

The Current

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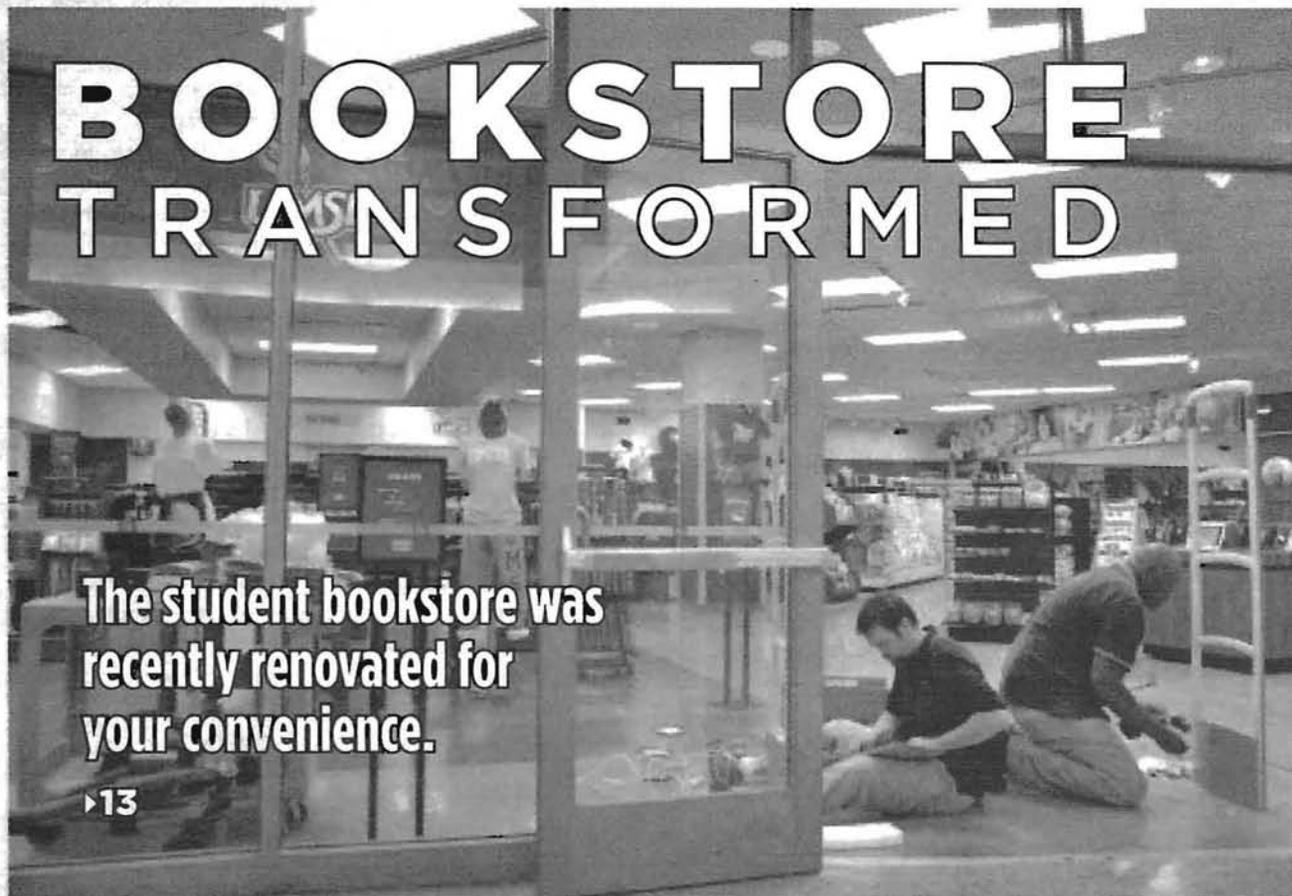
Steve Tappmeyer
is the new men's
basketball coach
▶5



BOOKSTORE TRANSFORMED

The student bookstore was
recently renovated for
your convenience.

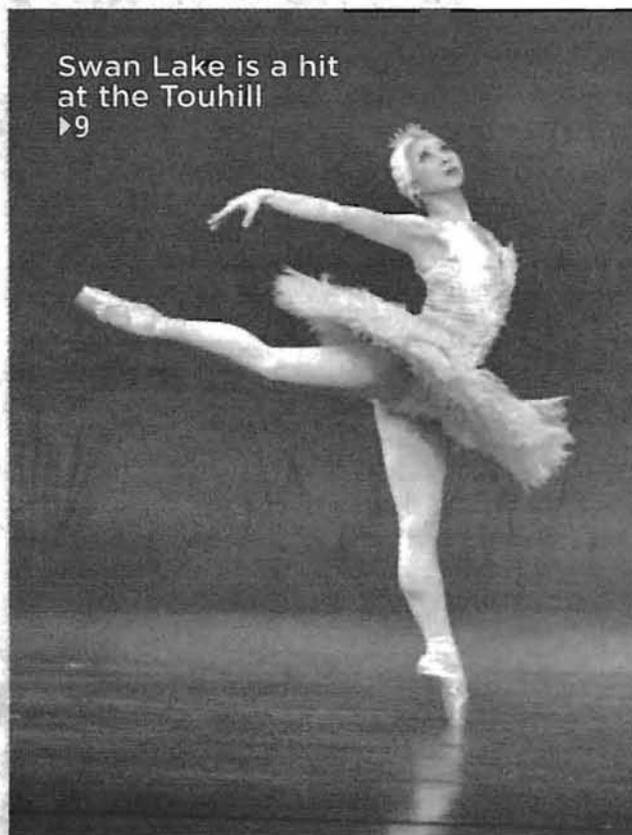
▶13



Bartlett leads
record-breaking
long ball crew
▶7



Swan Lake is a hit
at the Touhill
▶9



Proposition A
passed
▶2



The Current
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1308

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St. Louis County passes Proposition A

▶ **MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, Proposition A passed on the April ballot with 63 percent of the vote. The passing of this bill means that throughout St. Louis City and County, there will be a half-cent sales tax increase.

This increase in sales tax will immediately benefit and provide revenue for the restoration and expansion of MetroLink throughout the Missouri and Illinois lines by generating an expected \$75 million a year in revenue for public transit.

This bill's implications for residents of Missouri and Illinois go far beyond a simple sales tax increase, however.

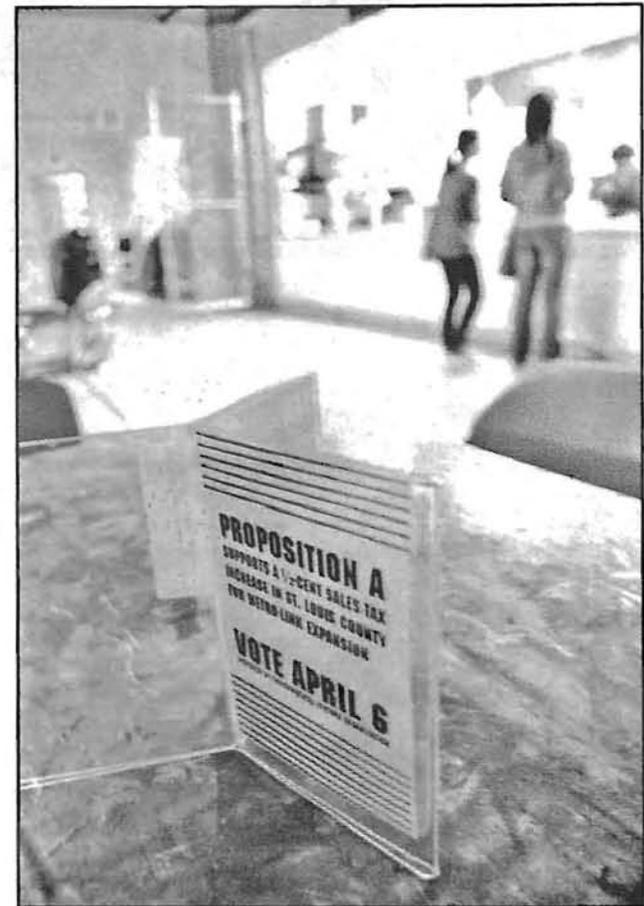
The actual services planned within the past year alone include restoration of service cuts, along with ex-

pansion of all Metro services. There will also be extensive future growth to services, using public input to help plan for development in high-need areas first.

This will also lead to economic development, as more service areas for MetroLink will allow for employees to reach jobs, and will allow for greater access to the community.

Many University of Missouri-St. Louis students showed a positive reaction to the future implementation of the sales tax.

"I'm in support of this tax. I'm more than willing to pay an extra half-cent sales tax to help pay for MetroLink. A lot of other places around the world, like Europe and China, have great public transportation, and St. Louis has been struggling just to keep what they have open, much



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Vote for Prop A signs sit on the Pilot House tables on Tuesday. less to expand. I say go for it: senior, music education, said. tax us a little bit. It will help with expansion," Casey Kell, See PROP A, page 3

UMSL works to improve registration rates

▶ **STACY BECKENHOLDT**
Copy Editor

On April 5, registration for summer and fall classes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis began for currently enrolled senior, graduate and doctoral students followed by freshmen-, sophomore- and junior-level students registering on April 12.

"The first two weeks of registration for both fall and summer, and winter intersession and spring, are reserved for students who are already here," Alice Gadel, Office of the Registrar, said. April 19, 2010 is when open registration starts for all other students. "Fall term and sum-

mer opens up at the same time, so probably our busiest time would be the open registration days when open registration begins," Gadel said.

Students have the option of registering online through MyGateway's MyView system or in person at the Office of the Registrar located in room 351 of the Millennium Student Center. Gadel explained that since the inception of the MyView system, she has not noticed a difference in the number of students who register in her office, just an increase in the number of phone calls the office receives requesting help registering through MyView.

Either way, Gadel stressed that helping students with whatever they need is of the utmost importance. "We really, really, really try our best to help students and give them what they need to get done, whatever it is," Gadel said.

While Gadel and her coworkers assist students through the registration process, Alan Byrd is doing what he can to send more students their way. "We are sort of underperforming as an institution," Byrd, director of admissions, said. "We are a selective institution and [retention] rates don't match that." According to Byrd, the

low end of retention rates for first-year students is 75 percent, yet UM-St. Louis is only at 72 percent.

In comparison, UMColumbia has an 86 percent retention rate, and UMKansas City's is 76 percent. Of the universities with which UM-St. Louis competes for students, the top six are UMColumbia, Missouri State, Southeast Missouri State, Truman State, Lindenwood and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Additionally, UM-St. Louis is not meeting the national average for any demographics.

See REGISTRATION, page 3

WEATHER

MON. 41	TUES. 41	WED. 43	THURS. 47	FRI. 53	SAT. 51	SUN. 50
28	28	27	29	40	41	45

UMSL students win big at local advertising awards

▶ RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis was well represented at this year's local ADDY Awards with four students taking home honors. The ADDY Awards are "the world's largest and arguably toughest advertising competition," according to The American Advertising Federation (AAF).

The awards recognize excellence in radio, television, print and a variety of other forms of advertising. Winners of local ADDYs may move on to the regional and then national levels of the competition.

The three UM-St. Louis ADDY recipients were Erika Drebber, Kerry Manderbach and Kathryn Magraw.

Drebber, junior, media studies, was the UM-St. Louis' biggest winner in the competition, winning two awards: a Student Gold

ADDY for her "Mini Cooper" newspaper ad and a Student Silver ADDY for her "UMSL College of Nursing" logo design. Manderbach, senior, media studies, won two Student Silver ADDYs for her "Zoo Date" radio ad and her "It Takes U" television spot. Magraw, senior, media studies, rounded out the mix, winning UM-St. Louis' fourth Student Silver ADDY this year for her "Zoo Billboard Reconnect with Your Family" advertisement.

Overall, UM-St. Louis students received five of the six student ADDY awards this year.

The ADDY Awards Show and Celebration was hosted by the AdClub St. Louis and took place Feb. 18 at The Lumen in downtown St. Louis. The ADDY awards have been in existence for over 50 years.

Drebber's Gold ADDY marked the third time a UM-St. Louis student has won the award since 2006. In that

timeframe, UM-St. Louis students studying advertising have also received 16 local certificates of excellence from AdClub St. Louis.

After winning gold in St. Louis, Drebber's "Mini Cooper" ad has advanced to the regional ADDYs in Lincoln, Neb. Judging for this competition took place March 19-21, but the results have not yet been announced. UM-St. Louis has had success at this more prestigious level of competition in the past. The school won its first regional ADDY, a silver, last year.

Manderbach was upbeat about his win as well as the event itself. "The ceremony, for the students, is all about networking with professionals in the ad industry and being recognized for our work in the classroom. This can translate into opportunities in the real world after graduation," Manderbach said.

Fellow winner Magraw treated the event as both a fun

and educational experience. "You get to see everyone's work on display, including your own," Magraw said. "So it's a great way to familiarize yourself with each agency's work. There is always free beer and hors d'oeuvres and everyone pretty much walks around and mingles until the awards film is shown."

"UMSL students are in sync with this award because they care about their work; in fact, they love it," Kristy Tucciarone, assistant teaching professor of media studies at UM-St. Louis, said. Tucciarone is also a co-chair of the local ADDYs but was not involved with the judging.

UM-St. Louis' success at the ADDYs comes in the wake of another UM-St. Louis student earning major recognition from the AAF earlier this year. Nicholas Foster, senior, media studies, was included in the AAF's 2010 list of Most Promising Minority Students.

PROP A, from page 2

There were other students who focused more on the impact this change will have on students at UM-St. Louis. Naturally this is a concern, as there are two dedicated MetroLink stations on the UM-St. Louis campus.

"There are quite a few students who depend on the Metro. I know plenty who go to UMSL who use the Metro to get out to Brentwood, Union Station, etc., to work, because they don't have their own cars. The Metro also saves money for citizens and pollutes less than if everybody drove their own cars everywhere," Chelsey Maylee, senior, psychology, said.

There were also those who, although skeptical of the increased tax, were understanding and supportive of the tax's purpose.

"It's like a double-edged sword with me," MaryAnn Toulia-tos, junior, political science, said. "I'm not sure we need more taxes, but the MetroLink does help a lot of people, especially my friends who don't have cars at UMSL. Lots of students use the MetroLink for school and work. It's also useful for sporting events, festivals, and parades downtown."

Proposition A's usage plans began last Wednesday as soon as the bill was passed. Any purchases made in the past week have already begun aiding in the restoration and expansion of public transit within the Missouri/Illinois MetroLink system. As St. Louis moves toward the future, public transit will evolve as well.

REGISTRATION, from page 2

"We're behind across the board," Byrd said.

Low retention rates can be a sign of dissatisfaction in students' experiences, and Byrd is taking steps to address students' concerns.

This week, he will be meeting with people to put together a form that students can fill out with their concerns, and hopes to have a forum before the end of the semester where students can not only complete the form but also talk about their experiences regarding various aspects of campus life.

Two of the topics he is expecting to hear about are parking and food and he understands that UM-St. Louis needs to be competitive with other universities that may offer these and other things at lower costs and higher values. "We have to really evaluate ourselves across the board," Byrd said. He and his team will take the information they get from students and write a proposal of potential changes from students' perspectives.

Students interested in participating in the forum can find information about the date and time in a future issue of *The Current* or by listening to the U Student Radio Station.

For assistance with course registration contact 516-5545 during regular business hours.

WORLD NEWS

Justice Stevens announces retirement

Supreme Court justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement from the bench late last week. His retirement will begin once the court adjourns for their summer recess. Stevens, who was appointed to the court in 1975 by President Ford has the distinction of being the second-longest serving justice to serve on the court and the only veteran serving there. A successor is expected to be nominated by President Obama following the beginning of Stevens' retirement.

Polish president killed in crash

Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and 94 other Polish government, military and civilian leaders died last Friday when their plane crashed while landing in heavy fog in western Russia. President Kaczynski was scheduled to lead a delegation to commemorate the 70th anniversary of a massacre of Polish military officers by the Soviets during World War II. Despite the major loss in leadership, the government has carried on and has called for a national week of mourning.

US, Russia sign nuclear treaty

President Obama and Russian President Medvedev signed a treaty last Thursday agreeing that both countries will reduce their stockpiles of nuclear warheads by one-third and other military hardware used to deliver them would be reduced by one-half. The agreement coincided with the debut of a new U.S. nuclear weapons policy which rules out the use of nuclear weapons against countries that do not have them and bans the development of any new nuclear weapons.

Video of massacre leaked

The website wikileaks.org has published a classified video showing an American military helicopter firing on unarmed civilians and journalists, among others, in Iraq. The US military had previously maintained that the helicopter had fired on armed militants, and that the Reuters journalists had been accidentally killed. The video depicts U.S. pilots firing on civilians and the journalists in addition to a vehicle that arrived on the scene to evacuate the wounded, which resulted in the shooting of two children.

Sudan holds elections

Sudanese citizens went to vote in the first truly democratic election the country has held in over two decades on Sunday. The country has been in turmoil due to a 20-year civil war and the genocide in the Darfur region of the country. The elections will ultimately choose a national parliament and other leaders. The new government is expected to lay the groundwork for a referendum vote that may grant Southern Sudan and Darfur independence.

