

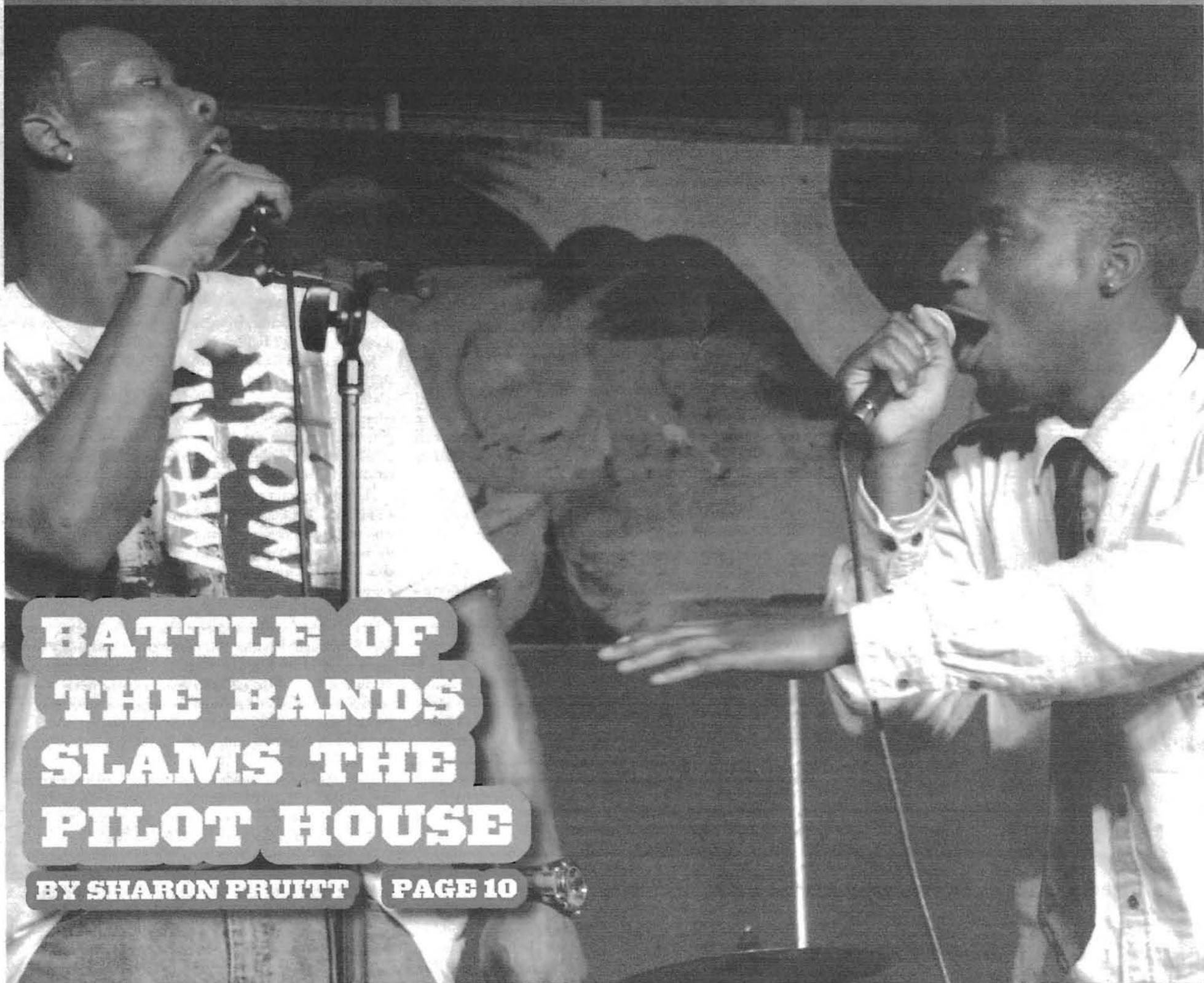
The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

APRIL 25, 2011

VOL. 44;

ISSUE 1345



BATTLE OF THE BANDS SLAMS THE PILOT HOUSE

BY SHARON PRUITT PAGE 10

ALSO INSIDE

4 The Road to serfdom
Duke's Bruce Caldwell talks at UMSL

8 "Portal 2" review
New follow up to Valve's hit puzzle FPS

14 Softball Dominance
Doubleheader Sweeps Maryville

The Current

VOL. 44, ISSUE 1345
WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief.....Andrew W. Seal
 News Editor.....Ryan Krull
 Features Editor.....Jen O'Hara
 Assoc. Features Editor.....Ashley Atkins
 Sports Editor.....Cedric Williams
 A&E Editor.....William Kyle
 Assoc. A&E Editor.....Cate Marquis
 Opinions Editor.....Matthew B. Poposky
 Copy Editors.....Lauren Wilding, Johanna Hoffarth
 Proofreaders.....Sara Novak
 Staff Writers.....Minho Jung, David Von Nordheim, Mary Grace Buckley
 Janaca Scherer, Sharon Pruitt, Heather Welborn,
 Jeremy Zschau, Kristen Ross

DESIGN

Design Editor.....Zachary James Kraft
 Photo Editor.....Jennifer Meahan
 Web Editor.....Louie Liu
 Staff Photographers.....Yumeto Yamazaki,
 Samuel J. Surgener, Nikki Vahle, Zhang Zheng, Chenhao Li
 Illustrators.....Zachary James Kraft, Karlee Sellars, Gail Fike

BUSINESS

Ad Director.....Zachary Schwartz
 Distribution Manager.....Ryan Krull
 Business Manager.....John Wallace
 Advisor.....Charlotte Petty

CONTACT US

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
 Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
 Newsroom 314-516-5174
 Business/Advertising 314-516-5316
 Fax 314-516-6811
 E-mail (General) thecurrent@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
 E-mail (Tips) thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
 Twitter umslcurrent
 Facebook The Current

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.

The University is not responsible for the content of *The Current* and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of *The Current* and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of *The Current*.

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

Social justice course seeks to improve UMSL's global image

UMSL's College of Arts and Sciences promotes cultural diversity with a new addition to its curriculum

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff writer

With registration for fall 2011 underway, many University of Missouri–St. Louis students have already begun to select their courses for the upcoming semester. There is, however, one class in particular that the College of Arts and Sciences hopes students will pay particular interest in when building their schedules.

Following a highly successful trial run during the 2010 winter intersession, the College of Arts and Sciences has introduced the political science course “Learning About Diversity and Social Issues” into its regular curriculum.

Ronald Yasbin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, anticipates that this course will provide a considerable contribution to the university’s goal of offering students a well-rounded education and promoting a more enlightened attitude towards cultural diversity on campus.

“We want the UMSL experience to be one that helps develop the true citizen scholar,” Dr. Yasbin said. “Understanding the diversity of our society, including the unique history of the United States, and addressing the processes by which biases develop is a crucial component of achieving these goals.”

The course’s instructor, Farida Jalalzai, hopes to create an honest and supportive environment for students to voice their opinions and confront the biases and inequities present in society. To accomplish this, Jalalzai incorporates a number of hands-on activities and intimate group discussions to create an open forum for students to discuss their attitudes on social issues such as racism, gender inequality and sexual discrimination.

During the winter intersession, many of these heated discussions were facilitated by moderators from the World of Difference Institute, an office of the Anti-Defamation League, who helped engage students in the controversial issues addressed in the course. The College of Arts and Sciences will

invite these moderators to return for the fall semester as well, promising a heated and engaging experience.

Jalalzai stresses that, while this course will deal with sensitive and often difficult subjects, a diverse group of students from a wide range of academic disciplines, social backgrounds and ethnic groups will be needed for the course to reach its true potential. Although the course is currently being offered for political science credit, Jalalzai encourages any student interested in contributing to the open-minded dialogue to enroll.

“I think we want everyone to consider taking this course,” Yasbin said. “Of course, the most obvious students are those who want to be challenged and who want to really think for themselves using logic and reasoning. This will be an important course for students who want to be actively engaged in controversial topics, who want to hear other views and who want to be heard.”

The College of Arts and Sciences anticipates that with a popular enough response, this course could potentially evolve into a staple of the UMSL curriculum. Jalalzai expects that in the future, the course will offer general credit hours for students instead of strictly political science credit, eventually being taught in multiple sections by different professors who can each provide their own unique take on the volatile issues at the heart of the course.

This campus-wide embrace of cultural diversity is what Yasbin and the College of Arts and Sciences hopes will be the lasting contribution of this course, a measure which will bolster UMSL’s national and international reputation.

“Being known as an institution that promotes social justice and inclusion helps to alter [negative views] of UMSL and makes us more attractive to a greater diversity of students,” Yasbin said. “Basically, this can best be summed up by paraphrasing Isaiah and declaring that UMSL shall be a house of learning, understanding and mutual respect for all people.”

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
67 58	72 55	68 50	64 47	70 59	68 57	63 51

Accounting program gets reaccruited

MINHO JUNG
Staff writer

The College of Business Administration at University of Missouri-St. Louis earned reaccruited for another five years from the Association to Advance to Collegiate Schools of Business.

The approval from AACSB is the highest form of accreditation a business school can have. "It is kind of a gold standard in business schools," Mary Beth Mohrman, accounting department chair, said.

The Association to Advance to Collegiate Schools of Business was founded in 1916 to accredit schools of business worldwide. Since then, the accreditation from AACSB has been regarded as the benchmark for quality of business education in the academic field.

Currently, there are 620 business schools in 38 countries that maintain AACSB accreditation. Of that total, only ten percent of business schools have achieved separate accounting accreditation. UMSL is one of them. UMSL's accounting department was awarded the first accreditation in 1995. Since then, the accreditation has been maintained, which represents the high quality of education the program offers.

"In St. Louis area, there are only four business schools that have an AACSB accreditation. [That includes] Washington University, St. Louis University, SIU-Edwardsville and UMSL," Mohrman said. "It's a very high standard. We have to comply with business accreditation standard and also the

accounting accreditation standard."

In addition to the benefits for program reputation, having accreditation from AACSB gives students an additional credibility when it comes to job opportunities.

"It will definitely have an impact. First of all, it influences reputation among other universities. If our students wish to transfer to other university, they will recognize that [the students] came from AACSB institution and the courses meet the AACSB standard; that makes them easier for them to transfer other institution. Likewise, when students come into UMSL, we accept courses that are taken at other AACSB [granted] institutions," Mohrman said. "In addition, many employers prefer to recruit graduates from AACSB accredited institutions. Many of the accounting firms and employers come here to look for students, it makes a difference to them."

There are many websites that list business schools and accounting programs to help students who are trying to choose the school they want to attend. Since many websites specifically list the institutions which earned AACSB accreditations, the program reaccruited is expected to continue to bring students who are looking for a quality program to UMSL from all over the world.

