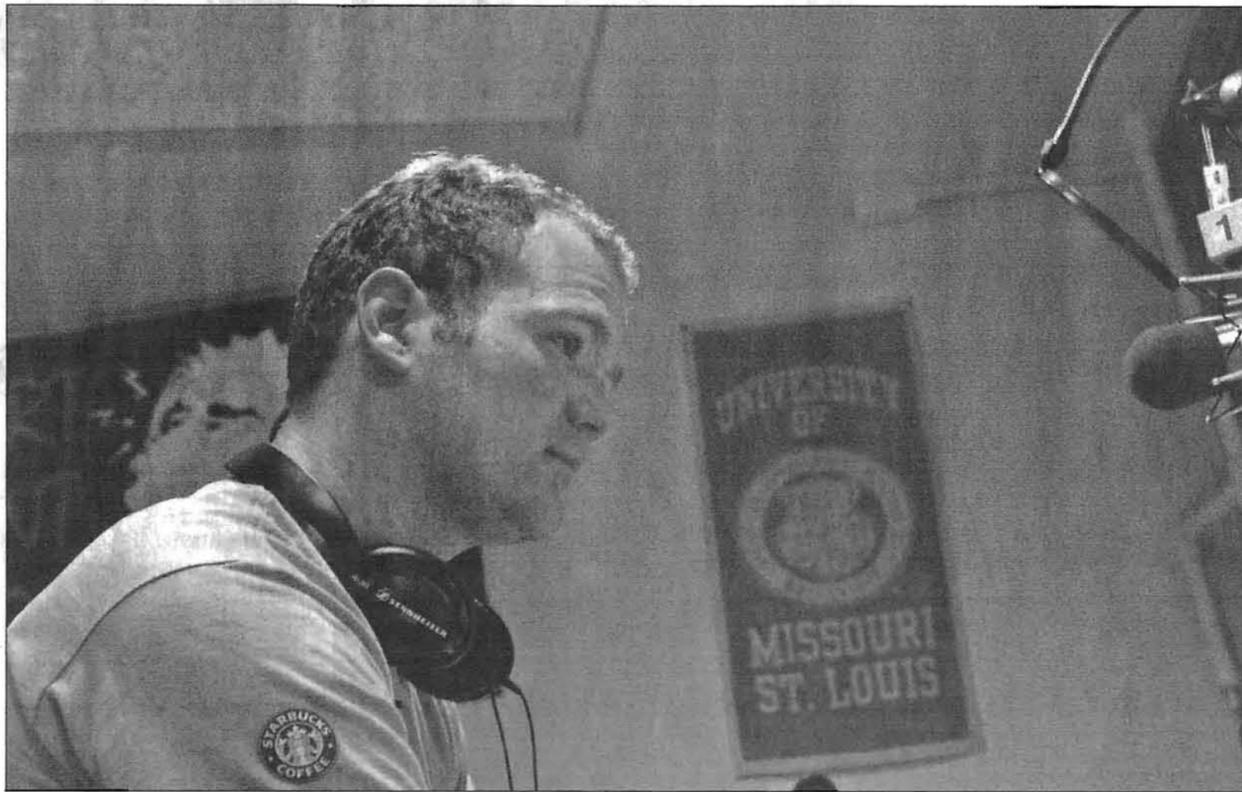
This week's question:
What should UM's new mascot be?

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What is The U to do?

Lack of funds puts student radio station in a jam



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Joe Wagner, senior, philosophy, is the man behind The Pirate Joe Radio Show on the UM-St. Louis student radio station The U. Pirate Joe features a different theme every week when he broadcasts his show on Fridays from 7 a.m. - 9a.m. You can listen online throughout the summer at <http://umslradio.com>.

By ELIZABETH GEARHART
Managing Editor

While it may not seem like much happens on campus during the summer, The U, the University of Missouri-St. Louis's student-run radio station, is keeping the beat alive with new ideas for the fall. Unfortunately, some of those ideas may not become a reality any time soon due to a lack of funding. Charles Granger, faculty advisor, said he was disappointed with the Student Activity Budget Committee's allocations for The U. The budget they were given for 2008-2009, including Student Service Fee allocations, was \$11,150; the organization requested \$18,900. Last year, the organization received \$13,620. Funds allocated to all student groups were based on the Student Activity Budget Committee's Funding Priorities. These state that organizations par-

tially supporting themselves through fundraising activities, effectively using SABC allocations and consistently attending Student Government Association meetings and Student Life workshops are given priority when it comes to funding. Funds allocated to The U have been frozen until Aug. 1 because proper action was not taken during a talent show The U hosted last semester, Granger said. Students who attended and were not enrolled at UM-St. Louis were supposed to sign a release form before they could participate in the show. However, this was not implemented. Granger said that the funds earned by the radio station itself were not frozen. The budget cuts have forced The U to cut back on plans to add new programming. Granger said there were plans to start a pilot program for sports broadcasting, as well as plans to build a studio in Oak Hall. "We wanted to start Studio C in the dorms so students could broadcast after hours," he said. The U was

given space for Studio C, but because there were no funds to make use of the space, it was taken away. Granger said The U also needs money, equipment, maintenance and upgrades. With equipment running all the time and with so many people using the equipment he said problems are inevitable. "If nothing breaks, we'll be all right," he said. In order to make up for the lack of funding, Granger said the radio station might begin charging for public announcements. Currently, the service is free to students and faculty, and Granger said he would prefer to keep it that way. However, Ashland Tate, interim station manager for The U, said the station plans to hold small fundraising events over the course of the year. There are also plans to hold two larger events. One may take place during homecoming, but Tate said he is not sure about the details at this time. Tate said there are plans for The U to become more community-oriented, as well. The station will be work-

ing with the Touhill Performing Arts Center and possibly interviewing performers. Overall, he says, the station wants to become more instrumental on campus, especially when it comes to news. "Our job is to entertain and also inform," he said. Keith Robinson, interim program director for The U, also said the station plans to work with other organizations on campus in order to "give that feel that we are truly campus community radio." He said the station wants to give everyone at UM-St. Louis the chance to be heard. Orientations will be held for those interested in working with The U. Once a student, faculty or staff member of UM-St. Louis attends an orientation, Robinson said they are put through training about the Federal Communications Commission and equipment training, "to get them ready to be on the air." See RADIO, page 3

Chancellor reports on 2007 UMSL activities

By SARAH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Chancellor Thomas George gave his annual report to the University of Missouri-St. Louis community on May 20. The report outlined recent updates for the university for the 2007 fiscal year.



Thomas George
UM-St. Louis Chancellor

The University ranked 5th this year on the Academic Analytics Faculty Productivity Index among small research universities.

"The research conducted by our prolific faculty has significantly contributed to new highs for external grant funding and attracting record numbers of master's and doctoral students to UMSL," the chancellor was quoted saying in a press release.

There has been a 75 percent increase in external grants in the last ten years totaling \$31 million. Also reported is a 160 percent increase in the last five years from private gifts that totaled \$20 million this year.

Chancellor George announced there were several University records reached during the academic year, including 3,150 degrees awarded from the University; 63 of those doctoral degrees and 734 were master's degrees.

Master's degrees in Business Administration were highest in numbers at about 150 with Education having the largest amounts of doctoral degrees at 27. These numbers are not official until the end of the 2008 fiscal year in June. The doctoral and masters students was also at its highest this year.

Additionally, Express Scripts Incorporated will be building a second facility on the UM-St. Louis campus, according to the chancellor's report. This will increase the number of ESI employees from 1,500 to 2,500.

Also on the agenda are the University's plans for a new optometry and nursing complex. "The thought process is to create a building that can house optometry and nursing," Bob Samples said. He added that there is not yet money on the table for the building of such a complex.

Samples said the location could be on north campus or on Natural Bridge. Funding for the new building could come from state, federal, or gift allowances to the University.

Planning is still underway for the renovation of UM-St. Louis' oldest installment, Benton-Stadler hall, for which \$28.5 million from the MOHELA loan sale has been earmarked.

Additionally, new University of Missouri system President Gary Forsee sent out a system-wide email on May 28, 100 days into his term. Forsee said the experience as system president "has been quite a whirlwind for me," and has been busy visiting campuses, legislators, and "key stakeholders" involved with the success of the University of Missouri system.

Forsee outlined his priorities for the university in his message, beginning with needing to "engage stakeholders and all who love this university and care about its success."

Other priorities included accelerating the economic development of the university, strategizing to improve university rankings and being an efficient and transparent system.

Forsee noted the importance of making the university accessible and supportive to student needs. "Our students are the lifeblood of what we do," he said.

\$1.5 million donation honors donor's parents

By JESSICA KEIL
Features Editor



Nicholas Karakas

Malamati and Achillea Karakas immigrated to the United States from Greece in the beginning of the 20th century. At the time, the couple knew little English and subsequently struggled due to the language barrier and learning curve they faced.

Whether they knew it or not, those two little-known immigrants from Greece would come to affect the University of Missouri-St. Louis in immeasurable ways. Malamati and Achillea did this through their son, Nicholas.

To honor his parents, Nicholas recently donated a gift of \$1.5 million from the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation to UM-St. Louis.

"It's been a long time since [Nicholas and his brother, Tony] started the foundation," he said. Indeed the trust is now in its 30th year and has contributed to numerous scholarships and

college grants throughout its lifespan.