EU offers \$40 billion to Greece

Members of the European Union moved to offer \$40 billion in emergency financial aid to Greece on Sunday. The move is in response to the crash of the Grecian economy due to outstanding debts. European officials had been debating how to deliver a bailout package to the struggling country, whose debts have largely affected the economies of other EU member states based on the Euro. Greece has yet to say whether they will accept the aid.

What do you think about news around campus? Let your voice be heard at
THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT by Riki Tanaka

Like last year, UM-St. Louis allowed its students to leave for one week in Spring. What did you do during the spring break?



"I studied for exam."

Vijay Deshetty
Graduate
Computer Science



"I played rugby at Forest Park, hung out with friends, and slept in."

Greg Ely
Junior
Education



"I worked, studied, and shopped for vintage clothes."

Morgan Hickman
Graduate
MBA

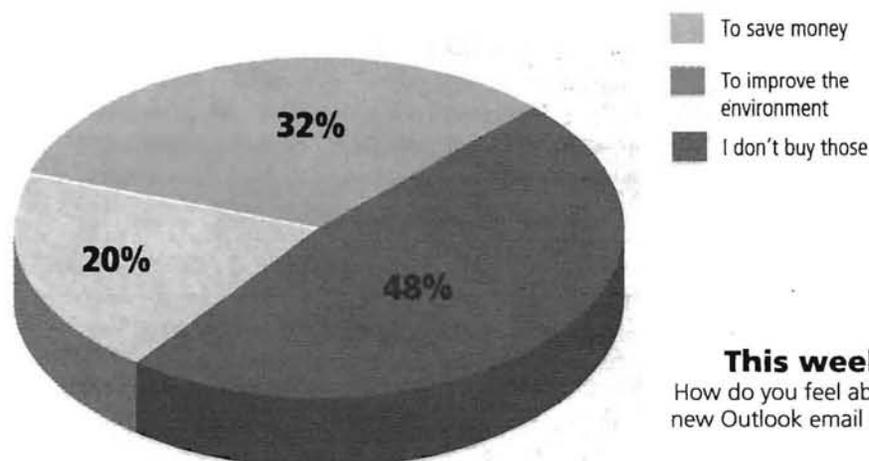


"I relaxed, worked, and went to Chicago."

Jennifer Lam
Junior
Chemical Engineering

POLL

Why do you buy energy efficient products?



- To save money
- To improve the environment
- I don't buy those

This week:

How do you feel about the new Outlook email system?

Answer at
www.thecurrent-online.com

Data courtesy of Gallup Inc.

CRIMELINE

Sunday, April 4

Stealing Over \$500.00 - Parking Lot KK-South Campus
Sometime between April 3rd and April 4th person(s) unknown broke into a parked motor vehicle and stole a car stereo system, CD's and a credit card from inside.

Assault 3rd Degree - University Meadows
About 4:00 PM a disturbance and assault occurred between boyfriend and girlfriend at University Meadows. Both participants are UMSL students. The victim indicated that her boyfriend had assaulted her and damaged some property. The suspect was arrested for the assault and transported to the UMSL Police Station.

Property Damage - Parking Lot TT-South Campus
During patrol of the South Campus parking areas about 6:30 AM, a vehicle was discovered to have been broken into. The officer observed a window had been smashed out and the contents of the vehicle rummaged through.

Thursday, April 8

Property Damage-Parking Lot TT-South Campus
During patrol of the South Campus parking areas about 6:30 AM, a vehicle was discovered to have been broken into. The officer observed a window had been smashed out and the contents of the vehicle had been rummaged through. At the time of the report it is unknown if any items were stolen from inside the vehicle. There are no suspects in this incident.

Property Damage-Parking Lot KK-South Campus
At about 7:30 AM the victim notified the UMSL Police Department that her parked vehicle was broken into and items stolen from inside. The incident occurred sometime overnight or early morning. A stereo face plate and two power cords were stolen from inside the vehicle. There are no suspects in this incident.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these, or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. The UMSL Police Department and the St. Louis area have seen an increase in car break-ins recently where the suspects are targeting items in plain view. Be sure to remove all items from view in your vehicle. Please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155..

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VERBATIM

"I'm proud to be celibate; it's ok not to have sex."

-Lady Gaga



"Some movies you do because they're a lot of fun. That's what this one was. Me in a skirt with a rubber sword, killing monsters."

-Sam Worthington
on *Clash of the Titans*

"I want to thank my parents for somehow raising me to have confidence that is disproportionate with my looks and abilities."

-Tina Fey



"You have a title like 'Hot Tub Time Machine', that's a stupid title. Maybe people are going to think the people who made it have lost their mind completely."

-John Cusack
on *Hot Tub Time Machine*

Sports

New era begins for basketball: Tappmeyer is new head coach

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

A new era of University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball history began last Wednesday when athletics director Lori Flanagan made the formal announcement that former Northwest Missouri State head coach Steve Tappmeyer had been hired to the same position here at.

Flanagan made her announcement at a press conference held on the Chuck Smith Court inside the Mark Twain Building in front of many media members and several UM-St. Louis athletics department dignitaries, including the university's first men's basketball coach, Chuck Smith.

"We are delighted to name Steve as our new coach and welcome him and his family to St. Louis," Flanagan said. "Steve is an excellent choice for UMSL from every perspective—in terms of the basketball component, his ability to serve as a mentor and his skills as a proven leader. He is the right coach to lead UMSL men's basketball to the next level."

The UM-St. Louis men's basketball coach position became available on March 3, when former head coach Chris Pilz resigned after leading the team to a 12-16 record last season.

Pilz, a former All-American player and member of the UM-St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, coached the Tritons to a 77-114 record in seven seasons as the head of the men's basketball program.

"We have a responsibility to our student-athletes here to provide the best environment for success in the classroom and on the athletic field," Flanagan said. "After evaluating the situation, we decided it was best for both sides [Coach Pilz and the university] if we made a change at the coach position."

Many among local basketball circles consider the hiring of Tappmeyer a blockbuster move for UM-St. Louis.

In 21 seasons as head coach at Northwest Missouri, Tappmeyer was the winningest coach in the history of that program, leading the Bearcats to a 408-208 record (a .662 winning percentage),

while taking that team to 10 NCAA Tournament appearances, advancing as far as the Elite Eight twice.

"My wife, Lynette, and I are both thrilled and excited about this opportunity to be the head men's basketball coach at UMSL," Tappmeyer said. "Originally, the St. Louis region was an attractive element since we have so many friends and family in the area, but we didn't really know a lot about the university until a couple weeks ago."

"Since then we have been more than impressed with the people we have met and the things we have learned. I think it's an exciting time to be at UMSL with all the great things planned for the future. The administration has a great vision for both the university and the athletic department, and we are elated to be a part of that," Tappmeyer said.

Triton basketball fans are hoping the team can achieve some of the same success Tappmeyer had while leading Northwest Missouri to three Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

(MIAA) regular season conference championships, four MIAA conference tournament championships, nine 20-win seasons in the last 12 years, and 10 20-win seasons overall.

Reaching those heights will be a bit tougher; the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which UM-St. Louis competes in, is always one of the toughest Division II basketball leagues in the country.

Just this past season, nine GLVC teams finished the

year with winning records. No other league in the country had more than seven teams with winning records. Also, five GLVC teams made the NCAA Tournament in 2010. That number is also the most for any league in the country.

"We know we have a big challenge here, but we're very excited about that challenge," Tappmeyer said. "We're looking forward to putting the best team on the floor that we can. We want to create a

lot of excitement around the program and create something that everyone wants to be a part of."

Tappmeyer is native of Gerald, Mo., in Franklin County, and was an assistant at Northwest Missouri before eventually landing the head coaching position. He also enjoyed great success at East Central College in Union, Mo., where he guided that program to a 62-32 record in three seasons as head coach.

Steve Tappmeyer: A big winner

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

New men's basketball coach Steve Tappmeyer made no bones about the fact that he did not know very much about the University of Missouri-St. Louis until he met with athletics director Lori Flanagan for lunch several weeks ago.

Tappmeyer had visited the campus several times recruiting and coaching against the

Tritons, but he did not know a whole lot about the university itself until he and Flanagan met at the McDonald's restaurant in Pacific, Mo., to discuss Tappmeyer possibly taking over UM-St. Louis' men's basketball program.

"It didn't take very long for Lori to sell me on what a great place this is," Tappmeyer said at the April 7 press conference to announce his hiring as UM-St. Louis' men's basketball coach.

Flanagan said she also knew very quickly that Tappmeyer, the former Northwest Missouri State coach, with more than 400 career wins and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances on his resume, was the right choice for UM-St. Louis.

"I could tell right away that Steve is a person of high character," Flanagan said. "Obviously, he's had a lot of success as a coach and as a teacher of young men. That's

why we wanted him to be our next head coach."

Flanagan and Tappmeyer met again at that same McDonald's restaurant about a week after that original meeting, this time along with his wife Lynette, to discuss more intensely where the UM-St. Louis men's basketball program was and where Tappmeyer believed he could take it to.

"I was sold that day," Flanagan said. "And now I hope our third meeting at that McDonald's will be for a party where we can all go to watch

UMSL [earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament] on the NCAA Selection Show."

The Tappmeyers had their own discussion about the job after leaving McDonald's that day.

"My wife and I really talked about 'what feels right,'" Tappmeyer said. "And we both felt that UMSL just felt right. We were impressed with the aggressiveness UMSL showed in pursuing us. And the whole process was about as quick as I've ever seen a coaching hire happen. So we're both very excited."

Flanagan declined to give specifics on how many candidates applied for the UM-St. Louis head coaching position, but she did say the university received inquiries and resumes for coaches all over the country, including several Division I assistants who were hoping to be considered.

With Tappmeyer's resume of more than 20 years of winning, it was clear he was the right man for the job.

See TAPPMAYER, page 8

Triton softball goes 1-3

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team had a chance to climb up the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings when it visited Lewis University and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UWP) for a pair of doubleheaders last weekend.

With a good showing in those four games last weekend, the Tritons had a chance to jump from fifth in the GLVC to fourth, with the potential to be just a half-game behind third place Northern Kentucky heading into this coming week's action.

But the weekend did not go so well for UM-St. Louis, as the Tritons won just one of the four games it played on Saturday and Sunday, and remain fifth in the GLVC conference championship race.

UM-St. Louis will get more chances to make a move in the GLVC race this week, when it hosts three critical doubleheaders against league foes Missouri S&T, the University of Illinois-Springfield (UIS) and Quincy University.

The Missouri S&T doubleheader is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 15, at 5 p.m., and will serve as makeup date for the clubs, after two previously scheduled game-dates were rained out.

Then this weekend, the Tritons will host two games against UIS on Saturday, and two more games against Quincy on Sunday.

Both those doubleheaders will begin at noon, and all six home games this week will be played at the UMSL Softball Field.

UM-St. Louis will close out the regular season on April 24 and 25, with road doubleheaders at Rockhurst and Drury.

Should UM-St. Louis remain among the top eight teams in the GLVC, they will be invited to compete in the GLVC Softball

Championship Tournament.

This will be held May 7-9 at the East Side Centre softball facility in East Peoria, Ill.

Only the top eight teams will qualify, with the winner earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Regionals.

To make that happen, the Tritons are going to have to play better than they did this past weekend.

Against UWP on Saturday, UM-St. Louis lost both games to the Rangers by scores of 7-1 and 9-8. Game one was not a whole lot of fun as UWP jumped out to quick early lead.

But the loss that really hurt was in game two, where the Tritons led by four runs heading into the final inning, but couldn't hold close the game out, before eventually losing on a walkoff hit in extra innings.

Getting swept by UWP meant UM-St. Louis had no chance to finish the weekend higher than fifth in the conference.

This also gave the league's sixth and seventh place teams, Southern Indiana and Missouri S&T, a chance to tie or pass the Tritons for fifth.

That meant UM-St. Louis had to pull out at least one win on Sunday against 20th-ranked Lewis or risk the chance of falling in the league standings.

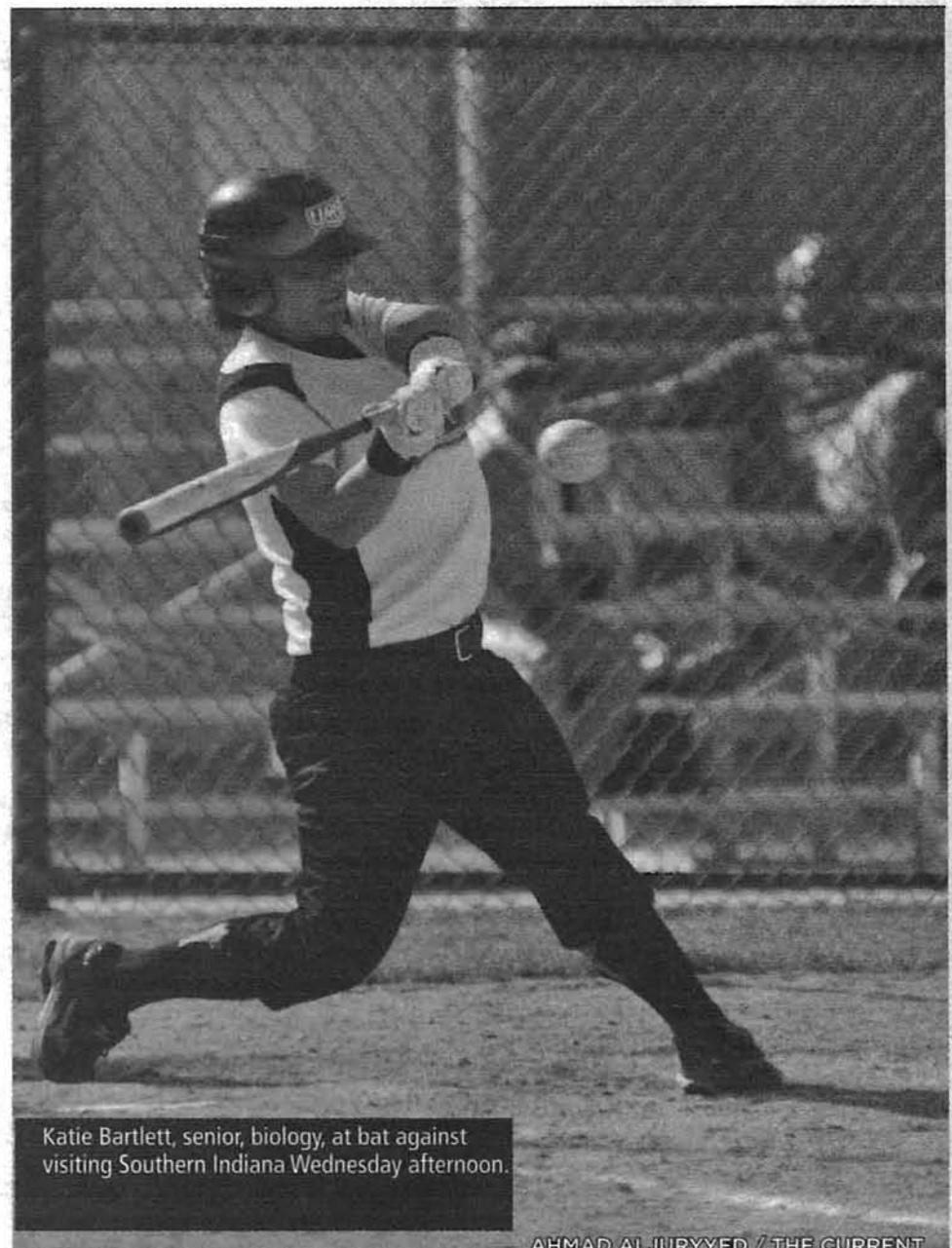
And in that first game at Lewis, the Tritons played like a team that knew it needed a win.

Right fielder and the team's No. 9 hitter, Brooke Meyer blasted a two-run home run, her second of the season, to get UM-St. Louis on the board.

After UWP scored a run of its own in the bottom of the third, the Tritons got that run back in the top of the fourth.

This was thanks to a sacrifice fly by Carly Maddock, senior, communications.

The big blow of the game though, came in the top of the fifth inning, when designated hitter-JaCee Ellis, junior, business administra-



Katie Bartlett, senior, biology, at bat against visiting Southern Indiana Wednesday afternoon.

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

tion, blasted a two-run homer of her own to put the game away for the Tritons, who won 5-3.

That deep launch over the wall was Ellis' eighth homer of the season, ranking her second on the team behind Katie Bartlett, senior,

biology, who leads the team and the entire GLVC with 11 homers this season.

The final game of the weekend got out of hand quickly, as Lewis built a big early lead before eventually winning 10-1.

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Katie Bartlett, biology, senior, getting ready for offense.

Bartlett leads record-breaking long ball crew

▶ CEDRIC WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Fans of the University of Missouri-St. Louis' women's softball team were concerned heading into the spring season that the Tritons might not have gotten enough work outdoors during the winter.