"Accounting is the largest major on UMSL campus. I think [the college] give the students excellent educations and background" Mohrman said. "Our Alumni also have been very successful in their area. Many of the accounting firms in St. Louis area come to us because they know that they can get well-trained and well-educated employees."

Students encouraged to take NSSE survey

JEREMY ZSCHAU
Staff Writer

Emails have been going out to first-year and senior students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis extending invitations to take the NSSE survey. Students are being strongly encouraged to take part in this survey.

NSSE stands for National Survey of Student Engagement. Administered by the Center for Postsecondary Research and Planning at the University of Indiana-Bloomington, UMSL has participated in this survey since its inception in 2000. Administered every two years, the survey concentrates on freshmen and seniors in order to collect data that reflects a change in student attitudes and experiences over the course of their college careers.

As the name suggests, the survey collects data that focuses more on the level of student engagement rather than raw student performance. This data focuses on five specific benchmarks: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning activities, student-faculty interaction, educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. When combined, these benchmarks paint a picture of how challenged students feel by the curriculum and whether students feel the university has adequate support structures in place to meet their needs.

Margaret Cohen of the Academic Affairs office makes heavy use of NSSE data in her work here at UMSL. She is the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and associate provost for Professional Development. According to Dr. Cohen, the data gathered by the NSSE has been of great help to her and to the university as a whole. "[The] information helps

challenge the campus to keep doing well," she said. "[We] depend on the data to know how we're reaching our goals. I think that's really important."

Not only has NSSE data been used by the university to advance its goals, it has been used in several attempts to bring students and faculty closer together. "[We've] used it to stir conversations among faculty," Dr. Cohen said. "Faculty teaching undergraduate [classes] are invited to participate [in the survey]." By comparing NSSE and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, or FSSE, those analyzing the data can see how well aligned the perspectives of faculty and students are. In addition, Senate and University Assembly Committees have cited NSSE response data in discussions of things such as retention and recruitment, and it is also used in faculty orientation to help new faculty and staff know what resources are available so they can pass that information along to their students.

Dr. Cohen also related an example of how NSSE data played a direct role in affecting policy here at UMSL. During the survey's third iteration in 2004, the school held a campus-wide forum in the Millennium Student Center, where faculty and students from all the colleges on campus were invited to a presentation of the data that had been collected. After the presentation, the audience broke into their respective colleges to discuss and were invited to share their own insights with the presenters. Student input is what drives the survey, Cohen said, and the data being gathered helps improve the UMSL experience for everyone, both students and faculty. Further information can be obtained by going on the NSSE website at nsse.iub.edu or by contacting Cohen at Peggy_Cohen@umsl.edu.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Yumeto Yamazaki

"What do you think about Donald Trump's potential candidacy for president of the United States?"



"I think it is nonsense. Someone who becomes a president without any political background is not a good idea."

Yuli Kim
Public Administration
Senior



"I think it's a joke. I can't really see him being a president of America."

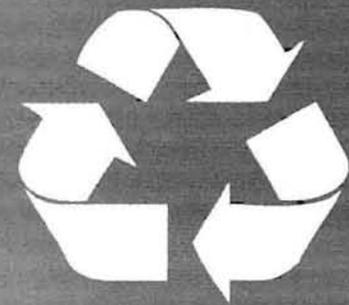
Daniel Ayo-Vaughan
Economics
Junior



"I think it's laughable. With his TV shows and silly hair, he is too much of a celebrity to be taken as a serious candidate."

Carolina Pino
Liberal Studies
Senior

**After all is read
and done,
Please Recycle!**



**-Your friends at the
The Current**

Top economists discuss the work of F.A. Hayek

Duke's Bruce Caldwell comes to UMSL to talk Serfdom

CATE MARQUIS

Assistant A&E Editor

On Thursday, April 21, Bruce Caldwell, an economist and research professor as well as the director of the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University, gave a lecture to a small crowd of enthused listeners on the seminal economic treatise "The Road to Serfdom."

Written by famed economist F. A. Hayek, "The Road to Serfdom" is considered one of the most important books ever written on the topic of free market economics and has been relevant since its being published in 1943.

It is fitting that the F. A. Hayek Professorship of Economic History sponsored the lecture, as Caldwell is the leading authority on the work on the life and work of Hayek.

David Rose, chair of the UMSL Economics Department, implied that the move to bring in Caldwell only made sense.

In his introduction of Caldwell, Rose referred to him as the "top Hayek scholar." Rose also called Duke University "a promised land" in regards to the history of economics.

Despite the academic subject matter, Caldwell mainly spoke about the human side of "The Road to Serfdom," particularly the obstacles and odd flukes that lead to it being a worldwide sensation.

When first published, the book enjoyed modest sales in the five digit range. Coincidentally, the work came out the same year as "One World" by Wendell Willkie, which sold over a million

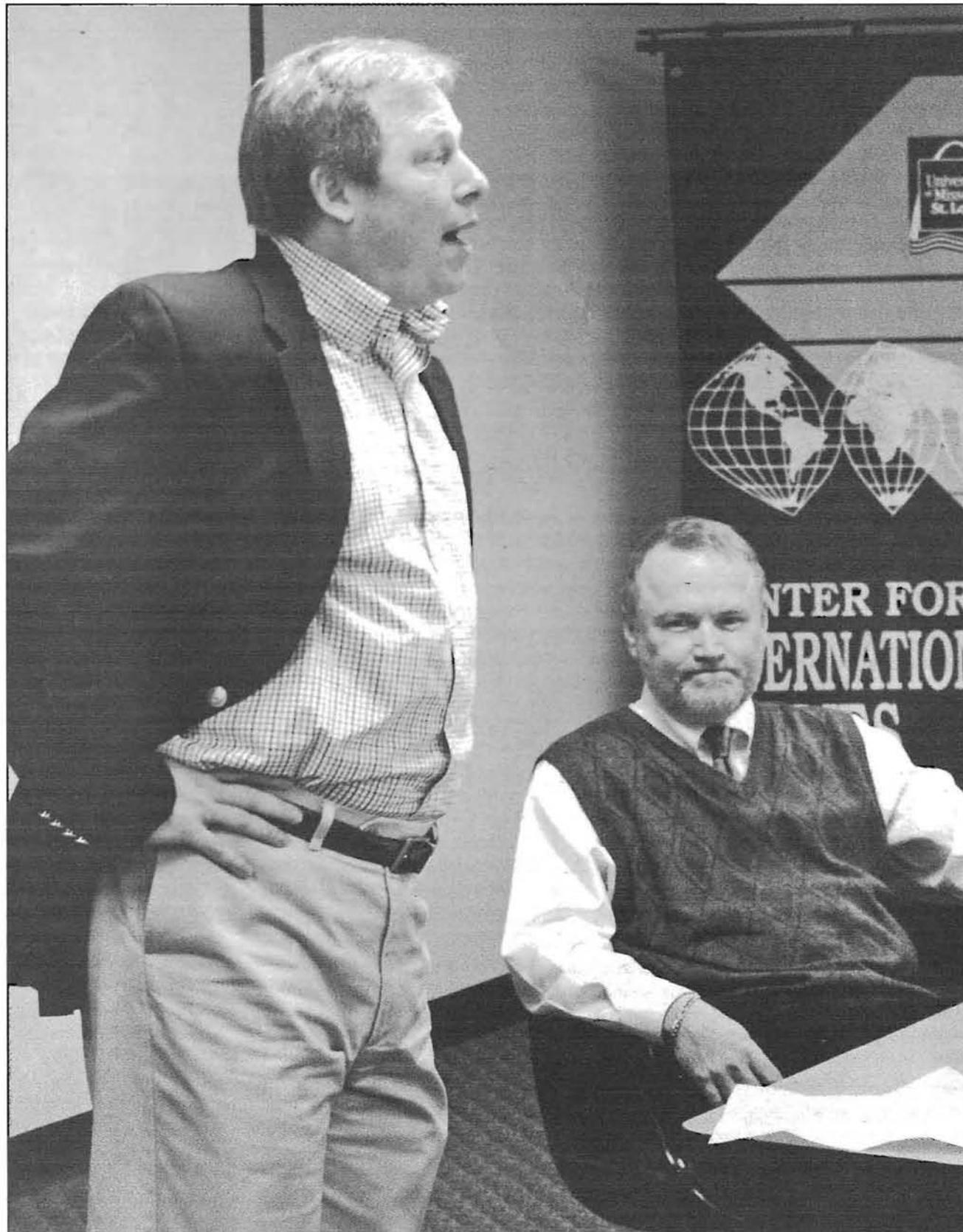
copies, "we all remember that one" Caldwell said.

But soon after a "Reader's Digest" of Hayek's work was printed about eight million times over. The "Reader's Digest" version was shipped overseas to the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who were still in the army but no longer fighting.

In an interesting note, Caldwell said that Hayek was travelling by ship from his native Europe to America, where he was going to go on a five university tour giving lectures to fellow economists and students. But during his trip over the "Reader's Digest" version came out and Hayek found that his tour had been moved from dusty school rooms to three thousand person halls and his talks were being broadcast by radio as well.

Hayek's ideas were controversial in the 1940s, and to this day they have never completely lost that label. But luckily for Hayek enthusiasts, continuing controversy and debate, if nothing else, has kept Hayek's works in print and in demand. In the summer of 2010, a Fox News personality mentioned "The Road to Serfdom" on his show and sales of the book skyrocketed, according to Amazon. It stayed as number one for ten days sixty years after first being published.

After his lecture, Caldwell took questions from the audience and had a spirited back and forth with students and faculty.



Bruce Caldwell, an economics professor at Duke University, gets introduced to the audience before he begins his talk about "The Road to Serfdom" at the Social Science Building on Thursday.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

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, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.



Mirthday attendees participate in a rock climbing exercise while on breaks from rides and games.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Monday, April 25

Piano Smash

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. located at Lot D by MSC and open to all. Wear close-toed shoes. Shoes will be available to borrow if you do not have close-toed shoes. Sponsored by Phi Nu Alpha Fraternity.

For more information, call Kwanae Johnson at 314-619-2710.

"Celebrate the Arts" 2011

From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., located at Provincial House (South Campus) and open to all. Enjoy original art by UMSL students, faculty and staff. Vote for best in show.

For more information, please call Geri Friedline at 314-516-7874.

Tuesday, April 26

Implementing High-Impact Educational Experiences in STEM Dpt.

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., located at CNS 101 and open to all. Colleagues from the Missouri Science and Technology Department of Chemistry will explain their data-driven success story about student learning and engagement. Colleagues from across the disciplines will come away with fresh ideas. Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Center for Teaching and Learning.

For more information, call Peggy Cohen at 314-516-7130.