The Karakas Family Foundation is no newcomer when it comes to donations to UM-St. Louis either and neither is Nicholas Karakas.

"Nick was the key person who helped endow the Greek Studies chair [at UM-St. Louis] in 1996 along with other noted donors in the Greek community" said Chancellor Thomas George. "He was definitely the ring-leader then, and this time it is just him."

Karakas' most recent donation is actually a compliment to another one, and was made in order to endow a chair in Byzantine and Orthodox Studies to go along with the Greek Studies chair.

"[Byzantine and Orthodox Studies] is a course that has a high profile

in universities up east, but the courses that are often offered elsewhere in history generally emphasize Western Civilization and even African Civilization and the Far East," Karakas said.

"I think the Mediterranean area has generally been omitted, yet it was around for 1,100 years. I want this course to tie in with other studies of the near East because they contributed in the reign of the Byzantine Empire."

Joel Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies, agreed with Karakas that a chair in Byzantine and Orthodox studies will be beneficial to the curriculum at UM-St. Louis.

"A chair in Byzantine and Orthodox Studies will enable us to offer more courses and double the number of Greek Studies courses offered. Everyone is very excited," Glassman said.

Considering that Karakas is of Greek decent, it does not seem surprising that his philanthropy often correlates with Greek history. Less

obvious however, is why the St. Louis University graduate has chosen to focus so much of his time on UM-St. Louis.

"I became attracted to UMSL because of the Greek Chair. At the time we knew professors [at UM-St. Louis] and everything just seemed to fit. Also, it would have been more challenging to get involved in a larger university," Karakas said.

These days, Karakas said he feels strongly that the future of UM-St. Louis will be prosperous and he said he is glad of his involvement thus far.

"I think UMSL will soon be the premier university of the system. I think it is only a matter of time before that happens," Karakas said. "The administration at UMSL functions extremely efficiently and I am very proud and put great faith in its leadership."

As for when UM-St. Louis students can expect to benefit from Karakas' donation, no one is sure at this time.

See KARAKAS, page 3

| Stay Current with this week's weather | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Weather predictions taken from www.weather.com |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Hi/Low: 82/62 Precip: 70% | Hi/Low: 83/66 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 87/70 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 90/74 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 87/70 Precip: 40% | Hi/Low: 90/70 Precip: 20% | Hi/Low: 87/66 Precip: 0% | |

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

TUESDAY, MAY 27

PEACE DISTURBANCE/FIGHT -
TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Before the start of a high school graduation that was taking place in the Touhill Performing Arts Center, a fight broke out in the hallway between gang members. After the altercation, one group left the building and was stopped by UM-St. Louis police officers outside. The high school security officers detained the other group. All parties were eventually identified and arrested for the altercation. None of the people involved in this fight are affiliated with UM-St. Louis in any way. None of the suspects were seriously injured in this fight and no medical attention was necessary.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

THEFT UNDER \$500 -
SEATON HALL

This is a delayed report of a theft that occurred on May 29, 2008 between 9:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. The victim reported that he left his backpack outside his dorm room between these times, and when he went back to get it, his wallet with Student Identification and \$100.00 was gone. There are no suspects in this incident.

The UM-St. Louis Police Department is open 24 hours a day. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these or any other incidents should contact the campus police.

CORRECTIONS

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

To report any corrections, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by e-mail at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

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SGA CANDIDATES SWORN IN



Newly elected SGA President GraceMarie Ritter gave her inauguration speech Wednesday night in the Pilot House. Vice President Jessica Cowan and Treasurer Dorian Hall gave their speeches as well.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Get Fit At Mark Twain

Silver Moves at 10:15 a.m., SPIN at noon, Body Challenge at 4:30 p.m. and W.E.T at 5:30 p.m. Classes from June 2-Aug. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for alumni and \$45 for others. For more info, call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/wellness>.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Get Fit At Mark Twain

W.E.T. at 9 a.m., Trim-N-Tone at 11:45 a.m., Yoga at 4:30 p.m. and Kick Box at 5:30 p.m. Classes from June 2-Aug. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for alumni and \$45 for others. For more info, call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/wellness>.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Get Fit At Mark Twain

Silver Moves at 10:15 a.m., Weight Training at 4 p.m., ABC at 4:30 p.m., SPIN at 5:30 p.m. and W.E.T. at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for alumni and \$45 for others. For more info, call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/wellness>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Get Fit At Mark Twain

W.E.T. at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Trim-N-Tone at 11:45 a.m., SPIN at noon, Stretch & Tone at 4:30 p.m. and Step & Muscle at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for alumni and \$45 for others. For more info, call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/wellness>.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Starting A Small Business: The First Steps

Get an overview of the critical first steps of starting a business like learning the importance of planning, discuss legal and regulatory requirements and identify sources of funding. 4 p.m. in the JC Penney Conference Center. For more info, call Alan Huff at 6121.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Get Fit At Mark Twain

Power Flex at 10:15 a.m. Cost is \$25 for students, \$35 for alumni and \$45 for others. For more info, call 5326 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/wellness>.

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



Sen. Barack Obama made history on June 3 by winning the Democratic primary in Montana. Sen. Clinton dropped out of the race on Saturday, June 7.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Big Band Jazz Camp

Music students come work with talented musicians. Camp runs from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. June 15-20 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Cost is \$375. For more info, call Stephen Smith at 5948.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Printmaking

Learn the art of printmaking—etchings, relief, silkscreen and lithography. Class is from noon until 5 p.m. in 127 Fine Arts Building. Cost is \$199. For more info, call Ashley Patterson at 5974.

Job Search Workshop

Learn about the job search process—networking methods, internet resources and other techniques—and what goes into landing a job. Register online at <http://www.careers.umsl.edu> and click on workshops. 278 MSC. For more info, call Career Services at 5111.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Comma Workshop

Have all your comma question answered and learn how to properly structure sentences. Noon to 12:30 p.m. in the Writing Lab in SSB 409. For more info, call David Linzee at 5950.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Digital Photography

Have you always wondered what about all those settings on your camera? Learn about ISO settings, underwater photography, exposure, flash, lenses, accessories, megapixels, and digital storage media in 104 Computer Setting Building. Cost is \$99 for four Saturdays. For more info, call Ashley Patterson at 5974.

Voices in Harmony

Featured performers are Ambassadors of Harmony and Vocal Spectrum. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Touhill. Tickets are \$18-\$24. For more info, call 4949.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Résumé Workshop

Looking for an internship or full-time employment? A marketable, professional résumé is an absolute necessity. Learn appropriate formats and what should be included. Register online at <http://www.careers.umsl.edu> and click on workshops. For more info, contact Career Services at 5111.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Voice Acting Workshop

Always dreamt of acting? Find out how you can get started in the fun and exciting field of voice acting. Voiceover artists narrate commercials, documentaries and audiobooks. Learn from leaders who have years of experience in the industry. Join these masters at the J.C. Penney Conference Center from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more info, call Ashley Patterson at 5974.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Our Food: Immigrant, Ethnic, and American

Food is an identifying element to culture. This course examines the story of food in America through readings, food tastings and discussions. J.C. Penney Conference Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$10. For more info, call OASIS at (314) 539-4556.

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit the What's Current section of <http://www.thecurrentonline.com>.

The Current

The University of Missouri—St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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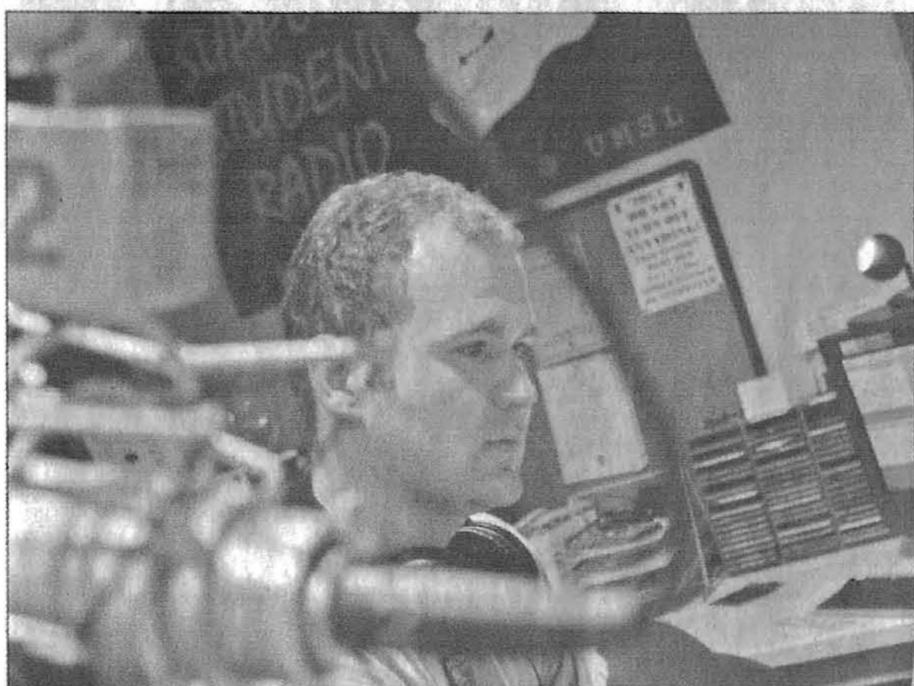
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RADIO from page 1



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

DJs for The U are students, faculty and staff members. For more information about becoming a DJ, like DJ Pirate Joe, seen here, you can visit The U's Web site at <http://www.umslradion.com>.