In some respects, that might be true. But one aspect of UM-St. Louis' game that has not been negatively affected by not being able to work out outdoors is the Tritons' hitting.

This season, UM-St. Louis is flat-out blistering the ball when it steps to the plate. Heading into last weekend's road trip at Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis, the Tritons were the best hitting team in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. As a group, UM-St. Louis is hitting .323, not only the highest average in the GLVC but also one of the top-30 team batting averages in the entire country.

Quite a feat for the Tritons, who are looking to re-

peat as GLVC Regular Season Champions this year.

But the one aspect of their hitting that has really set the UM-St. Louis sluggers apart are their home runs.

The 2010 Tritons have bashed the ball out of the park at a historic rate. Coming into this season, the UM-St. Louis all-time record for team home runs in a season was 32, set in 2007 during head coach Chuck Sosnowski's first season as coach of the Tritons.

But with just about a full quarter of the season left, the Tritons have already hit 42 homers this year, a total that completely dwarfs all the long ball totals of any other team in the GLVC, and clearly makes this UM-St. Louis squad the best home run hitting crew in school history.

Starting catcher Katie Bartlett, senior, biology, has been the long ball leader of Tritons this year. A right-handed swinger with serious blast in her bat, Bartlett leads the team, the league,

and ranks 15th in the nation, with 11 homers on the season.

Bartlett's 11 dingers also make her the UM-St. Louis individual single-season all-time home run record-holder, surpassing current Triton assistant coach Casey Dierkes, who hit 10 during that record-breaking 2007 campaign.

Bartlett became the "Triton Home Run Queen" officially when she launched that 11th homer of the season in an April 1 game at rival Maryville.

But Bartlett is not the only player on this team with a knack for whacking the ball over the fences. Teammate JaCee Ellis, junior, business administration, is second on the team with eight home runs this year.

Ellis launched her eighth homer of the year in a UM-St. Louis win over GLVC front-runner Lewis University this past Sunday. Those eight roundtrippers rank Ellis, who also plays catcher,

but often serves as the Tritons' designated hitter, tied for second among GLVC home run hitters this year.

Ellis' blast at Lewis also had historical significance, as it made her UM-St. Louis' all-time career leader in home runs. The Frankford (Mo.) native was tied at 14 career home runs with Bartlett and Dierkes. But she now holds the all-time record all to herself, with 15 career long balls.

It should be quite a race for the rest of the season to see who finishes as UM-St. Louis' all-time leader.

Other Triton softball home run totals this season are: Karey Kruse, junior, special education, 5; Heather Arras, sophomore, undecided, 5; Megan Brussman, senior, business administration, 3; Leslie Davis, freshman, psychology, 3; Megan Baugher, senior, business, 2; Sara Estopare, senior, communications, 2; Brooke Meyer, junior, criminal justice, 2; Haleigh Jenkins, freshman, undecided, 1.

UM-St. Louis Baseball winning streak was snapped at rival Maryville

▶ MICHAEL FREDERICK
Staff Writer

On Saturday afternoon, the University of Missouri-Saint Louis baseball team traveled to West St. Louis County for a double header against the Maryville University Saints at Weber Field. Coming into Saturday's two games, the Saints sported the worst record in Great Lakes Valley Conference play, 3-15 and 7-23 overall.

Entering the one nine inning and one seven inning fixtures, the Tritons won four of their last five including a three game winning streak.

"We've been on a tear lately," UM-St. Louis head

baseball coach Jim Brady said. We have to keep playing sound fundamentally and keep swinging the bats well to help take care of business."

The Tritons accomplished more than that in the first game of the double header. UM-St. Louis took advantage of a first inning error by Maryville. With Tritons senior right fielder and accounting major Matt Macke at first and one out, junior shortstop and secondary education major Andrew Keating hit a mile high pop up on the infield into the cloudless, high sky.

The ball hit the palm of Saints shortstop Nick Little's glove and fell onto the field.

UM-St. Louis capitalized with a two out, RBI single by junior designated hitter and accounting major Kenny Bechaud.

In the top of the seventh inning, with UM-St. Louis leading 4-0, senior third baseman and liberal studies major Erik Walk continued his hot hitting with a two-run homerun smashed well over the right field wall and into the woods surrounding Weber Field.

"Erik is a real vocal leader of the team," Drew Standefer, leftfielder, freshman, undecided, said. Throughout both games Walk was the leading chatter booster on the infield.

"He's someone whose re-

ally been hitting well," Brady said. "He comes to play every day, and his enthusiasm is contagious."

Including Saturday's doubleheader, Walk has hit three homeruns in the past three games, two of which came against Webster University at Triton Bleacher Bash.

"We're really grateful for student affairs for getting the word out about Bleacher Bash," said Brady. "It's always good to have a big crowd to support the team."

Tritons junior starting pitcher Brandon Fear hurled a complete game shutout. The finance major from Edwardsville, struck out three hitters and walked only two

as he frustrated the Maryville hitters with ground ball outs and several double plays turned by the UM-St. Louis infield.

Junior centerfielder and physical education major Manny Flores made an incredible diving catch in the bottom of the third inning to rob Maryville third baseman Robert Huckstep of extra bases.

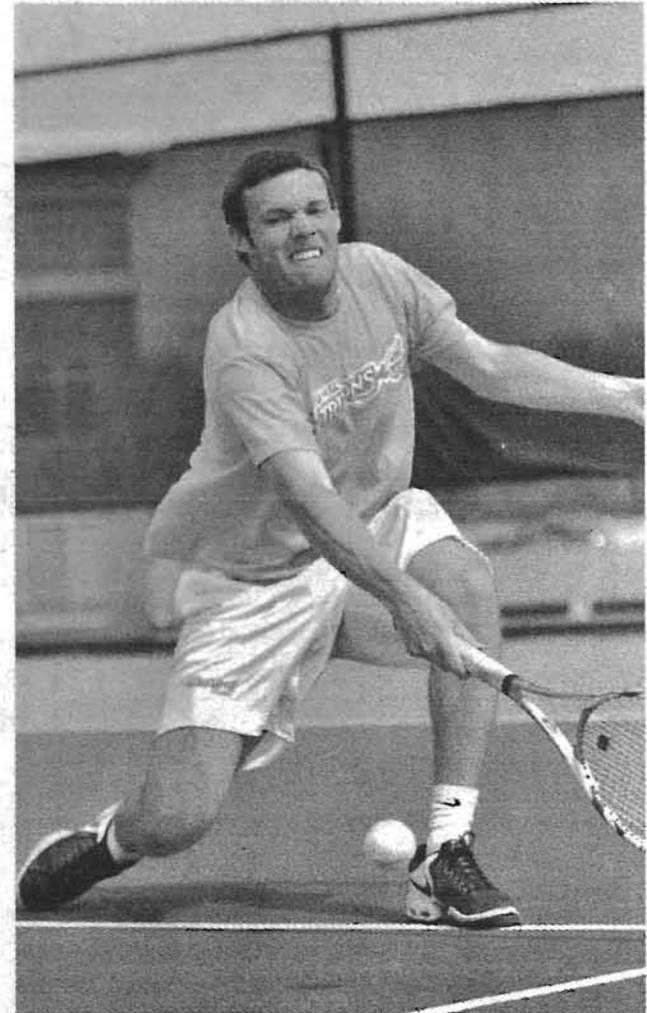
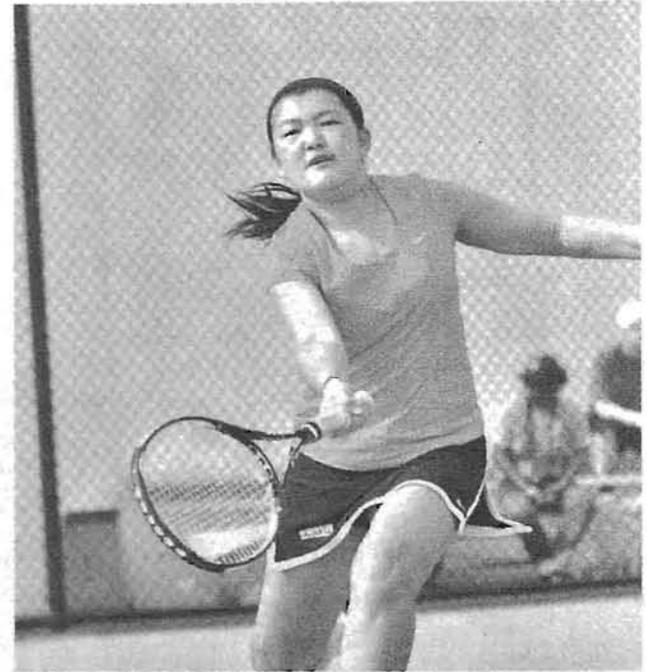
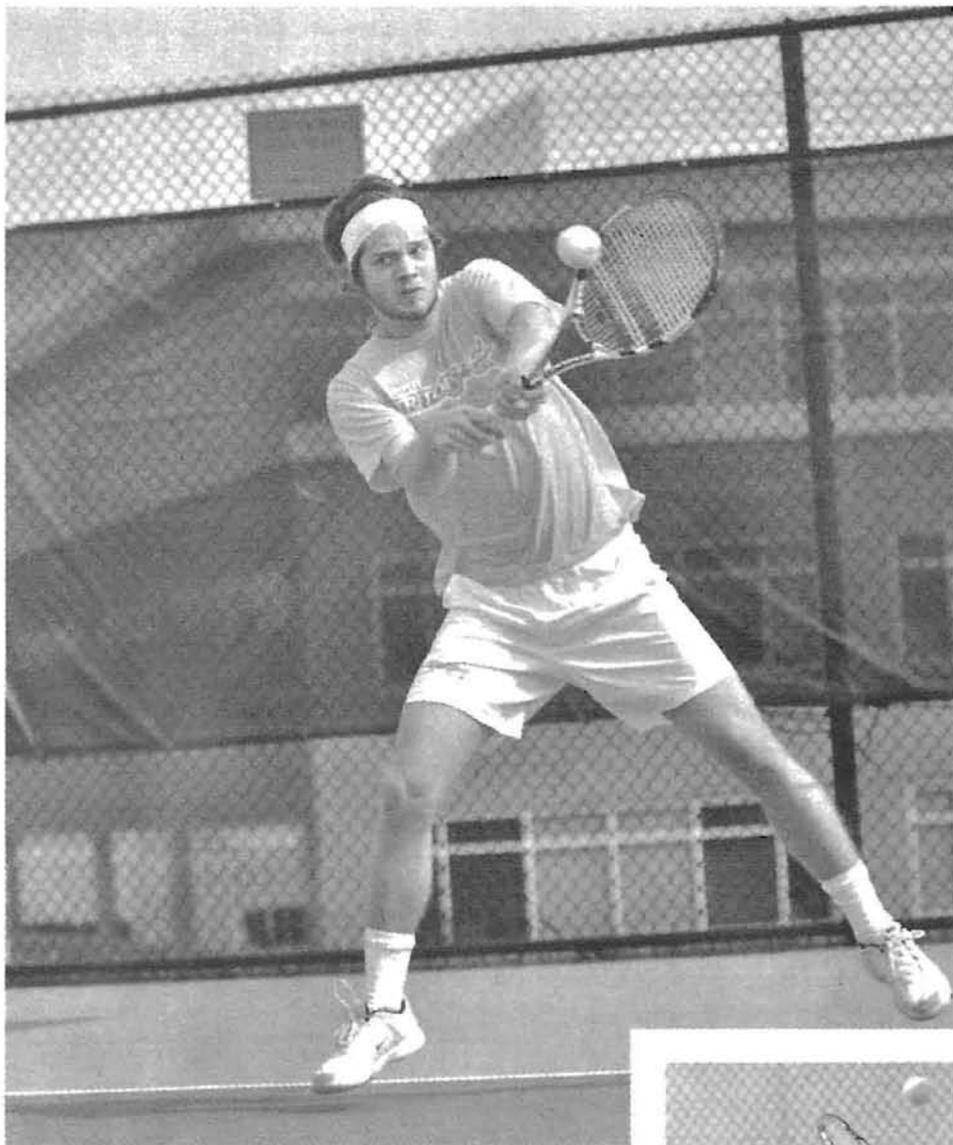
"I had to cover a lot ground, but once I had it, I tucked the ball under my body and made sure to hold on to it," Flores said, who was playing the right-handed hitting Huckstep the other way into right center field.

UM-St. Louis was not so

lucky in the second leg of the doubleheader. Despite stellar pitching from southpaw senior Gurdine Acklin, six innings pitched, three earned runs, and four strikeouts, the bullpen failed to secure the sweep.

Maryville tied the game in the bottom of the seventh forcing an eighth inning walk off infield hit off of Tritons Junior Media Studies major and pitcher Ryne Moleski. With the split UM-St. Louis is still in the hunt for a GLVC conference tournament spot.

This Tuesday, April 13, the Tritons play host to NAIA Harris-Stowe at the UMSL Baseball Field on South Campus. First pitch at 3 p.m.



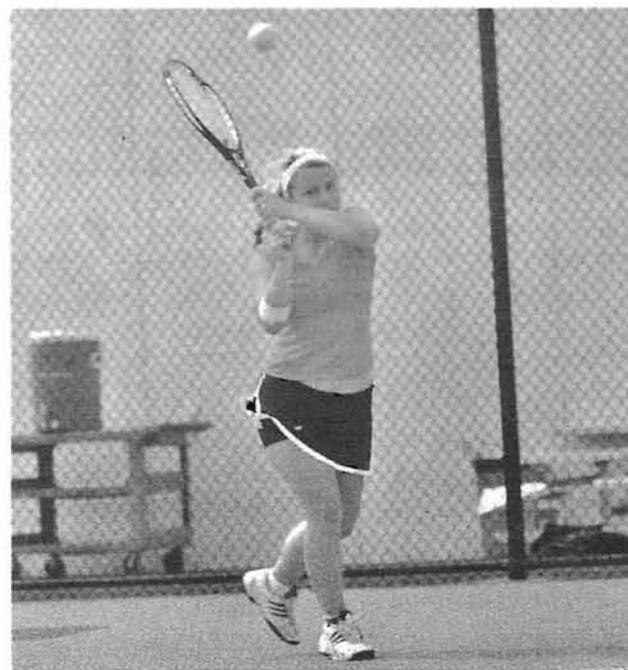
SPOTLIGHT ON

TRITONS TENNIS

PHOTOS BY AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

While the UMSL tennis team's did not fair well against Lewis on April 2nd. The men have won four straight matches since then and the Women have won three of four.

Pictured clockwise from upper-right: Aya Gombo, Jamie Lawlor, Stephanie Thompson, Andreas Hammar, Daniel Anthony. All games against Lewis on April 2nd.



TAPPMAYER, from page 5

"We are delighted to name Steve as our new coach and welcome him and his family to St. Louis," Flanagan said. "Steve is an excellent choice for UMSL from every perspective—in terms of the basketball component,

his ability to serve as a mentor and his skills as a proven leader. He is the right coach to lead UMSL men's basketball to the next level."

At Northwest Missouri, Tappmeyer coached for 21 seasons and enjoyed all kinds

of success. His official record there was 408-208, with three regular season conference titles, four conference tournament titles, and the 10 NCAA tournament appearances.

"Winning doesn't happen

overnight," Tappmeyer said. "It's a process. We definitely want to be successful as quick as possible, but a lot of things have to happen to make that possible."

Tappmeyer's first task will be to hire a staff of assistants.

He said he hopes to begin filling those slots by the end of this week. Then he hopes he and his staff can get out on the recruiting trail and try to land some of those top players who have not yet signed with a school.

"We definitely plan to hit the ground running, so to speak," Tappmeyer said. "We're a little bit behind some of our competitors. But this is a great school. So we're in pretty good shape. I can't wait to get started."

A&E

Courageous effort MGMT's 'Congratulations' is light on hits

"Congratulations" is the second full-length album from electro-pop duo extraordinaire MGMT, and has come under a lot of scrutiny.

Within days of releasing taster track "Flash Delirium," Ben Goldwasser, half of said duo, apologized for the song being "weird." He has gone on to describe the album as more "honest" under the conceit that MGMT was always too weird to be as radio-friendly as "Oracular Spectacular" made them out to be.

It is a courageous position to take, considering the band is signed to a major label that has thrown millions of dollars around trying to make MGMT a household name. So that is cool.

Anyway, "Congratulations" is a distinct wave goodbye to the immediate dance sensibilities that songs like "Kids" and "Time to Pretend" featured. The wide-eyed independence and the bold, bright melodies "Oracular" featured catapulted MGMT to a level of popularity usually reserved for freemasons, so in some sense, "Congratulations" is a disappointment.

There was a lot of anticipation for this album to produce more smash hits, but MGMT simply is not handing out the hooks on a platter anymore. There is not even a distinguishable single. On the other hand, "Congratulations" focuses on some of the reticent taste that informed "Oracular Spectacular," and listening to MGMT go down a variety of more obscure paths and experiment with them is pretty rewarding.

