

# The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

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## Meet the SGA candidates

by Ryan Krull

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# The Current

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## ABOUT The Current

*The Current* is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. *The Current*, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis.

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*The Current* accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

## AFFILIATIONS



# News

## Ancient tablet found in Iklaina

*Dr. Cosmopoulos and the UMSL field school discover the oldest written record in Greece*

**JOHANNA-JESSICA HOFFARTH**  
Staff Writer

Under the direction of Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professor in Greek Studies, a professor of archaeology, and his field school team of students from the University of Missouri - St. Louis have uncovered a stone tablet which holds the oldest known written record in Europe.

The two by three inch tablet was found in a burnt refuse pit close to a sewer in Iklaina, Greece. The tablet has been dated between 1490 - 1390 BC, 100 to 150 years before existing written tablets were found in Greece during the Mycenaean period. The inscription on the tablet are characters of Linear B writing format, one side displaying a list of workers names and numbers and the other a verb that means manufacture. This tablet could contain a record of workers manufacturing anything from weapons, to ships, to buildings.

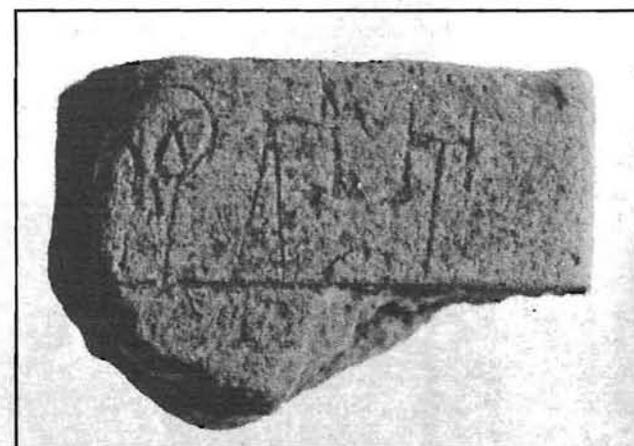
Although UMSL sponsors and stands as head institute of the field school in Greece, there were more than 25 staff members involved during the summer dig including other universities across America. Cynthia Shelmerdine at the University of Texas - Austin a specialist of Linear B writings, was the first to decipher the markings on the tablet. These markings provide a new time line to the importance of keeping state records and the establishment of bureaucracy, a century and a half before its time. "This suggests some degree of political complexity and a growing need to keep track of commodities, property and taxes, all earlier than we once thought," Dr. Cosmopoulos said.

After a full year of cross referencing the tablet to determine an estimated time frame line of authenticity, Dr. Cosmopoulos held a lecture on Tuesday's April 12 at the Missouri History Museum. At the lecture, he formally announced the discovery of the tablet and spoke of the excavation of a new Mycenaean palace in Pylos, Greece. In his lecture he explained how Pylos has written references to Iklaina and is also mentioned in Homer's book "Iliad." "This is a rare case where archaeology meets ancient texts and Greek myths," Dr. Cosmopoulos said. Finding references of actual sites in mythological texts could shed light on what we know as fact and fiction in Greek history.

Dr. Cosmopoulos is excited with the finding and is optimistic that more UMSL students will sign up for his summer program. With the finding being published in the New York Times and Proceedings of the Athens Archaeological Society scientific journal, it promotes UMSL's research agenda and could get the field school more federal funding for their next project. "I want to see more students getting involved," Dr. Cosmopoulos said, "not just to go and dig at a site, but to explore a new place and culture unlike their own."

Dr. Cosmopoulos and his students have been working at the Iklaina site for 11 years; eight of those spent on surveying the area and in 2008 beginning excavations. In this time not only has the tablet been discovered but also the foundation of a major palace including a courtyard, formal architecture and murals of naval scenes painted on the palace walls.

The field school in Greece is available to students during the summer semester. Students are able to go out and explore not only ancient Greece but the modern culture as well. The field school is worth six credits and scholarships are also available to assist with costs. Last year \$2,000 was awarded to students in order to help with various expenses. For more information on the historical find and summer field school opportunities visit [www.iklaina.org](http://www.iklaina.org).



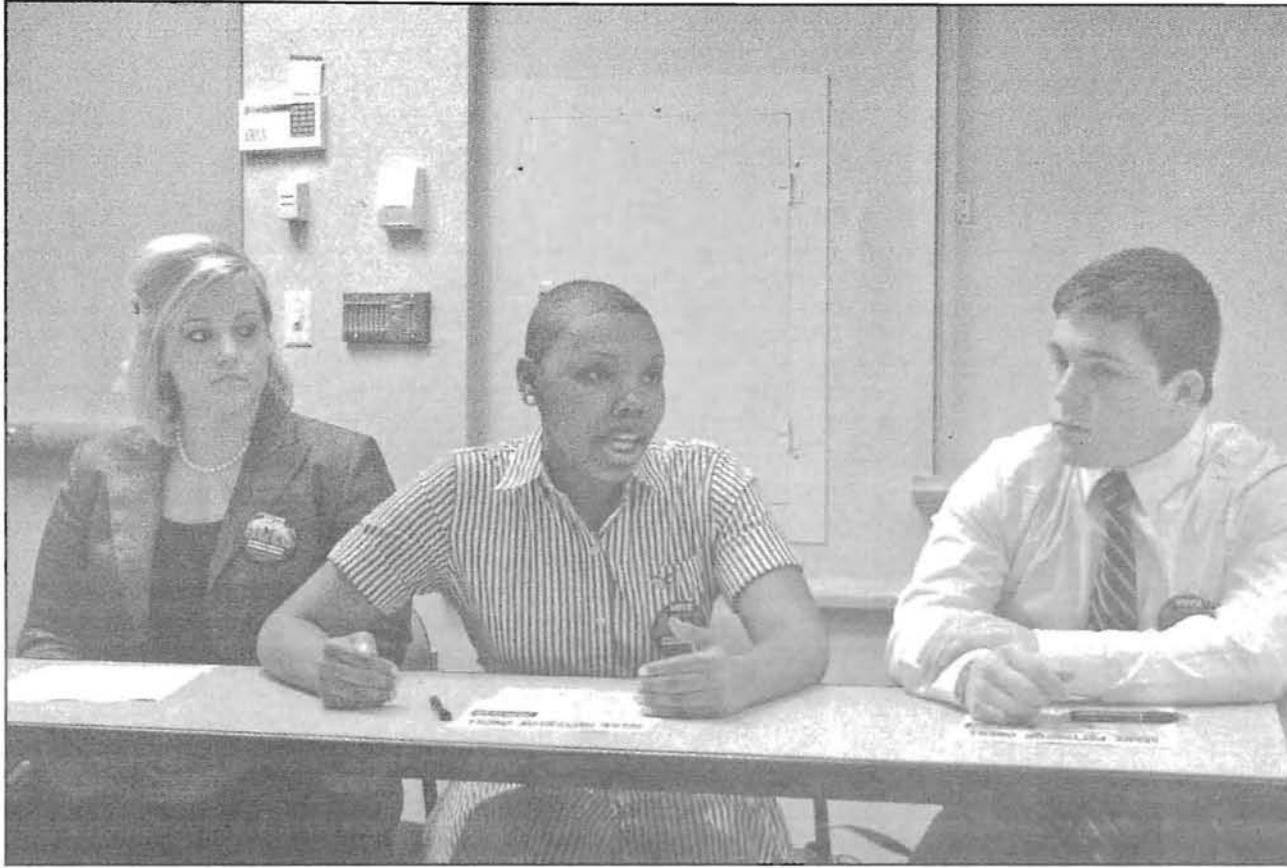
The inscription it is in Linear B, a form of writing that predates ancient Greek.

COURTESY / UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
63 56	73 57	77 50	63 44	60 51	69 55	64 52

# SGA candidates meet the public



Aleshia Patterson discusses the issues and things she would try to change if she were elected as the next Vice President of UMSL's Student Government at the Student Government Association meeting Thursday.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

**RYAN KRULL**  
News Editor

The forum was moderated by *The Current* Editor in Chief Andrew Seal and held in the Student Government Association Chambers on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center.

Among those taking questions were the four individuals running unopposed for the positions of president, vice president, comptroller and SGA chair. There were also five other individuals running for the student senate. All but two of the freshmen running for the senate had previous student government or student policy experience. Five of the nine candidates were transfer students.

Jerica Selby, Aleshia Patterson and T.J. O'Neill, running for president, vice-president and comptroller respectively, said they were all running on the same ticket and used the forum as an opportunity to outline their agenda.

"I think we all bring a different aspect as to what's most important to us...we've been seeing students interested in a new wellness center and recreation center on campus and really expanding the university, bringing it to a whole new level than what it is right now," Selby said. "The University of Missouri-St. Louis is flying right now and I just feel there is so much that a wellness and recreation center can do...that's one of our main agenda items."

Patterson, running on the same ticket as Selby, said that as vice-president she would like to work to bring together campus and student organizations and foster collaboration.

O'Neill, running for comptroller on the same ticket, said that he would like to "sharpen the allocation process that the

Student Activity Budget Committee goes through [to make] the student clubs a little more satisfied with the process."

Speaking to another financial issue, Steven Kraml, running for student senate, said that his biggest concern was the budget. "I have studied and reviewed the financial planning for the 2011 budget at UMSL and it's currently predicted to be in the red," Kraml said. "If I could fix anything it would be to bring UMSL back into the black."

In a later round of questioning, Seal asked the candidates specifically how they would work with opposition. Given recent hyper-partisanship in Washington D.C., Seal felt the question was especially pertinent.

"I think you have to judge the idea not the person," Patterson said. "People need to realize that when you're on opposing sides you can't take things personally, and if I'm disagreeing with you it's not an attack on your character or your personality."

Greg Laine, a candidate for student senate, said that he thought it was important to "listen with your ears and not with your mouth and take your own biases out of it...it's about give and take. I think of it as like a doorway, you don't want to be the doormat where you're getting stepped on all the time, but you don't want to be the wall where nothing gets through. You want to be the door where you give on some things and stay firm on others."

Attendance at the forum was sparse, but a few candidates were not without support. Lashunda Gardner, a tutor with Disability Access Services, said she was there to show some encouraging support for Aleshia Patterson.

Voting for SGA begins Monday, April 18 and runs throughout the week.

## The UNDERCURRENT

by Samuel J Surgener

**"What are you most looking forward to about Mirthday?"**



"I'm stoked for all the games!"

Sarah Greenwood  
Art Education  
Senior



"The rides!"

Samantha Kertz  
Art Education  
Junior



"I'm excited for the Cee-Lo Green Concert!!!"