RADIO from page 1

"Our training director will work with each person to help them get up to speed on how to present themselves on the air," Robinson said.

Other than attending the New Student Orientations, The U has no events planned for the summer. That does not mean the studio will be empty.

Granger said there are about a dozen people who have their own shows during the summer, and Tate said they are always interested in recruiting more DJs.

Right now, that is what the radio

station is focusing on according to Tate. He said during the fall current station members want to have back-to-back DJs, all day, every week.

Members of the station are also focusing on making sure the changes and events planned for the fall go smoothly. Both Tate and Granger said they are going make some adjustments to The U's constitution, as well.

Granger said he wants the radio station to be more regulated, but students and staff will still be free to design their own programs. He said

The U would like to make their current studio into a full working studio so programs can be developed there.

Because of the many opportunities The U gives students Granger said it is important to keep the radio station going. One student who worked with The U last year used her experience to get a job with Time-Warner.

"The talent the station has acquired is unbelievable," Granger said.

You can listen to The U's summer programming online at <http://www.umslradio.com>.

KARAKAS from page 1

"We still have to work out the details on the donation," said George. "We will do an international advertisement of the position and I can't say how long that will take ... it might take a while."

Once the position is filled however, the Chancellor, like Glassman and Karakas, is not in doubt of its benefits.

"The Byzantine and Orthodox

studies chair is sure to be a wonderful compliment to the Greek Studies program at UMSL," he said.

Karakas currently serves as Chairman of the Greek Professorship Advisory Committee and is a member of the Chancellor's Council. Karakas has also been awarded the Chancellor's Medallion for contributing to the University's growth and development.

For more information about the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professorship in Greek/Greek Studies or UM-St. Louis' Greek Studies programs visit the center for International Studies Web page at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/cis/index.html> or stop by the Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center in 210 Lucas Hall.

NEWS BRIEFS

KWMU's general manager Wente gets terminated

Last Monday, a press release from the University of Missouri-St. Louis stated that employment of KWMU's general manager Patricia Wente was terminated by Chancellor George.

The termination, according to the release, came after "a review of financial and management issues raised by current and past employees and outside auditors" was made.

The station's management had been under review by the University and auditors from PriceWaterhouse for approximately a month before Wente's termination.

The National Public Radio affiliate located in room 104 of Lucas Hall will be temporarily run by Mike Dunn, general manager, KBIA, University of Missouri-Columbia's public radio station.

Dunn, who has been with KBIA for 22 years will serving KWMU as interim general manager until the position has been filled. Currently, the university is searching the nation for a replacement for Wente.

Express Scripts to pay \$9.5 million

Tuesday, May 27, Express Scripts, the pharmacy benefits manager headquartered at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, entered into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance and Discontinuance, according to a press release on the company's Web site at <http://www.express-scripts.com>.

"The agreement resolves an investigation initiated in 2004 and which did not result in litigation by the Attorneys General against the Company," the release stated.

The company does not admit to the assertions made by the Attorneys General of 28 states and the District of Columbia.

\$9.3 million of the \$9.5 million total the company will pay is to be apportioned among the states and the District of Columbia.

\$200,000 will be allocated for payments to patients "for physician visits and tests related to drug switches between brand statin drugs." These payments are not to exceed \$25 each and all payments will not effect the company's results for the second quarter of 2008, according to the release.

TOP TWENTY

Words that sound dirty, but aren't

1. Weenis - Elbow skin
2. Masticate - To chew, grind or knead
3. Kumquat - smallest of the citrus fruits
4. Coccyx - four separate but fused vertebrae that make up the bottom of your spine, or tailbone
5. Cuneiform - style of wedge-shaped writing common in the Middle East
6. Dickcissel - a small seed-eating bird
7. Penal Code - the legal code governing crimes and their punishment
8. Pianist - a person who plays the piano
9. Uvula - A cone-shaped projection hanging down from the soft palate in the oropharynx
10. Titmouse - small birds found in the northern hemisphere and Africa
11. Blue-Footed Booby - long-winged seabird
12. Angina - chest pain caused by reduced flow of blood to the heart muscle
13. Ballcock - The fill valve device in a toilet tank
14. Djibooti - Country found in the Horn of Africa
15. Pu Pu Platter - a tray consisting of an assortment of small meat and seafood appetizers
16. Uranus - The planet discovered by William Herschel in 1781 and the 7th planet in our solar system
17. Exacerbate - to increase the severity, violence, or bitterness
18. Wankel - a type of internal combustion engine which uses a rotary design to convert pressure into a rotating motion
19. Humdinger - a striking or extraordinary person or thing
20. Shuttlecock - a high-drag projectile used in the sport of badminton

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OPINIONS

OUR OPINION



We have a new name, now when do we get our mascot?

Washington University has George, UM-Columbia has Truman the Tiger, Missouri University of Science and Technology has Joe Miner, UM-Kansas City has Kasey the Kangaroo, St. Louis University has the Billiken and other universities across the country have mascots. Yet, what does UM-St. Louis have? Nada.

The Rivermen have been gone for a year and still there is no mascot to represent the new image of the university, the Tritons. But do we really need a mascot? Will that bring in more wins, more money or more fans? The mysterious and rarely seen Riverpup has yet to be replaced by a successor who represents the mighty Tritons. One can only hope that this is the year where we are granted with the privilege of having a mascot to call our own.

What does a mascot do? Is it just a goofy looking suit filled with the aroma of the person who last wore it or is it a physical representation of a university and its love for sports and the student athletes? Either way, the

university deserves a mascot. If not, the name should have remained as it was.

Fan attendance for Tritons home games was among the lowest in the Great Lakes Valley Conference last year. Having a mascot shows that a school has school spirit, but can a mascot bring school spirit to a school? There have been other mascots roaming through the MSC, but where is our mascot? It must still be a crude drawing on a notepad waiting for a few more strokes from a pen.

Keep in mind that the purpose of the name change was to find a less masculine image for the athletic teams here at UM-St. Louis. So any mascot should follow that same guideline, hence the three-prong trident, which just screams school spirit. So what mascot can represent both male and female athletes without taking a gender? Wait... that was a rhetorical question.

There are a lot of UM-St. Louis students who do not even know that we have teams, so they probably are also unaware that there is no mascot.

Those students are not the ones to blame for their lack of awareness. It is the job of the team mascot to spread awareness of the teams' presence on the campus. Not having a mascot could explain why so many students graduate from this university never seeing a single sporting event.

The Triton mascot may face the same money trouble as a few other areas in the athletic department. The Tritons do not have cheerleaders, but there is a dance team. There is a big difference in leading a cheer and just dancing. No money, no cheerleaders. There still is the baseball field that needs to be built as well as actual Tritons jerseys for the team. The point is that mascots do not grow on trees and UM-St. Louis will most likely remain without a mascot.

The time for waiting is over. The university voted on a new name and now it is time for the mascot to be created. Forget about the money. Forget about what the other UM schools are doing. We need a mascot and we need one now.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Is the country ready for a non-white male as Commander-in-Chief?

Now that Barack Obama is one step closer to becoming the president of the United States, I constantly hear the question, "Is America ready for a black president?"

After reading blogs, talking with friends and family and listening to few radio shows, the results from my poll match my own opinion. No, America is not ready for a black president.

If this country were truly ready for the Commander-in-Chief to be anything other than a white male, the question, "Is America ready for a black president?" would never be asked.

That question makes it seem like having an African-American as President is something which needs preparation.

OK what is first on the list? Racism in America has to be at the top. I am not sure how many members of the Ku Klux Klan and other similar groups are registered voters, but much



By LaGUAN FUSE Staff Writer

guess where their votes are going.

Just to make sure that I am a fair journalist, I decided to check my guess and give a fact.

After checking the Klan's website, I see that I was right. No, none of its members are going to vote for Obama.

There is still a lot of racial tension in America and while researching the answer to the question, I stumbled

upon a few articles about the possible assassination of Obama should he become president.

That is just a scary thought for Obama and this country. I pray that an assassination attempt on Obama will remain just a thought.

Just think about what happened after the Rodney King trial. What will happen if an African-American becomes president and then gets assassinated?

Foreign affairs will probably take a back seat to the problems this nation will face.

History will be made with the inauguration of the next president because either Obama will become the first African-American or John McCain will become the oldest.

See PRESIDENT, page 5

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

Zoo needs to get its asses in gear

By MELISSA S. HAYDEN Editor-In-Chief

There is a cute, little ass you should check out at the St. Louis Zoo if you get the opportunity this summer. A baby, female Somali wild ass named "Wane," that is.

Wane, like all Somali wild asses, looks like a donkey with zebra-striped leggings and is native to northeastern Somalia and northern Ethiopia.

It is the smallest wild animal in the horse family, but this unique little equine is endangered. According to the zoo's Web site <http://www.stlzoo.org>, they are "critically endangered."

The Zoo's site says Somali wild asses in the wild are hunted as food and are used in traditional medicine. The animal's fat is believed to be a treatment for tuberculosis. Less than a thousand may exist today outside of captivity.

In an article titled, "What's the Zoo to do with its wild ass problem?" from the June 1 issue of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Zoo President Jeffery Bonner said the asses at the zoo are faced with another problem.