See CONGRATS, page 10

Trailer Park

Movies reviewed based on their trailers.

The Last Song. It's said that Nicholas Sparks wrote this screenplay specifically with Miley Cyrus in mind for the lead role. Perhaps that's why the film, like Miss Cyrus, has all the style of a sequin-cloaked hyena, the intellectual savvy of a ripe strawberry, and the charm of a pesky Boy Scout, knocking at your door, asking for money. **D** —Chris Stewart.

How To Train Your Dragon. I dunno, some stupid crap about dragons and blah blah blah. No signs of originality or anything like that, so...I'm gonna take a bath. **D** —Chris Stewart.

Date Night. A bored couple decides to spice up their lives with a night of grotesque sexual experimentation in this remake of Chan-Woo Park's South Korean classic. Looks okay-ish? **C-** —Chris Stewart.



COURTESY / GIGI WEAVER, GIGI PHOTOGRAPHY

The Saint Louis Ballet's production of Swan Lake was at the Touhill Performing Arts Center April 9 through 11.

Mysterious 'Swan Lake' graces Touhill stage

St. Louis Ballet brought the magic of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" to the Blanche M. Touhill Anheuser Busch Hall for four performances last weekend, April 9 through April 11.

"Swan Lake" is one of the most popular ballets, second only to "The Nutcracker" in frequency of performances around the world.

Yet while this city sees annual performances of "The Nutcracker," the mysterious, magical "Swan Lake" is much less frequently performed here, which makes this production particularly welcome. The performance is the second of a trilogy of ballets being offered by St. Louis Ballet, along with "The Nutcracker" last December and the upcoming "The Sleeping Beauty" this summer.

Lifted by beautiful, hauntingly mysterious music, "Swan Lake" is more romantic and movingly emotional than many other ballets. The story is a fairy tale about a prince hunting in the woods, who finds and falls in love with a graceful white swan.

The swan is actually an enchanted princess who lives with her flock of enchanted ladies-in-waiting on Swan Lake,

created by the tears of her parents, heartbroken over their kidnapped daughter.

At Friday night's performance, the role of the swan was danced by Tanya Strautmann and the prince by Elliot Geolat.

The first act begins in the palace garden where Prince Siegfried is celebrating his birthday with his friends. His mother (Lisa Wolfsberger) and his tutor (Michael Monsey) appear, presenting Siegfried with a crossbow as a gift. As dusk falls, Siegfried runs off alone to hunt in the woods, where he finds the swan Odette at Swan Lake. Moved by her story, Siegfried is about to declare his love, which would break the spell, when the sorcerer Von Rothbart (Octovio Nieto) suddenly appears as a large black hawk.

The second act takes place at the palace, at a ball where guests are entertained by Spanish, Russian, Italian and Turkish dancers.

The prince is expected to pick a bride from among the noble ladies. A disguised Von Rothbart appears with his daughter Odile (Tanya Stautmann), disguised as a human Odette but dressed in black instead of white.

The tricked Siegfried chooses her as his bride but then catches sight of the real Odette (Vanessa Woods). The third act returns to Swan Lake, where Siegfried and Odette reconcile and confront Von Rothbart. Siegfried declares his love, breaking the spell.

The choreography was classic and

heartbreakingly beautiful. The ballerinas were transformed into swans by their graceful gestures. Slender arms dramatically raised overhead and lowered portrayed birds in flight, and a single arm arched overhead with bent wrist and a graceful leaning pose conveyed swans in repose.

The principal dancers did a fine job, with Strautmann and Nieto as stand-outs.

Young dancers from the company's dance school appeared as young swans, in a charming touch.

The choreography included leaps and lifts, plus some impressive spins and plenty of classic ballet. While not as astounding as many performances by Dance St. Louis' international stars, the dancing was artistic and audience-pleasing.

Sets were pretty, gauzy flats which skillful lighting transformed into a wonderfully magical world. Costumes were perfect, apart from the Queen in the first act, who was dressed in a green, mid-19th century hoop skirt straight out of "Gone With The Wind" despite everyone else's 18th century attire. One the other hand, the most striking, dramatic costume was Von Rothbart's dark, ragged outfit, with large cape-like wings and finished with a hawk mask.

Overall, "Swan Lake" was a splendid, satisfying production of a wonderful classic, sure to inspire a new generation and delight current ballet fans. **B+**

—Cate Marquis



LEANNA BALES / THE CURRENT

Bassekou Kouyate playing the Ngoni in the Ngoni Ba Concert at the Touhill on Wednesday.

Toes tapping, hands clapping at Kouyate and Ngoni Ba concert

The Center for International Studies' International Performing Arts Series brought a wonderful concert by Bassekou Kouyate and Ngoni Ba to the Lee Theater in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 7. It was an evening filled with African music, dancing, much applause and contagious smiles.

The evening started with a presentation by Aurelia Hartenberger, Ed. D., about the instruments used during the concert, some dating as far back as the 14th century.

After the presentation, the performance began with beautiful music by the musician Bassekou Kouyate and his musical group. It was fascinating to watch them play, dance, and sing with such happiness, passion and, of course, talent. They all wore lovely traditional garments of purple and gold.

Bassekou Kouyate is a master of the ngoni, a traditional West African lute. His music is called Bambara, which comes from the region of Segu. The African music is similar to the blues, and is considered by many to be the African root of that American music.

Instantly the crowd was transported to West Africa, a completely

different world from the theater in which they were sitting. It was amazing to see just how many melodies came from those simple lute-like instruments.

The musicians dazzled the crowd with their fast fingers and beautiful guitar solos.

Yells of appreciation rang out both from the crowd and from the stage for these solos. As the tempo and the energy built, the musicians were in their own world, and the crowd enjoyed seeing them in that world. They were truly at home on that stage.

The audience was very appreciative of the music, judging from the gleeful applause at the end of each song.

As the concert went on, Kouyate would ask the crowd if they were happy and this was always met with a series of "yeses," applause and whistles of appreciation. The beats were rhythmic and the singing mesmerizing.

As the hypnotic music played, audience members could not help but tap their feet, clap their hands and/or bob their heads.

See **KOUYATE**, page 21

CONGRATS, from page 9

"Congratulations" is not excessively hard to understand, nor is it overly pretentious in its obscurity. MGMT is taking elements of experimental psych-rock, new-wave and post-punk and giving them another modern outlet. The title track oozes Flaming Lips circa "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots," and Animal Collective is not too far from far from the tree that "Congratulations" fell from. The fey vocal style Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden churn out cannot help but be charismatic, and "Flash Delirium" and "Someone's Missing" include Prince-esque falsetto spoken word bits.

Dan Treacy, of underrated post-punk band Television Personalities, and the prolific Brian Eno are both given odes.

The driving bass line and the unabashed, feverish hero-worship that accompany the druggy dream vision tale of "Brian Eno" turn it into an unexpected album MVP—simultaneously campy, self-aware and gracefully deferential.

"Lady Dada's Nightmare" is as much a tribute as "Treacy" and "Eno," though more disguised. The track plays out like creepy in-

strumental homage to the Beach Boys, complete with a beautifully jarring, unexpected chord progression and surf-haze for days.

The major problem with "Congratulations" is that there is not a clear focus or musical direction to the record. There is no denying MGMT's ability to dabble, but they have not quite perfected their own style. The ambitious and microcosmic "Siberian Breaks" is a winding 12-minute trip through four distinct arrangements that flaunts spacey keys and flower power, but the effect is more that of schizoid oddness than faux tangerine trees, marmalade skies, etc.

This is still a pretty good record, especially as a career move. Though it might sabotage their commercial success, it is hard not to respect MGMT's resolve to travel down a road less traveled.

Sure, there will not be any remixes of songs off "Congratulations" getting played at clubs, but the defiant individualism that manages to peek out from under MGMT's comprehensive awareness of '60s psychedelia from time to time should not be missed by more adventurous listeners. **B**—Joe Schaffner



MGMT's latest effort "Congratulations" is set for release on April 13, 2010.

So Joe thought it was pretty good, but what do you think? Drop us a line at thecurrent-online.com

SWEET JAMS

This week's top 5 iTunes downloads as reviewed by The Current's Chris Stewart

1 'Hey, Soul Sister'
Train



I refuse to speak about this song. I would rather watch a Saturday Top Model marathon and drink all day, pausing to jump on the trampoline and smoke cigarettes. Unless they're playing that one season again, with the twins.

2 'Nothin' On You'
B.O.B.



Song of the week. I like it. It's somehow sillier and classier than its counterparts, all while being catchy, fairly original, and produced with deft assurance, pulling pretty much all the right stops at all the right moments. Turn it up, there's nothing else good on.

3 'Break Your Heart'
Taio Cruz



Read the review of B.O.B.'s song above, and then, reverse everything I said. This is dull, bloated, insincere, familiar (in a bad way) and lacking class. The lyrics reveal people you wouldn't want to know. The music reveals...nothing. Which is worse, I'm not sure.

4 'In My Head'
Jason DeRulo



Jason DeRulo's forgettable electro R&B anthem is at least lyrically honest. DeRulo clearly isn't concerned with beating around the bush. He wants to jump right in it and wiggle around for awhile. Or at least, that's how it goes down in his head.

5 'Tik Tok'
Ke\$ha



I'm utterly unsure with what to do with this kid. Does it matter if he's good or bad when one considers that he doesn't write this stuff and his singing is more digital audio effects than it is his own vocal efforts? Damn, long sentence, that.

'Metro 2033' game tough but worth it

Boy, the Russians sure love their post-apocalypse.

Something about the aftermath of the downfall of civilization really seems to appeal to the Russian mindset, especially the younger generation.

Russia's love affair may spring from a few things: Chernobyl, the most horrific nuclear accident ever to occur, happened right on their front porch. The popularity and success of the novel "Roadside Picnic" by the brother Strugatsky and the movie "Stalker" by Andrei Tarkovsky are two other possibilities.

Post-apocalyptic video games are nothing new—"Metro 2033" is merely the latest addition.

"Metro 2033" was released on March 16 for both the Xbox 360 and PC. While it may share its initial background with previous post-apocalyptic games, it takes this classic Russian trope and expands on it in a different way.

With the surface world becoming extremely toxic and uninhabitable after a nuclear war, humanity has been forced underground into subway stations. The player plays as Artyom, a young subterranean dweller in the Moscow subway system.

"Metro 2033" was originally a novel, and

developer 4A Games has expertly recreated the atmosphere of desperation and tension from the book. "Metro 2033" is harsh and unforgiving—definitely more realistic than its post-apocalyptic peers, that is for sure.

"Scarcity" is the name of the game, with virtually everything you can think of being in short supply. A gas mask is required to be on the surface and in some underground areas. Besides being easily broken in combat, gas masks require filters at an alarming rate.

Thanks to the game's lack of a dedicated heads-up display, filters have to be monitored via a watch. Run out of filters or break the mask? Dead.

Ammunition is a commodity in "Metro 2033," literally. The best type of ammo, pre-war military-grade stuff, is also the currency of the Metro. With the more common post-war ammo being pretty inefficient at killing the various beasts and baddies that live underground, battles sometimes become a matter of cash or death.

This kind of conservation mindset is the game's greatest triumph. It forces the player to actually think like a subway dweller, and the lack of an HUD suddenly becomes a bonus, not a hindrance, bringing the player further into the game's reality.



COURTESY / THQ

From the filter timer to the rechargeable flashlight—if the player keeps his or her flashlight on for too long, it goes out and needs recharging, usually right before a creature attacks—the game screams immersion. It is too bad one never fully gets to enjoy that.

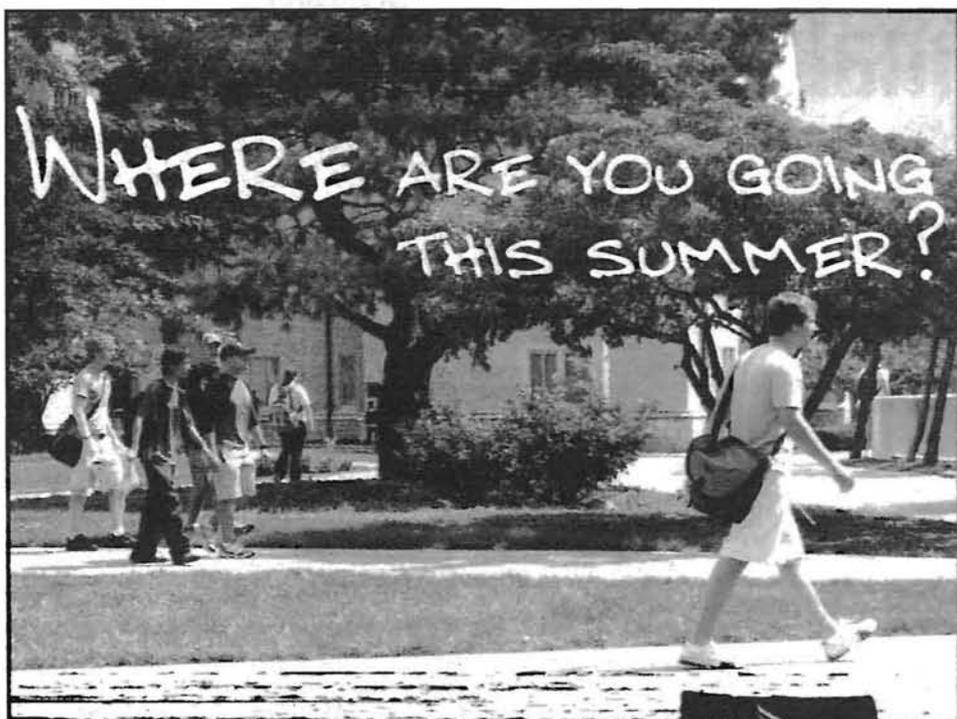
The game treads a slim path between "never seen before" and "tired, roughshod mechanics" the entire time. Sadly, "Metro 2033" plays like an arcade shooter without any of the arcade. The first level of the game is a veritable post-apocalyptic "Time Crisis 2" cabinet, literally taking place on rails.

Maybe players of post-apocalyptic games

have been spoiled by open-world darlings "Stalker: Shadow of Chernobyl" and "Fallout 3," but the very fact that "Metro 2033" has levels is discouraging. For so unique and vibrant a world, there is no exploration apart from the minimal amounts included in the incredibly linear levels.

Linearity, difficulty and lack of decent gunplay aside, "Metro 2033" is worth a look by both newcomers and veterans of the post-apocalyptic genre. If one can work past the issues and really get into the game, it offers a great time and an experience like none other.

B—Andrew Seal



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Chopin memorialized in student piano concert

Last Thursday, the University of Missouri-St. Louis presented its Spring Piano Students Concert in the Blanche M. Touhill Lee Theater. The audience was packed with family, friends, and fans of pianist performance alike.

This year's performance was a tribute to the life and works of famous Polish pianist and composer Frederick Chopin, a prodigy of the 19th century, commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth.

The performance consisted of nine pieces of varying lengths and styles, each performed by a different student of Alla Voskoboynikova, coordinator of piano studies at UM-St. Louis.

The performance was incredibly well balanced. The opening piece, "Polonaise in C minor, Op. 40, No. 2," was performed by Thomas Winkler, freshman, piano performance. The piece streamed at a medium pace, hinting at its partner in Polish dance: a slow, coupled march or promenade.

The second piece slowed things down a bit, as Shelitha Peppers played "Nocturne in C-Sharp minor, Op. Post-humous." Much like its predecessor, the arrangement instilled feelings of nighttime dreaminess in listeners. Shifting at medium to slow progression, its notes reverberated throughout the theater, relaxing listeners.

Next in line was "Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2," played by Hongyun Liu, freshman, business/music. As Liu proceeded to play, ballroom notes overcame the audience, bringing with them the notions and feelings of a time long-since passed to the winds: a time of streaming dresses and cuff-linked gentlemen once again existed for the short duration of this gorgeous piece.

"Four Preludes, Op. 28," played by Angela Mitchell, freshman, music education, followed, hinting at a variety of emotions from playfulness and intrigue to grief and loss. Finishing up the performance's first half was "Sonata in B-flat minor, Op. 35, Grave - Doppio movimento," by David Doran. Its varying tempos and moods led the audience comfortably into intermission.

Following an intermission that seemed, in all honesty, a bit too drawn-out, "Ballade No 2. in F major, Op. 38" reaffirmed the performance's hold on its audience. Performed by Meredith Johnson, senior, music education, its notes set a romantic mood throughout the audience.

A second polonaise followed, played by Eric Hammond, senior, piano performance. Although possessing the same name as the concert's opening piece, there were stark differences. The most prominent of these was the difference in tempo, as this second polonaise had a much more uplifting, energetic mood to its notes.

"Fantaisie-Impromptu, Op. 66," performed by John Nuckols, junior, music education, followed. Much as its name would imply, the piece instilled feelings of a fantastical world in listeners. These feelings of flightiness and eternal bliss lasted only a short while, however, as the final piece claimed its time.

The performance ended with "Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53," performed by Daniel Dickson, freshman, piano performance.