Christian Cohill  
Graphic Design  
Freshman

**Should we be cutting social programs or the military?**

- From Issue 1343

I totally agree with you, Republicans are moronic bigots. The only thing they care about is starting dick waving contest with any country they can while destroying a normal person's right to live how and believe what they want.

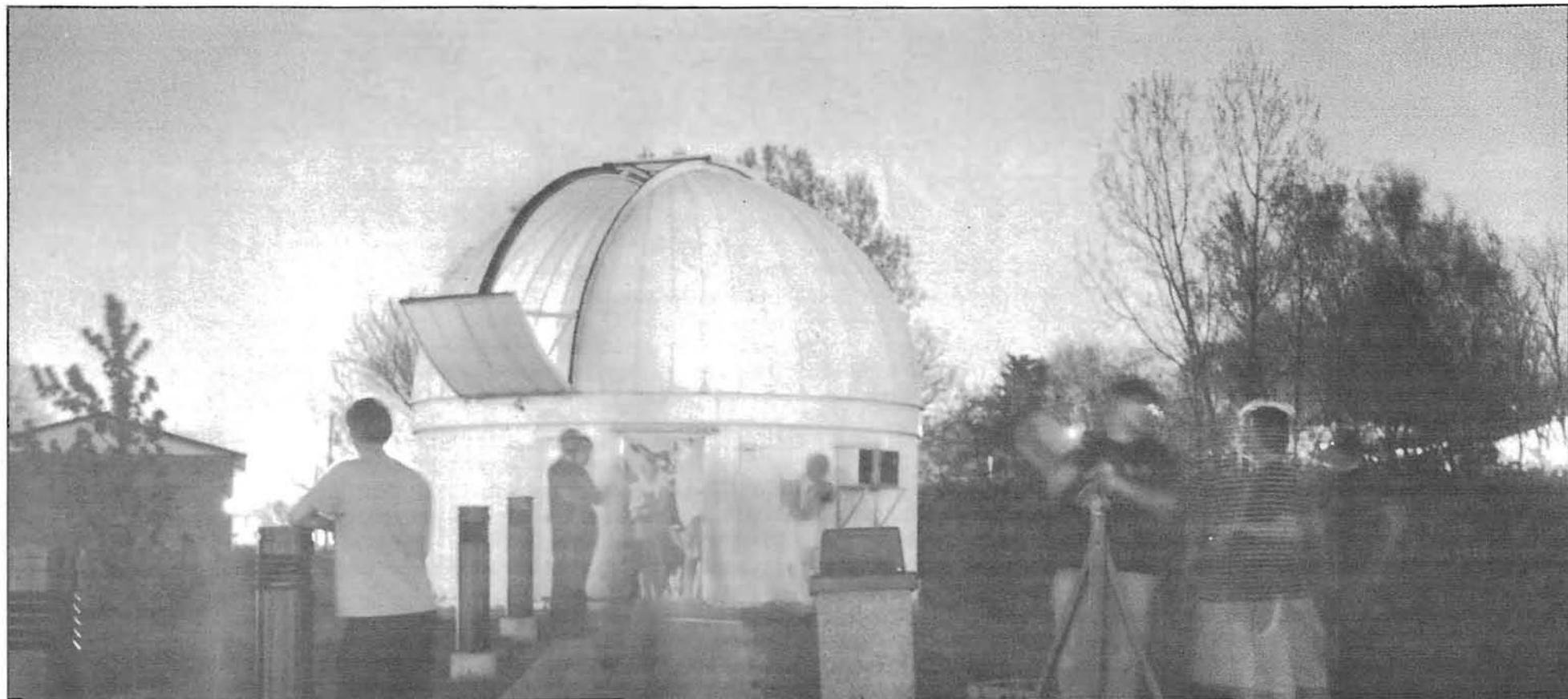
Democrats will let you freely live your life. They'll even try to balance out freedoms and opportunities. Of course you still can't choose what to believe in, people become statistics, equality overrides ability, and the state manages person responsibility.

- 1) There will never be a time when the US is completely safe from attack.
- 2) No amount of money can cure death.
- 3) Both sides believe money can solve things.

-DAVID

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

# Observatory Open House season begins for 2011



The Observatory opens to the public to take a close look at the moon on Saturday, April 9.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## CATE MARQUIS

Assistant A&E Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' Observatory Public Open House is open for business. The Astronomy Department held its first public sky-viewing event of the year on Saturday, April 9.

A steady stream of visitors arrived at the campus observatory on the warm, breezy night. Mild weather made for pleasant viewing at this first of the free public telescope viewing events that will last into fall.

Usually, the Richard D. Schwartz Observatory is used by astronomy students, but one Saturday night a month, during warmer months, it is opened to the general public. The events are free. The area around the observatory is kept dark to make viewing sky objects easier, but red "photo safe" lights inside the observatory, visible through its open door, made finding the building simple.

The observatory is located on North Campus, next to the Fine Arts Building and softball field. "The Astronomy department usually hires one student, grad or otherwise, to run the observatory open house," Madison Hayes, junior, astrophysics, said. Hayes is the student in charge this year. The record spring snowfall on March 12 canceled the original first Observatory Open House. "There were clouds, so I was thinking we would have to reschedule. But then there was all that snow, so I knew it was canceled," Hayes said.

About 35 people attended the first hour the observatory was open. There was a steady line of students, couples, young adults and parents with children.

Ryan Garnett and Michelle Hulshof had traveled from Cape Girardeau to visit the observatory. Garnett described himself as an astronomy fan. "I'm a teacher and this is her gift

to me, to bring me out here," Garnett said. They also planned to visit the St. Louis Science Center's planetarium.

"I teach history, but I just like the stars and space," Garnett said. "I have never been to anything like this before." He was looking forward especially to seeing deep-space objects like the Beehive Cluster. "I am trying to keep the smile off my face," he said. The observatory was crowded as people lined up to look through the telescope. Another smaller telescope was set up outside the observatory. "I'm taking astronomy and it's for extra credit," Kristin Williams, senior, psychology, said on her reason for attending. Other students cited similar reasons, but all said they were enjoying the experience.

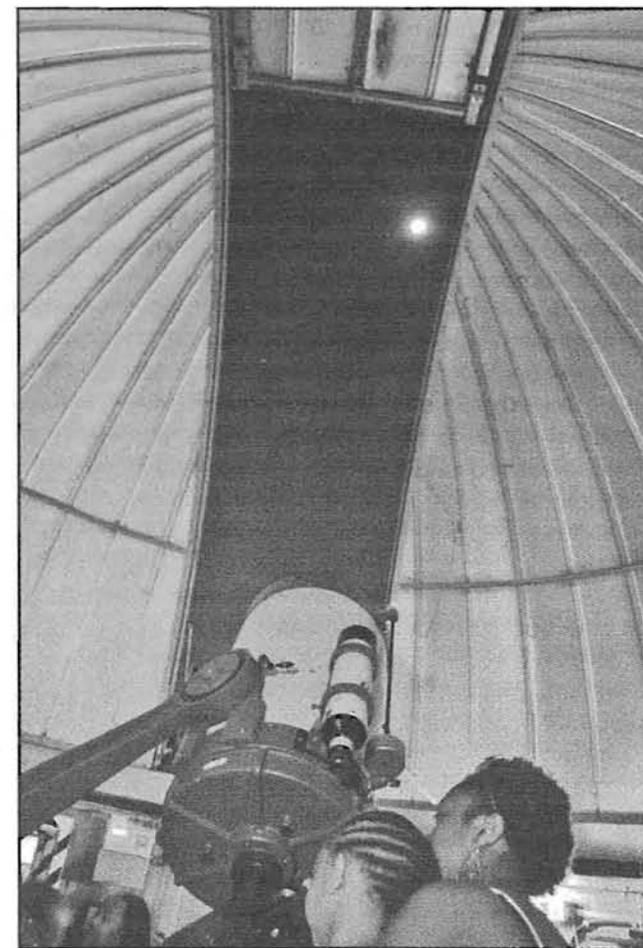
"I'm taking an astronomy class. I thought I would check out the observatory," Patrick Williams, sophomore, history, said. Caitlyn Graham, sophomore, psychology, is also taking astronomy. "It's a nice night, you know. I just got off work, didn't have anything else to do so might as well come see some cool stuff." Justin Collins, a graduate student in art education, brought his family, including baby in a stroller. "I have always been interested in outer space and I have never looked out of telescope before. For one of this size, I just had to do it," he said.

The first object on view was the first-phase moon, something every Open House includes.

"I think it's fantastic," Garnett said, after first viewing the moon through the telescope. "It is better than binoculars, that's what I usually use. That's my observatory: my deck and binoculars. This is up-close-and-personal."

"It was much more detail than I thought it would be," Williams said.

Other celestial objects viewed included Saturn's rings and moons, a binary star in the Big Dipper and a nebula located in the constellation Orion. The schedule for future Observatory Open Houses is found at the Astronomy department website.



Open House guests take a close look at the moon on Saturday, April 9 at the Observatory on North Campus.

# What's Current

**Your weekly calendar of campus events.** "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to [thecurrentads@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrentads@umsl.edu), with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.



**ELISHIA SEALS**

Elishia Seals, senior, photography, was one of seven to display her senior thesis project at the FA Building. Her project "Forgotten" explores moments in life that people may forget but make up who she is.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Monday, April 18

### University Orchestra & Singers Concert

At 7:30 p.m., located at the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall, Touhill PAC and is open to all. This spring, the University Orchestra and University Singers celebrate their annual concert by joining their musical talents on the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall stage. These groups perform under the joint direction of Professor Dan Presgrave and Dr. Jim Henry. For more information, call Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

### Colloquium-Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

From 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., located at 451 Benton Hall and is open to all. "New Insights into the Mechanism of HIV-1 Genome Packaging and Virus Assembly" presented by Michael Summers, professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of Maryland. Coffee at 3:45 p.m. Refreshments provided. For more information, please call Anet Wilking at 314-516-6436.

## Tuesday, April 19

### Writing a Targeted Resume

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., located at 278 Millennium Student Center and open to all. Identify your unique skills and market yourself to employers through your resume—we'll show you how. Pre-register to attend at: <http://www.umsl.edu/depts/career/students/workshops.html>. For more information, call Alaina Kantner at 314-516-5111

## Wednesday, April 20

### Mirthday Volleyball & Free T-Shirts!

From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., located at Mirthday on campus and is open to all. Mirthday Volleyball is today! Can you come out and play? All participants win t-shirts in Campus Rec's annual, drop-in, non-competitive volleyball games held on the Mirthday grounds, along with the other exciting Mirthday activities. Event is free and open to all Mirthday attendees! For more information, call Campus Recreation, 203 Mark Twain, at 314-516-5326.