People pay so much attention to the name "wild ass" that they miss out on understanding the awful fate these asses may face.

According to Bonner, people make crude jokes about the name and parents rush their children past the exhibit. In his article, a name change had been suggested at the zoo as possible solution for getting the asses' message to be better received.

But a name change could push the Somali wild ass out of any kind of spotlight it has. Even if the name draws a few chuckles and prompts some to usher their children quickly by, the words "Wild Somali Ass" get attention and the folks at the zoo need to use it to the animal's benefit.

My suggestion is this; use this highly marketable, edgy name to the animals' benefit. Slap it on some t-shirts with the profits going to the animal's aid. Make a large, colorful sign by the exhibit with photos and in big, bold, letters the words "Somali wild asses."

Draw and audience in and keep them there to learn about the plight of these beautiful creatures. In this day and age, crude humor is everywhere. It is in television, commercials, movies and cartoons.

The issue is not whether or not crude humor is a good thing or a bad thing. The point is Somali wild asses deserve to be saved and they need all the attention they can get to be saved.

It is understandable that people working closely with these animals might not have the desire to not sink to the level of crude humor and jokes. However, it could be a small price to pay for getting the message out there about putting an end to the hunting and suffering of these asses.

Animal suffering is on much lower of a level than humor that is considered to be in bad taste. Working with the name instead of changing it could just light a fire under some people's you-know-what's and get them to care.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Embrace campus history, encourage divestment from Sudan

Forty years ago, students from universities across the nation joined to rally for peace in Vietnam, and to end an era of racial discrimination in the United States.

Legendarily, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, these riots turned violent when the University called in the National Guard. Earlier in February of 1968, three college students were killed while protesting discrimination.

Similar protests were held at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Howard University and Columbia University. On April 11, then President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Around 20 years ago, Hampshire College began a divestment from South Africa—also known as divestment—campaign in response to the inhumanity of apartheid, or the class system of South Africa which harshly segregated the native Africans from the Dutch/European settlers.

The University of California caught on as one of the largest divestment campaigns in history, and was the catalyst for the divestment of 155 institutions by 1988. UM-St. Louis was active in this campaign.

In fall 2007, the Student Government Association of UM-St. Louis discussed a proposal set out by the Intercampus Student Council to endorse system-wide divestment from Darfur. In the summer of 2008, nothing has yet come of this proposal.

For the past decade, the world

outside of Sudan has made ant steps toward resolving the genocide that is responsible for millions of deaths and displaced so many.

Grassroots organizations, sometimes headed by Sudanese refugees have sprouted all around the world. Diplomats such as President George W.

Bush, and former Prime Minister Tony Blair have spoken out against the rebels that are responsible for the Sudanese holocaust, yet the nightmare continues.

It is time for students here at UM-St. Louis, as well as across the nation to copy the idealistic energy of our fore-runners at Columbia University, UW-Madison and UNC-Chapel Hill to bring about drastic divestment and drastic changes in Darfur.

In the past, students have gathered in the name of humanity and have successfully changed history. This sort of energy is missing now, while there are millions more lives at stake in Sudan.

University divestment has proven itself a powerful tool in the arsenal for peace and human rights, but is, and would have been, useless without the support of students and other individuals.

As proud members of the divestment from South Africa in the 80s, UM-St. Louis students have a responsibility to rally around the conflict in Darfur by encouraging the University as well as your elected officials to stop aiding genocide in Sudan.



By SARAH O'BRIEN Staff Writer

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a forum for public expression on campus, The Current welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from students, faculty, staff members and others concerned with issues relevant to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact The Current's editor-in-chief.

Letters and commentaries will also be printed online at http://www.thecurrentonline.com

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UNDERCURRENT

By Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

What are your thoughts on Sen. Barack Obama winning the Democratic presidential nomination?

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu or talk about it in our online forums at www.thecurrentonline.com



Darren Nesbitt Sophomore International Business

"I believe that it shows the change in our country towards greater unity."



Aqsa Chaudhry Sophomore Biology

"It's a good change since there has never been a black nominated before."



Ryan Thies Senior Biology

"I have questions about him but he is better than Hillary."



Afohim Monsorian Senior Finance

"It's great, since for me, he represents change, and that's great after the last eight years."



Kristin Murray Junior Nursing

"It makes me happy. I'm glad it's him and not Hillary."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alum unhappy with campus wireless policy

I am a former student and graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1994. While there I worked on *The Current*.

Last week I visited the campus for the first time since graduating. I am researching two St. Louis area tool makers who worked in the 1890s and thought maybe The Mercantile Library would have information not available at other libraries or at the St. Louis Historical Society.

While at the library, I pulled out my laptop computer to get some information from an online site. I was not able to access the campus wireless system without a password. The library staff directed me to the alumni relations office saying I could get an ID and a password from them. The Alumni Relations staff informed me that to get such an ID, I would need to join the Association for \$35 per year.

Needless to say, I left the campus immediately. With entire metropolitan areas going wireless, it seems totally ridiculous that UM-St. Louis would not have an open wireless network on its campus.

I was completely blown away by The Mercantile Library. The artifacts that are displayed there are most impressive.

The new Student Center also looks nice and so does the Touhill. Did Ms. Touhill die or does nobody respect the long standing tradition of waiting until someone is dead before naming a building, airport or aircraft carrier after them?

Michael J. Urness
Chesterfield, MO

PRESIDENT, from page 4

So which will it be?

I fully support Obama for president, but I also supported John Kerry and he lost.

My 18th birthday came too late for me to vote in 2000, but I supported Al Gore and he lost.

My point is that so far, I have voted and my picks have lost.

If this country is not ready for an African-American to be president, my vote will still land me on the losing side.

If having a non-White male as president of the United States is something for which we must pre-

pare, we as Americans must do what ever it takes to get ready.

I am not just saying that one race needs to get ready, but this entire country needs to recognize that the days of skin color determining a person's status are long in the past. Wait, no, not really.

This country has seen a lot of changes in just the last 50 years. African-Americans are allowed opportunities now that my people could only dream about. I am honored each and every time I see my name and picture next to an article I wrote in the newspaper.

I used to do journalism because I wanted to, but over the past year I have seen that my true joy comes from knowing that all of the African-American men and women who stood up and fought for freedom did not fight in vain.

I could not have been a college journalist if I were born 50 years earlier.

A lot has changed in America, but is it enough? No, no where close. I just really hope that we as a country can get ready before November. Is America ready for a black president? I guess we will see in November.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Science festival, inventor hero make focus on science as fun

While the media often depicts it as difficult or dull, the truth is that science is fun.

Anyone with natural human curiosity knows the thrill of discovering how things work. That curiosity and the tendency of people to build things to solve problems are the basis of science and technology.

One hit movie and an upcoming festival hint that science's false no-fun image is changing.

"Iron Man" is the latest comic book superhero to splash across the big screen. While packed with all the action and special effects of any superhero movie, it has one delightful twist: the hero is an inventor. Rather than the usual jock, this hero is an engineer and a science and technology visionary, as well as a do-gooder.

In the typical superhero movie, the hero goes into his hideout and in the next scene emerges with a pile of super-cool stuff with which he fights crime. In "Iron Man," this industrialist, a weapons manufacturer who is also a brilliant engineer, goes into his lab and tinkers. Through trial and error, he builds the tools he needs, with the aid of computer imaging technology and robot assistants.

Not only does the film show the stepwise progress of real science, with each failure leading to a change that brings him closer to success, but a lot of the cutting edge technology he uses is real-world, not pure fantasy. The whole process is entertaining and funny, with each experiment that fails played for laughs.

The movie "Iron Man" is completely cool from the science angle and entertaining, too.



By CATE MARQUIS

Science Columnist

The comic book Iron Man might be different because it was inspired by a real person: Howard Hughes. While there is no current equivalent, Steve Jobs of Apple computers and other giants of the '90s computer boom might come close. The way computers transformed our world transformed how the computer nerd was seen.

The other science-as-fun excitement is an upcoming festival. We have film festivals, book festivals, even story festivals, so why not a science festival? St. Louis just won the opportunity to host SciFest08 in October, beating out big cities like Boston, San Francisco and New York.

The SciFest is nothing like a science fair. There are no papier-mache volcanoes or charts on poster board. Instead, there is rock music and baseball. Rock music and the physics of sound waves, and the physics behind the trajectory of a home run hit.

The five-day science festival is

new to the U.S., but it is modeled after Britain's Cheltenham Science Festival, which has been a success. Like the British festival, SciFest will present important, cutting-edge and even controversial science topics such as biofuels and stem cell research.

The emphasis will be on fun demonstrations and hands-on participation but without watering down the science. SciFest will take place at the St. Louis Science Center and is guaranteed at least a three-year run.

Science may be a key tool in solving humanity's biggest problems, from health threats to new energy resources.

Yet in recent years, anti-science voices have been speaking more loudly, often attempting to separate technology, which is presented as positive, from science, which is cast as "bad." In fact, science is the basis of technology, and there is no such divide.

Science also has the PR problem of being cast in the media as difficult, obscure, marginal or uninteresting, when in fact it is as interesting as life and as essential to understand as anything that affects the future of the nation.