Wednesday, April 27

14th Annual Multicultural Awareness Day

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., located at MSC Century Rooms A & B and open to all. Join us as we celebrate the 14th Annual Multicultural Awareness Day! Theme: "Shades of Brown: Exploring Parallels in Culture Through Science and The Arts." Dr. Jackie Lewis-Harris, Keynote Cultural vignettes by UMSL Faculty and Students. Art exhibit by Cool Valley and Airport Elementary Schools. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Linda Sharp, Multicultural Relations, at 314-516-6807.

Godzilla and Post-War Japan

From 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., located in SGA Chamber, Millennium Student Center and open to all. Godzilla and Post-War Japan, with Dr. William M. Tsutsui. Since Godzilla's first appearance more than fifty years ago, the King of the Monsters has become a cinematic icon and a globally-recognized symbol of Japan. But what can a giant, fire-breathing movie monster tell us about Japanese culture and Japan's national experience since World War II? This talk, lighthearted but rooted in current scholarship, will explore the serious lessons to be learned from the 28 Godzilla films and the abiding worldwide popularity of the King of the Monsters.

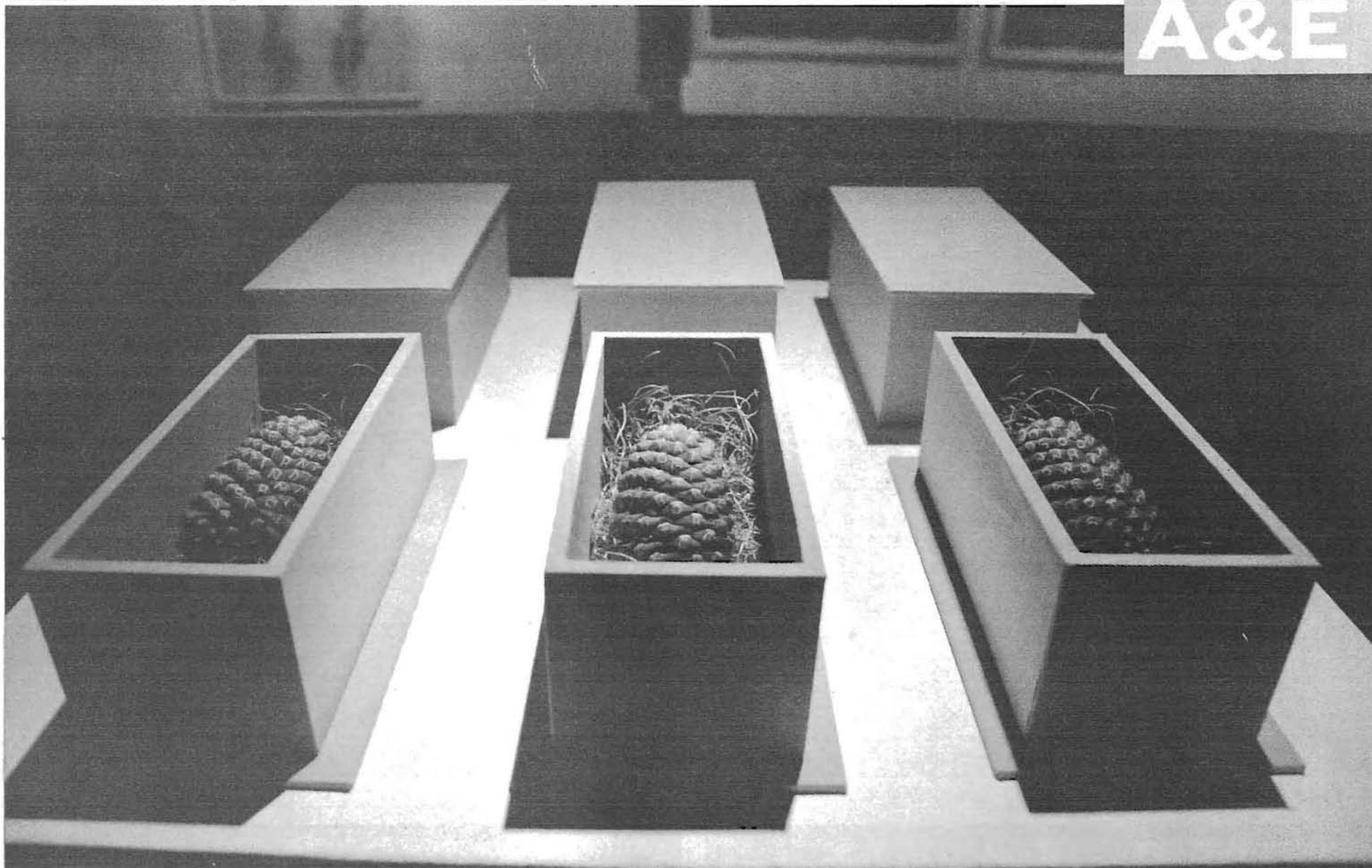
For more information, call Bob Ell at 314-516-7299.

Thursday, April 28

Denim Day

From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., located in the Nosh by escalator, open to all. Denim Day is an important opportunity to raise awareness and prevent sexual assault against women. Please wear jeans on April 28 to support Denim Day, stop by our table from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to learn more about Denim Day.

For more information, contact Kathy Castulik at 314-516-4657.



Erin McKenny, "balsam"

SAMUEL J. SURGENER / THE CURRENT

Gallery 210's 'A Printer's Spotlight: 15 Years of Wildwood

THEATRE

Gallery 210's exhibit "A Printer's Spotlight: 15 Years of Wildwood Press," which runs through May 28, is all about the unexpected.

The name "Wildwood Press" evokes images of a printing press turning out finely-bound books. But just as an artist working in textiles rarely is making clothing, the name is misleading. This press focuses on glorious, eye-popping printmaking.

The first impression of the exhibit is big. Big, bold, impressive images crowd the gallery, they are so strikingly masterful and professional that one feels like it is an art museum rather than a gallery. That professionalism makes this exhibit a pure joy. Images are both bold and appealing. While some art exhibits feature small works packed with tiny details requiring close scrutiny to tease out meaning, the Wildwood Press prints reach out boldly. There are details to be savored, but these works have an immediacy that does not require one to stand close. The exhibit has a special kind of cohesion and a polish in presentation that makes one feel like the art is in charge. Apart from a small sculptural work, "balsam," boxed

pinecones inscribed with poems, by Erin McKenny, each work is a large, rectangular print. Most are framed in pale wood and horizontal and vertical works alternate. Pieces are grouped with consideration for style, color and form so that placement of the pieces is very pleasing to the eye.

Entering the gallery, Jane Hammond's "Natural Curiosities" is dead ahead. What seems at first to be a visually-pleasing naturalist's display of snake skins, turtle shells and mounted insects is revealed on closer examination to be a very clever, three-dimensional, printed work. To the right is a large, well-balanced, three-bloc graphical print in neutral tones: David Shapiro's "Origin and Return #9." The two works reflect a kind of alpha and omega of the exhibit, from nature-inspired to the abstract. On the opposite wall, Josely Carvalhos' "Girsu" and "Nippur" resemble sepia-toned photographs of broken pots in an archeological dig with Asian script scrawled like excavation notes. The pair is placed next to Mary Judge's "Rose Window" #50 and #53: large circular images in blue and red, created by steel plates on hand-made paper.

Walking around a wall, one finds Valerie Hammond's series of botanical and figurative images, "Traces I, II and III." Their blue and white shadow images of forearms and hands, covered in vine-like, ferny leaves, bear a strong resemblance

to early photography experiments. "Guirlande," "Persephone" and "Daphne" extend this shadow-like figure with the leaves theme to full-length figures. Nearby, Jerald Ieans' four "On Being" prints evoke splashing water in graphical images in thick paint.

In contrast, Michael Berkheimer's "Untitled St. Louis" trio is boldly abstract, with tilting color blocks forming ramps down the works' surfaces. Nearby, Anne Appleby's two-piece work is one of the few unframed works, two panels of green and blue rough-textured paper titled "Mother E."

Michele Oka Doner returns to the figure, with an imposing full-length, squiggly-sketched figure, "Prairie," a relief from organic material on handmade paper.

One of the exhibit's most striking installations, Linda Schwarz' "Finger prints I," is a series of three framed pieces resembling sepia-toned photographic images of hands, reflected and refracted, into a series of geometric shapes. Casey Rae's three giclee prints offer images of a desolate landscape.

There are plenty more fascinating pieces in "A Printer's Spotlight: 15 Years of Wildwood Press," making it well worth a stroll over to Gallery 210.

'Scream 4' lives up to the franchise's fame



Alison Brie, Marley Shelton, Adam Brody, Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox, David Arquette and Anthony Anderson in Wes Craven's SCREAM 4.

COURTESY OF DIMENSION FILMS

MOVIES

"What's your favorite scary movie?" For fans of the "Scream" trilogy (and its parodies), this line is an old hat, and it has become blatantly obvious that the killer asks it regularly. "Scream 4" hit theatres on April 15, 2011 and has received a wide range of reactions. From the intensely positive to the raving negatives, "Scream 4" has made a splash in the film industry, and may be just what its production staff was hoping for: the beginning of a second "Scream" trilogy.

In an interesting twist, the movie actually begins by paying homage to its parodies existing within the "Scary Movie" franchise. While this review will not ruin exactly what happens, one can certainly say "Scream" decided to poke fun back at their imposters with the opening scenes.

The story is pretty simple. Sidney Prescott returns home to Woodsboro, ten years after leaving, to promote her new book, "Out of Darkness," which chronicles her move from the horrifying events of her youth and into a new powerful life as a new woman. On the eve of her arrival to town, however, an old friend returns to play. Naturally, since "Scream" would be

nothing without Ghostface.

The first to die are a couple of teenage girls, followed by countless deaths and attempted murders as the plot thickens, or rather, does not thicken. The film's storyline, apart from one final twist in the ending and the return of a character who was supposed to have escaped all of this for eternity, is really nothing too special.

The return of Sidney, along with her crime fighting teammates, Gale and Dewey Riley, is a welcome addition to be sure. However, the movie seems to follow a rather generic slasher theme. People die. Ghostface makes threats. More people die. The movie really does not have that many twists that will catch viewers off-guard.

Like any good slasher film, "Scream 4" attempts to convince viewers that several characters could potentially be the killer. This effort honestly seems insulting at some points, as a few of the characters, while being pushed as a potential suspect, are so obviously far from killer status that it is offensive to the intelligence of viewers.

"Scream 4" still does what it is supposed to do rather nicely. It has its comical moments for relief from suspenseful nighttime scenes and even some of the kills themselves have comic

relief built into them. The film will keep some viewers on the edge of their seats during a few of the more intense killing scenes, especially as the presumed final act is wrapping up.