See CHOPIN, page 21



COURTESY / MUSIC BOX FILMS

Noomi Rapace and Michael Nyqvist star in 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' as a detective team set on solving a decades-old disappearance.

Bestseller 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' makes taut thriller

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is an entertaining crime thriller based on a bestselling novel, with an engrossing plot built around a 40-year-old mystery, computer hacking and a wealthy family with a Nazi past.

The book is an international best-seller, so it was inevitable that someone would make this intriguing mystery into a movie. However, the Swedes beat Hollywood to it, so be prepared to read subtitles. Nonetheless, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," now playing at Plaza Frontenac, is well worth the extra effort.

There is a bit of "La Femme Nikita" and gender role-reversal in this offbeat crime tale, pairing tattooed computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (the striking Noomi Rapace), a researcher with a shady past working for a private security company, with Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist), a journalist framed in a libel case against a powerful businessman.

With six months of freedom before he starts serving his sentence, Blomkvist is hired by an elderly, wealthy Henrik Vanger (Sven-Bertil Taube), to investigate the mysterious disappearance of Vanger's 16-year-old niece Har-

riet (Ewa Frohling) in 1966.

Blomkvist got the job based on the recommendation of Vanger's friend Dirche Frode (Ingvar Hirdwall). Frode was impressed with the computer researcher's findings on him when the journalist's employer explored a legal appeal.

Blomkvist begins his work aided by local policeman Gustav Morell (Bjorn Granath), but eventually, Salander is brought into the investigation.

Not simple stuff, but the story unfolds in a clear style that allows the viewer to follow every twist and revelation. The engrossing plot is supported by a cast of fascinating characters. The wealthy Vanger family share controlling interest in a powerful international business. But the Vangers are no happy extended family. There are secrets, tragic deaths, long-running feuds and links to a Nazi past, and many family members are suspects.

Forays into these personal stories support the story rather than slow down its pace. Sometimes we think we know where the mystery is leading, only to have new information spin the characters down a new path.

The acting is very good, with Noomi

Rapace crafting a remarkable character in the brilliant, unconventional computer hacker. Her scenes with a sleazy probation officer are not to be missed. The working relationship and tentative bond between the more conventional journalist and the aloof computer hacker grows organically and is wholly convincing. Each character is fully rounded and multi-layered.

This is the kind of well-crafted, edge-of-the-seat storytelling seen too frequently in any film now. Intrigue, mystery and complex personalities drive this relentless tale of twists and layers of secrets.

Scenes are packed with dramatic tension and some are raw, adult stuff, although there is always an unexpected flourish or twist to keep us off balance. It all adds up to a great mystery thriller, but of the kind more about information than gun-play and explosions.

Some audience members who would rush to see a movie like this if it were American-made will snub this top-notch thriller because it has subtitles.

An American version is also in the works. If the past is any indicator, the remake will not be as good, but no reading will be required. **B+** —Cate Marquis

Features

BOOKSTORE TRANSFORMED

University Bookstore becomes more student friendly

► SEQUITA BEAN

Features Editor

As part of an agreement and partnership between University BookStores and the University of Missouri St. Louis, the University Bookstore was remodeled over spring break to be more student friendly. Located on the second floor of the Millennium Student Center, the University Bookstore has always been the campus' headquarters for supplies, technological software, apparel, gifts, textbooks and other reading materials. With the remodeled look and new additions, UM-St. Louis students will find there is

more to offer in the bookstore than just supplies and books.

"Many of the new fixtures were recycled from other projects and were able to be put to use in St. Louis," Stephanie Eaton, supervisor of merchandising administrative services, said. "University BookStores felt that some changes would be advantageous to the campus and students and used the opportunity over spring break to make those changes." University BookStores also plans to add more shelving in the textbook depart-

ment to make finding books easier for students. They also plan to reorganize the titles better.

Along with the changes to the textbook department there has also been an addition to the technology area. There are five new computers for students to use, along with a lounging area to hang out in. "[There's] increased merchandise selection, especially in the technology area, more streamlined checkout station, bestsellers [section], \$9.99 tees, iPods, computers, earbuds, gaming consoles and software are

more of new merchandise offerings," Eaton said. There will also be new programs such as BTFTK (be the first to know) email exclusives, secret sales, book reservations, and textbook rental in the fall. Starting in July the book buyback program will run every day giving students the opportunity to sell back their books all year round as opposed to waiting at the beginning and end of each semester.

"Because of our multi-campus business model, University BookStores is able to consolidate their buying power and provide savings for all campuses that we serve," Eaton said.

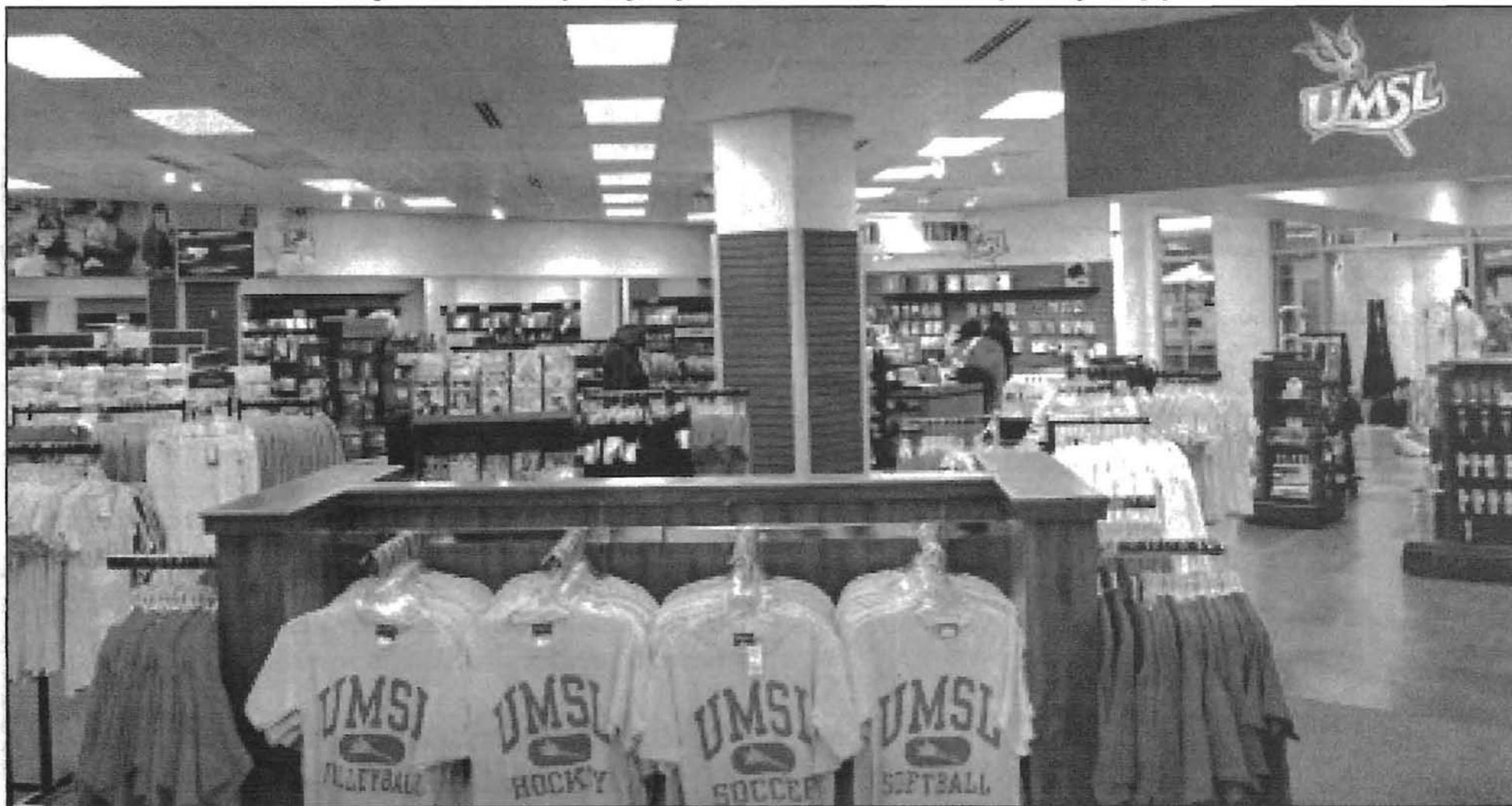
With the increased merchandise selection, students can purchase almost any electronic device including Nintendo Wii, Playstation 3, Nintendo DS, Apple iPod, and both Mac and PC desktop computers and laptops. With the student credit limit increased from \$500 to \$1,000, purchasing new equipment

and books will be more convenient.

"I really like it ... there's a lot more space that I can see," Erica Jones, sophomore, nursing, said. "Maybe I can chill over there [in the lounging area] and do homework some time just not when it's crowded." Jones was also delighted to see that the infamous bag rack has disappeared from the front entrance. Many students have experienced theft due to thieves stealing their items off the bag rack then walking out of the door.

"I like the new changes, but I hope they aren't finished," Jessica Swift, alumna, psychology, said. "It just looks like they're missing something although more space between the shelves makes it look bigger. It's definitely an upgrade from what it was, but more work is to be done."

Regardless of its appearance, with all the new additions to the University Bookstore, the benefits to students are abundant.



A sundry of clothes and brick-a-brack at the new bookstore along with popular technology goods. RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

FACULTY PROFILE

One of a kind on campus:

UM-St. Louis' only geologist, Michael Fix

► JEN O'HARA
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' lone geologist, Michael Fix, takes time with *The Current* for his faculty profile spotlight.

The Current: What is it like being the only geologist on campus?

Michael Fix: It is sort of odd being the only geologist. I kind of feel like the odd man out. I am in a department of physicists and astronomers. I do have relationships with them, and I get along well with all of them, but it is a little lonely not having any colleagues in my own field to interact with on a daily basis. But, that's just the way it is, I've got to accept that. I don't want to come across like I'm complaining or anything, but it does feel a little funny sometimes.

TC: How long have you been teaching? What is your favorite part about teaching?

MF: I've been teaching here since 1976. It's something I enjoy doing. A lot of jobs, people do it because they have to, not because they enjoy it. You get to interact with a lot of people. You get to meet a lot of interesting and nice people. I learn things from my students, just as they learn things from me. I enjoy introducing people to things they hadn't known about before.

TC: How did you decide to become a geologist?

MF: When I was a student at Florissant Valley Community College, way back in '68-'69,

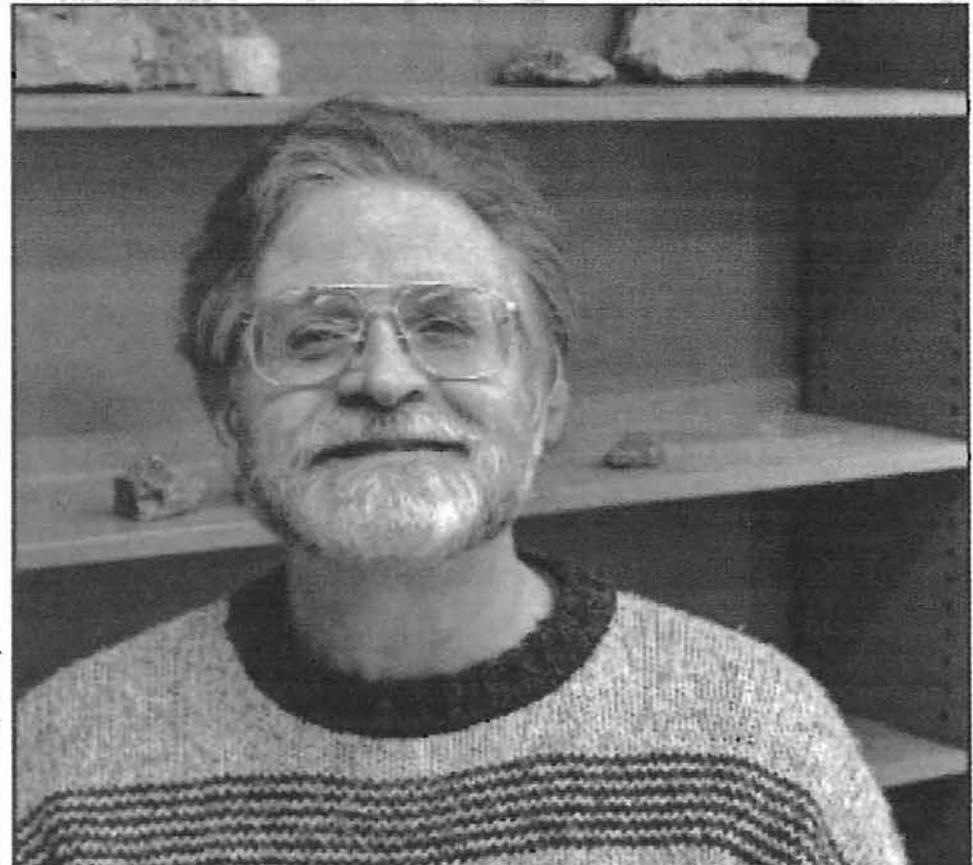
I took introductory level geology class there. And, I liked it. I've been interested in science since I was a little kid. At first, I thought I was going to be an astronomer. [Junior college] was really when I got put specifically on the path I'm on now.

TC: What is something you are really interested in besides geology?

MF: I love music. If I'm in my office, I usually have music playing. I have a wide range of types of music—rock, classical, some jazz, folk, all kinds of stuff. And I like movies, especially science fiction. As far as hobbies, I don't have a lot of time for hobbies, with all the work that I have. When I'm not working for the school here, if I happen to have free time, I'll go to the movies, watch TV, maybe I'll read a book [or] listen to music. I recently got an iPod touch. I love it.

TC: Can you tell us a little bit more about the Dinosaur Dig project you participate in?

MF: Our dig is the one that has been done in a completely scientific fashion. We have a greenhouse we put up, it's 20 by 36, I think [for fossil examination]. For a 10 year period, we've been excavating. We've found more dinosaur remains, like part of the skull of the Missouri dinosaur. I haven't done any digging at the site in quite a long time since the collapse of the greenhouse. When it was active, we'd be going down there, sometimes more than once a month.



Michael Fix has had an interest in dinosaurs since he was a JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT kid and works on excavating the only known dinosaur site in Missouri near Cape Girardeau.

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Safe Walk report

Lighting targeted as main safety concern

► **ANDY PHIPPS**
News Editor

Changes in institutional safety at the University of Missouri-St. Louis are being made in response to recommendations made following the campus safe walk, which was conducted by the Student Government Association late last semester.

The final report pointed out a number of hazards on both North and South Campuses, including places where the placement of blue light emergency phones could be useful as well as other building security and lighting concerns.

Primarily, the biggest issue that the report identified was areas on campus that were dimly lit.

The initial safe walk report identified 57 places on campus where there were either lights out or not enough adequate lighting, and in a follow-up meeting with administrators held on March 23rd, 25 locations were targeted as being crucial to repair in the short term.

According to Dan Rosner, SGA comptroller who helped author the final report, the administration has been quick to act on fixing these lighting issues, with 10 of them being fixed within a week of the follow up meeting.

"I think we've hit that kind of awareness goal and hope-

fully the changes will start flowing out," Rosner said.

However, lighting remains a troublesome issue to deal with as lights burn out on a regular basis.

"On the lights-out issue, it is a never-ending challenge," Dr. Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial and technology services, said. "Lights go out all the time. So, the police report lights out to building services and then facility services addresses those issues as quickly as possible We do not have the resources to fix every light immediately upon when it's been reported, but we are aware and we try to keep up the best we can given the resources."

On the issue of blue light emergency phones, the university has hit some roadblocks in seeking to deploy them as they are costly to install and maintain.

"One of the issues that is not well documented is the cost-benefit analysis—how much they cost versus what are the benefits and what is the usage," Krueger said.

"We have to be strategic in locating call boxes. We will certainly add more over time in selected locations."

Aside from looking at lighting concerns and the need for adding additional emergency phones, the report also cited several areas on campus where shrubbery and architectural placement

might prove to be troublesome in terms of institutional safety, and Rosner has seen the university begin to move on addressing the safety concerns addressed in the safe walk report.

"Over in Mansion Hills they have already put in blue lights They're also talking about removing some of the shrubs and stuff that were an issue over there," Rosner said.

In addition to addressing physical safety concerns, SGA has been acting to ensure that students are educated in ways to look out for their own safety.

For instance, one of the two assaults that generated the reason for the safe walk, took place inside of a building.

"We've started doing self defense classes through UMSL PD, safety tips ... this report, hopefully will just make people more aware of their surroundings, because some assaults and thefts and things like that can be preventative just by being aware of your surroundings," Rosner said.

SGA, in association with residential life will also be hosting a Meet Your Neighbors event in the century rooms of the MSC on Monday, April 12th at 3 p.m. in order to provide students with a chance to meet members of the University and Normandy and Bel Nor police departments.

The Runway

Feminism Vs. Fashion



Sequita Bean

A few weeks ago, a "Runway" article was pinged back (which is when someone links an article from the-current-online.com) from the website of the Introduction to Women and Gender Studies class taught by Dr. Kathleen Nigro here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The pinged back blog post—which is assumed to be a class assignment—parodies "The Runway" and mocks the entire fashion and beauty industry in general.