### UMSL Passport Services Open House

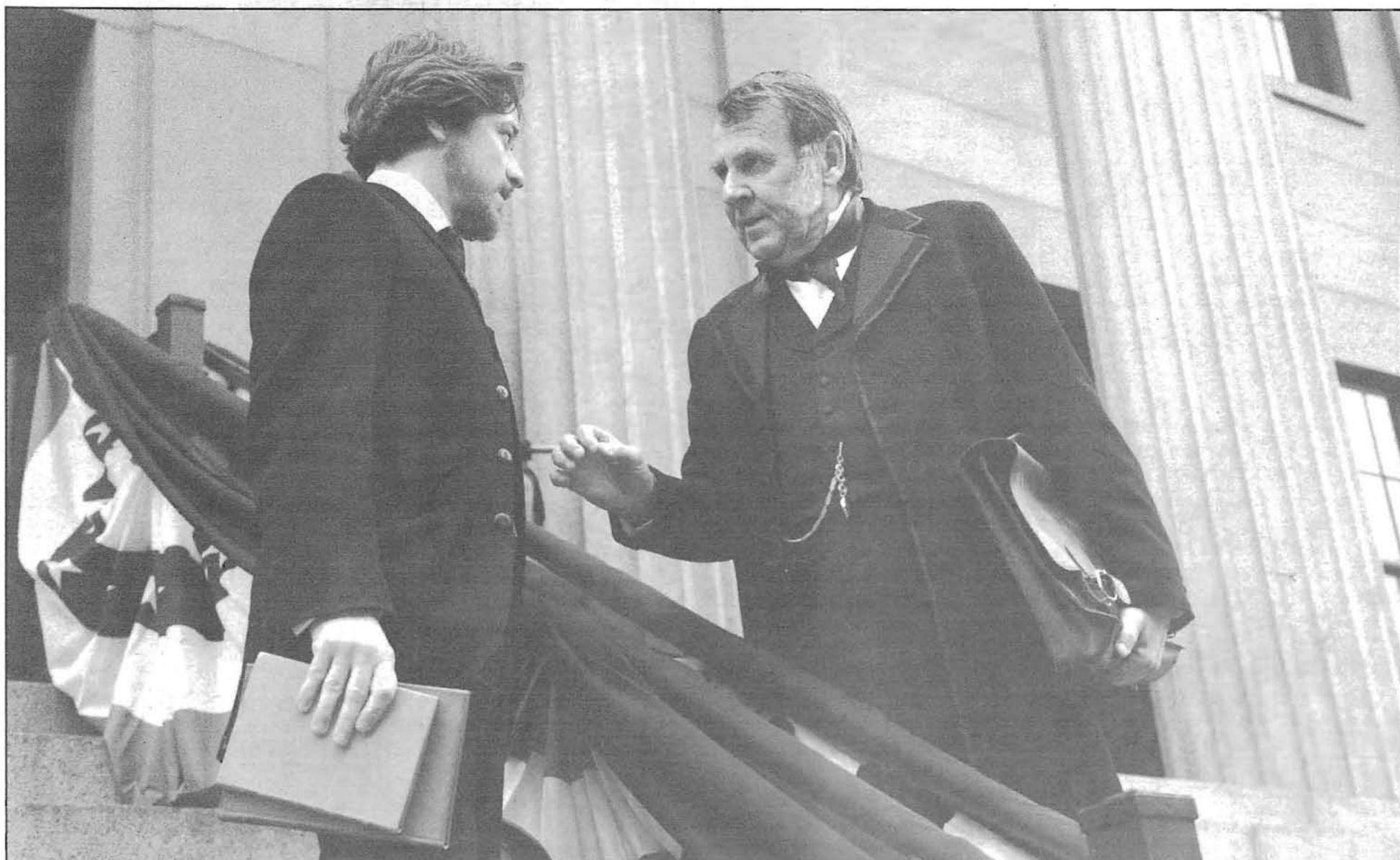
From 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., located in 302 Social Sciences & Business Building and is open to all. Need a passport? You can apply for one right here at UMSL! All are invited to stop by the passport office, partake in some light refreshments and ask questions about passports and the passport application process. For more information, call Bob Ell at 314-516-7299.

## Thursday, April 21

### "The Road to The Road to Serfdom"

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., located in the McDonnell Conference Room (331 SSB) and is open to all. The Department of Economics; F.A. Hayek Professorship in Economic History Presents Guest Speaker: Bruce Caldwell. Bruce Caldwell is a Research Professor of Economics and the Director of the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University. Professor Caldwell received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. For more information, contact Debra Garcia at 314-516-5353

# “The Conspirator” spotlights little-known Civil War event



James McAvoy as Frederick Aiken and Tom Wilkinson as Reverdy Johnson in “The Conspirator”.

COURTESY OF ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

## MOVIES

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, making the timing perfect for a Civil War film. “The Conspirator” is a gripping, thought-provoking drama about the only woman accused in the assassination of President Lincoln. Director Robert Redford skillfully crafted this fact-based film into an absorbing courtroom drama using the events surrounding the trial of Mary Surratt. Seven men and one woman were arrested as part of the conspiracy to kill not only Lincoln but other high-ranking members of his administration as well. Scholars have long speculated that Surratt’s only crime may have been running the boarding house where the conspirators, including John Wilkes Booth, met. Scottish actor James McAvoy stars as Frederick Aiken, a 28-year-old ex-Union officer and new lawyer pressed into service as the defense attorney for the accused woman, a Southern sympathizer. At first, Aiken is adamantly opposed serving as Surratt’s lawyer but is persuaded by his mentor and fellow attorney Reverdy Johnson (Tom Wilkinson), a Southern Senator, with the argument that no else is willing.

Robin Wright plays Mary Surratt, a 42-year-old Southern widow who has turned her Washington, D.C. home into a boarding house, to support herself and her grown children, John (Johnny Simmons) and Anna (Evan Rachel Wood). Her son has been linked to John Wilkes Booth (Toby Kebbell) and the conspirators were known to meet in her home, but Mrs. Surratt’s role is less clear. With the son missing, authorities seize on Mrs. Surratt and accuse her, perhaps hoping to lure him out. Aiken is the central character in this story. The film explores the facts of the trial, the political climate around it and shades of ethical and moral issues, as well as ambiguities about Surratt’s degree of guilt. “The Conspirator” is a delight for history buffs, highlighting little-known events, but it offers plenty for anyone with some interest in history. Scriptwriter James D. Solomon, an ex-journalist, did extensive research for the film. The film looks handsome and features a top-notch cast, but is not typical Hollywood stuff. Given its emphasis on historical detail, it may not be one to see for those who napped in history class. Director Redford gives us a quick recap of the assassination but most of the film’s time is devoted to the trial and its aftermath. The real focus is the courtroom drama and surrounding politics. A trial by military tribunal following a

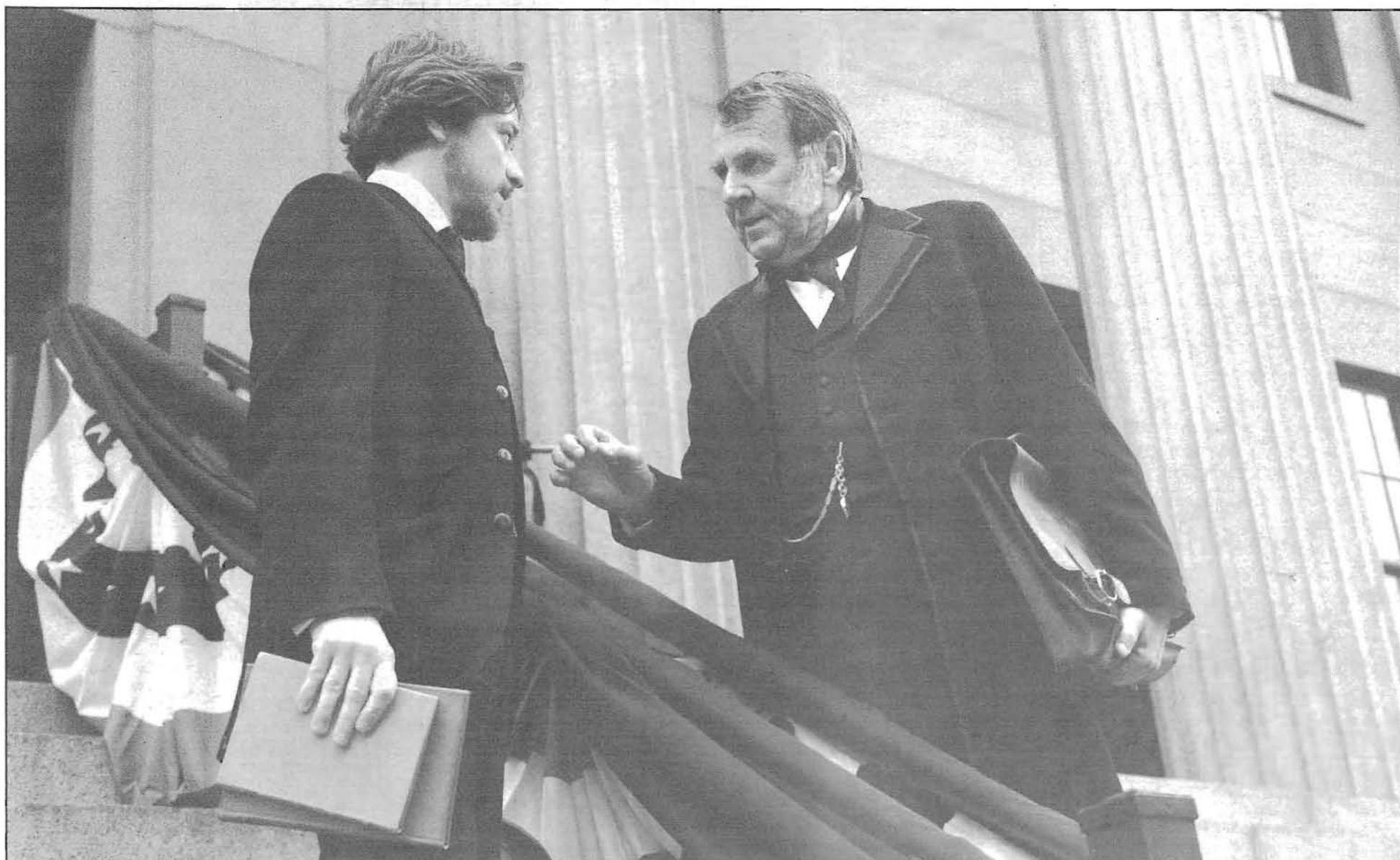
national tragedy has echoes today but Redford’s cool, deliberate storytelling also does not let that overwhelm the story.