The musical score is fitting. Dramatic when necessary, lighthearted where appropriate; it may not be anything exceptionally delightful, but the music does its job, dragging viewers deeper into the mentality of each individual scene.

The movie did quite well in the box office, taking second place only to "Rio," the more family-oriented tale was certain to draw larger crowds than its slasher contemporary. Grossing a total of \$49.2 million on its first weekend, the film was the second-lowest grossing of the entire "Scream" franchise in theatres. Is "Scream 4" worthy of attendance? Fans of the original trilogy will certainly want to take a couple hours and view this new addition, as it certainly does justice to the series' heritage, killing several young high school students before the film's story is up.

While "Scream 4" may not win favoritism with anybody, it is worth a quick watch, and earns a solid B-.

B- - Matthew B. Poposky



The portals open yet again in 'Portal 2.'

COURTESY / VALVE

Valve's 'Portal 2' takes funny to new level

VIDEO GAMES

The hottest operating system this year is not Windows or Mac—it is GLaDOS, the Genetic Life and Disk Operating System from the "Portal" series.

She is still alive, she is awake, and she is slightly irritated players attempted to murder her.

"Portal 2," the follow-up to 2007's surprise smash hit "Portal," is finally out and is every inch the amazing sequel that fans have been waiting for.

For those who have yet to experience the game, never fear: this review is absolutely spoiler-free.

In the original "Portal," players guided the voiceless protagonist Chell. She was a hapless test subject trapped in an underground science facility with GLaDOS (Ellen McLain), a psychotic artificial intelligence.

In "Portal 2," players once again step into Chell's (Longfall-boot-equipped) shoes. This time around, she has been woken up from a long artificial slumber by another artificial intelligence named Wheatley (Stephen Merchant).

Wheatley only wants to escape the crumbling test facility, and enlists players' help to do so. Of course, things do not go as planned, and GLaDOS, well...look. There are so many things

that deserve to be mentioned in this review, but cannot and will not, because it would completely spoil the game.

"Portal 2" tells a poignant, moving story. It is funny—hilarious, even. Valve has refined their comedy in "Portal 2." It is sharper, wittier and out in full force. Every dilapidated test chamber is rife with comedy and witty banter, be it from Wheatley or GLaDOS.

Valve has assembled an excellent voice cast as well. Besides the return of Ellen McLain as GLaDOS, "Portal 2" features Stephen Merchant, from the United Kingdom version of "The Office" as Wheatley. Even actor J.K. Simmons (J. Jonah Jameson from "Spider-Man") has a cameo as Aperture Science founder Cave Johnson that is absolutely delightful. This game will win awards for its voice acting alone, not to mention its comedy writing.

Admittedly, "Portal 2" is a tad short. Keep in mind two things, however: one, that the first "Portal" was a mere four-or-so-hour experience. "Portal 2" is slightly more than double that, clocking in at just about nine hours, give or take.

Second, it is a testament to Valve's mastery of the genre that "Portal 2" knows when to end its story. Sure, it could have gone on, but think about how many games have had their stories drag on and on, all for the sake of a lon-

ger experience.

"Portal 2" is just as long as it needs to be to tell its story. Plus, once the single player game ends, there is always the two-player co-operative mode.

The two-player mode is one of the most fun, challenging multiplayer experiences ever. It requires constant communication and trial-and-error tenacity. Though it can be played with a random player, it is best experienced with a good friend.

"Portal" was a novelty; it was a puzzle game with humor, a small side-project added into Valve's 2007 "The Orange Box" release. Featured alongside five other games, it shot into legendary status thanks to the insta-memes "the cake is a lie" and the game's ending song "Still Alive."

With "Portal 2," Valve has taken that lightning in a bottle from the first game and done it yet again, producing one of their finest games ever, as well as a definite early contender for game of the year.

Please keep in mind that "Portal 2" will never threaten to stab players, and in fact cannot speak. If a copy of "Portal 2" does speak, please disregard its advice. Unless its advice is to play it, in which case, do so immediately.

A++ - Andrew Seal

LATEST + GREATEST

Movies Opening Friday, April 29

"Fast Five"

Dominic and his crew find themselves on the wrong side of the law once again as they try to switch lanes between a ruthless drug lord and a relentless federal agent.



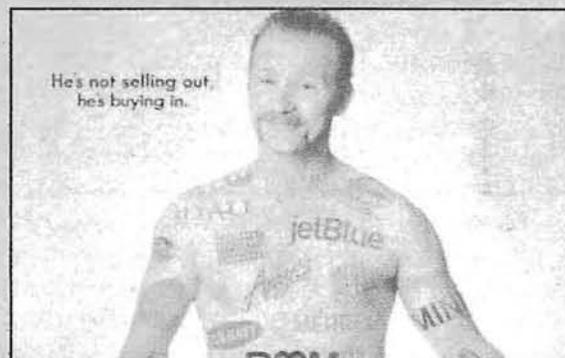
"Prom"

Several intersecting stories unfold at one high school as the big dance approaches; Prom portrays the precarious passage from high school to independence as some relationships unravel and others ignite.



"The Greatest Movie Ever Sold"

A documentary about branding, advertising and product placement that is financed and made possible by brands, advertising and product placement.



thecurrent-online.com

The greatest student news website in the world.

Bellerive

IS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

UMSL students, staff, and faculty are invited to submit original poetry, prose, photography, and art for possible publication in the next issue of *Bellerive*, the Pierre Laclède Honors College literary publication.

Submissions period ends June 30, 2011.

bellerivesubmit@umsl.edu



INVITE YOU AND A FRIEND TO A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

Disney
PROM

Stop by The Current office or log-on to www.thecurrent-online.com beginning today for your chance to receive a screening pass for two!

Screening is on Tuesday, April 26.

Passes are on a first come, first serve basis. Supplies are limited. Limit one (1) pass per person, passes admit (2) two. Sponsor's employees and their dependants are ineligible. Screening is overbooked to ensure capacity. Please refer to passes for any other possible restrictions. No purchase necessary. This film is rated PG for mild language and a brief fight. For complete rules, please visit, www.thecurrent-online.com.

Text PROM to DISNEY (347639)
Disney.com/Prom

IN THEATRES NATIONWIDE APRIL 29!

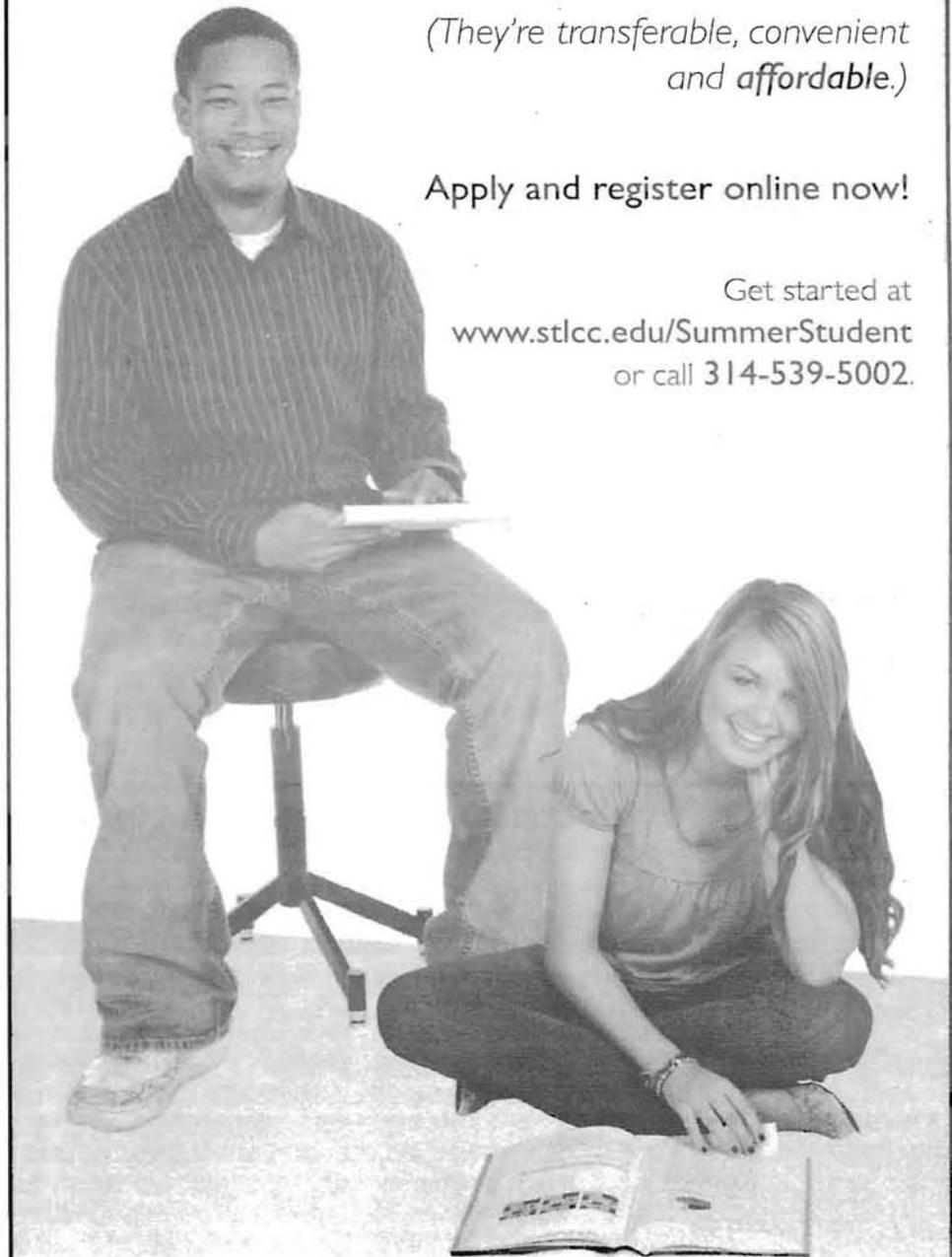
Make summer count.

Earn credits toward your degree with summer classes at **St. Louis Community College.**

(They're transferable, convenient and affordable.)

Apply and register online now!

Get started at www.stlcc.edu/SummerStudent or call 314-539-5002.



Summer sessions begin May 17 and June 6.



www.stlcc.edu

FLORISSANT VALLEY • FOREST PARK • MERAMEC • WILDWOOD

Features



BATTLE OF THE BANDS SLAMS THE PILOT HOUSE

SHARON PRUITT
Staff Writer

On the night of April 14, five musical acts gathered in the Pilot House to participate in Battle of the Bands. The show, hosted by state representative Clem Hirth, included performances from five diverse musical acts. It included not only traditional rock bands, but rappers as well. At stake for the winner was the opportunity to perform the following Saturday morning at the 5th annual Keep Kids Safe Run.