For those who love fashion, defending the industry to people who think it is silly and unimportant comes with the territory. It is unfortunate that most naysayers of the industry call themselves feminists. The user (who goes by the screen name "monimiet") wrote in the blog that women should not care about fashion but instead be more concerned that women still make \$0.75 to the dollar of men. It is devastatingly unfortunate that there is still a glass ceiling for women in the workforce, but those who

object to that matter will get nowhere wasting time slamming and mocking the only multibillion dollar industry heavily ran by, influenced by, and celebrating the beauty of women. The fashion industry is probably the only industry where it is safe to say that women make significantly more than men.

The way beauty is determined in fashion has changed drastically in the past five years. It is now illegal in several countries (including America) for models to work if they have a body mass index less than 18.5, which is considered normal. Not to mention models sized 4-22 get all the work these days—Crystal Renn and Beth Ditto are practically household names. In addition, several fashion magazine editors have pledged to not include heavily airbrushed models and advertisements in their magazines.

When a L'Oréal commercial for lengthening mascara ran with Jessica Alba wearing fake eyelashes, it was swiftly ripped from the airways. Now when companies want to use fake lashes or extensions in their commercials they must run a disclaimer at the bottom. It is painfully obvious when a person is airbrushed; media outlets are often heavily criticized when it is discovered, and embarrassing for the person and organization responsible, so it's not often done. Someone

would not notice these positive changes when all they are looking for is to mock the fashion industry. The elitist attitude some feminists have towards the fashion industry is old, and redundant. Quite frankly, the author "monimiet" failed at the task. Fashion bashing makes someone a feminist as much as mooing will make a horse a cow. Let us hope that downing the fashion industry is not a prerequisite for being a feminist because it is done way too often. We already live in a society where women are pitted against other women, and this is no different. Downing others never gets anyone anywhere, and it is exactly what those on the opposing side of feminist efforts wants. Do not belittle someone just because they do not mind spending money on themselves. If a little mascara and a pretty dress makes a woman walk a little bit taller, what is the harm in that? It is strongly recommended that "monimiet" and other who hate fashion for the sake of femininity refocus their energy. No industry will ever be perfect, but going against an industry heavily ran by women is not the best way to get the "women empowerment" message across. It is time for the so-called feminists to wake up and smell the Coco Chanel No. 5.

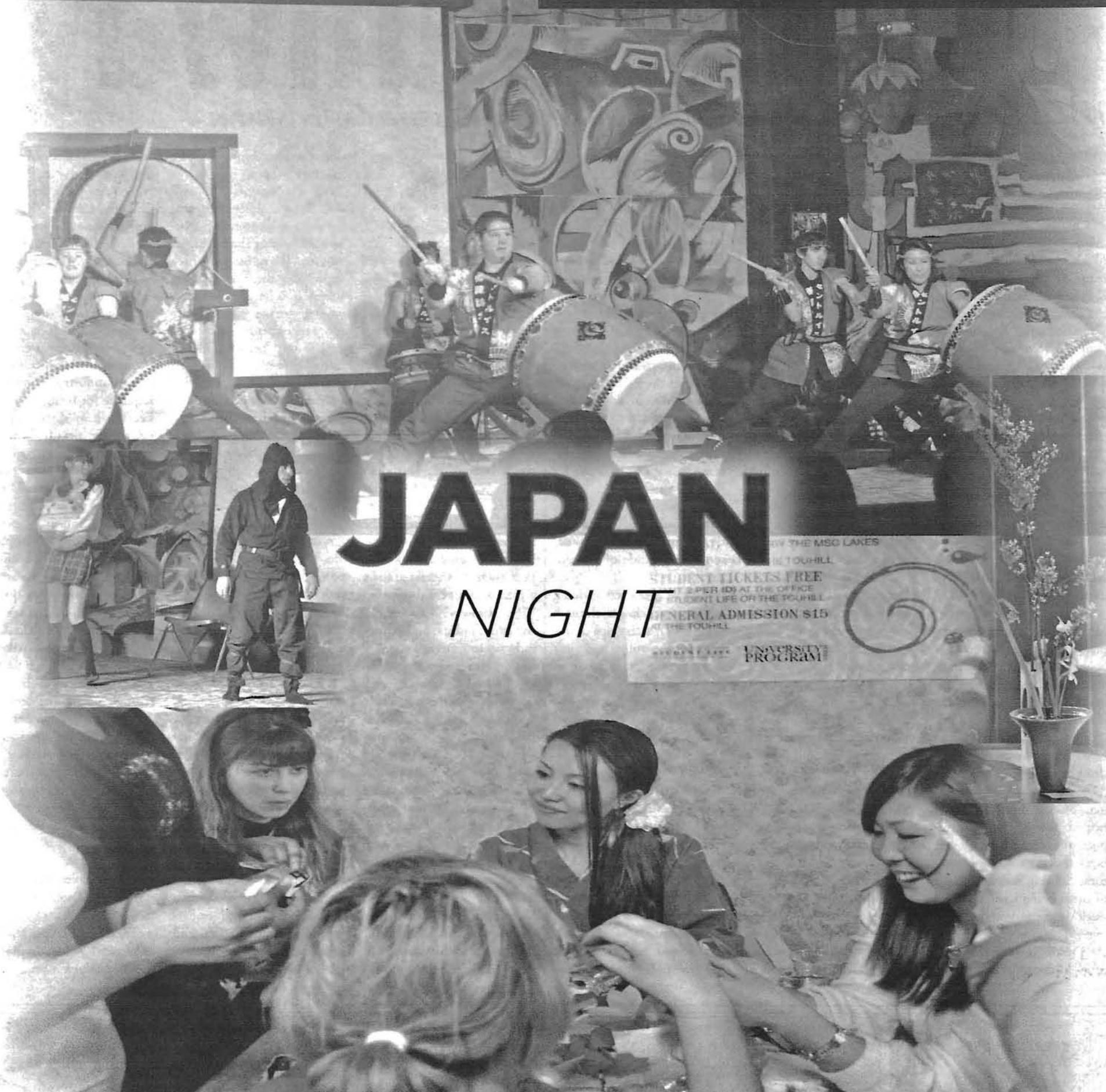
Sequita Bean is Features editor and fashion columnist for The Current.



The Current's staff: in real life we're awfully sweet, honest.



• Thursday night, the Japan America Student Association brought Japanese culture to the MSC Pilot House. JASA had an Enka (traditional Japanese ballad) performance, an Ikebana (flower arrangement) demonstration, and a Taiko performance (rapid drumming).



JAPAN NIGHT

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Jessica Keil • Matthew Hill • Andy Phipps • Gene Doyel
Sequita Bean • Cate Marquis • Andrew Seal • Cedric Williams

The new Outlook Live account is a bust

During Spring Break, the University of Missouri-St. Louis launched the new student emailing system, Outlook Live. All of the University of Missouri campuses have teamed up with Microsoft to provide students with this new email solution which includes a Windows Live account with an @mail.umsl.edu address, 10 GB of storage, and the ability to keep the email account after graduation. Additional Windows Live services include SkyDrive, Groups, Messenger, Photo, and Microsoft Office Live Workspace. The new system went live late last year, and students had from then until March 29 to switch over. On April 1, The university's information technology department switched over 15,000 old email accounts to the new system for those who failed to opt-in before the deadline.

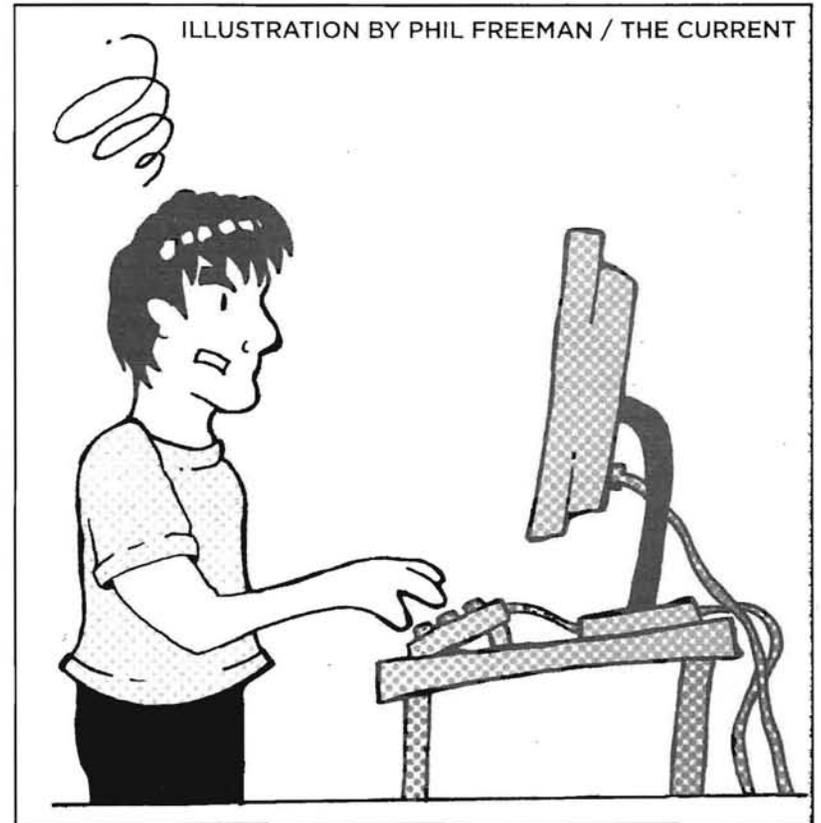
On the ITS department website it states that any mail sent to the old @umsl.edu addresses will not bounce and continue to be delivered until the student graduates, but instead those emails are cleared by the exchange architecture and sent to Microsoft for delivery. And if any students are subscribed to a Listserv, it may have stopped delivering to the new Outlook Live address, so it will have to be set up again.

While the benefits to this new email system sound enticing, the transition has not been smooth at all. For those who opted into the new system early discovered that they were not able to access their student emailing system at all, not even on the old one. That problem was eventually fixed, but now there have been issues sending and receiving mail. Students find that emails they have sent out from their new Windows Live account do not get to the recipients, while they have not been receiving emails either. It has been determined that this issue

is only happening at random but that is not comforting to know, especially since there is still a possibility that one of those random emails could be important.

We at *The Current* believe that the new Outlook Live emailing system is horrible. It is hard to enjoy a new email account with bells and whistles when it does not completely work right. On the ITS department website they mentioned that they chose to switch to the new program in the middle of the semester because "there is never a perfect time to migrate to a new system," but we disagree. The university should have waited until the Summer semester to make the switch, therefore less students would have been affected by its lack of function. At the very least the switch could have been made after finals week. With the switch taking place during midterms, many students may have never received important correspondences from their professors, email alerts about their grades, or any other important information. For those students who work on campus and depend on the emailing system to communicate with colleagues, that fell short as well. Switching an entire emailing system and then waiting to see if things work out is not the appropriate way to go about things. Outlook Live should have been tested over and over until all the kinks were discovered

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL FREEMAN / THE CURRENT



and fixed, then offered to the students.

For now it's a waiting game to determine whether things will work out, and we're sure they will, but this is one flub that the university could have avoided.

Army Slaughter of civilians is on our hands, in our minds

Last week, Wikileaks.com released a video that was 17 minutes and 47 seconds long. During those long minutes, the viewer is witness to the wholesale slaughter of Iraqi civilians by U.S. occupying forces.

The footage, recorded in 2007, shows a U.S. forces Apache helicopter intentionally firing on a group of a dozen or so Iraqi civilians. Included in the group are Namir Noor-Eldeen, a photographer from Reuters, and his driver, Saeed Chmagh.

The most damning part of the video is the audio attached to it, showcasing the back-and-forth between the Apache pilot, gunner, ground elements and command.

After mistaking Namir's camera for a Rocket-Propelled Grenade launcher, the Apache requests permission to open fire. The request is granted, and the Apache lights up the square, throwing up dust and cutting down the group in a hail of bullets.

Chmagh survives the initial onslaught and tries to crawl away. This is where things go from bad to worse.

"Come on, buddy, all you gotta do is pick up a weapon," says one of the helicopter's occupants, implying that if they think that he has or is going for a weapon, they will open fire again.

Minutes later a van pulls into the square, and two men begin to try and load the bodies into the vehicle. The Apache again asks for permission to fire, and permission is again granted—though this time, no weapons or anything that could be mistaken for a weapon is visible.

The van is ventilated as the heavy machine-gun rips into it, killing the occupants and the men trying to help. By this time, the square is littered with 14-15 bodies.

"Oh yeah, look at that," the gunner says enthusiastically. "Right through the windshield! Ha ha!"

The Apache ceases fire as U.S. ground elements arrive to clean up. At first, the square is so full of bodies that a Bradley tank driver says he is not able to drive into the area.

Another driver does anyway, rolling the

tank over a body as he does. "I think I just drove over a body," he jokes. "Really?" asks someone else, chuckling. "Yeah!" the driver responds, laughing himself.

It is only later that two children are found in the van, seriously injured. The Army medics recommended them be taken to the nearest U.S. base for treatment. Someone on the radio overrides that order, telling them to take the children to a local hospital.

"Well it's their fault for bringing their kids into a battle," someone mouths off over the radio. "That's right," his buddy responds.

This kind of behavior and action from our soldiers are unacceptable and inexcusable. This blatant lack of respect for human life is alarming and absolutely disgusting. No wonder many Iraqis hate us so much.

The phrase "The War on Terror" is misleading. We're not fighting terror—you cannot fight a concept, a notion. We're fighting people, and in our haste to "protect" ourselves from this "foreign threat," we're ending the lives of innocent civilians.

The argument that as civilians ourselves, we cannot know what it is like to be over there, is wrong. We may not have combat experience, but it is not that hard to tell from the Wikileaks video what went down.

Those people were not insurgents or terrorists.

There were regular people, and they were shot down by hotshot cowboys so full of themselves that they felt gunning down a dozen civilians is an achievement and something to laugh over.

Whatever your stance on the war is, it is undeniable that this travesty should not have happened, and should not happen ever again. The soldiers involved need to be held accountable and disciplined accordingly.

We Americans, as well, need to hold ourselves accountable for the horrific actions our military has wrought in our name since the beginning of this war: Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, and especially this newly-uncovered Baghdad Slaughter.

Are you tired of Tiger?

Please get Woods off my television set



Ashley Atkins

I often wonder what life would be like without Tiger Woods news—walking into a grocery store without seeing his face and his mistresses plastered all over the magazine covers, or being able to watch television without seeing him perform yet another press conference about how sorry he is. I believe it would be pleasant.

But, to make up for the celebrity news, I suppose I would be bombarded with news about Heidi and Spacely, I mean Spencer, instead. Either way, news on Tiger Woods has been handled as if it were a national emergency. When the world should be continuing to direct its focus toward efforts to help Haiti, it is instead inviting itself into this man's life.

What people do not realize is that watching someone on television for years does not connect one to that person or give one a say in his or her actions.

At the moment, Tiger is portrayed as the "lone" adulterer. Society is innocent of its sins and he must be burned at the stake because all men in business are faithful to their wives and never consider looking in the other direction. The 20-year-old assistants, club waitresses, the nanny, they would never touch. That is why the di-

voice rate in this country is so low.

At the beginning of this week, regular television was interrupted so that the press could take the opportunity to ask him the questions that people would want to know. Intelligent questions were asked, like whether his current situation would affect his playing. Considering that he has won numerous golf games, one would assume he has learned to separate his personal life from the game.

It is amazing how movie stars and rappers are expected to step off their relationships on various occasions and the public is supportive, usually siding with one of the women involved—Angelina vs. Jen Aniston comes to mind. The men are glorified as the ultimate player. But, when it comes to athletes like Kobe Bryant, Shaq, etc, people are in absolute shock.

Maybe it is because the ambition to become a professional athlete rather than a movie star seems more realistic for the average person. In order to see one's favorite athlete in person, all the average person has to do is buy a ticket to his or her game. However, to get close to a celebrity, one has to get through their security first.

So, making this connection, housewives and some married men are making comments like "he is supposed to be a role model," or "it is a shame that my kids and grandchildren are not able to look up to him."

First off, the children should never have looked up to an athlete or celebrity in the first place. The parents are supposed to be their role models. Athletes are humans

as well. This is reminiscent of the housewives at home crying about Britney Spears and her impact on their daughters. Other things do factor in to the way that a child is brought up.

The news media should be focusing on what is happening with our government, and on answering questions about what is going on with health care. There are young people and adults who have no idea what the health care involves. People are willing to complain about ideas when it is coming from the opposing party without knowing the facts.

We also need to know what is going on with Haiti. They had the charity music benefits on television and around the country for nearly two weeks, but now that the cameras have turned another direction, it feels like the majority of the U.S. has forgotten.