McAvoy’s Aikens is passionate and energetic, a sharp contrast to his reserved client. McAvoy provides most of the dramatic and emotional fire, showing us the character’s inner struggles along his relentless pursuit of truth and commitment to justice. Wright plays the devoutly Catholic Surratt as a stoic woman. Surratt’s unconcealed Southern sympathies do not help her, but neither does her motherly effort to protect her son. There are many wonderful supporting performances, with Kevin Kline as a steely Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, Danny Huston as prosecutor Joseph Holt and Colm Meaney as General David Hunter, president of the military commission. The photography is often half-lit and shadowed, reflecting the fog of war still pervading the nation. Colors are bright and primary at the start of the film, as the nation’s capital celebrates victory, but after the assassination, all fades to muted tones, growing darker as the story progresses.

“The Conspirator” is a thoughtful drama and is an excellent way to mark the Civil War anniversary.

**B+** - *Cate Marquis*

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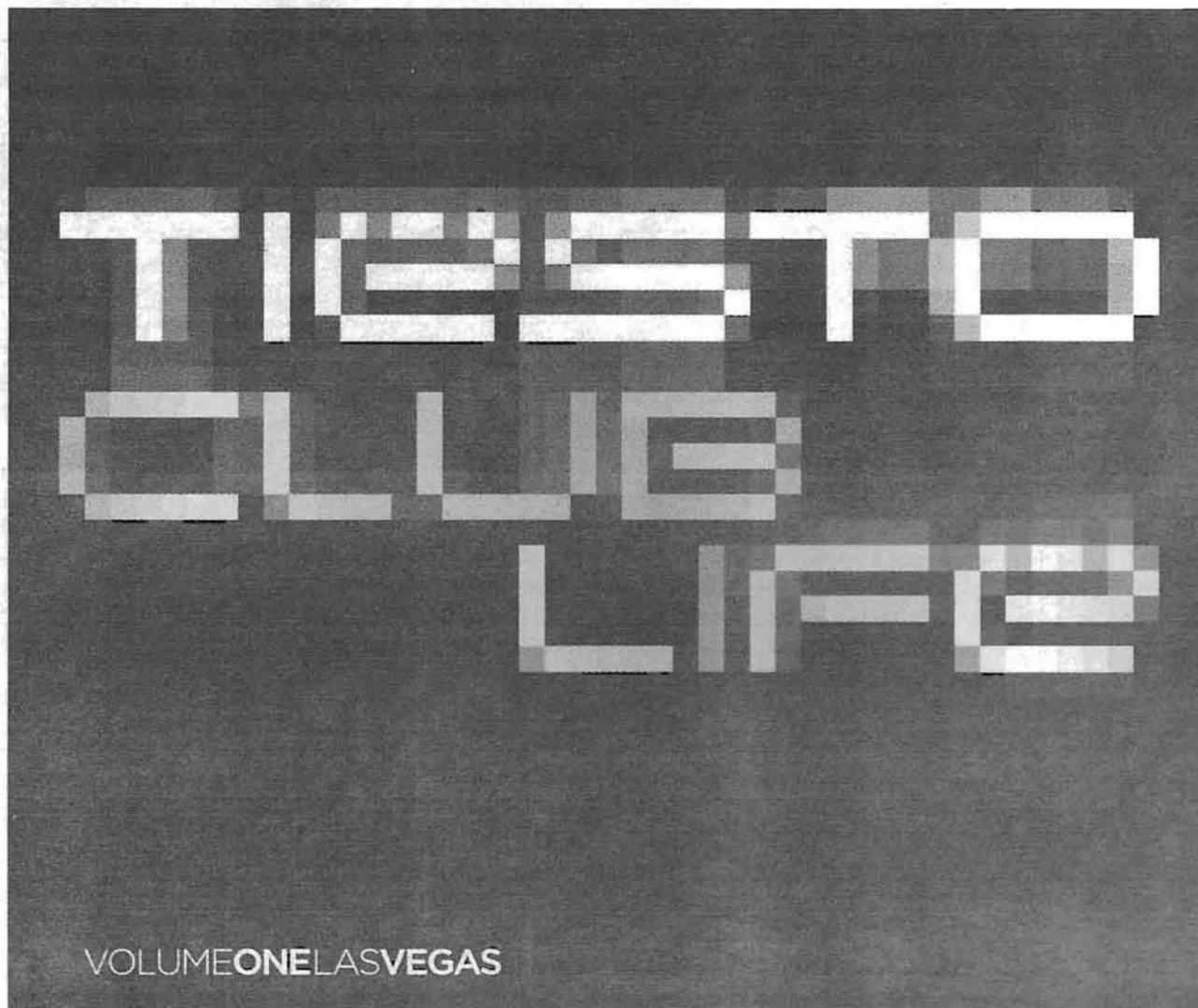
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**B+** - *Cate Marquis*



## Tiesto releases "Club Life: Las Vegas"

### MUSIC

On April 5, 2011, DJ Tiesto released his first album on a new compilation entitled "Club Life: Las Vegas." This album has something for every dance fan. Catchy songs like "Girls with Bangs" suck the listener in while the heavy bass in the long anticipated "C'mon" by Tiesto featuring Diplo will have listeners throwing their fists in the air. The album also features tracks by Kaskade, Cazzi Opeia and an original mix by Tiesto & Hardwell. The prolific DJ launches his album just after the massive Ultra Music Festival in Miami, Florida. Tiesto headlined the main stage on the first day. He and fellow music artists brought the latest in dance and electronic music to a crowd of over 100,000 attendees.

Tiesto is known for his impeccable taste in dance tracks and has been spinning records for audiences for more than 20 years. He is widely respected in his profession as one of the greatest and in 2004 he was the first DJ to play at the opening ceremony of the Olym-

pic Games in Athens, Greece. He was named by DJ Magazine as the "World's No. 1 DJ" three consecutive times from 2002 through 2004. "Club Life: Las Vegas" features the familiar stylistic mainframe of a beautiful trance record that does not disappoint.

He currently has a radio show in The Netherlands called Club Life, which is broadcast on Radio 538 and has been picked up by Electric Area on SiriusXM. His show airs on Saturdays at 6 p.m. with a rebroadcasting on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 12 p.m. He tours regularly around North America and was just featured in St. Louis at The Pageant on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. He can also be seen performing at the Hard Rock Hotel where he has been booked for a new monthly residency at The Joint in Las Vegas.

Those who are not yet dance music fans should take the time to sample some of his tracks because along with his electronic hits, Tiesto has produced and DJs' remixed tracks for some of the most famous pop, rock and rap artists in America. His past collaborations feature

artists like Busta Rhymes, Nelly Furtado, Sarah McLachlan and Katy Perry.

Tiesto has four studio albums and a multitude of mixes available for purchase and download. "Club Life: Las Vegas" is tailored toward an epic main room vibe but past albums have channeled a softer side mimicking the places they are named after. His "In Search of Sunrise" series took fans around the world with his eclectic choice of tracks. Tiesto's past studio albums such as "Kaleidoscope," "Just Be," "In My Memory" and "Elements of Life" have all been internationally recognized.

Tiesto received his first Grammy nomination in 2008 for his work on his album "Elements of Life." This iconic DJ's music, it is available for download on iTunes, Rhapsody, Amazon.com and a multitude of other online stores. Hard copies are available at Best Buy, FYE, Borders and Barnes and Noble. His tracks and mixes can be purchased as a 12" or digital download at record stores or on Beatport.com.

A - Kandice Brenner

## LATEST + GREATEST

Movies Opening Friday, April 22

### "Water for Elephants"

Adapted from the best-selling novel by Sara Gruen, director Francis Lawrence, who directed "Constantine" and "I Am Legend," mixes magic, circus, romance and mystery with lush photography. Set during the 1930s, the plot centers on a veterinary student (Robert Pattinson) who runs away with a circus following a personal tragedy. There he finds a special connection with troubled animals and an attraction to the star performer (Reese Witherspoon), wife of the sinister ringmaster (Christoph Waltz).



### "The Princess of Montpensier"

(Plaza Frontenac) - A lush, gripping French-language historical drama from director Bertrand Tavernier, set during the brutal wars between Catholics and Protestants in 16th century France. Based on Madame de Lafayette's short story of sexual and political court intrigues about a young, beautiful noblewoman (Melanie Thierry), who is married off against her will to the well-connected Philippe de Montpensier (Gregoire Leprince-Ringuet). Things heat up when he goes off to war, leaving her in charge of a wily aging Count (Lambert Wilson) and opening a door for the handsome cousin (Gaspard Ulliel) she really loves.



### "African Cats"

Samuel L. Jackson narrates this nature documentary/adventure following two big cat families, one lion and one cheetah, as they raise their cubs. From Disney studios.



# "Dragon Age 2" shines despite slight tarnishes

**ANDREW SEAL**  
Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes, the hero of legend is not always legendary. They do not start off with amnesia, a magical sword or a hidden destiny to save the world.

They do not know that the journey they are about to undertake or the things they are about to experience will change them, and their world, forever.

Sometimes, they are just an everyday person, a bystander who is dragged into something greater and then rises to the occasion. Truly, the story of becoming a hero is much more interesting than the story of being a hero.

That, in a nutshell, is the big change from "Dragon Age: Origins" to "Dragon Age 2." In "DA:O", players experienced life as one of the last few surviving Grey Wardens. Thanks to the game's heavy-handed "origins" introductions, by the first hour, players were already assured of their character's heroism and importance in the world.

In "DA2," though, the player starts off as a refugee, fleeing their homeland of Ferelden in the midst of Thedas' Fifth Blight. The player and her family are nearly killed as they escape, but are saved by a familiar face from the first Dragon Age game.

Surprisingly, the rise of the Champion of Kirkwall is actually told through an interesting narrative device. Sometime after the end of the game, Varric, one of the Champion's com-

panions, is captured and interrogated by Cassandra, a Seeker of the Chantry.

At key scenes, the story shifts from the Champion's journey and returns to Cassandra questioning Varric about certain aspects of his tale. It is a twist on the first game's narrative experience and a well-done one at that.

Unlike the first game, which takes place across the expansive country of Ferelden, "Dragon Age 2" takes place solely in the city of Kirkwall in the Free Marches, the country to Ferelden's north.

At once undeniably strange and yet oddly familiar, Kirkwall is reminiscent of cities like Fritz Leiber's Lankhmar and Scott Lynch's Camorr: deadly in the day, dangerous at night and completely home to those who live within her walls.

The city becomes just as much a character in the game as any of the Champion's many companions. Speaking of companions, "DA2" features eight (nine with downloadable content) possible party members. As is the standard for BioWare games, all of them have compelling and colorful backgrounds. Five of them are possible love interests.