The Battle of the Bands event was a long time in the making for its promoters, the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association (PLHCSA). "We thought about it almost a year ago. PLHCSA was having a meeting and we were brainstorming ideas for service events and this is something we came up with," Lauren Masterson-Rodriguez, senior, anthropology, said. Masterson-Rodriguez credits PLHCSA's service chair, Melissa Alper, with playing a large role in making Battle of the Bands a reality for the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The event raised a grand total of a little over \$500 for the Children's Advocacy Center

of Greater St. Louis, which was made possible with donations and the profits from promotional t-shirts sold at the show.

"It was also good for the center because the band will be playing at their run on Saturday for free. Normally a band costs about \$600 at least, so that's over \$1,000 that we were able to provide them with, essentially," Masterson Rodriguez said.

Although it was a competition, the atmosphere throughout the night was friendly and fun. Following each performance was an American Idol-type commentary given by the "celebrity" judges, who included Dean of the Pierre Laclède Honors College, Bob Bliss; Dan Rosner, Student Government Association president; Karen Banks, special events coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater St. Louis and Aaron Golchert, UMSL alumnus.

"It was wonderful. It was great. I had a wonderful time, especially being here with my crew. We brought the energy and I'd definitely come back here again," Iconikist, one of the performers, said.

The winning act was chosen based on the amount of donations received under their name. Plastic buckets bearing the names of the participating acts were set up so that, during the course of the show, any audience member could donate to support not only the

Children's Advocacy Center, but his or her favorite band as well.

"Yeah, it was real awesome. I really liked the whole thing. It was for a good cause and it was a good time. We're excited [about performing tomorrow]," Dustin Hook, guitarist of the winning band, Between the Rivers, said.

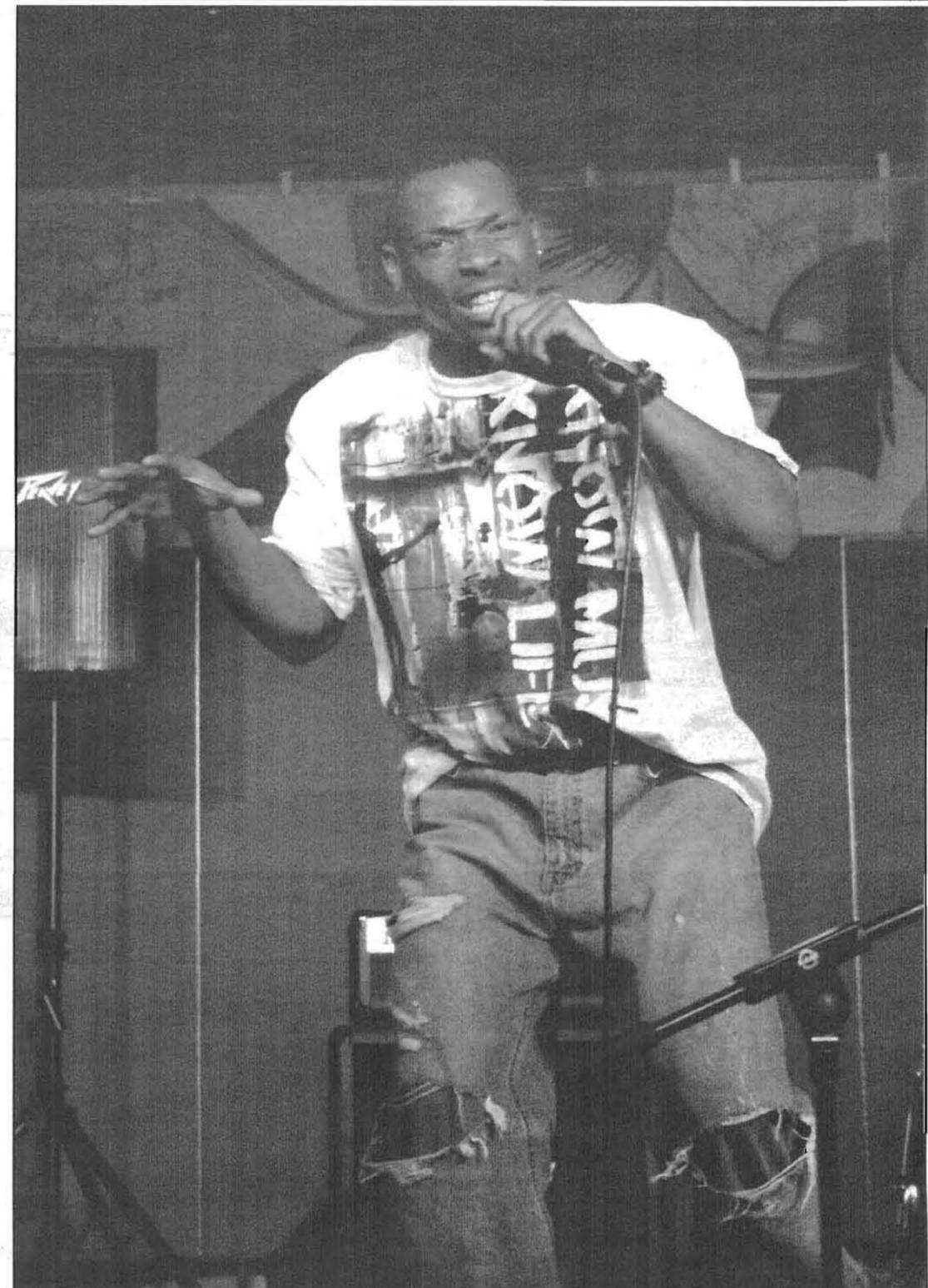
Representatives of the chosen charity could not be more pleased.

"It was wonderful. It was incredible. The energy was enormous, and to have the students come out and the community come out and support the kids was great," Karey Dunn, executive director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater St. Louis, said.

Karen Banks, Special Events Coordinator for the center and one of the celebrity judges for the night, agreed.

"I loved it. It was fun, and I'm glad that we were allowed to be a part of it and they chose us as the charity. It was great. I wanted to whip my hair down and let my fro rock out. I loved it. I'm looking forward to them coming on Saturday," Banks said.

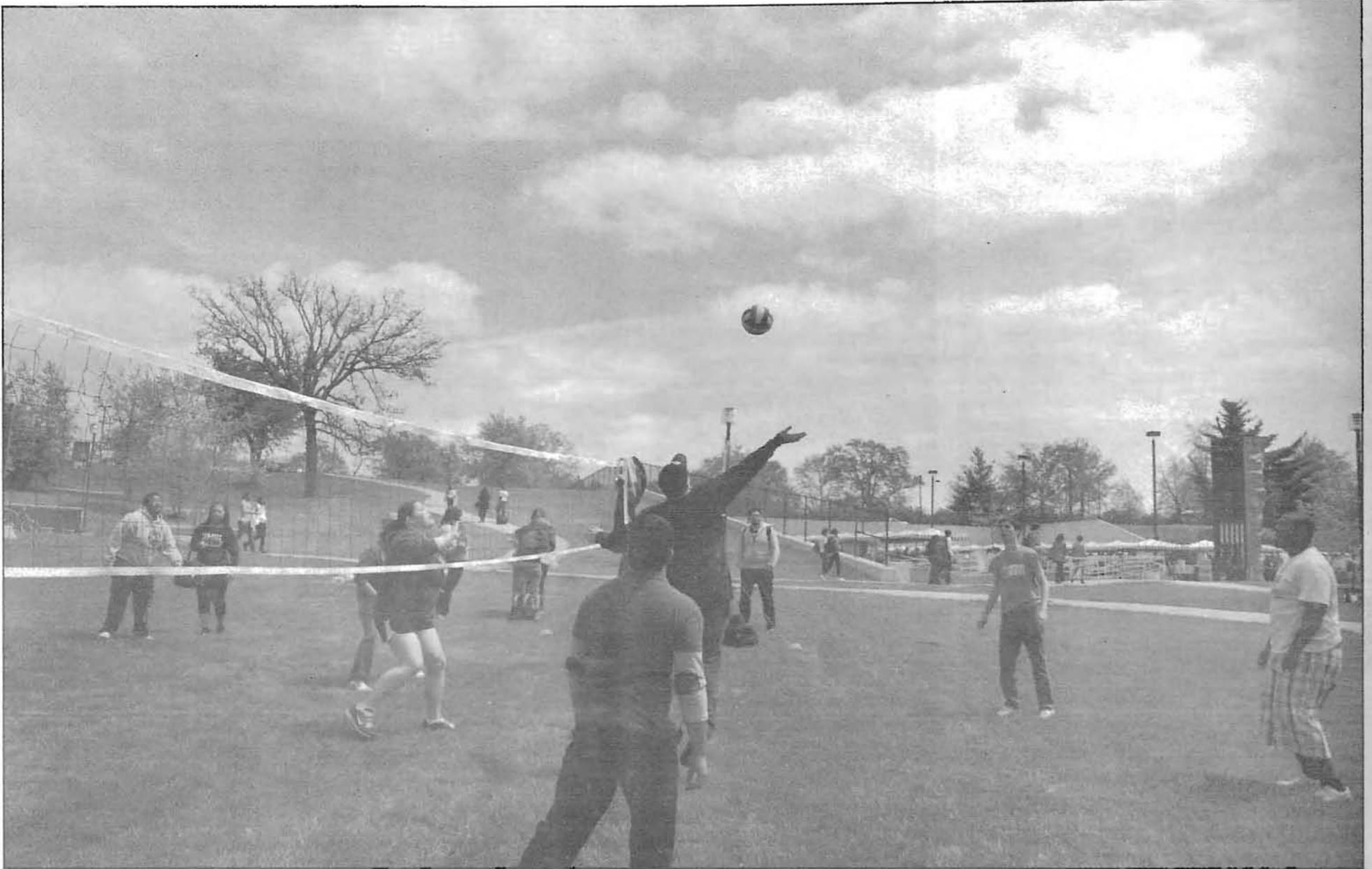
Overall, the Battle of the Bands served not only as a fun activity for students to partake in on a Thursday night, but also one that helped a local organization.



PHOTOS BY NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

(LEFT) "Between the Rivers," a band comprised of UMSL students: David Kruszka on bass, Tyler Swape on vocals, Dustin Hook on guitar and Kevin Fawler on drums, performing at the Battle of the Bands in the Pilot House on Thursday.

(RIGHT) Iconikist, performing his original songs at the Battle of the Bands in the Pilot House on Thursday.



Non-competitive volleyball game brings leisure time for students, Wednesday outside MSC.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Volleyball at Mirthday welcomes players of all skill levels

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Opinions Editor

Mirthday, the University of Missouri - St. Louis' celebration of, essentially, being UMSL, occurred last Wednesday. Rides littered parking lots C and D, games were abundant in booths run by the several student organizations on campus and, of course, there was a massive concert at the night's end, performed this year by Cee Lo Green.