It is a tool, like a hammer or a car, so whether it is good or bad is determined by the person using it and how it is used. We should use this tool to solve problems, not cast the tool as the problem, and concentrate on how we are going to use it.

Thanks to these two events, and many more to come, we can discover science is fun again. Alert the media.

The Current

is looking for a few good writers.

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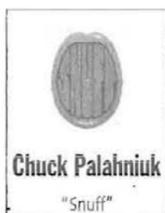
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BOOK REVIEW

'Snuff' does not snuff out Palahniuk's rep for outrageous novels



By MATTHEW HILL

Photo Editor

Chuck Palahniuk's newest book "Snuff" is as outlandishly repulsive and meticulously researched as all of his other books and may just very well be his most fun to read. Told from the perspectives of its four main characters, the storytelling is also as inventive as in "Survivor" and "Fight Club."

The plot concerns an aging porn actress, Cassie Wright, star of such

adult classics as "Beat Me in St. Louis" and "Ali Baba and the 40 D's," who wants to end her "illustrious" career by setting a world record for a gang-bang by taking on 600 men in a single setting.

We hear the inner musing of three of the men as they wait to take their shot at fame: "Mr. 72," a young fan who will be losing his virginity, "Mr. 137," a former prime-time TV star looking to make a comeback in adult movies and "Mr. 600," an aging porn pro who wants to retire on top.

Their voices are joined by Shelia, Ms. Wright's personal assistant, who helped devise this special swan song. The book acts as a play, in the sense that it takes place entirely on one set: the waiting area that all the "talent" is hoarded into before their attempt to make history.

The room is filled with nearly naked men who occupy their time by feasting on free nacho chips and talking among themselves.

Much like his last book, "Rant,"

Palahniuk experiments with telling a story with multiple perspectives. But unlike "Rant," where he uses numerous narrators to tell a fictional story in an "oral history" style, Palahniuk limits the number of storytellers in "Snuff" to four. This ultimately gives each of them more time to develop, themselves in the book's brisk 200 pages.

Moving in and out of the different characters' minds, while not giving the book's true central character Cassie Wright any voice, is an inventive and efficient way to tell a story with more than one narrator.

The same conversation is heard from multiple perspectives, which in turn adds depth to each character's motivation as to why he or she would take part in such an outrageous and ultimately exploitive stunt.

Palahniuk cruises through much of the book with his distinctive minimalist prose. The insightful inner monologues of the different narrators are entertaining, but the reader eventually

wants something more out of them. That is when the loose ends that Palahniuk has been leaving around for the reader to pick up on throughout the book are finally tied together. It is quite literally like a dose of Viagra that sends the book into its outrageous conclusion.

As entertaining as Palahniuk tries to make "Snuff," the reader still has this impending sense that something totally grotesque is going to happen to some, if not all, of the main characters.

The author has a way of one-upmanship with his novels, so you are anticipating that moment when your stomach retracts inside itself and you wonder how much more you can take.

And with that, "Snuff" is much like every other book Palahniuk has written. It is a funny and morbidly insightful book that reads like a series of short stories linked together by an outrageous plot.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Sailors' delight found in Forest Park Boathouse

By ANGIE SPENCER

Proofreader

With Missouri being a landlocked state, it does not provide diners many chances to enjoy a waterside meal other than having a picnic on the riverfront or hanging out by whatever flood waters have swallowed the St. Louis area at the time.

There is one location in this town that can offer those who want the seaside experience exactly that: The Boathouse Restaurant in Forest Park.

Designed by St. Louis architect Laurent Torno, the new Forest Park Boathouse is suggestive of boathouse cottages seen in the early 20th century here in the Midwest.

Post-Dispatch Lake sits beside the boathouse. At any time during the day, patrons can be seen using paddleboats, kayaks and canoes to glide through its waters and even ducks can be seen swimming there.

There are a good number of outdoor tables and chairs facing the lake. On the particular breezy evening of our visit, three ducks waddled around the patio, gobbling up any scraps they could find.

With storms a-brewin' in the west, it would be crazy to be outside. This did not stop people from taking out the aforementioned water vehicles for a ride to the Grand Basin in front of Art Hill; it is at least an hour round trip.

Some took their dogs, because the Boathouse is one of few St. Louis restaurants that allow dogs to dine with their owners. There are even treats and water for man's best friend on the way out of the restaurant.

While the diners could enjoy the view of the lake, they came to enjoy the food too. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. every day. As the Munny season opens, be sure to make a reservation since the place will fill up quickly.

Start your meal off with a refreshing Lakeside Lemonade, a house favorite. As a pink lemonade mixed with alcohol, this is certainly a libation to please even the most picky adults.

For an appetizer, the list expands beyond the traditional quesadillas and sampler platters. Tempting dishes like Welsh Chips with Rarebit Dip (\$4.95) and Basil Hummus (\$6.50) will whet your palate for sure.

The rarebit is a savory sauce made from a mixture of cheese, ale and other ingredients, and it is served along side homemade chips. The sauce has a little bite to it, but with a subtle ranch taste.

The Basil Hummus is a chick-pea lover's heaven. With olives, feta cheese, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers all sharing the plate, the warm, soft pita slices will melt in your mouth.

Now that you have had your starters, your main meal awaits. While there are not many choices, the restaurant offers a well-balanced variety.

Hand-tossed Pizzas (\$5.50-\$8.95), Fish & Chips (\$7.25) or the Grilled Chicken Sandwich (\$8.95) are just a few of the options.

The Four Cheese Pizza, made with mozzarella, provol, cheddar and feta, is simply a delight as pizza goes. It has soft, fluffy dough with spices on the crust and a thin red sauce smothered in cheese. You can make it five cheeses by adding a little Parmesan on top.

The Fish & Chips is a classic beer-battered fried cod, served with malt vinegar mayonnaise for dipping and waffle fries as a side. While you would not usually consider fish to be a hearty meal, it was rich and very flavorful without being overwhelmingly fishy.

The Grilled Chicken Sandwich is nearly as large as a typical appetizer plate. It is piled high with one-inch slices of chicken, pepperjack cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, applewood smoked bacon and guacamole.

Guests can also enjoy up-tempo music wafting through the air, a nice change of pace from what restaurants usually play.

The staff is friendly and attentive, bringing more to drink before you are done and constantly cleaning the table to make room for your next dish.

Service can get a little strained at times, but there is always a smile.

Reservations are not taken, except for busy days and for nights while The Munny is open. Lunch and brunch are also served.

The Boathouse is located on Government Drive in Forest Park, just west of the lower entrance to The Munny.

For more information call (314) 367-3423 or visit their website at <http://www.boathouseforestpark.com>.

Caribbean dances and reggae tunes waft into Touhill

By CATE MARQUIS & MATTHEW HILL

A&E Editor & Photo Editor

Calypso dance and reggae music: Things were definitely tropical at the Touhill Performing Arts Center last Friday night.

"Tropical Spectacular" brought in the summer with Caribbean dance moves and reggae rhythms in a multimedia performance at Touhill Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 31. Live music accompanied the dance performance.

The tropical entertainment was performed by Sankofa Productions of Barbados, Virgin Islands, and offered a dance, music and video performance inspired by traditional African Caribbean dance styles like Flaming Limbo, Carnival, Bongo and Calypso. Sankofa Productions is under the artistic direction of Danny "Diallo" Hinds.

The production offered a slice of Caribbean culture. The traditional dances evolved from dances of West Africans brought over by the ancestors of the Caribbean inhabitants.

The performance also included traditional Caribbean characters of folk tales such as Moko Jumbie, Donkey Belly, Shaggy Bear and Mother Sally.

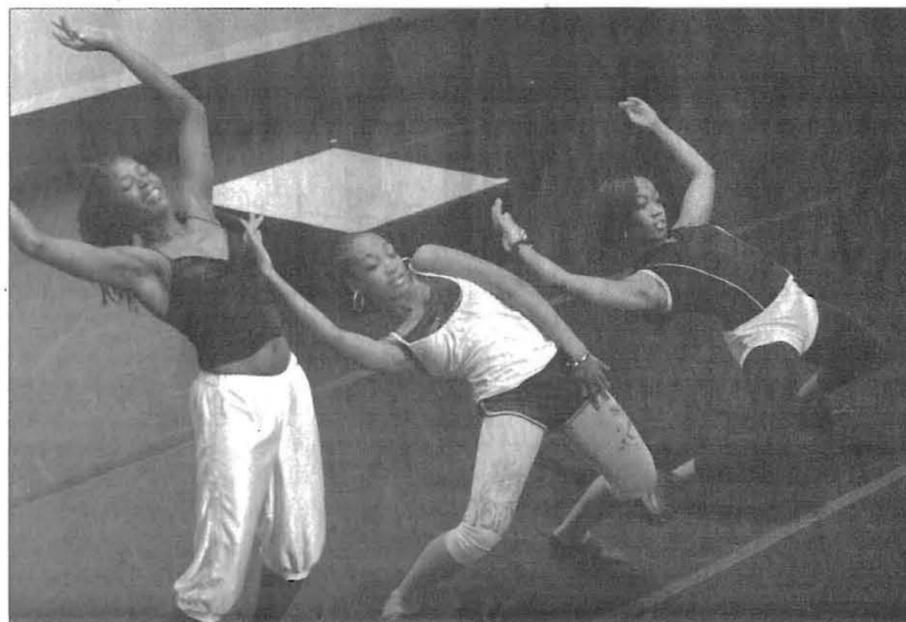
It was an energetic show that mixed traditional West African-inspired dances with modern dance moves influenced by reggae and hip-hop.