"Dragon Age 2" borrows several features from "Mass Effect," BioWare's other role-playing game series: a fully-voiced main character (finally!) and a radial menu for choosing three conversation options: the hero, the rogue, and the villain.

While the hero and villain options are fairly standard "angel" and "devil" fare, the cheeky rogue is a delightfully picaresque option. Above all else, the rogue option makes the conversations in the game seem like they could be taken from

the pages of Lynch's "The Lies of Locke Lamorra" and Leiber's Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser novels.

Another change to the formula that made "Dragon Age: Origins" the best new role-playing game in years (and marked a turning point in the argument between Eastern- and Western-developed RPGs) is the flow of combat.

In the original, combat was more of a point-and-click affair. It was a tactical kind of combat, complete with automatic attacking and pause-and-issue-command style. It was based around the classic RPGs of old.

Instead, "Dragon Age 2" introduces a more visceral, in-your-face combat style more reminiscent of God of War than the first Dragon Age game. Constant button-mashing (or mouse-clicking) is required for success, and on harder difficulties, the proper set-up and combination of special moves is crucial to move forward.

One of the game's most glaring issues is the reuse of cave art assets. If someone does not do any of the side quests, then perhaps the constant recycling of dank subterranean domiciles would not be an issue. But the game's story is so interesting that the side quests do not feel like additions at all, but rather all part of a complex and fascinating storyline.

"Dragon Age 2" has a few inconsistencies and a few issues, but despite those, the story manages to shine through. It is a more intimate and close-knit tale than that of the first game, and that makes it an excellent sequel.

**B+** - Andrew Seal

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# Features

# Meet the SGA candidates

by Ryan Krull



## RYAN ROBINSON

Running for Chair in SGA

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
Currently Chair in SGA

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Vice President of Pi Kappa Alpha, Recruitment Chair in Phi Alpha Delta, Winner of Big Man on Campus



## ANDREW ROTH

Running for Student Senator

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Sigma Pi, University Symphonic Band, University Jazz Ensemble



## ALESHIA PATTERSON

Running for Vice-President

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior, Communications

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
BLOC President, Emerging Leaders Mentor



## DANIEL MCDOWELL

Running for Student Senator

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Freshmen

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Sigma Pi



## BENNETT FELTON

Running for Student Senator

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Freshmen

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Sigma Pi



## GREG LAINE

Running for Student Senator

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Sophomore

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
Student Court

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Associated Black Collegiates, Sigma Pi, RHA



## STEVEN KRAML

Running for Student Senator

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior, Business Administration

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
UMSL Student Policy Committee and Undergraduate Programs in Business Committee



## T.J. O'NEILL

Running for Comptroller

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior, Accounting

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
N/A

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
Student Activity Budget Committee  
Pi Kappa Alpha



## JERICA H SELBY

Running for President

**YEAR/MAJOR:**  
Junior, Criminology

**SGA EXPERIENCE:**  
SGA Secretary, SGA Vice-President

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATION:**  
President of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, Zeta Tau Alpha Scholastic Chair, ZTA House Manager



### **NOMINEES INCLUDE:**

#### **students**

michael baryo  
kahiwalani cornman  
brandi grieshaber  
victoria hood  
gabrielle macaluso  
lauren masterson-rodriguez  
fredrecca mcglowen  
kendall meloy  
michael anthony miller  
timothy o'neill  
daniel rosner  
jericah selby  
shakina sheppard  
marissa steimel  
jared thimes

#### **faculty**

dan gerth  
dr. stella markou

#### **organizations**

black leadership organizing council  
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# Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival brought jazz extravaganza to UMSL

**MINHO JUNG**  
Staff Writer

The Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival, presented by the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Music Department of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, successfully came to an end on Saturday after three days of a jazz extravaganza at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Despite bad weather conditions, the event received a lot of positive feedback from audiences.

"I loved the concert and I loved the students, too. They are just fabulous. To hear them and the wonderful director they have in the jazz band [was great]. Of course, getting to hear Clark Terry was special, too. I have enjoyed it all," Sharril Golembimsky, audience member, said.

The Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival was designed with two primary purposes. In addition to providing people living in St. Louis with an opportunity to enjoy high-quality jazz performances, the event promoted jazz education in the community.

Over 40 school jazz teams in the St. Louis area participated in the festival. After the 20 minute performance, each team was given a clinic session to get suggestions for improving their performance.

"It is not about winning a trophy. That's not [what] the jazz festival is supposed to be about. It is about learning more about the art forms and how to make their programs even better yet," Jim Widner, teaching associate professor and director of jazz studies, said.

Some great headliners including legendary jazz bassist Ron Carter and Clark Terry, who was a 2010 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner, were invited to the Jazz Festival. Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center was filled with audiences for the Friday and Saturday evening concerts who wanted to witness the historical jazz giants' performance. Throughout the long three-hour evening concerts on Friday and Saturday, the audience members kept their seats until the very end of the performance.

A legendary jazz giant, Clark Terry, who just turned 90-years-old in last December, did not forget to express his gratitude to the fans in his hometown.

"I'm very excited to come back to my hometown, St. Louis," Terry said. He performed one of his famous hit songs, "Mumbles," on the stage. The performance received a standing ovation from the audience at the end.

"Jazz is alive and well in St. Louis," Widner said. "St. Louis is a very intelligent jazz community. People know; they recognize and appreciate who these artists are. They come to hear and support them. St. Louis is fortunate to have well-rounded [and] intelligent jazz communities."

Through the three days of the successful event, Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival proved the spirit of jazz is still alive in St. Louis.

"[The concert] was fantastic. I always wanted to see Clark Terry. It really was worthwhile," Jim Harper, audience member, said.

# UMSL celebrates community engagement with cake

**RYAN KRULL**  
News Editor

On Monday, April 11, cake was served throughout the day all over the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus.

The cake festivities were held in celebration of UMSL being designated as an "engaged campus" by the Carnegie Foundation. UMSL was one of just 115 schools nationwide to receive such a distinction.

The Carnegie Foundation certifies college programs as being Masters or Doctorate level but there are also special classifications as well. One of the special classifications is for civic and community engagement.

Because winning the distinction was a campus-wide effort, 20 different departments on campus sponsored the cake parties.

Many of the departments invited community organizations with which the departments collaborate to cosponsor the cake parties.

For instance, the College of Arts and Sciences cosponsored their cake party with Children's Advocacy

Services. The Division of Student Affairs cosponsored theirs with the UMSL Students of Service student group.

Many of the departments highlighted their own projects at the parties too. The College of Business Administration highlighted their community engagement activities and the UMSL libraries highlighted their program "Service Outside the Lines."

Before the day was over, 16 departments had held 20 cake parties. The students who consumed most of the cake deserved it as much as anyone.

At a ceremony celebrating the Carnegie award, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Glen Cope said that 36 percent of UMSL students have been documented to be involved in community service.

But Cope said she felt confident that that number was actually much higher but not every act of community service is documented.

The day of cake also included a panel discussion entitled "Civic Engagement: Why Should We Care?" at 3:30 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center.

The panel was moderated by Kay Gasen of the UMSL Community Partnership Project.

Among the panel speakers were Chris Krehmeyer, the

President and Chief Executive Officer of Beyond Housing. Beyond Housing is a Neighborworks America organization in St. Louis. Krehmeyer applauded UMSL for sending the message of "We care, we care about what's in our backyard."

Beyond Housing is a prime example of UMSL's community involvement. Krehmeyer spoke of "the great asset that is the University of Missouri-St. Louis, both the students and the faculty."

Students have donated their free time to the organization to help build houses in low-income areas. Todd Swanstrom, UMSL Professor, has also done work for Beyond Housing with his research and findings into foreclosure rates in the St. Louis area. The collaboration between Beyond Housing and UMSL goes all the way to the top.

"The Chancellor [Tom George] let us use his face up on a billboard," Krehmeyer said.

"I can't think of much that is more collaborative than that."

Beyond Housing is an exemplary program showing exactly what it was that the Carnegie Foundation recognized, that UMSL does care about its community.

Opening the panel discussion, Cope said to the audience, "We're celebrating that we're involved in our community and the community is involved in us. It's a two way street."

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Michael Neal, graduate, Philosophy, explaining the purpose of the discussion about "The Problem of Evil" at Clark Hall on Monday.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

## Lens of Diversity sheds light on the unspoken

### ASHLEY AKINS

Assistant Features Editor

Last Thursday, in the J.C Penney auditorium located at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity hosted the last event of their Lens of Diversity series entitled "For Once In My Life." Hosted by Deborah Burris, Director & Chief Diversity Officer, the event consisted of the showing of a documentary about 28 musicians and singers and their various forms of mental and physical disabilities. What each person has in common is that they are all members of the "For the Spirit of Goodwill Band." The idea of the film is to open up society's point of view on what it means to be disabled.

"It is a program film series that we collaborate jointly with KETC channel 9 (Network 9), whereby they provide the films and then we sponsor and host the program on our campus," Burris, said. "Today our focus is on disability awareness and so the intent is to help people better understand what are some of the celebrations that involve diversity when we look at dis-

ability issues, but also what are some of the challenges that we still need to work on, that we still need to overcome for people with disabilities in our community."

Through publicity on the Internet, the event was able to reach community members.

"I have an interest because I was a special education teacher and I have worked in non-profit organizations with adults with disabilities," Heather Gsell, LARCHE live-out assistant, said.

After a greeting from Burris, the film, which had opened with a guest appearance by "Ugly Betty's" America Ferrera, started off by introducing us to the characters that we would be following such as the soft-spoken David who has cerebral palsy and the hyperactive Juan & Jary. The saxophonist and lead vocalist for the "Spirit of Goodwill Band," who was not born with his condition, spoke on how he became blind when his father dropped him as a baby. He mentioned society's lack of confidence in him and how it only motivated him to excel in his talent.

For audience member Erika Atwater, senior, business management, who has an autistic son, the documentary opened

up a new realm of possibility. "I did not even know about the "Goodwill" and how they had the program for people with disabilities because I am already thinking ahead," Atwater, said. "He is only eleven, but I am already thinking ahead about how's he going to get a job, where's he going to work, and those kinds of things in the future."

The film had the audience talking about being disabled and the stigmas that come along it, like injustice in the job market, the importance of a social environment and the need for more disability access in campus facilities aside from the Touhill.

According to Burris, the university has over 500 students on campus who have either a non-visible disability or a disability that can easily be seen, such as a person in a wheelchair.

"Our goal on this campus is to make sure that when people come that they have an awesome experience here, that if they are working to get their degrees that they will be able to pursue their education," Burris said. "That can be achieved by raising awareness, because many times people do not really stop and think about if they host an event how is a person in a wheelchair going to get there or if they sponsor an event maybe a person with a visual impairment may not be able to see."