I actually do not remember seeing any functions going on for Haiti in my community. When Hurricane Katrina happened, the schools would have car washes. The subject—and even the Oprah special—was talked about for nearly a month. It is most likely because of what happened in Haiti did not happen in the U.S., so we do not feel obligated.

What will most likely happen with the Tiger Woods situation is that people are going to continue to talk and gossip, women will continue to come out of the woodwork (because they think it is fun), he will continue to win his tournaments, and he will regain his endorsers.

The world can still function without Tiger talk.

Spring is here, so morels not far behind

SCIENCE MATTERS



Cate Marquis

In spring, thoughts turn toward mushrooms, at least for some of us. Not just any mushrooms, but the glorious morel mushroom. Those among the lucky who have tasted a morel mushroom know why some of us long for early spring and the start of mushroom season.

Morels are one of the most spectacular of culinary treats—a mushroom with a non-mushroom-y taste that is delicate, buttery and savory. One can buy morels in a grocery or in a restaurant, but they are hideously expensive. On the other hand, one can pick them in a Missouri or Illinois forest for free.

My opinion on this matter? Better head for the woods.

Morels are so pricy not just because they are so tasty but because they cannot be cultivated commercially at this time, despite continuing efforts and occasionally reported small-scale successes. Generally, the only way to harvest morel mushrooms is to find them in the woods.

Some facts about morels: Anyone can safely hunt morels because they look so distinctive and are easier to identify than most wild mushrooms. Morels look like a sponge on a stalk, a brown to tan honeycombed oblong, without the usual cap-and-gills of the familiar mushrooms that pop up in yards. The sponge-like cap and the

stem are hollow, and the cap is connected to the stem throughout, without a gap at the bottom.

Morels are mushrooms of the genus *Morchella*, related to cup fungi. They belong to the Division of Fungi known as Sac Fungi or Ascomycota, formerly known as Ascomycetes, a name familiar to many who took an introductory biology lab. These fungi reproduce using microscopic spores called asci. Other sac fungi are yeasts, truffles and *Penicillium*.

Morels vary in size, shape and color, and there are regional variations as well. How many species of morel exist is debated, with some arguing that there are six species and others as few as three species with a large amount of phenotypic variation. Mushroom hunters commonly identify these species: *Morchella esculenta* (yellow morel), *M. elata* (black morel) and *M. deliciosa* (white morel). All are edible, although they should be cooked as they can contain a substance that can cause stomach upset for some if eaten raw.

There are also false morels, which are not edible, but they look sufficiently different. If you learn to find morels with an experienced hunter, you will not be fooled.

In my opinion, morel mushroom hunting is one of the best things about living in this area. Many people who fish or hunt do so for the excuse to be outdoors, alongside a sparkling stream or hiking through the woods. Hunting for morel mushrooms offers just such an excuse, with the bonus of being out in the woods in the early spring when the weather is mild, trees are just budding and early wildflowers are popping up.

A mushroom hunt some-

times involves admiring the woodland flowers like Dutchmen's breeches, spring beauty, and other forest flowers that appear before the trees fully leaf-out. In mushroom season, it is too early for pesky biting bugs, hardly anything else is stirring besides birds and squirrels and the lack of undergrowth and most leaf cover means it is much easier to both get around and see distances in the forest.

In fact, perfect morel mushroom conditions just about describes a perfect spring day for a walk in the woods—the next warm day after a rainfall, with temperatures soaring into the 70s. Then, top all that off with the most delicious mushroom in the Midwest.

Morel hunting is both easy and hard. They are everywhere but elusive, out in plain sight but hidden. They may be found near dead trees, near May apples or in old orchards, but the one rule of morel hunting is that there are no firm rules to predict where to find them.

For the novice morel hunter, there is plenty of help to get started. Missouri Mycological Society, which hunts for all sorts of wild mushrooms, organizes an annual Morel Madness Foray at nearby Cuivre River State Park, where beginners can learn the ropes. Other mushroom-hunting forays take place at Pere Marquette State Park in Illinois or Babler State Park in Missouri.

But do not expect any old hand at mushroom hunting to tell you where to look. Where to find the little treasures is a closely guarded secret, much like the location of a gold mine to an old prospector.

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

Incredible harassment leads to student suicide



Andrew Seal

When “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is brought up in conversation, it usually refers to the military’s controversial gay closeting policy. If you thought DADT only applied to our men and women in uniform, think again.

There’s another application for DADT: high school.

Thanks to DADT, a high school girl recently killed herself. High schools around the nation seem to have taken the stance that on issues between students, the teachers and administration don’t ask and

the students don’t tell.

This means that often-times, bullies reign supreme in the hallways and classrooms. This kind of atmosphere of hopelessness breeds situations that can lead to terrible endings, such as one school in South Hadley, Mass., found out.

Freshman Irish transfer student Phoebe Prince killed herself in January after being mercilessly subjected to endless ridicule and bullying by some of her classmates.

Her crime was simply “briefly dating a popular senior football player in her first freshman weeks at the school,” an article on NYDailyNews.com said.

The eternal stereotypical “mean girls” at the school—that is to say, the clique of popular older girls—took it upon themselves to take vengeance on Prince for some perceived wrong.

She was subjected to bullying beyond the scope of imagination. The bullies got other students to knock books out of her arms during school, throw things at her and send her threatening text messages.

The online world wasn’t a refuge for Prince, either, with her classmates taking to Facebook, Twitter, Formspring, and Craigslist to call her all manner of things, from “Irish slut” to “whore” and everything in between.

The “mean girls” even became so bold as to verbally assault Prince in the school library, in the full presence of other classmates and a faculty member, who witnessed it and yet said nothing to stop it.

Why did no one do anything to stop this atrocious behavior? The sad fact is that high school bullying has become generally accepted,

with parents and teachers typically shrugging it off as something “that just happens,” or something “that every high-schooler goes through” or even the terrible “it is just kids being kids.”

Any bullying is unacceptable, but the scope of what Prince was subjected to is so far and beyond the typical high school experience that it led to her taking her own life just to be free of it.

The day she killed herself, she had been walking home from school when a passing car filled with her tormentors slowed down to throw a can of Red Bull at her.

She finished walking home and hung herself in the stairwell leading to her parent’s second-floor apartment building. Her sister found Prince’s body later, still wearing her school clothes.

However, it was not over yet. The bullying continued

after her death, with some of her bullies posting “vicious comments on [Prince’s] Facebook memorial page,” the same NY Daily News article said.

This is not the first time something like this has happened, and it sadly will not be the last time. Bullying is a major problem, and one that needs to be addressed on not only a local scale, but a national one as well. It is not too hard to see that bullying may be one of the primary causes for both school shootings and teenage suicide.

Thankfully, Prince’s abusers are being brought to justice. Six of her classmates have been brought up on charges including “criminal violation of civil rights with bodily injury, criminal harassment and stalking,” the NY Daily News said. Two male students have also been charged with statutory rape.

That last sentence is perhaps the most damning. There is a lot more to what happened to Prince than investigators have revealed, and I for one am not sure I want to know everything that occurred.

What is perhaps the most heartbreaking about this story is that if someone, anyone had taken action against these monstrous boys and girls, Prince might have not killed herself.

No one can say for sure, but things may have turned out differently if the faculty member who witnessed Prince’s abuse had said something to stop it instead of staying silent. Knowing that something would be done about her harassers might have changed her mind.

But now, we will never know.

Andrew Seal is Staff writer for The Current.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

When reading Andy Phipps’ column on the Tea Party protest movement in the March 22 issue of *The Current*, I was struck by the irony of his message about the protesters. Citing scenes of deplorable behavior toward elected officials, Phipps refers to the Tea Party as being “bigoted” in nature and equates them with Nazis. While Phipps allows that the basic objections of the Tea Party Patriots are legitimate and worth of consideration, he also sums up the entire group as being wholly composed of terrible, reasonless savages.

It seems to me a hypocrisy to refer to the Tea Party as bigoted while casting aspersions upon them with a wide brush. Is it not bigotry to write the whole lot off as idiotic, immature, and uneducated simply because they prescribe to a specific political movement? There is nothing inherently wrong with the protesters’ message—their displeasure with the intrusion of government in their private lives, and the unnecessary expansion of federal control over a normally private part of one’s life: healthcare. Their views should be heard in the debate for healthcare reform, as with all opinions. However, just because we see so many of the worst examples of Tea Party protests on the news does not mean that everyone single Tea Party Patriot is beyond civility. Likewise, a few horrendous Republican or Democrat protests do not criminal organizations make.

When passing judgment on these people, carefully consider the assumptions we are tempted to make about them. In any movement, the most coal members tend to be the least accurate representation of the group overall. The real bigots are those who believe the Tea Party to be without redeeming qualities and undeserving of participation in democratic debate based on a few authentically despicable individuals.

Sincerely,
Erin Richey
UMSL Sophomore

Student ID’s more harm than good?



Jen O'Hara

As soon as I walk to campus for classes, I must now make a mental note to slip on a lanyard that displays my student ID in a clear plastic holder. You see, as a social work major, I have been chosen along with the rest of the social work student and faculty members to be a part of an experiment on campus. The University of Missouri-

St. Louis is testing to see if security and safety on campus will be increased by students and faculty wearing ID badges.

When first hearing of the proposal, I had flashbacks to the last day of public high school, in which the image of burning and basting the required ID I had worn since eighth grade consistently ran through my thoughts, and was a very possible reality that was to occur.

Since then, the thoughts of IDs around my neck causing a horrible lack of uniqueness, infringements on my “given rights” as an “adult,” and other teenage hormonal rants have calmed down. Looking around in the world of employment, many businesses

now require some form of identification on their employees for safety measures.

With that being said, the fact that UM-St. Louis wants to improve security on campus is great, especially in light of the violence that took place on campus just last semester. I applaud the university for noting this and taking steps for its population to be further protected.

However, are ID badges the right step to further protect us?

First and foremost, the School of Social Work holds a comparatively small population in size. It is understandable, to an extent, that perhaps the school of social

See ID, page 20

Social awareness 101

The harm of porn part II: Addiction and erectile difficulties



Stacey Beckenholdt

Because of extramarital affairs, former president Bill Clinton, actor David Duchovny and pro-golfer Tiger Woods have either admitted to or been suspected of having sex addictions.

While the attention given to this specific symptom of sex addiction has brought to light the real-life struggles faced by addicts and their families, many other forms or symptoms of sex addiction are not as openly discussed, such as pornography.

Combined with masturbation, which releases pleasure

chemicals, the sexual intensity of watching porn can become unmatched by anything else experienced by the user, including real sex. Use of pornography, like drugs, alcohol or food, is not in and of itself going to be a problem for everyone. However, the availability of porn on the Internet has led to a sharp increase in the number of people who suffer in silence with this addiction—known as sexual compulsivity within the field of psychology—with some reports showing that nearly half of all sufferers are women.

Dr. Helen Friedman is a clinical psychologist in full-time private practice in St. Louis, Mo., with over 27 years of experience working with sexual trauma and sexual compulsivity. "Cybersex is affordable, anonymous, and easily accessible," Dr. Friedman wrote in her 2000 article "Shame is 'King' in

Sexual Compulsivity." "It is considered to be the crack cocaine of sexual compulsivity, because it can quickly escalate the progression of the disorder."

Dr. Friedman is a board member of The Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health (SASH.net, available in English and Spanish). SASH provides helpful information to men and women, heterosexual and homosexual, who are concerned about the negative effects specific sexual activities have on their lives.

SASH states that the three hallmarks of sex addiction are these: loss of control,

Seesignificant consequences resulting from the behavior, and constant thinking of the behavior, even when the person does not want to.

Many users admit that, even when having sex with people they are highly attracted to, they are unable to

focus on the moment due to the rapid succession of pornographic images from videos they have seen. To make matters worse, it can lead to erectile difficulties.

Inability to get or maintain an erection can cause both men and women to feel inadequate.

One way many men fight to keep erections is by focusing on the images and possibly transforming those images by enacting some of what they have seen in porn by reducing their partners to objects and focusing on their own desires. This can be done through the use of derogatory name-calling, slapping, choking and other methods used to control one's partner. While power play can be a fun part of healthy sexual activity, inability to perform without it can signify a problem.

See PORN, page 23

From ID, page 19

Work was chosen for the experiment because of its location at Bellerive Hall, a building isolated from most others. However, because of how comparatively few people attend this particular college, this experiment may not show the most accurate results since most everyone recognizes one another without the IDs anyway. Most of the time, when someone unfamiliar enters the building, it is obvious. Would it not make more sense to test this idea on a somewhat larger population?

Second of all, would requiring the campus populace to wear IDs really make the campus safer? Sure, something that identifies a group might have slight possibilities of spotting an "outsider." But a problem with this idea is the visitors on campus. Recruiting for the college, visitors constantly come in and out. In addition, several people who live around the boundaries of campus often walk through or take a jog around the area. These people would not have IDs. To what extent would IDs be required?

Besides that, student IDs will be displayed for all to see. Since our student numbers are on our IDs, some form of identity theft could ensue. Several students use their cards as a line of credit within the school, and our numbers are used to hold school records. Also, in the social work experiment, access to the building will be granted with the card after-hours. If someone were to lose their

student ID, would it not have the potential for the campus to be even less safe?

In high school, it makes more sense to brand IDs on student and faculty. Maybe looking at the security rates of high schools is what sprung the idea for college campus security measures. The university needs to take note, though, that it is generally a small and distinguishable enough community anyway, and that in addition to IDs, securing the campus is easier in the grander scheme of things. In college, diversity is more prominent. These days, race, age, and gender vary so greatly, anyone seen on campus is just as likely to be a student as the next person.

If the university wants to increase security and safety, there are several other options besides wearing IDs. More lighting and emergency poles could be placed, a smaller station for campus police could be placed on South Campus, or video cameras could be installed inside and outside of buildings. Other than that, UM-St. Louis could increase protection and prevention programs, such as self-defense classes.

Overall, UM-St. Louis does a generally fair job of keeping the campus safe. Granted, there are cases obviously beyond control at times, but compared to other schools, UM-St. Louis is pretty safe. But wearing IDs around our necks actually might outweigh harm over good. *Jen O'Hara is a Staff writer for The Current.*

Stevens' retirement highlights politicization

THE PHIPPS PHACTOR



Andy Phipps

Although he was appointed by a republican president, retiring associate Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is today considered to

be a liberal on a conservative court. But that statement would be one that Stevens would take offense to, and why this is points to something disappointing about our political culture.

In 1975, the year that Justice Stevens was nominated and confirmed, the words liberal and conservative were used almost academically to identify certain political ideas, but they were not labels. They carried with them all of the weight as any other adjective would. They

definitely did not apply to something as arcane, twisted and final as judicial philosophy. Although even then one might have called the Warren court's decisions more liberal than those of the Burger court that preceded it, it was merely an academic comparison and nothing more.

When Stevens was nominated by Gerald Ford to sit on the court, his decision was not based on Stevens' political views or loyalty to a political philosophy but rather, it was one based on his aptitude

as a judge and his knowledge of the law and constitution. When Stevens sat through his confirmations hearings in the Senate, he was not asked about his opinions on abortion or gun control outside of the context of the law. The senators who voted to confirm him did not view their votes as any kind of political statement, they merely saw them as an affirmation for or against this person's ability to do his job faithfully.

See STEVENS, page 23

READ THE CURRENT

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CHOPIN, from page 12

A fitting finale, this piece varied from slow, melodic tunes, to rapid note progressions that brought several audience members to attention.

"Chopin may have only lived 39 years, but his works will never die, much less be forgotten, as they possess and intrigue the entire spectrum of human emotion," Voskoboynikova said prior to the concert's start.

Even those without strong passion for pia-

no music could easily understand and appreciate this claim, having attended the Spring Piano Students Concert.

Chopin's works vary greatly, from slow to fast, from long to short, and from any emotion you can think of to the next.

To any who have never experienced piano music, looking into Chopin's repertoire may be a good start.

A+ —*Matthew B. Poposky*

KOUYATE, from page 10

The musicians' movements made it apparent that musicians are the same all over the world, and that no matter where one is in the world, one will always find a love of music.

At one point after a standing ovation, toward the end of the concert, the crowd was encouraged to dance along with the group. This was not hard to do, considering the crowd previously had been invited to sing along with the group.

Bassekou led the men, and his wife Ami, the "Tina Turner of Mali," led the women. It was fun and made for a great atmosphere of

unity and happiness.

This performance was enchanting and engaging. Not only did the crowd get to enjoy the talent, but the talent got to enjoy the crowd.

The music was bouncy and energetic, and so were the musicians and the crowd. It was with reluctance that everyone stood and clapped for the last time for Bassekou Kouyate and Ngoni Ba; they did a phenomenal job.

Hopefully they will come back soon, and once again enchant an audience at the Touhill.