The production used multi-media techniques, like lighting and a large video screen behind the dancers, inventively throughout the performance.

Spoken word was also used in the performance. In a dance piece called "The Path," the performers talked about a "bitter past and a bloody sunset," inspired by their ancestors being displaced from Africa due to slavery.

The legacy of slavery was a recurring theme throughout the evening's performances and was mentioned numerous times. This comes as no surprise due to the fact that so many people in the West Indies can trace their roots directly back to the slave trade.

Another dance piece, "Bajan Bac-



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

Dance hall, dub and hip hop were some of the other dancing styles of the west Indies that the company performed at the Touhill on Friday, May 30, at 8 p.m.

chanal," was about two women who were competing for the attention of the same man. Set in the center of a bustling Caribbean town on market day, the sequence involved the two women "fighting" over the man in the form of a dance.

The colorful dance came to a climax when the two women started to spar against one another in slow motion that could have come from a scene in The Matrix.

"Tropical Spectacular" was presented by Better Family Life, a non-profit organization that was founded to find internal solutions to the crises within the African-American family.

The organization presents cultural, artistic and other programming to promote positive change in the St. Louis and East St. Louis areas.

The same organization also sponsored another dance performance, "Forces of Nature," on Saturday, May 31 at 8 p.m. The production presented three major works collectively titled "Earth Rites" about the survival of



Matthew Hill • Photo Editor

"Tropical Spectacular" also included singing in their production.

life on our planet.

"Axis: Temples of Ice" focused on themes of ice and snow, "Rhythm Legacy" explored the influence of Af-

rican rhythms on American cultures and "Terrestrial Wombs" was woven around the mythology of the Divine Feminine and the origins of life.

Performance arts thrills come in threes as summer begins

By CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

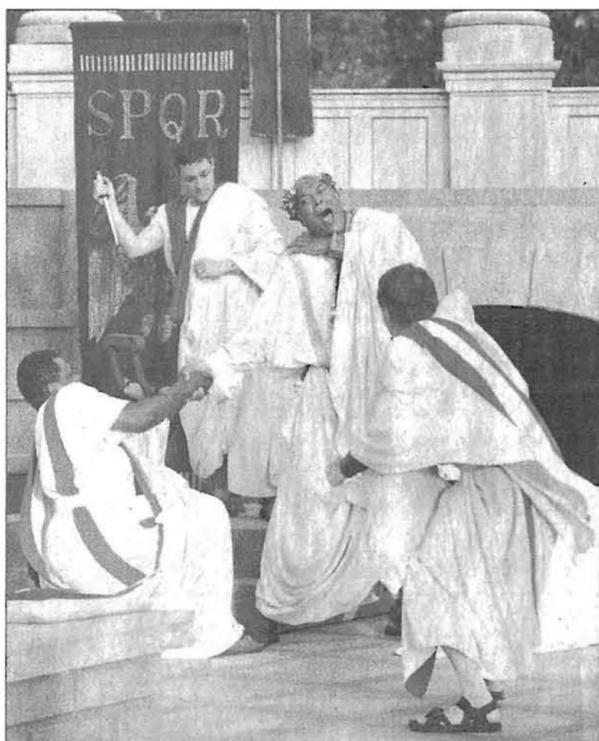


Photo courtesy of St. Louis Shakespeare Festival 2006

Plays like 2006's "Julius Caesar" will be performed at the Shakespeare Festival in Forest Park.

actors from around the country in the gifted casts.

This year, it is the Tragedy of King Richard the Third. Richard is one of the great villains of theater based on a historical figure, with terrific, famous lines like "My kingdom for a horse." Richard the Third is about the rise and fall of a political schemer, an appropriate choice for any election year.

But you want to get there long before the show, or you will miss out. In the "green show" that traditionally precedes the Shakespearean play, jugglers, clowns, belly dancers, Morris dancers and other performers stroll around the crowd.

The pre-show also includes a short, comic version of the play which acts as a synopsis of the story, accompanied by some background and description of the play to come. Sometimes the Festival offers lectures on Shakespeare before the show as well.

You can bring your own blankets or folding chairs, or pay a small fee to sit in one of the chairs set up near the front. You are also free to bring your own refreshments, but the festival has lots of food and drink to help set the festival tone.

Since the performance is outside, the weather sometimes interferes, so check the forecast or take an umbrella.

See THRILLS, page 8

A&E ON CAMPUS

MEDIA HALLS OF FAME

Award dinner honoring media professionals in print, pr/advertising, radio, and TV on June 7, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$110 per person.

GREAT RIVERS AUTHORS

George Lakoff, author of The Political Mind: Why You Can't Understand 21st-Century American Politics with an 18th Century Brain explains how our brains work, why language is so important and how Democrats can use this to their advantage to win the election. The talk will be held June 16, 2008 on 7 p.m. at the St. Louis Public Library - Central Branch.

VOICES IN HARMONY

The International Champion Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus perform at the Touhill on June 21 at 2 p.m and 8 p.m. Featured performers are the Ambassadors of Harmony - International Champion Chorus, and Vocal Spectrum - 2006 International Champion Quartet.

GREAT RIVERS AUTHORS

Barbara Ehrenreich, best selling author of "Nickel and Dimed" and "Bait and Switch", masterfully articulates the hardships and hypocrisies facing the majority of the population in her new book, "This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation." The Talk will be held on July 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

TOP ITUNES

DOWNLOADS

1. Viva la Vida - Coldplay
2. I Kissed a Girl - Katy Perry
3. Pocketful of Sunshine - Natasha Bedingfield
4. Shake it - Metro Station
5. Take a Bow - Rihanna
6. Forever - Chris Brown
7. Bleeding Love - Leona Lewis
8. Lollipop - Lil Wayne
9. 4 Minutes (feat. Justin Timberlake and Timbaland) - Madonna
10. The Time of My Life - David Cook



UMSL postal worker is Cardinals' #1 fan



Sofi Seck • Staff Photographer

Tom Lange, mail carrier for UM-St. Louis, participated again this year in the Hiram W. Leffingwell Awards "Hat" Luncheon on June 5th in Forest Park. Although he did not place this year, Tom did win first place last year in the event, which is a fundraiser for the Dana Brown Charitable Trust.

By LaGuan Fuse

Staff Writer

What do the U.S. Postal Service and the St. Louis Cardinals have in common?

While that may sound like the start of a pretty bad joke, the answer is Tom Lange, a man recognized nationwide for his innovative and creative hats dedicated to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Lange also works in the mailroom at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

He became a local star thanks to his hats, but admits that he has never really been a hat person.

"People say 'I never see you wear you hats,'" Lange said. "For someone who makes hats, I was never a hat person. People almost never saw me in a hat unless it is a parade or a baseball game. Now I am the Cardinals Hat Man."

"Everybody wants their picture

taken with the hat," Lange said. "No matter where I go, I hear three things—'I saw you on TV,' 'Can I get my picture taken with you,' and 'Did you make that?'"

He has met and taken pictures with other fans, former Cardinals players and even Billy Bob Thornton.

"Now how cool is that," Lange said. "I mean seriously, how cool is that? Billy Bob Thornton!"

Lange first became popular with Cardinals fans with the creation of his "Birds in the New Nest" hat.

He thought it would be a good idea to create the hat with a bird's nest on top, symbolizing the Cardinals moving into their new home field.

Lange not only wanted to entertain other fans with the hat, but he wanted to get a first hand look at the nest on opening day and thought that his gimmick might do the trick.

"When the new stadium first opened, being the Cardinals fan that I am, I wanted to get tickets to new

Busch Stadium," Lange said.

"We went to the game. I didn't get tickets, never got into that game, but the [St. Louis] Post [Dispatch] took my picture and I was in the newspaper the next day."

Lange may have not been in the stadium on game day, but his "Birds in the New Nest" hat grabbed the attention of many fans on opening day.

He was also featured in the McDonald's Cardinals video.

Lange's picture was featured in the book honoring the Cardinals' first season and again in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch after the Cardinals won the World Series.

Lange's next Cardinals hat honored the team's 10th World Series Championship. He named the hat "Welcome to Baseball Heaven." It features all 10 of the team's championships.

Lange was featured on "Today in St. Louis," a segment on KSDK News Channel 5, working in the

UM-St. Louis mailroom and displaying his innovative creation.

The hype over Lange's unique hats did not stop there. He continued to be featured in local magazines, and he appeared on <http://www.si.com> wearing his one-of-a-kind hat.

Lange has created nine hats, but the general public has only seen seven of them—his three Cardinals creations, a Mardi Gras hat, a St. Patrick's day hat, a safari hat and a "Duck Derby" hat, created for the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club.

Lange's other two hats will be seen around UM-St. Louis very soon, as he always gives the campus a "sneak peak" before the rest of St. Louis.

Lange hinted at the theme of his hat for opening day next season, and he believes Cardinals fans will enjoy it.

Even though he does not want to give away his idea, he said the hat would be a "birthday" hat and wants fans to think about who is turning 30.