## Sports



Ryan Penfield, senior, business administration, was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Golfer of the Month in March.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Ryan Penfield's golf skills reward him with multiple recognitions

**JANACA SCHERER**

Staff writer

University of Missouri- St. Louis student-athletes have once again been recognized for their fantastic skills and Ryan Penfield, senior, business administration, is no exception. Penfield's skills on the course have led the UMSL men's golf team to several top finishes this spring, and that is why we have selected him as Athlete of the Week.

After winning the Great Lakes Regional back in October, with Penfield finishing fourth, the Tritons have finished in the top 11 in every event they have played this spring, including wins at two events and a fourth-place finish at last weekend's spring Great Lakes Regional event.

Penfield has been a key figure in UMSL's outstanding performance this season. Individually, he has an impressive 74.1

scoring average and has finished in the top five at four of his last nine events.

Last month, Penfield received national recognition when he was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Golfer of the Month after taking home medalist honors at the Drury University/Pasta House Invitational, which was played at the Rivercut Golf Club in Springfield, Mo. in mid-March.

Originally from Oklahoma, Penfield started playing golf when he was just a child. Playing alongside his father, Penfield was only 8-years-old when he picked up his first club. He took a liking to the sport and continued playing. During his high school career he helped his school to three state titles.

During his time at UMSL, Penfield's presence has had the same effect. Playing in almost 30 tournaments in his first three years alone, Penfield help to lead the Tritons to multiple placings and lowered his scoring average each year.

Being awarded the GLVC Golfer of the Month title has also been rewarding for Penfield. With so many great play-

ers on the team, Penfield says, "It's nice to be honored and recognized."

Since he has been at UMSL, Penfield believes that playing golf has had a positive effect on his life.

During the past two years, with Troy Halterman as Head Coach, Penfield says his athletic and academic lives have soared. He also lists the relationships he has built with his teammates as definite positives that golf has played on his life.

After his time at UMSL, Penfield plans to move back home to Oklahoma and hopefully get a job at a golf course. He wishes for his golfing career to take off while there. "While I'm there I'll work on my skills and see what happens," Penfield said.

With Penfield on the team, the men's golf team should be in the spotlight for the rest of the season. For more information on Penfield and the rest of the Triton men's golf team visit [www.umsltritons.com](http://www.umsltritons.com).

# Triton tennis teams clinch playoff bids with matching 9-0 victories over Maryville

**CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's and women's tennis teams continued their collective climbs up the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings, and clinched bids in the GLVC Tournament with a pair of 9-0 match wins over rival Maryville University last Tuesday.

The Triton squads both came into Tuesday's action tied for first place in the league's tennis standings and neither team did anything to hurt their placing, as both units dominated the Saints in a series of one-sided matchups.

The Triton women made rather quick work of the Saints during the early competition. UMSL won all nine matches without losing a single set. In fact, the Tritons won five of the six singles matches 6-0, 6-0.

Pujitha Bandi (number two singles), Aya Gombo (number three), Danielle Henkel (number four), and Annie Gonzalez (number 5) all took home straight-set, six-love wins.

Only Louisa Werner, at number one singles, saw any real

competition in her match. And she still won fairly easily at 6-4, 6-4.

The Triton paired teams of Werner and Bandi and Katie Rynkiewich and Leticia Garcia won their matches easily also, each taking home an 8-1 victory.

The men's competition proved a bit more difficult, with only UMSL's Tim Gorter, at number 6 singles, winning his match as many of the women did, with a score of 6-0, 6-0.

But the Saints were still overmatched against the UMSL men, who also won all of their matches in straight sets.

Triton number one player Andreas Hammar won his match, 6-2, 6-0, while compatriot Chetan Panditi, won by the opposite score of 6-0, 6-2.

UMSL's number three and number four players Tim Bryant and Daniel Anthony won by identical 6-0, 6-1 scores, while teammate Alex Cherman took home a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 win.

The men's doubles matches were particularly one-sided as Triton number one's Anthony and Bryant won 8-0. The number two team, Hammar and Cherman, won 8-1, as did number three team Karl Antwi Adjei and Felipe Naranjo.

The Triton men will go into the GLVC Championships as

the number three seed out of the West Division and will face the number two seed from the East, Southern Indiana, in the first round.

This year's GLVC Championships are being held this coming weekend at Northern Kentucky University's Joyce Yeager Tennis Complex in Highland Heights, Ky.

Should the Tritons win that first round matchup, they would likely face GLVC West Division rival Drury University in the second round later Friday evening, with the winner of that match advancing the conference championship match on Sunday.

The UMSL women will also compete in Friday's GLVC Championships. They too will go into the tournament as the number three seed from the West, and face the number two seed from the East, Lewis University, in the first round.

Before this weekend's championship competition, the Triton women will host one final home meet against Washington University, on Monday, April 18.

Those matches will take place at the UMSL Tennis Courts, and are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

## Triton baseball splits with Bellarmine at Bleacher Bash

**CEDRIC WILLIAMS**

Sports Editor

Triton baseball fans that sat through both games during Wednesday's doubleheader against Bellarmine University got the full effect of what has been an up-and-down season for University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball this spring.

Fans that attended both games saw the Tritons completely outplay Bellarmine during a 2-1 game one win. The Tritons pitched well. They executed well at the plate and on the base-paths. And they played phenomenal defense.

The Tritons were the better team, and looked like one of the best teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference in game one.

Unfortunately, most of the fans that came for the "Bleacher Bash" celebration arrived just in time to see UMSL play one of its worst games of the season in game 2.

Bellarmino easily won the nightcap 7-0, as pitchers Cory Thomas, Kyle Grana and Caleb Shelley combined to no-hit the Tritons and gain a twinbill split.

Issac Armstrong, junior, liberal studies, was the losing pitcher for UMSL, going just two innings, and allowing all seven runs on five hits, with one walk and one strikeout.

In game one, Andrew Peterson, senior, media studies, tossed a gem to pick up his first win of the season.

The 6'0, right hander from Chandler, Arizona, simply mowed down the Knights on Wednesday, going 6 1/3 innings, and allowing just one run, on five hits, with one walk and four strikeouts.

Triton third baseman Andrew Keating, senior, biology, was the hitting star of game one, blasting his second home run of the season, in the bottom of the second to put UMSL on the board.

Then in the fourth, Keating scored what proved to be the game-winning run on a sacrifice fly by second baseman Angel Recci-Gonzales, junior, electrical engineering.

Heading into Sunday's action, the Tritons had slipped into fifth place in the GLVC West standings after getting swept in a doubleheader against Rockhurst University.

The Hawks and Tritons are among five teams still competing for the eighth and final spot in next month's GLVC playoffs.

The conference championship tourney will be played at UMSL Baseball Field and GCS Ballpark in Sauget, Ill., May 14 through May 17, and only the top eight teams in the league will receive an invite to play.

UMSL is currently 11th in the hunt, but will have several more chances to improve its standing.

The Tritons will host a crucial doubleheader against cross-town rival Maryville University on Tuesday, April 19.

First pitch that day is 1 p.m., and if UMSL is to have any chance to get into that eighth slot, the Tritons almost have to sweep the Saints in those two games.

Then, this weekend, UMSL will step out of conference action to play a three-game series against Oakland City (Michigan) University.

The Tritons will play a single game against the Mighty Oaks on Friday, April 22, at 3 p.m. Then host a doubleheader against OCU on Saturday, April 22, beginning at noon.

UMSL will then close its four-date homestand, with another single game against Division III Webster University. That game is also slated for a 3 p.m. first pitch.

Following the homestand, UMSL will have just four doubleheader dates left in the regular season.

The Tritons will play home-and-home doubleheaders with Drury University, in Springfield, Mo., on April 30, then back at UMSL on May 1, before closing the season with back-to-back doubleheaders in Rolla, Mo. against Missouri S&T.

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# Triton softball takes down McKendree, Lindenwood

## CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

With local rivals McKendree University and Lindenwood University both set to join National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II in 2012, the area's small college sports competition level is clearly on the rise.

This past week though, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team showed those two opponent schools what they will have in store for them, sweeping a doubleheader from McKendree and nearly doing the same to Lindenwood if it wasn't for a controversial call that cost the Tritons a win.

UMSL still managed to take three of four in its showdowns with the Bearcats and Lady Lions.

A huge crowd turned out at Lindenwood's Lou Brock Sports Complex on Thursday for the twinbill with the Tritons.

And in game one, those fans saw UMSL pitchers Leslie Davis, sophomore, psychology, and Crystal Koehler, senior, business administration, absolutely dominate the Lindenwood lineup in a 2-0 Triton win.

Davis (4-6) earned the win by tossing four brilliant innings, allowing just three scattered hits with no walks and four strikeouts.

Koehler completed the final three innings to get the save.

She allowed just one hit and struck out three.

The Tritons got their runs in that game on runs batted in by Jacee Ellis, senior, business management, in the first, and Heather Arras, junior, education, in the third.

In game two, UMSL led 4-1 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning. But Lindenwood scored four times to take the lead.

Lady Lion centerfielder Sophie Berman almost gave her team the lead with an opposite-field grand slam. But her deep drive caromed off the top of the wall, allowing just two runs to score instead of four and holding her to a double instead of a home run.

The game-winning play for Lindenwood turned out to be one of the strangest plays anyone in attendance had ever seen.

Lady Lion third baseman came up two batters later and ripped a shot right at Triton third baseman Arras, who gloved the smash and fired home to get Lindenwood's Chelsea Landeck, who was trying to score.

Arras' throw beat Landeck to the plate by at least ten feet, but for some reason no one after the game was willing to explain, the home plate umpire fell down in the baseline causing Landeck to stop running.

Neither coach nor any of the players on either team could understand what the umpire was doing in the baseline to begin with, but once he got there, he slipped and fell, and Lan-

deck stopped to avoid stepping on him.

Lindenwood sports broadcast network, LU-TV's replays showed Landeck would have been out regardless of the umpire's gaffe. But because he felt he stopped Landeck from scoring, the umpire awarded her home plate, allowing the Lady Lions to score what proved to be the game-winning run.

In the top of the seventh, Ellis led off with a single and advanced on a sacrifice bunt.

She was still there when Triton shortstop Haleigh Jenkins, sophomore, undecided, stepped to the plate and launched a deep fly over the left-field wall. Unfortunately, Jenkins' drive sailed three feet foul and only counted as a long strike.

Two pitches later, she lifted another ball deep into left field. But it did not have nearly as much carry and was caught for the final out of the game.

Against McKendree, Davis bombed a two-run home run in game one to lead the Tritons to a 5-2 victory, while Ellis and Jenkins each homered in game two to spark an UMSL 5-4 win.