Also available at this year's Mirthday were games set up by Campus Recreation. Included in their repertoire this year were volleyball, a beanbag toss and can jam.

Can jam, a game some may not be familiar with, is a game involving scoring points by putting a frisbee into a goal. In this case, the goal was a can.

"Can jam is an awesome game! You got to play it. You get different scores for slamming the frisbee into the can in different fashions and with different styles! It really is awesome!" Susan Dibb, campus recreational coordinator, said.

While a few brave contenders tried their hands at can jam and a small crowd gathered for the beanbag toss, the most

well-attended game of the day by far was volleyball. Despite the massive mud slide which was the grass near the Millennium Student Center, students seemed absolutely enthralled with their game of volleyball.

Players came and went as the day went on, and the teams changed more often than any referee could hope to keep track of. Despite the mud, shifting teams and the wide range of talents of the players in attendance, everybody playing wore a smile, shouting encouragement to their own team and the other alike.

"I usually play intramurals every time Campus Recreation offers it. I heard they were hosting games today and decided to come out and have some fun. I even got a massive stain on my pants today from the mud, but I don't really care. Mirthday is all about fun, and I'm having it!" Greg Laine, sophomore, international marketing, said.

Greg was not the only student to be stained by the remnants of the previous night's storms but like Greg, most players really did not seem to mind much. When players fell or slipped, other players would give them a hand back to their feet, the stains would be the subjects of jokes for about five

minutes, but then play would resume as usual.

Scores were not kept either except in a few private games throughout the day. For the most part, the day was truly filled with the student body simply coming out to play volleyball. Professionals and neophytes alike were welcomed, and on occasion, even the professionals were schooled by a surprise trick or two.

"We had people lining up from about half an hour before the net was even up, shivering since the sun hadn't come out yet, ready to play. They all asked when they could start. That made me feel really happy, seeing that people were that aware and informed about our activities we had planned for today," Dibb said.

Dibb also made references to the mass amount of recreational activities offered at the Mark Twain during any given week of the academic year.

"There are always events going on, be it intramurals or game nights," Dibb said.

For those who may have missed out on volleyball at Mirthday, keep in mind that the Mark Twain is always hosting events that students can simply show up and participate in.

Music professor is awarded the Dare to Lead award

JEN O'HARA
Features Editor

Since he was young, music Professor Jim Henry has committed his heart and soul to music. Not only is he a professor, director, and musician, but in May, he will also be receiving an award that acknowledges his passion for music and for inspiring youth.

The Current: What is it like being the director of Ambassadors of Harmony? How did you become the director?

James (Jim) Henry: That's part of my life. I joined that group when I was 11-years-old. My dad was singing with them from my infancy so I literally grew up in that chorus and became an official member when I was 11. Almost none of them make a living at music; they do other things. The rest are just other guys who do things throughout the week but when it comes to the ambassadors, they're artists. To stand in front of a group of guys who are that passionate about it and those kinds of workers, that's a special thing.

TC: What is the hardest part about being the director?

JH: It's not like there's anything that's necessarily hard about it. There are always challenges, because you're always having to come up with something new. Trying to find new songs and new ways to present songs, and trying to sort of out do ourselves is, to me, the most difficult thing. It just takes a lot of effort to come up with new ideas all the time.

TC: What is the Dare to Lead award? How does it make you feel to receive this award, especially being the first performer to ever receive it?

JH: It's a group called the International Leadership Network started by a gentleman named Lisle Ramsey. This group honors, every year, a person who they feel like has inspired young people and done something for [them]. It's very humbling. In many ways it's surprising. I'm not directing the Ambassadors of Harmony necessarily with the thought in mind "What can I win from doing this?" It's just a labor of love. I would do it no matter what. Icing on the cake is kind of a cliché thing to say, but that's really what it is.

TC: On top of directing three choirs and being part of a quartet, you also teach. What made you decide to go into teaching?

JH: A couple of things happened that made that come about. The most important is that I had a great high school music teacher. A truly, wonderful man and teacher named Richard Eichenberger. When I got into high school, I just saw that here was a guy who really loves his students, loves what he's doing and is making great music. I just remember thinking this is a special, special person. I just saw the impact he made not only on my life, but [also] on the lives of almost every student that was there. I think that planted the biggest seed, I really do.

TC: What advice would you have for someone trying to go into a musical career?

JH: You have to love music for everything that it is. You have to be passionate about the history of music, how music is put together, all the things that make music, music. You need to be the kind of person who is so passionate about it, you want to know everything there is to know about it, not just enjoy singing. Soul search about that. Say, do I just love to sing or do I really want to make my life music? Then, learn as much as you possibly can.



Jim Henry, Director of Choral Studies

Sports



Heather Arras, education, junior, races to first base before the pitcher throws for an out on Wednesday against Maryville.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Triton softball continues dominance over Maryville

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team continued its dominance over new Great Lakes Valley Conference rival Maryville University, with a doubleheader sweep of the Saints at the UMSL Softball Field on Wednesday afternoon.

The 6-2 Game one, and 3-2 Game two victories over the Saints on Wednesday, gave the Tritons their fourth and fifth straight all-time triumphs over Maryville, with no losses in the all-time series.

UMSL also swept a twinbill from Maryville at their facility last April, and took a single, non-league game from the Saints in April 2008. In Game one, Maryville got out to a quick start, scoring in the top of the first on a run batted in base hit by first baseman Jennifer Maynez. But UMSL struck back quickly with five runs of its own in the bottom of the first. Triton catcher JaCee Ellis and shortstop Haleigh Jenkins each drove in single runs with one out in the first. But the big blow was rightfielder Karey Kruse's two-out, three-run home run

blast that gave UMSL a lead it would never relinquish.

Sophomore hurler Leslie Davis (6-6) tossed all seven innings for the Tritons, earning a complete game win, while allowing just four hits and two runs with two strikeouts and two walks.

Game two proved to be a nail-biter for UMSL, but ended in a Triton victory nonetheless. Maryville got on the board again first, with another first inning score, this time on an RBI hit by designated player Amanda Buffa. UMSL answered back in the second inning, when Ellis walked, advanced to third on a double by third baseman Shannon Beatty, and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Kruse.

Maryville almost got the lead back in the top of the third, when its got two straight line-shot base hits off eventual winning pitcher Crystal Koehler (7-2). Ponder doubled to start off the inning, and Buffa followed with a single to center. But UMSL centerfielder Monica Strube came up firing, after she fielded Buffa's smash, and gunned down Ponder at the plate, as she tried to score.

The teams traded runs in the fourth, but neither squad could get anything going in the fifth or sixth innings, setting up a final dramatic rally for UMSL in the bottom of the sev-

enth. Kruse was once again right in the middle of it, leading off the seventh with a walk. She advanced to third on a double by Davis, and eventually scored the winning run when no one from Maryville could field a groundball off the bat of UMSL's Paris Burger. The two victories for the Tritons raised the team's record to 22-17 overall, and 13-4 in GLVC play, which places UMSL in third place in the league standings.

UMSL will play its final road contests of the season in the coming days, when the Tritons will travel to Rolla, Mo., to take on Missouri S&T. That doubleheader was originally scheduled for this past Saturday, but was postponed due to heavy rain in the Rolla area over the weekend. A re-schedule date hadn't been set at press time, but it's most likely the games will be played sometime early this week because UMSL has another road doubleheader at Quincy (Ill.) University, on Wednesday, April 27, and two home doubleheaders this coming weekend.

Those final Triton home dates of the season will be Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, when UMSL will host Drury and Rockhurst, respectively.

First pitch for those home doubleheaders, weather permitting, is at noon.

Werner stays motivated by Triton obligation

ASHLEY ATKINS

Staff writer

With the season coming to a close, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's tennis team has put all of their energy into succeeding at conference, but not without the help of Louisa Werner, freshman, business administration.

From April 12 to April 18 she has held the title of Great Lakes Valley Conference Women's Tennis Player of the Week with a 13-7 overall mark in singles action, a 9-5 record at number one singles and an 11-2 record at number one doubles on the year with teammate Pujitha Bandi.

Committing ten out of twelve months, of the year, to the game of tennis, she is considered a driving force on her team.

"I think she brings a lot of determination and hard work," Annie Gonzalez, senior, teammate, business administration, said. "She is always a fighter, and I think it motivates the other girls to do their best and not give up."

Not only does fellow teammate, Danielle Henkel, freshman, psychology, admire Werner's great attitude towards the game, but she also is keen on the bond they share.

"Both of us are very loud and pumped up and want to play," Henkel said. "I think it is better to have another freshman with you than to be the only one and we are basically on opposite sides of the line-up so it makes it a nice little balance for the team."

Crediting her parents, who were also tennis players, for introducing her to the game at the age of four, she found herself gravitating to the sport as she got older. In Dresden, Germany,

Werner completed her secondary education at Sportgymnasium Dresden, which allowed her to get her education and play for a club simultaneously.

"As soon as I started getting interested in college tennis, I kind of looked around," Werner said. "There were several agencies and they kind of made a profile of me, like a Facebook profile with all of this information and Coach Gyllenborg was one of the coaches that ran through it."

"I liked what the recruiters had to say about her and she had a strong enough ranking that I knew she could come and do well here," Rick Gyllenborg, men's and women's tennis head

She believes her expectations are greater at UMSL due to her scholarship, but believes that her game has improved because of the competition, stating that it makes her stronger mentally.

Werner says being on a team motivates her to work harder because she represents UMSL and her team as well.

"At my club back home, we have so many different ages from 16 to 32, you do not really practice together, you just come together and play the matches, so, here it is just a way bigger team bond," Werner said. "We do movie nights, we share the same interest and we are traveling all together on the

I think she brings a lot of determination and hard work.

-Annie Gonzalez

coach, said.

Even with her commitment to UMSL, Werner still remains a member of her club back home, who are in season up until June and July.

"I still have to play six matches there and then I can maybe still play in tournaments as an individual," Werner said. "I do not practice over Christmas when I am at home."

road. I like [the] Tritons way better than my team back home."

She currently has no intentions of seeking out a professional tennis career but plans on taking advantage of what UMSL is known for, business administration.

"I am probably going to specialize in international business so I want to get a high GPA there," Werner said.

Tappmeyer lands five new recruits for men's basketball in 2011-2012

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis athletics department announced this week the signing of five new student-athletes that will join the men's basketball program for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The five new Tritons are incoming freshmen Jack Connors of Scottsdale, Arizona, Janeil Hatchett of Sikeston, Mo., Ben Ruether of Washington, Mo., Aaron Smith of St. Louis, and Division-I college transfer Josh McCoy of St. Peters, Mo.

All five players have sent in their signed national letters of intent to the UMSL athletics office, and all will be eligible to play for the Tritons beginning next season.