St. Louis Baseball Fun Facts



COMPILED BY ANGIE SPENCER • PROOFREADER

- The American Association disbanded in 1892, leaving the then St. Louis Browns as members of the National League, where they, and the Cardinals, have remained ever since.
- In 1899, The Robison Brothers discarded the name of Browns, calling the St. Louis National Leaguers the Perfectos. The same year, sportswriter Willie McHale heard a fan remark, "What a lovely shade of cardinal." He used it in his column, and the next year, the name was permanently changed to The Cardinals.
- 1926 marked their first World Series appearance where the Redbirds edged over the Yankees in a seven games.
- 1944 pitted the NL St. Louis Cardinals against the AL St. Louis Browns. This was the only all-St. Louis World Series and the only appearance for the Browns.
- Anheuser-Busch, Inc. purchased the club and the sale was announced on February 20, 1953.
- Following the 1953 season, Sportsman Park was renovated and renamed Busch Stadium. The Browns were sold to a group of Baltimore investors and left St. Louis to become the Orioles.
- In 1977, Lou Brock broke Ty Cobb's career stolen base mark with number 893 in San Diego on Aug. 29. Two years later he collected his 3000th hit.
- The Cards entered into the Central Division of the National League in 1994.
- Tony LaRussa took over management of the team in 1996. He remains there today.
- In 1998, McGwire beat Roger Maris' home run record on Sept. 8 with home run 62.
- The Redbirds clinched the World Series in 2006 with a win over the Detroit Tigers, making that their 10th World Series title.

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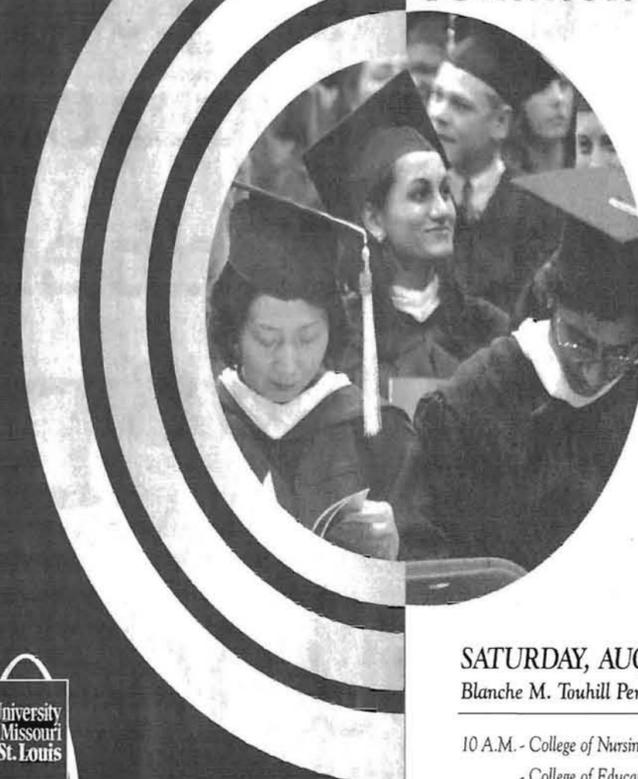
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2008 August Commencement



Commencement Candidates

Attend the Grad Fair

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(purchase cap and gown and order announcements, etc.)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- College of Education
- College of Fine Arts & Communication

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences
- School of Social Work
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Master's in Gerontology
- Master's in Public Policy Administration

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program

THRILLS from page 6

Be sure to wear good walking shoes to navigate the grassy hillside. For more on the festival, visit their Web site at <http://www.sfstl.com>.

Opera Theater of St. Louis is the late spring beauty to bloom on the arts scene. If you have only sampled opera through the performances at the Touhill, run to the Opera Theater's productions right away.

There is simply no comparison. These productions are not only in English but are eye-poppingly gorgeous, including gifted, young singers with big, lush, beautiful voices.

On top of that, the productions strongly focus on the acting in the drama, calling on singers to really play the part. Since the singers are young and slim, they look the part as well.

Opera Theater of St. Louis is so fabulous it has put St. Louis on the map for opera fans around the country and launched several glittering careers.

There are four operas in the season that play in overlapping performances from May 24 to June 29.

The four operas this year are Madame Butterfly, Tales of Hoffman, Una Cosa Rara and Troilus and Cressida.

The four operas follow a pattern: one big favorite opera in lavish traditional production, a big favorite in a non-traditional production, a little-seen but first rate opera, and a production of a top quality newer work.

The quality of the works, the overlapping schedule and the variety of approaches make the series appealing whether you want to see all or only a couple of the operas. You can learn more at their Web site at <http://www.opera-stl.org>.

Circus Flora finishes out this little

triple crown of performances. Circus Flora is as far removed from the Ringling Brothers circus you may remember from your childhood.

Children of course can enjoy Circus Flora, but it offers an evening of delights for adults as well. The shows take place under the big top in the parking lot of the Powell Symphony Hall, on Grand a block north of the Fox.

The shows run from June 5 to June 22. Details on performances are available at their Web site at <http://www.circusflora.org/tour.htm>.

This one-ring, European style circus is presented in a cozy big top where you are so close, there are no bad seats. Because you are so close, acts like the high wire, trapeze and bareback stunt riding are far more gripping than you can imagine.

Each year, the show has a theme, a kind of plot used to try the acts together. This year the show is called Sherwood Forest, with a Robin Hood theme.

Circus Flora has established a reputation for great shows and attracts an ever-changing cast of characters, along with the core performers and acts. Core acts include Nino the Clown and the Flying Wallendas.

Costumes are truly fantasy. Gypsy colors, pirates and more give the show a kind of Cirque de Soleil meets masquerade ball meets art school feel.

Just watching the performances stroll around the ring is entertaining. But there is much more once the show gets underway. It is pure eye candy and breath-catching thrills.

Circus Flora, Opera Theater of St. Louis and St. Louis Shakespeare Festival are a great way to launch the summer for fans of performing arts.

CLASSIFIED Ads

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

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I am looking for a female roommate to share a three bedroom house near New Halls Ferry and Chambers. Rent \$500. Washer/ dryer and all utilities provided. Call 314-489-8111 for more information.

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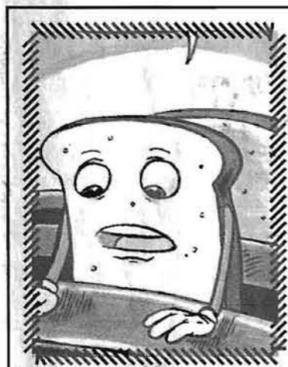
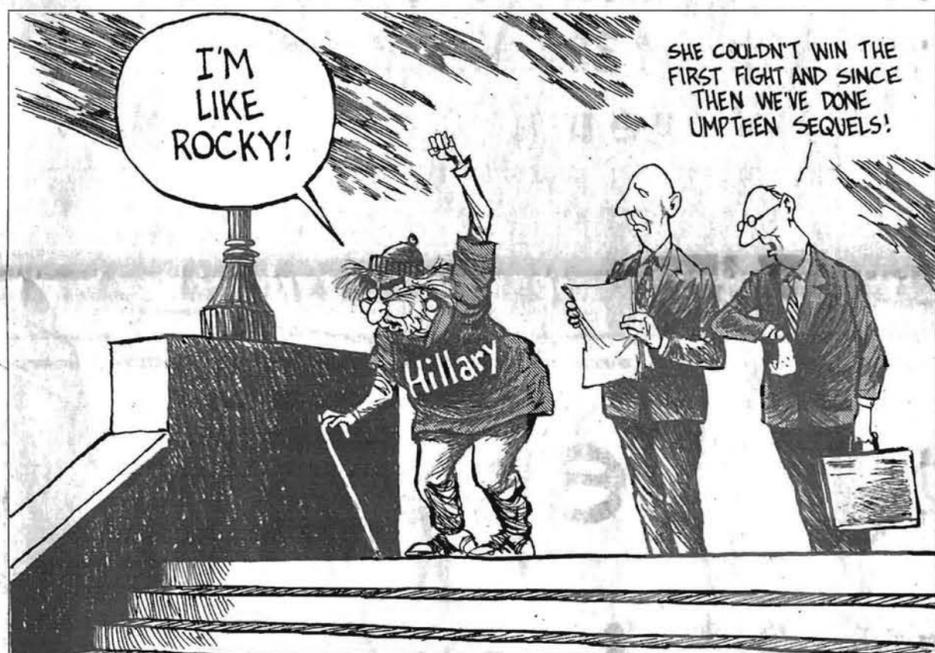
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CURRENT CARTOONISTS



"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart

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Your work may not make it into an art gallery.

However, *The Current* is looking for cartoonists. Send a resume, cover letter, and samples of your work to thecurrent@umsl.edu.