This week, the Tritons will host a 4 p.m. doubleheader against another in-town rival, Maryville University, on Wednesday, April 20.



UMSL pitcher Crystal Koehler, UMSL catcher Katherine Tennis and Lindenwood batter Sophie Berman, during game two of Thursday's doubleheader at Lindenwood.

CEDRIC WILLIAMS / THE CURRENT

# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### What about my partner?

House Democrats re-open the issue of equal rights for homosexual immigrant couples entering the United States.

Sponsored by Representative Jerry Nadler, the re-introduced bill entitled "Uniting American Families Act" would allow same-sex couples the same immigration rights as married heterosexual couples.

If passed, it also would permit gays and lesbians to sponsor their partners for residency in the United States. The bill is set out to help lesbian and gay couples in which one partner is an immigrant.

It is obvious that if this bill were to pass, it would take on two controversial issues that are often pushed aside in the topics of conversation: the rights of gay partnership and the rights of immigration.

The passing of this bill would make gay marriage look like a minor hiccup because while marriage is great for people who seek it, a person's rights can never be taken away once they get them.

The passing of this bill would be on a whole new level of human equality. Many could or would compare it to the movement for civil rights

and how before civil rights were achieved for the African American, human beings were asked to count jars of marbles in order to cast a vote, the same vote that our society takes for granted whether it be for the Commander in Chief of this nation or for the mayor of a small suburb.

For a gay or lesbian couple not to have the same rights as a heterosexual couple is a smack in the face by the government that states, "Hey, you are un worthy, because, for us, you do not exist." But the gay community does exist.

If a person, as an individual, has the right to cast a vote over who is going to lead their nation or enlist in the military and fight for that nation or pay taxes to that nation, then they are obligated by that nation the same rights as any "straight" man or woman.

As far as the rights of their immigrated partners, by not passing this law, the nation would be stating that, while this is the land of the free and welcomes people from all walks of life, different cultures and religious persecution, if you are gay or lesbian, forget about it, because while our nation is respectful of your decision to come out of the

closet, it is best if you do not if you want to get decent rights.

After all, health insurance is becoming a necessity these days.

In the past, when the bill was passed up, the Republican party argued that the passing of such bill at that time would just be in order to gain electoral support and the Hispanic vote.

The reality behind all of it is that our government is letting their personal views get in the way of justice.

Some may say that conflict in the government over acceptance of the law could also rest in the hands of the church and what is considered a holy union and what is not.

Either way, until this nation becomes more conscientious about every form of diversity in which we hold, we will never be seen as one. America is not weak.

*Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Andrew Seal, Ryan Krull, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Cedric Williams, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft, and Matthew Poposky.*

## SEAL OF APPROVAL

### Detestable "Kill Team" completely our fault

Let's put aside politics for a moment. Imagine there are no Democrats, no Republicans. Right now, for the next 600 words, we're all just Americans. We live and work together, and we have a problem. A huge problem.

I'm speaking of the actions of the Afghanistan "Kill Team", the members of Bravo Company of the Fifth Stryker Brigade.

As Mark Boal of "Rolling Stone" writes, "Among the men of Bravo Company, the notion of killing an Afghan civilian had been the subject of countless conversations, during lunchtime chats and late-night bull sessions."

The unfolding saga of the Bravo Company "Kill Team" has been recounted in stark detail in "Rolling Stone," and unsurprisingly enough, barely anywhere else.

Where is the public outcry over this? Where is the mainstream media? Too busy reporting on the Tea Party or on how Donald Trump is a good presidential candidate—or who won this week's "Dancing with the Stars".

Along with the eight-page article, "Rolling Stone" managed to get their hands on both video footage and photographs taken by the "Kill Team" of their brutal civilian executions. Not only did they take photos and video, they took "mementos."

Mementos like the pinky finger of a dead 15-year-old Afghani farm worker, chopped off with a pair of medic's shears and given to a

new soldier "as a trophy for killing his first Afghan."

This of course, after the soldiers approached the boy, tossed a grenade at him, and then shot him full of holes.

These men, who are supposed to be examples of America's authority and protection abroad, once "proposed half in jest...to throw candy out of a Stryker vehicle as they drove through a village and shoot the children who came running to pick up the sweets."

Children. Our soldiers were discussing how best to kill children.

Fellow Americans, the Army has betrayed us. First Abu Ghraib, and now this "Kill Team." Our troops stationed in the Middle East are out of control. Keep in mind, there are only the incidents the public knows about. It is a fairly safe assumption to say that there have been others and will be more unless swift action is taken.

Bringing our troops home has now become paramount. No longer can America vow to stay "until the job is done." No, we need to bring our troops home now. We've stopped being the protectors and defenders of a vulnerable people; now we've started to prey on them.

And why? If it is that hard to find enemy combatants to kill, then it is time we left Afghanistan. Turn the operation over to Karzai and his police troops, let them handle the Taliban.

There's a reason that Afghanistan is quickly becoming



Andrew Seal

ing one of the Taliban's best recruitment spots: us. Our troops are managing to turn the Afghani people against us in a way that the ministrations of the Taliban never did.

It takes a bit of persuasion to become a terrorist against a nation of people you have no experience with. But to become a terrorist against a nation of people that have executed your brother, father or son with no reason other than being bored, well, that's fairly easy.

America, we've failed these men, we've failed the people of Afghanistan, and we've failed ourselves. It's time to get out now.

Corporal Jeremy Morlock's, one of the main people involved in the "Kill Team," had some last chilling words in the "Rolling Stone" article: "None of us in the platoon—the platoon leader, the platoon sergeant—no one gives a \$@#% about these people," Morlock said.

That pretty much says it all, don't you think?

Andrew Seal is Editor-in-Chief for The Current.

What do you think?  
www.thecurrent-online.com.

## SCIENCE MATTERS

# Environmental disasters bring harsh reality to Earth Day 2011

As Earth Day, April 22, approaches, it might be a good time to reflect on the state of the earth and man's impact on it. Before it became about parades, Earth Day was intended as a day of action for the environment.

Three April events sparked reflection on the original meaning of Earth Day.

On April 11, Japan's nuclear regulators raised the severity level of the nuclear plant disaster to level 7, the level of the Chernobyl disaster. It now ranks as the world's second worst, above Three Mile Island at level 5.

On April 20, we will mark the first anniversary of the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, which started the Gulf oil spill disaster. Oil flowed for months into the gulf and that disaster is far from over.

On April 25, one of the discoverers of the ancient human fossil "Lucy," paleontologist Donald Johanson, will speak at the university's Big History Lecture. When this almost 3.2 million-years-old Australopithecus afarensis fossil was discovered in 1974, it was considered the oldest hominid skeleton ever found. The free lecture, titled "Lucy's Legacy: Our African Origins," takes place April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center auditorium.

What do "Lucy" and the Big History Lecture have to do with Earth Day? Well, in a sense, Earth Day is all about "big history," thinking long-term about the impact of human life on the Earth. Re-

flecting on Lucy reminds us that we arose as part of life on this planet and we should not think of ourselves as something apart from it, even if we are the dominate species.

Another kind of fossil, the fossil fuels we burn for energy, are contributing to the threat of global warming. The anniversary of the beginning of the enormous Gulf oil spill is a reminder of oil's other high costs. While most news media lost interest once the well was capped, the Gulf itself, its ecosystem, species and the people who live there are still struggling with the damage. The National Public Radio show "Science Friday" revisited the oil spill and updated the damage, in an excellent April 15 program with ocean conservationist Carl Safina, a program available at <http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/201104152>.

But in our search for alternatives to fossil fuels and in hopes of moderating the global warming, let us all hope that this nation takes a long, hard look at the risks of nuclear power, in light of what is happening in Japan. Too many have become complacent about nuclear power's risks, but we should have our eyes wide open to the fact that this will never be a risk-free power source. A summary of what led to the disaster upgrade and more on the Japanese nuclear disaster can be found at the Union of Concerned Scientists' website, at <http://www.ucsusa.org>.

Solar, wind and small hydropower, especially in combination, offer safer solu-



Cate Marquis

tions to the carbon question. Proponents of coal, oil and nuclear - the big-power-plant energy sources - like to insist alternative energy provide a one-to-one replacement. That is unlikely but also unnecessary. In fact, using decentralized power generation, from more numerous smaller power plants, is actually a system safer from power failures and from terrorist attacks.

At the 2009 Missouri Energy Summit, Dr. Lea-Rachel Kosnik, assistant professor of environmental economics, described Missouri's many sites suitable for small, non-dam hydropower generation, using existing technology and having little environmental impact. More information can be found at <http://www.miller-mccune.com/science-environment/hydro-doesnt-have-to-be-big-4764> and at her website <http://www.umsl.edu/~kosnikl>.

This Earth Day, focus on the original purpose of the day, preserving this living planet.

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

## POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

# Students, beware: use summer wisely

Well, summer vacation is fast approaching. Finals are coming up, end of the year projects are reaching their due dates, thesis papers need to be completed and professors are yearning for the day that jokester in the back of the class can no longer crack jokes every time a somewhat sexually-charged word is mentioned in the Human Physiology course. Yup, summer is on the way, readers. How should it be spent?

Honestly, most of the students at any given University are likely looking forward to one thing and one thing only: relaxation, a lack of productive activity, that is. Most people, actually, look to summer for this very reason. Going down to the beach, laying out day after day without a care in the world, getting drunk nightly. Yup, summer is the time to live it up!

Presumably, these individuals believe there is nothing to be gained from working over the summer. Oh, there is always money, of course, but why waste the beautiful weather earning money? There are other choices of activity, as well, many of which are capable of expanding an individual's view and experiences in this world. However, why waste the time? The beach is calling, after all, and there is an ice-cold Corona waiting at the road's-end.

However, maybe take a step back, look at how much time is actually wasted on such activities every summer.

This is not to say that celebrating summer is wrong. By all means, when time is available for fun, there is no shame in spending it enjoying oneself. The problem arises when all of one's time is dedicated, in its entirety, to lavish enjoyment.

Summer classes are, of course, always available. Granted, the course offerings over the summer are hardly as impressive as those during standard fall or winter semesters. In fact, finding any classes to capture one's interest or worse, that match one's major, can be truly challenging. However, it is important to realize that, while these classes may not be ideal in helping move towards a finite goal, humanity, as a whole, must always move towards improvement. Education, despite its immediate goal, is an effort towards self-improvement. Not interested in class? Maybe look into an internship. work on those networking options for the job-hunt following graduation.

Furthermore, there is always the option of working. Earning money over the summer can actually be of great value to young students who support themselves during the school year. Having funds saved up beforehand can be a huge financial buffer should anything ever go wrong, and, moreover, having money saved up towards the future beyond college is always beneficial.