The big fish signing of the five-man crew for UMSL was the inking of McCoy, a 6'4" scoring guard and native St. Louisan, who starred Fort Zumwalt South High from 2005-2008.

As a four-year starter for the Bulldogs, McCoy was a two-time all-state and all-metro selection and a three-time all-con-

ference choice who scored 1,579 career points (a 15.4 points per game average) and collected 469 rebounds, 276 assists and 214 steals.

McCoy, who was Player of the Year in the Gateway Athletic Conference his senior year, led Ft. Zumwalt South to back-to-back state Final Four appearances in 2007 and 2008.

At Cleveland State, which competes in the Horizon League against teams like Valparaiso and two-time Division-I national runner-up Butler, McCoy played in all 36 games last season, averaging 4.4 points and 2.5 rebounds a game, for a team that went 27-9, and advanced to the second round of the National Invitational Tournament.

Of the high school signees, Connors had the most accomplished prep career, where he earned Arizona Class 4A First Team all-state honors as a senior at Saguaro High after averaging 16.5 points, 6.2 assists and 4.2 rebounds per game, while shooting 40 percent from three-point range.

Just last season alone, the 6'1" point guard was a McDonald's All-American nominee, named the 2011 Desert Sky Region Player of the Year and was an All-City Athlete First Team-

Scottsdale selection after leading his team to a 23-9 record and a state championship runner-up finish.

Hatchett, a 6'1" point guard, was a first team all-state performer here in Missouri, where he helped his Sikeston team to a 30-0 record as a senior and the Missouri Class 4 state championship.

He also earned first team all-conference and all-region honors while averaging 12.3 points, 6.8 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game.

Reuther, a 6'7" forward, played on the St. Francis Borgia team that lost to Hatchett's team in the Class 4 state finals.

As a senior, he averaged 14.8 points and 8.2 rebounds a game, and was named first team all-state and all-district and was tabbed The Missourian Newspaper's Area Player of the Year.

Smith, another 6'4" local product, averaged 14.8 points and 8.5 rebounds a game as a senior at Lafayette High, where he led the Lancers to an 18-8 record and a Suburban West Conference championship and was a first team all-conference and all-district honoree.

thecurrent-online.com

The greatest student news website in the world.

Former assistant Ryan Young named new Triton volleyball head coach



Ryan Young, new head volleyball coach for University of Missouri- Saint Louis, on Friday at the Mark Twain building.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri- St. Louis Athletics Department announced recently that it had selected former assistant coach Ryan Young to become the new head volleyball coach at the university.

Young had spent one season as an assistant coach under former Triton head man Trent Jones, who left the program in February, to become an assistant coach at Division I Missouri-Kansas City, where longtime University of Kansas assistant Christi Posey has been hired as the Kangaroos new coach.

"We are excited to have Ryan take over as our head volleyball coach," Lori Flanagan, UMSL athletics director, said in a statement released by the department. "His hard work and dedication to the program played a vital role in last season's success, and that experience will help make for a smooth transition.

"We believe his energy and attention to the development of our student-athletes will allow us to continue the success that UMSL volleyball has seen the last few years. We are extremely confident that this program will remain in good hands under Ryan's direction."

Despite it being just his first year in UMSL's program, Young was a key figure in the Tritons' 20-9 season, which saw the team earn its first national ranking since 1993 and its first NCAA Division National Tournament berth since 1995.

Prior to coming to UMSL, Young coached the St. Louis High Performance high-level youth-league club team, which under his direction qualified for the Junior Olympics Open Division competi-

tion in each of the six seasons Young was head coach. "I am very excited to be named the next UMSL head volleyball coach, and I'm thankful to the University for giving me this opportunity," Young said. "I am looking forward to expanding on the success this program has recently had, and am thrilled about the future of Tritons volleyball. This team is very talented and having already worked with them will help the transition from assistant coach to head coach be a smooth one."

Young's other coaching experience includes two years as an assistant at St. Louis College of Pharmacy and as an assistant at Christian Brothers College High School. The St. Louis native also has an array of playing experience, including four years at Missouri Baptist University (2005-08), where he earned second team all-conference honors. Young also helped lead his team to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes third place finishes in 2005 and 2007. He prepped at CBC High School from 2001-04, earning first team all-metro honors as a senior and second team honors as a junior. Young's team earned a second place finish in state as a freshman and placed third as a sophomore and senior. Additionally, Young played five years of club for Missouri Thunder and two years for St. Louis High Performance. He won two bronze medals at the Junior Olympics and took third in the Open Division. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Missouri Baptist.

UMSL sports information

Opinions

OUR OPINION

No Sharia law in Missouri

Last Wednesday, the Missouri House of Representatives passed a bill that would ban the practice of Sharia law in Missouri. Specifically, the measure would prohibit Missouri courts from "utilizing foreign law or legal code in any ruling." Of course, while the actual language of the bill does not mention Sharia by name, according to the St. Louis Post Dispatch the debate that took place prior to the vote on the bill centered almost entirely on, you guessed it, Sharia.

As one might imagine, the proposal from Representative Paul Curtman, a Republican from Pacific, has stirred up plenty of controversy. Predictably, certain politicians have resorted to bigoted comments and fear-mongering, such as Representative Don Wells' (also a Republican) comparison of Sharia law to a disease such as polio, in an attempt to shove this bill through the legislature. Missouri isn't even the first state to introduce legislation like this; within the past year, Indiana and Louisiana have passed bills with similar aims to the measures proposed by Curtman and Wells. Florida, Mississippi and Utah had similar laws on the books temporarily and over a dozen other states are considering such legislation.

For now, let's not even address whether such a law is right or wrong. Bigotry and fear-mongering aside,

right or wrong in this matter is subjective depending on which side of the political aisle you come from. Instead, let's look at a more rational and infinitely more pragmatic concern: is the bill even necessary? Do we need a law that specifically prohibits the application of Sharia — or any other foreign legal code, whether religious or secular — in Missouri?

If you know anything at all about American law, then the answer is a resounding no. And why should there be? In some political circles, it has become trendy to present a blind, idolizing loyalty to the letter of the Constitution, yet the politicians who profess their love for the Constitution as a reasoning for championing this bill display a profound ignorance for the same document they claim to cherish. Freedom of religion, as mandated by the First Amendment, goes both ways. A citizen is free to practice their religion as they choose, and the government may not interfere with that citizen's practice of their religion, nor can they force the practice of another religion upon him or her. In every recorded case where religious law has conflicted with American federal or state law, the secular laws have won every time. In addition, the Supreme Court ruled in 1993 that a law that singles out a particular religion or religious practice for restriction is unconstitutional

in nearly all cases, making this proposed legislation not only redundant but incompatible with our existing legal framework.

The contention that the proposed law is aimed at foreign law in general doesn't hold water, either. There have never been any instances where foreign or international law has superseded American law in any documented case in our country's history. The entire concept of applying, say, French law or Dutch law in an American court case is absurd. The Constitution written by our Founding Fathers is the law of the land, and for good reason. Any judge or lawyer that tried to cite foreign law in a domestic case of any kind would be laughed out of their profession.

Once again, we see an example of politicians trying to fix something that isn't broken in an attempt to pander to a vocal minority. Instead of addressing real problems that truly have an effect on and matter to the people of this state, legislators have chosen to focus on meaningless issues and proposals for laws that are more ideological smoke than actual substance.

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

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Apple of their eye(s)

When they're not busy pressuring journalists with home police invasions, Apple Inc., the celebrated maker of the iPhone and iPad, is busy tracking your every step.

"Security researchers have discovered that Apple's iPhone keeps track of where you go — and saves every detail of it to a secret file on the device which is then copied to the owner's computer when the two are synchronised," according to an article in *The Guardian*, a United Kingdom newspaper.

This isn't a small flaw that affects a small percentage of iPhone users; no, this is huge privacy violation on a massive scale. We're not talking voluntary tracking identification like Facebook's "Check In" feature; this is full-fledged invasion of privacy.

The tracking seems to apply only to iPhone updated to iOS 4 and later. Which, since iOS 4 came out in June 2010, means that "for some phones, there could be almost a year's worth of location data stored," according to the article. And the information is easy to access, especially since the file is located on both the iPhone itself and whatever computer it syncs to. "The file contains the latitude and longitude of the phone's recorded coordinates along with a timestamp," according to *The Guardian* article.

Sam Biddle, an online journalist from Gawker Media site Gizmodo, downloaded the program the security researchers created and took a look at his loca-

tion history from his own iPhone.

"The map I was able to generate with mapping software the security duo released visualizes my life since the day I bought my iPhone 4 in July," Biddle wrote. "Everywhere I've been. Bus trips home. Train trips to visit family. Vacations. Places I'd forgotten I'd even gone...My entire personal and professional life... It's all accessible—where I've been, and when."

People have fallen into two camps on this issue. There are those who say that this location invasion shouldn't matter: if you don't have anything to hide, then it shouldn't bother you, right?

The other camp is full of privacy advocates who say that this is a betrayal of trust by Apple, and that immediate action is needed to fix this.

In this situation, the privacy advocates are right. Apple has always had a good reputation with its customers, and hiding this information gathering from them is an issue.

It is essentially clandestine spying. Imagine if a foreign or national dignitary privy to secret information used an iPhone. If their computer or iPhone were compromised, it would offer a wealth of secret information.

Unlike Facebook's "Check In", there is no opt-in for this hidden feature. As of press time, Apple has stalwartly refused to say anything about this location data gathering.

Biddle writes in his Giz-



Andrew Seal

modo.com that "for now, there is no fix. The only way to remove it from your computer is to wipe your back up files from your computer. But...every time you sync your computer, though, it'll create a new file...and if you upgrade your phone to the next iPhone, the location tracking history goes with it."

The iPhone is a wonderful little device that singlehandedly started the smartphone revolution. I myself have an iPod Touch that I simply cannot do without (the iPod Touch doesn't seem to have this data-gathering problem, simply because it does not use cell towers).

But this kind of invasion of privacy is extremely insidious—especially when you take into account that besides the millions of iPhones already sold by AT&T, Verizon alone sold 2.2 million more in the first two months of the iPhone being available on their service.

The thing is, that's 2.2 million more people being tracked by their own cell phones. Something is very wrong here, and Apple needs to come clean and make it right.

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

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

SCIENCE MATTERS

Myths about renewable energy help keep USA addicted to foreign oil

Rising gasoline prices pose a threat to our economy and switching to renewable power sources holds potential economic benefits. So why don't we make the switch?

Oil Company lobbying in Congress has a lot to do with it. However, dependence on imported oil is one of the greatest threats this country faces, to both our prosperity and to our national security.