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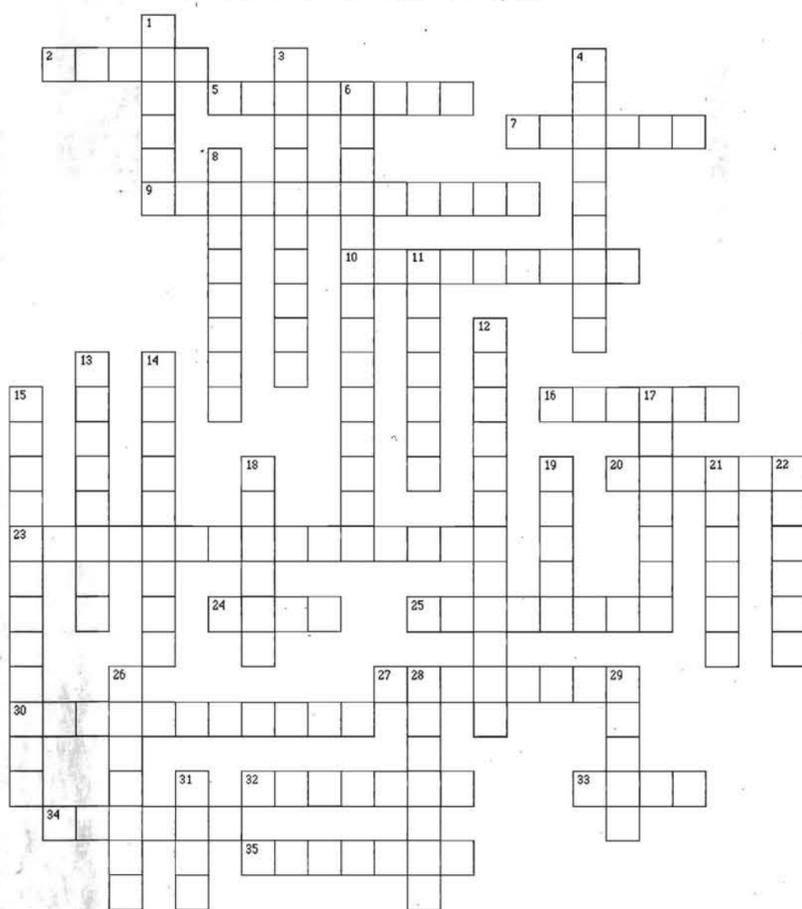
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CURRENT CROSSWORD

Trivia Crossword



ACROSS

- Capital of Senegal
- Only animal with 4 knees
- Team Eli Manning plays for
- Name of Managing Editor's cartoon
- Winner of American Idol
- First name of first female Supreme Court Justice
- Occupation of Charlie Brown's Father
- Bob Barker and Drew Carey TV Show
- Linkin Park's original name
- Sign of those born Jan. 20-Feb. 18
- Harry Hudson discovery
- Name Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger took when he became Pope
- Ingredient in a margarita
- Went with Jack to get some H₂O
- Color worn by leader of Tour de France
- Only gem composed of a single element

DOWN

- Name of Dumbledore's phoenix
- Goddess of fertility and queen of the underworld
- Capital of Kentucky
- Duo in search of little, square burgers
- The type of asses Melissa Hayden wrote about in her article
- "Can you hear me now?" company
- President from Missouri
- Body part that produces Insulin
- "Float like a _____, sting like a bee"
- The fear of teeth
- Necessary item needed for care of babies
- Home country of music group The Hives
- Mascot of UM-Columbia
- City of team that won the first World Series
- Kansas City baseball team
- Jimmy Nichol filled in as drummer for this band
- Where the Liberty Bell was made
- The artist that spent the most weeks at the top of the Billboard charts
- Spanish for hello

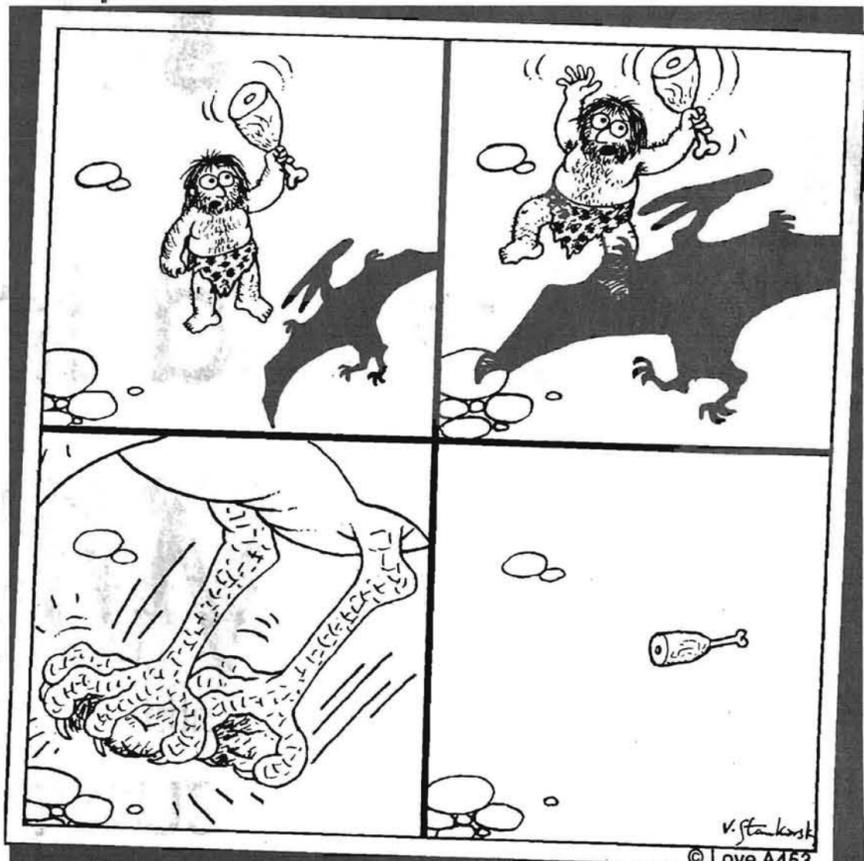
Find answers to this week's crossword at

The Current

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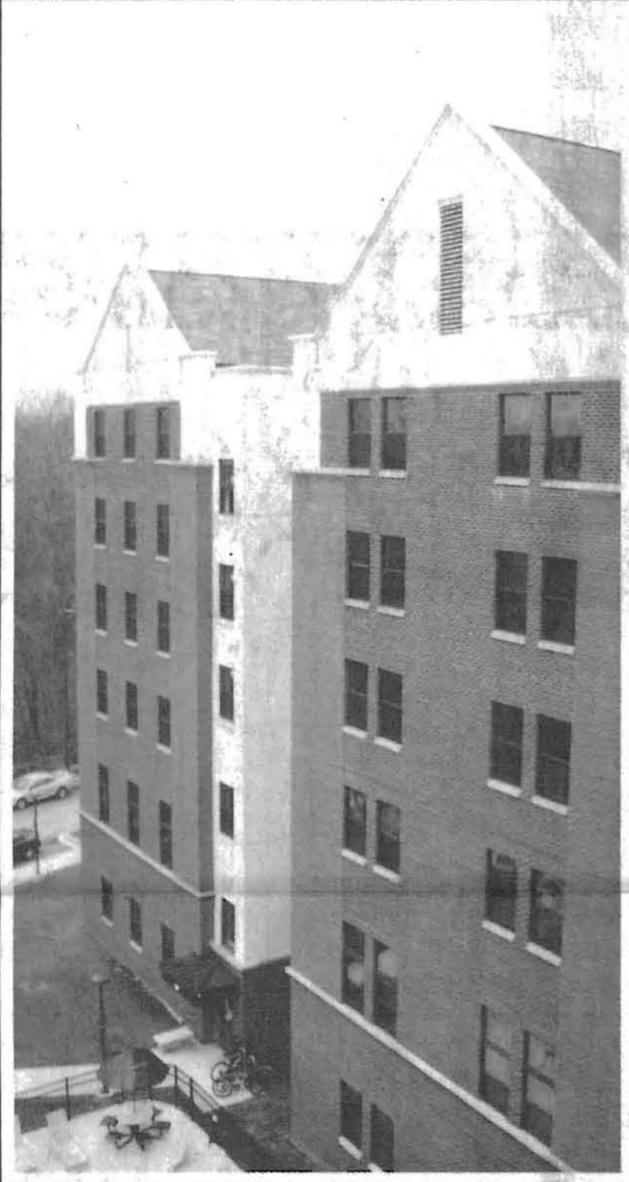
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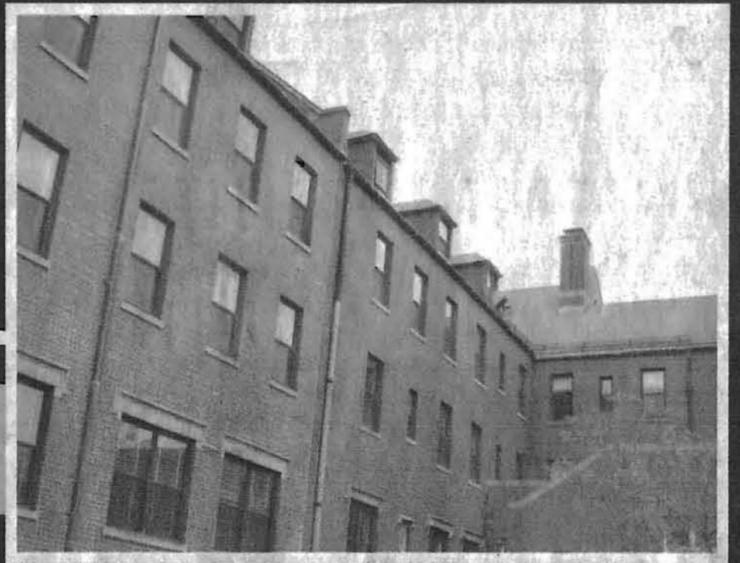
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OAK HALL



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THE VILLA

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