Lastly, but certainly not



Matthew B. Poposky

least important, are opportunities for volunteering. Despite the fact that, as students, many people live very easy lives (partying every weekend is not a hard life), there are literally millions of people in this world who, every day, suffer greater levels of torment than the average student can even begin to comprehend. Opportunities to aid those suffering in this world are bountiful, to be modest. Habitats for Humanity, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, Big Brother - Big Sister groups: all of these groups operate heavily on the efforts of volunteers, and many are non-profit.

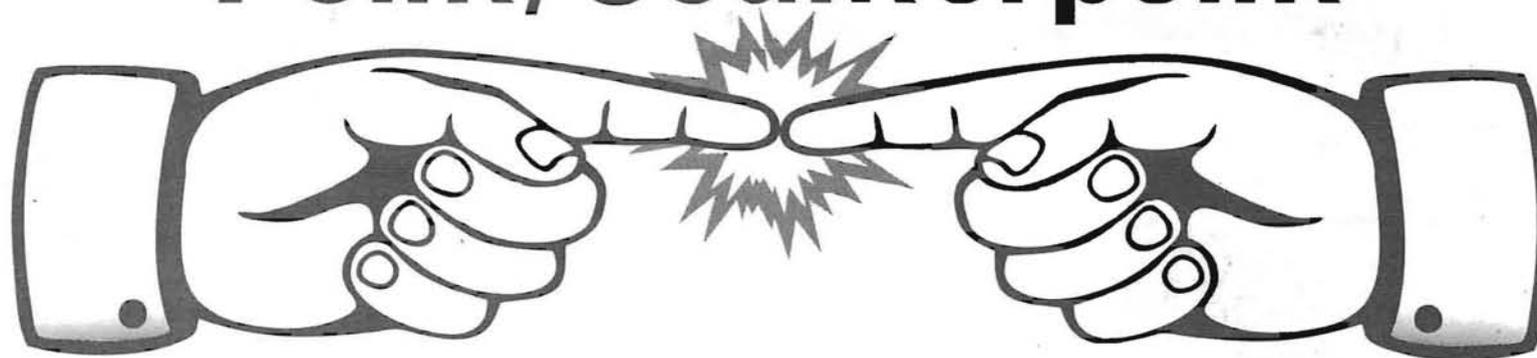
Imagine the things that summer can truly provide, be they personal or otherwise. Take a moment to think, and do something this summer. Have a nice break!

*Matthew B. Poposky is the Opinions Editor for The Current.*

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# Point/Counterpoint



*Should we care that Glenn Beck is leaving Fox?*

## Beck is better when confined to one show

Many people rejoiced last week when Fox News announced that Glenn Beck's television show had not been renewed.

No longer would citizens have to stare at that pudgy face spewing ridiculous vitriol or his wacky diagrams on his chalkboard. His reign is over and everybody is breathing a sigh of relief.

Unfortunately, Glenn Beck is like a right-wing Obi-Wan Kenobi: if Fox strikes him down, he will have more power than anyone can imagine.

He may no longer have a show where he can trumpet his beliefs in front of the world, but Fox News has stated that Beck will remain behind the scenes, producing projects for the station and its affiliates. This is the big question: would people rather have Beck's propaganda in one place or in thirty?

Some of Beck's behavior and comments since his debut on both his television show and his radio program have been so offensive that they would be enough to get any regular person fired from his or her job.

One such example was his insane, barely coherent rant against the Indian health care system in January 2010, which basically said absolutely nothing except that American health care costs more because American doctors go to Harvard (yes, all of them). He then compared the two to real Gucci bags versus knock-offs.

Also, among other things, he has said that Obama hates white people, and he has screamed like a petulant three-year-old at callers to his radio show that he has disagreed with. Instead of simply showing him the door, Fox rewards Beck, by giving him the boss' chair.

In any other situation, people would cry out that this is wrong. However, most people shrug and sometimes cheer because they will no longer have to stare at his bloated, sneering face any longer—his ratings have dropped over a million viewers from January 2010 to January 2011, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

This most likely happened because Beck quickly

became a figurehead for the controversial Tea Party section of the Grand Old Party, but also because, instead of becoming broader and more mainstream, he has stayed in his tiny, frighteningly narrow-minded bubble.

Without a show, however, Beck's blustery notions may come across as less psychotic when coming out of someone else's mouth.

He is not simply a caricature like Bill O'Reilly or a cynical rabble-rouser like Rush Limbaugh. Glenn Beck genuinely seems to believe the utter nonsense that he spews forth, and giving creative control to someone that unhinged is like giving matches to a toddler: someone is bound to get burned.

Sadly, that may be the public who has to put up with his craziness.

Showing him the door was a smart idea, but not if Fox is going to keep him in the back room. They may be conservative, but Beck just comes across as a nutcase, and who really wants to develop projects with an outrageous man?

## Glenn Beck is leaving!

If you have not heard of Glenn Beck, he is - or was - the highly publicized mudslinger of Fox News. Some may even compare him to the Howard Stern of political commentary. Well anyway, he is finally taking his long awaited exist from the network that people love to hate, also known as Fox, a network which has backed him in the past despite all the negative attention that has come with him simply breathing.

What could it have been that brought this gray-haired man's demise? Was it discovered that he in fact wears hair plugs? Did he pull a David Letterman? Was he caught secretly making donations to President Obama's re-election campaign? Maybe it was the campaign that Jewish Funds for Justice had out for his termination due to his abuse of Holocaust terminology when discussing his opponents. But, that is highly unlikely. It is certain what he meant to say was that all Jews are responsible for all of the wars in the world. Or was that someone else?

Or maybe, it was his unprofessional, sexist remarks against Hilary Clinton due to his insecurity with the opposite sex. In other words, the

only love he is getting is paid for. But, when that doesn't work he resorts to lashing out at female guests who agree to speak on his show. "You know, I have some time and a camera. Why don't you stop by?" Beck should not kiss his mother with that mouth.

Although it would be considered his form of cruel humor and all in good fun, or quite possibly freedom of speech, by having him on the network so long, Fox only added fuel to the fire about the reputation that they already carry.

In his interview with Katie Couric he did not hesitate to let his ego over power the room at the mention of his own face on "TIME," but who loves Glenn Beck more than Glenn Beck? And when asked to expand on his comment on how President Obama does not have an appreciation for "white culture" he was tongue tied and instead chose to plug his site. What exactly is "white culture"? Is that equivalent to a "True American?"

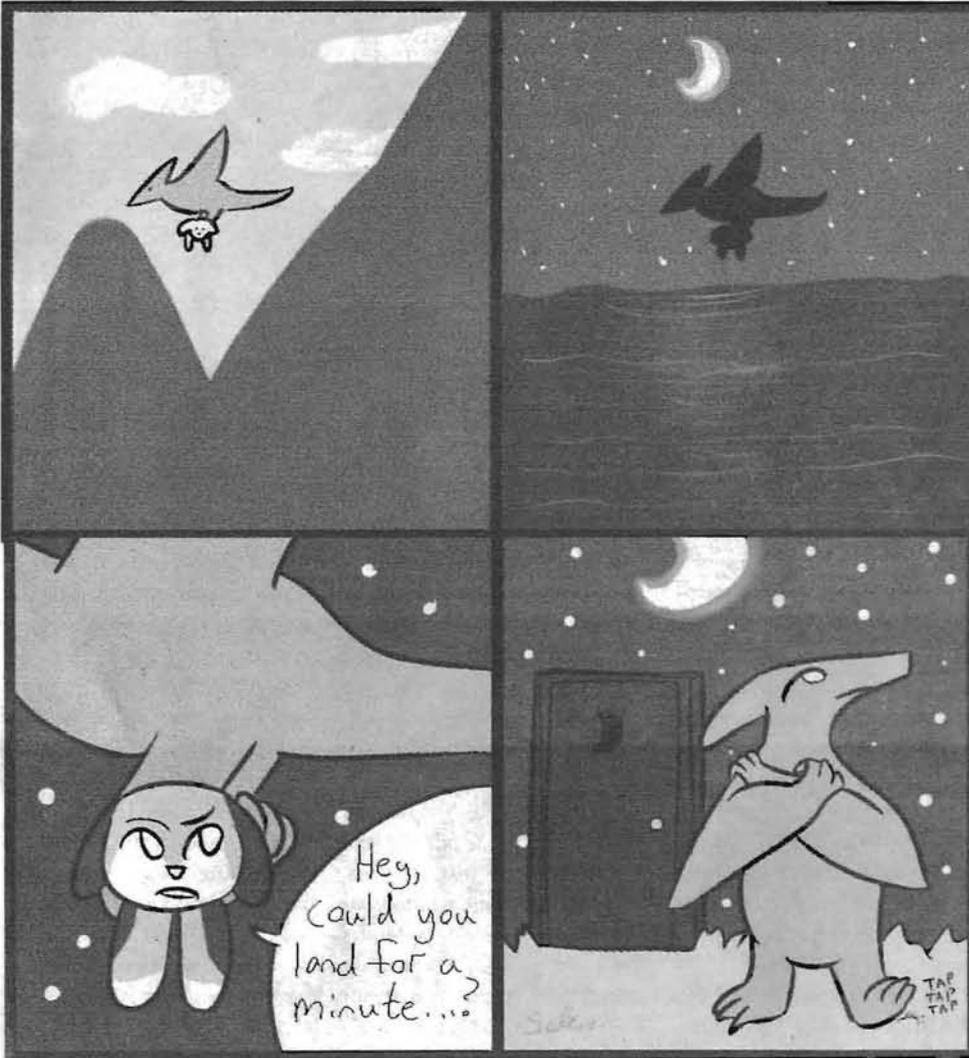
Beck is leaving a network where, according to msnbc.com, Fox News chairman and CEO, Roger Ailes, had blasted advertisers for refusing to back Beck due to

his controversial banter. Ailes called them weak-kneed. It turns out the critics won in the long run, because apparently Ailes realized that a show could not run on hot air alone. Financial backing helps.

The network gains nothing from him leaving just like they gained nothing from him sticking around. He will not be missed. His inability to take a stance on a specific political point of view only made him confusing, such as the fact that he considers himself some form of libertarian and yet has said that while he supports a woman's right over her body, he is against pro-choice. That statement contradicts the previous. In that case, what are woman allowed to do with their bodies? If he were to answer that question, that would make him sound like a dictator which his libertarian side cannot stand. So, Mr. Beck, who are you? He will have time to figure that out when seeking out his next career move. There is always an opening on the Jersey Shore. Those kids make ridiculous amounts of money to party and drink all night. Beck used to be an alcoholic, right? Perfect.

# Comics & Puzzles

## Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



congratulations  
to matthew B.  
poposky,  
editor-in-chief for  
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