A+ —*Amanda Roach*

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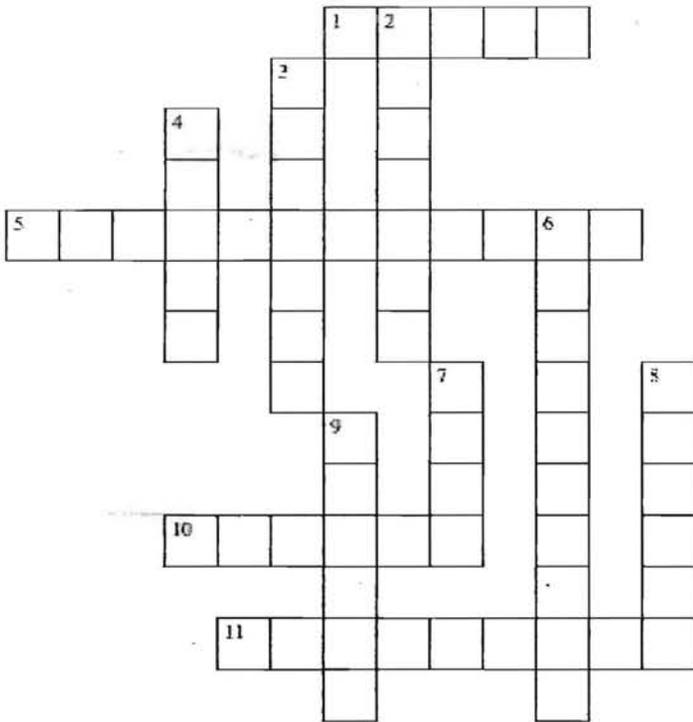
go to our forums at
thecurrent-online.com



Puzzles

CURRENT CROSSWORD

Cardinals in the Hall of Fame



ACROSS

- 1. 13 consecutive Gold Gloves
- 5. Won titles as both a player and a manager
- 10. Was a Harlem Globetrotter
- 11. Made a 'mad dash' in the '46 World Series

DOWN

- 2. Last NL player to win a triple crown in '37
- 3. Great right-handed hitter or greatest?
- 4. Cubs traded him to St. Louis in '64
- 6. Led the Cards to two titles in the '40s
- 7. A bad toe forced him to retire at age 30
- 8. First pitcher to never start a game to be elected into the Hall of Fame
- 9. Had 1,815 hits at home and on the road.

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
This week may be difficult as you realize that a part of your life to which you have devoted great time and energy is not as important as you once thought. Spend time planning out a new path.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
This will be a week of contentment and happiness for you, especially if you are currently in a relationship. You'll have plenty of time to spend with the things and people that bring you joy.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
A long few days are in store for you as an unexpected change affects many areas of your life. Though it will likely all turn out for the best, you'll still find it somewhat tricky to adjust.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)
You may find that even your dearest friends are difficult to tolerate during this stressful week, but be patient with them and remember that they are just as overworked as you are.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)
Though you may be feeling impatient to put some big plans in action, it's the perfect time to simply let good fortune come to you, so put your schemes on the back burner for now.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)
Your ability to tell it like it is, usually not the best trait, will come in handy when conflict arises between loved ones. Let them know what's on your mind to end everything quickly.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
You're full of great ideas this week, and though you'd like to share them with others, it may be best to wait until you're feeling less impulsive. You may find yourself in serious trouble.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Others may ask you to take on some big responsibilities this week, and though it would almost certainly be an honor to do so, you need to be careful not to bite off more than you can chew.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
During this week you'll need to work on coming to terms with a swiftly approaching change in your life. Realize that as much as you may dislike it, there's really nothing to do but make peace.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Use caution when working with a group this week. Though you may have everyone's best interests at heart it's very possible that your methods will be misinterpreted, to put it lightly.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
A project you've been working on for quite a while now will be completed during this week. You'll finally have a chance to reap the rewards of all the hard work you've been doing.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
This week may find you happily reunited with an old friend, and you should enjoy the get-together while it lasts, but remember that you are each going in different directions in life.

CURRENT SUDOKU by Gene Doyel

This week's rating:

★★★

(Hard)

Last week's answers

Last week's rating: Medium

9	5	4	2	6	7	8	1	3
7	1	8	3	9	5	4	2	6
2	3	6	4	1	8	9	7	5
4	7	1	9	2	6	5	3	8
3	8	9	5	7	1	6	4	2
5	6	2	8	3	4	1	9	7
8	9	5	7	4	2	3	6	1
6	2	3	1	5	9	7	8	4
1	4	7	6	8	3	2	5	9

		1		6	7			
	6							
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		8	3					
		4		5				
2			1	4				9
5							7	
	9	6		8				

CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the A's in the message, and so on. (Hint: P = C)

MVKTG XYJYOX QD NTK KA KZYI PZYSR, Y MQ IAGGD KA IMD KZMK VAG KZT IMVTKD AV QD VMQYSD, VGYPORI MOR QD ITSV, I OA SAOXTG HYIZ KA CMGTOK KYZI PZYSR.

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt when we get more in.

Comics

STARSHIP WHATEVER by Phil Freeman



STEVENS, from page 20

However, since then things have changed greatly and our politics have become incredibly divisive. The adjectives liberal and conservative have long since become stereotypes of political thought.

This has even extended itself into the judiciary, something that arguably began about a decade after Stevens was confirmed to his seat on the court when President Reagan nominated Robert Bork to take the seat of one of his colleagues on the court.

Democrats in the Senate, outflanked and enraged by the conservative movement that had pushed them out of the White House and into a thin majority in congress attacked Bork's nomination not on his judicial philosophy, but rather on the grounds of his personal political philosophy.

Bork ultimately stood down and the entire process of a president appointing

people to the judiciary has been a politicized process ever since.

Since then, the nomination of a Supreme Court justice has become a political event and the court has become more and more politicized.

Any time a vacancy opens, both sides reach for their guns and begin loading the political ammo—with either side believing that they have something to lose depending on who the president is, which party controls the senate and who the nominee is.

The lawmakers themselves take part in this menagerie, as we saw last year when President Obama nominated Sonja Sotomeyer to a vacancy on the court. Even though Judge Sotomeyer had the qualifications to be a prudent justice based on her substantial tenure as a federal judge, republican senators spent their time trying to paint her as a partisan

who would let her sex and ethnicity override her judgment of the law. Even worse yet are the examples of this that the Bush administration provided us, with our previous president nominating his personal lawyer, Harriet Meyer, to a vacancy in order to place an ideologue on the court, not just to serve his own agenda but that of his party and the conservative movement they represented.

Even though there has been this politicization of the process, it has historically never been very effective on the process.

Although the Bork nomination failed, Reagan succeeded in getting a "liberal" senate to confirm Antonin Scalia, who is viewed as being conservative, to the Supreme Court.

And even though those on the right have long opposed the Roe v. Wade decision that made abortion illegal and conservative politicians have vowed to nomi-

nate people to the judiciary to reverse the decision, and even succeeded in doing so, they have been unable to reverse the decision.

However, the departure of Justice Stevens from the bench demonstrates not only how much things have changed, but how much our process loses in the absence of individuals like him in our government.

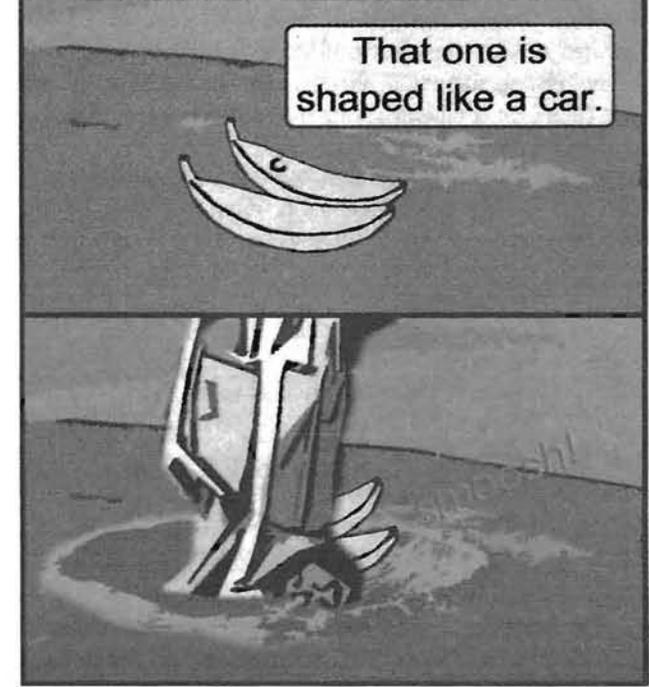
Stevens would never describe himself as a conservative or a liberal, but rather as a judge who passed judgment on cases based solely on his understanding of the letter of law.

He has never sought to serve an ideologue, but only the good of his fellow citizens.

In the face of his retirement, if there were ever a time for such level headedness like that in government, it is now.

Andy Phipps is News Editor and a columnist for The Current.

Bananas #30 by Paul Maguire



PORN, from page 20

Left untreated, the user's sex addiction can take on new forms, such as sexual abuse of a partner.

An online search for "porn addiction and erectile dysfunction" reveals that this is a real problem for many people. From WebMD to Christian-based sites to public discussion forums, experts and addicts alike are sharing the problems surrounding pornography addiction as well as solutions and suggestions to help users overcome it.

On Sept. 1, 2006, on the Men's Health discussion forum of Medhelp.org, a 28-year-old man shared his worries that his use of pornography was the cause for his erectile problem. Over 50 people have responded, the most recent of which was received last month. The general consensus was first and foremost to stop looking at porn—the same solution offered by experts in the fields of psychology and sexual health. Shame and humiliation regarding the actions of addicts are legitimate concerns, but it can be debilitating for sex addicts who are too embarrassed to seek help. SASH has links to numerous articles and book titles that can be read in private. Amazon.com has the option of allowing readers to read a few pages of many of their books so that consumers can make informed choices about what to order. A book that has proven extremely helpful to a friend is "Treating Pornography Addiction: The Essential Tools for Recovery," by Dr. Kevin B. Skinner, and Dr. Friedman recommends "Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction," by Patrick Carnes.

Anyone concerned that the watching of pornographic videos has become out of control may want to stop watching for a few days to see what happens. Users will often have withdrawal symptoms, such as irritability and intense mental preoccupation with porn. If this happens, taking advantage of the numerous online and literary resources or talking with non-judgmental professional can give much needed support and guidance.

Stacy Beckenholdt is a copy editor for The Current.

THE CURRENT NEEDS CARTOONISTS!

CAN YOU DRAW?
ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?

IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP ALSO.

YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

Monday, April. 12

Candy & Careers 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located in The Nosh, Open to all students. Sweeten up your career! Visit our information table in the Nosh to learn more about the resources offered through Career Services & enjoy some free candy. For additional information contact Career Services at 516-5111.

The Lost Muse: George Balanchine, Lidiia Ivanova Ballet 12:15pm to 1:15pm

222 JC Penney Conference Center, 12:15pm to 1:15pm. Open to all students
Elizabeth Kendall, St. Louis native, dance critic and writing professor at New York's New School University, talks about her work in Russian and Georgian archives, researching the youth of master choreographer George Balanchine, and the 1924 murder of his best friend, young ballerina Lidiia Ivanova. This presentation is about piecing together history from hard-to-find and interpret primary documents.

For more information contact Karen Lucas at 516-5699.

Tuesday, April. 13

Lunch and Learn Series Presents THE AFTER LIFE: LIFE AFTER COLLEGE 12:30-2:00PM

Located in the MSC Century Room B. Open to all students. Free box lunch! Featuring a panel of UMSL Alumni. Topics: Seeking employment in 2010, surviving the first year and succeeding in the workplace, work life and balance. Brought to you by the University Program Board and the Alumni Association.

Questions? Call 516-5531 or stop by 366 MSC.

Wednesday, April. 14

Tips and Strategies for Test-Taking 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM

Located at 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success.
Open to Students. Do you prepare for tests only to find you completely blank out when the test is placed in front of you or that your grade did not meet your expectation? Learn tips about taking certain types of tests: ex. multiple choice, essay, true/false, etc. Get information to make your test preparation more productive, and on how to better manage test-taking jitters.

For more Information contact Chad Hoffer at 516-5300.

Thursday, April. 15

Effective Studying: Facts and Myths about Memory 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM

Located at 225 Millennium Student Center - Center for Student Success.
Open to students. Learn more about how memory works and some tips that can be put into practice to improve recall. Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, reading a textbook, and test-taking skills. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 516-5300

Child Trauma Colloquium Series 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Located at Weinman Building-Lower Level. Open to all. Sexual Abuse Forensic Examinations (SAFE): Fact, Myths, and Findings.

For more information, contact Judy Cates at 516-6799.

Friday, April. 16

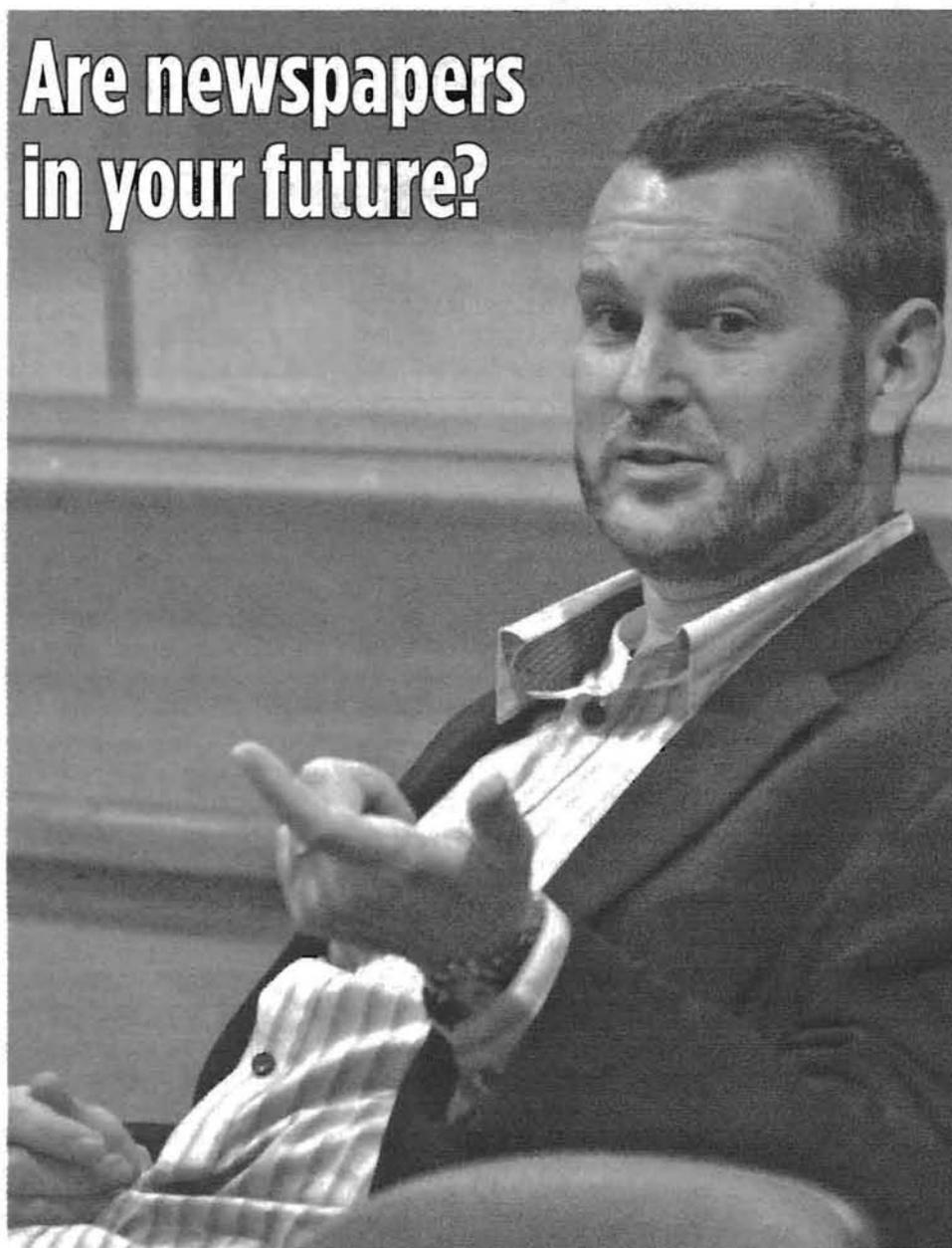
Rock Gym 101 sponsored by Campus Recreation 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Located at Upper Limits Rock Gym, 326 S. 21st Street, St. Louis. Open to all students. Learn to rock climb! Come and experience the fun of this exhilarating sport. Campus Rec's indoor climbing program at Upper Limits Rock Gym includes rental gear, two hours of instruction, climbing for the rest of the day after the class, and coupons to use on your next visit.

Enrollment is limited, so don't delay, sign up early.

For more Information contact Campus Recreation (203 Mark Twain) at 516-5326.

Are newspapers in your future?



RIKI TANAKA / THE CURRENT

Chad Hankinson, assistant teaching professor in the Pierre Laclède Honors College and National Student Exchange Coordinator, participates in the meeting about the future of newspapers Tuesday morning in the SGA Chambers. He talked about how he incorporates newspapers in his class and his emphasis on reading articles on newspapers such as the New York Times or the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to have a better understanding of how the issues in each level influence students.



AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*