Energy independence should be the goal of all Americans, regardless of political stripe. Yet the idea that solutions have to meet a politically-correct standard of not acknowledging the reality of global warming, the finite nature of oil and the true costs of dependence on fossil fuels are holding us back.

"Drill, baby, drill" cannot solve this, as extracting the last drops of American oil will not permanently bring down prices of an ever-scarcer resource. And the costs of doing so are high.

One barrier to action is the minority of the American people who a) do not think climate change is taking place, b) think human action has nothing to do with it and/or c) think climate change will do little to change their lives, the livability of the planet or is something we can deal with at some later date. The science overwhelmingly says otherwise. The majority of Americans, to say nothing of the rest of the world, accepts the scientific evidence.

Public pressure can change this situation, if members of the public outraged over high

gas prices. Economists worried about the de-stabilizing effects of those high prices, scientists and citizens worried about the closing window of opportunity to moderate climate change call come together.

What stops that from happening? Myths about renewable power are one of the barriers. Some people think that nothing has changed for solar and wind power since the 1970s. In fact, a lot has changed and these solutions are already being used in other countries. Hydroelectric power no longer means big dams. Small hydropower requires no dam and uses technology available off the shelf.

An injection of reality is needed. Solutions to energy independence abound for this country but require us to not take a rigid view of only employing solutions of the past and doing things as we always have.

Many solutions are ready now or only lack economies of scale to be put in place.

Plug-in electric cars are not sluggish (the Tesla goes 0 to 60 in 3.9 seconds) or underpowered. They do have challenges with range and battery capacity, but that will improve under market pressures. Plug-in electric cars run for the equivalent of less than \$3 a gallon. The equivalent for the still much more experimental hydrogen car is over \$10.

Opponents of electric cars like to cite the "longer tail pipe" issue of running a car on electricity from a coal-



Cate Marquis

fired power plant, generating carbon emissions and pollutants. The solution is to re-think power generation. A decentralized, mixed power generation system can replace coal, although no one solution is a one-to-one replacement for coal-fired power plants.

Almost all renewable power solutions have a wonderful advantage. Their costs are upfront, in construction. Sun, wind or water energy then is free.

Keeping a narrow-minded focus on a solution that will replace big centralized coal-fired power plants and the gasoline engine keeping us from seeing solutions. We have faced this kind of big shift in power before, as we replaced horses with cars and steam with electricity. Openness to new energy ideas has potential benefits, but being behind the curve on this can have very serious consequences both for our economy and for a livable planet.

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

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Sex without love may still be sex...but it is not as good

"Where have all the good men gone, and where are all the gods?" Sure, this may be a line from a song straight out of the 90s, but honestly, it applies as much now as it did then, if not more so. Furthermore, it has gotten to a point where not only women should be asking this question, but men as well (with slight modifications to the lyrics in some instances, and, in others, the lyrics may stay just as they are).

This world prospers on the concept of instant gratification. It is becoming increasingly difficult for those who are truly looking for a relationship, truly looking for dedication and open, honest love, to find anything even slightly resembling what they pursue. After all, society says to have sex, have it often and have it with as many people as one possibly can. So, in this society, why would anybody want to be a "good man," much less somebody worthy of being called a "god" by their partner?

This style of life emerged from the conquering, insinuating mindset which capitalism in general brings about. Capitalism says that people need to do everything in their power to gather as many possessions as possible. Somehow, in the past hundred years, it has become more and more common (as it was a practice prior to this time, and even prior to capi-

talism) to view sexual "conquests" as material possessions. Men and women alike brag of their many sexual endeavors and the more physically attractive, often mentally insignificant individuals one can "acquire" for their portfolio, the more respected one is amongst their peers.

This is absolutely despicable. There was once a time when courting a woman meant more than trying to get in her pants, and vice versa. There was once a time when women respected the men who attempted to care for them and did not abandon them the moment a more monetarily-proficient option came into view. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence, but, again, this is a view modern society seems to misunderstand. Sometimes, true happiness is acquired not by conquering everything around oneself, but by finding happiness with somebody who will truly care for eternity. What a lost concept on modern generations.

Kids are having sex at younger and younger ages. There is a strong disconnect between the physicality of sex and the emotional aspects it is meant to require. Sex is nothing more than sex now. Why should anybody commit themselves to a single person when sex can be gotten in any dark dive of a bar on any given night? Why in-



Matthew B. Poposky

deed.

Today's generations are setting themselves up to birth children who will know nothing of love or commitment. Children who will see their roots, and believe that sex should not have a personal attachment, that it should be nothing more than a physical urge which is to be satisfied at any given time, with anybody who will spread their legs.

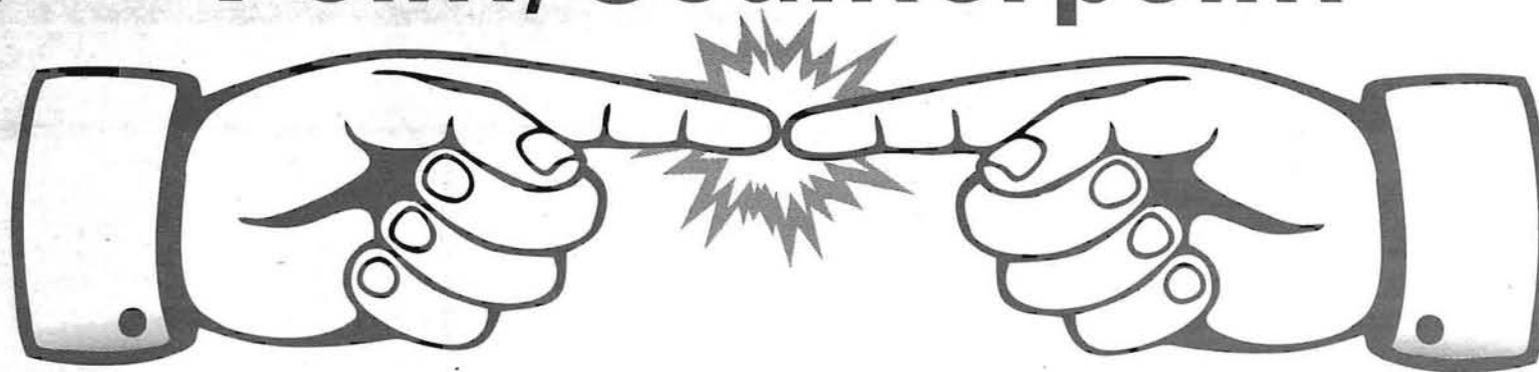
Wise up, kids. Look at the example this is setting for future generations, and maybe consider taking a step back and trying to find somebody truly worth the time. Try finding somebody truly worth the wait. Believe it or not, sex is actually exponentially more satisfying when with a partner with which a caring bond is shared. Consider this for a moment the next time a random hottie passes the bar.

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

www.thecurrent-online.com

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

Point/Counterpoint



Should drug companies receive tax cuts?

Big Pharma does not need tax cuts, just reality check

During the huge debate over health care reform, the Obama administration cut a deal with the pharmaceutical companies that would cut expected costs for prescription drugs for seniors and other taxpayers by roughly 80 billion dollars.

On the surface, that does not sound like a bad thing.

However, when faced with further scrutiny, it starts to look like a stinker.

In return for agreeing to these cuts, Big Pharma wrangled a promise from the White House to oppose any and all future efforts by Congress to either use their influence to drive down prescription drug costs or to import cheaper drugs from Canada.

In addition, while Big Pharma has agreed to these substantial cuts, they have firmly rejected cutting more than their promised \$80 billion.

So, cuts to drug costs are fine, but only if they come on the pharmaceutical companies' terms, and only cut by the amount that those companies are comfortable with.

That is a bitter pill for the American taxpayer to be forced to swallow, espe-

cially those who are forced to rely on these companies' products for their continued health and well-being.

It is not as if these companies are hurting for cash, either; in fact, Big Pharma is doing better than ever.

Last year, over \$300 billion was spent on prescription drugs alone in this country, and pharmaceutical profits over the past few years have either held steady or increased.

When he was elected, President Obama not only promised massive health-care reform, but said that reform would be transparent.

The details of this deal seem to indicate that the process was anything but transparent; what we know of this deal comes not from a White House release.

It comes from from a White House staffer close enough to the negotiations to have an internally circulated memo detailing just what Big Pharma and the White House got and gave up in their closed-door negotiations.

This staffer then leaked the memo to a health-care lobbyist in Washington. When the memo was leaked,

both the White House and pharmaceutical reps tried to cover their tracks with tactics such as attacking the credibility of the source or flat-out denying that a deal was made.

The President is, at the very least, breaking one of his core campaign promises in how he has dealt with this situation; this cloak-and-dagger way of getting things done is something we might have expected from our last President, something that many of us hoped this President would avoid.

Speaking of President Bush, it is also worth noting that a similar deal was made under his administration, when Bush and the Republicans were working on legislation for Medicare's coverage of new drug purchases.

At the time, Democrats in Congress dismissed it as both corrupt and wasteful. Given that Obama's acts seem to directly contravene several of his campaign promises, it comes off even worse than the Bush-era deal.

Obama ought to serve his electors, rather than profit-hungry corporations.

Drug companies need tax cuts to keep prices low, medicine cheap

Complain, complain, complain. It seems this is all the people of America are capable of doing.

Somebody else gets a tax cut, and the citizens of the state complain that they want wider-spread breaks.

Breaks for everybody would be fantastic, would they not? Well, that is not the way this nation works.

Tax breaks are given to those who truly need them in this nation, not those who manage to get by just fine on their own.

In this particular case, Obama's administration is giving a tax cut to the big drug companies of the nation. For some reason, American citizens are, as usual, taking offense to this.

Think about it, people: the drug companies provide the medications which millions of Americans rely upon on a daily basis.

They also operate in debt most of the time, and thus, are sometimes incapable of providing the services the nation requires.

Giving tax breaks to drug companies will allow the

prices of essential medications to drop dramatically, which will then lead to further availability of services such as Medicare and Medicaid to the citizens of this fine nation.

So, why do citizens continue complaining about tax cuts to large corporations such as this?

The citizens of the United States simply seem to believe that everything ought to be given to them for free, and that large corporations deserve to pay the price for any complication which arises.

Frankly, not all the problems of the United States are the responsibility of the corporations, nor are they responsibility of the rich.

They are problems which involve the entire nation, and sometimes, it is essential for the "common man" to pay his debt to the nation, as well, and allow the larger, more well-off to have a break so that essential services can continue to be provided at affordable prices.

Obama understands this, and thus, his administration has decided to supply a tax

break to the drug companies which provide healthcare options to the meek, to those incapable of buying these benefits by themselves.

Sometimes, to help the greater good, it is essential to go outside the realm of approval from the citizens.

The citizens of any nation can be wrong about what is in their best interest, and this is just as true for America as any other.

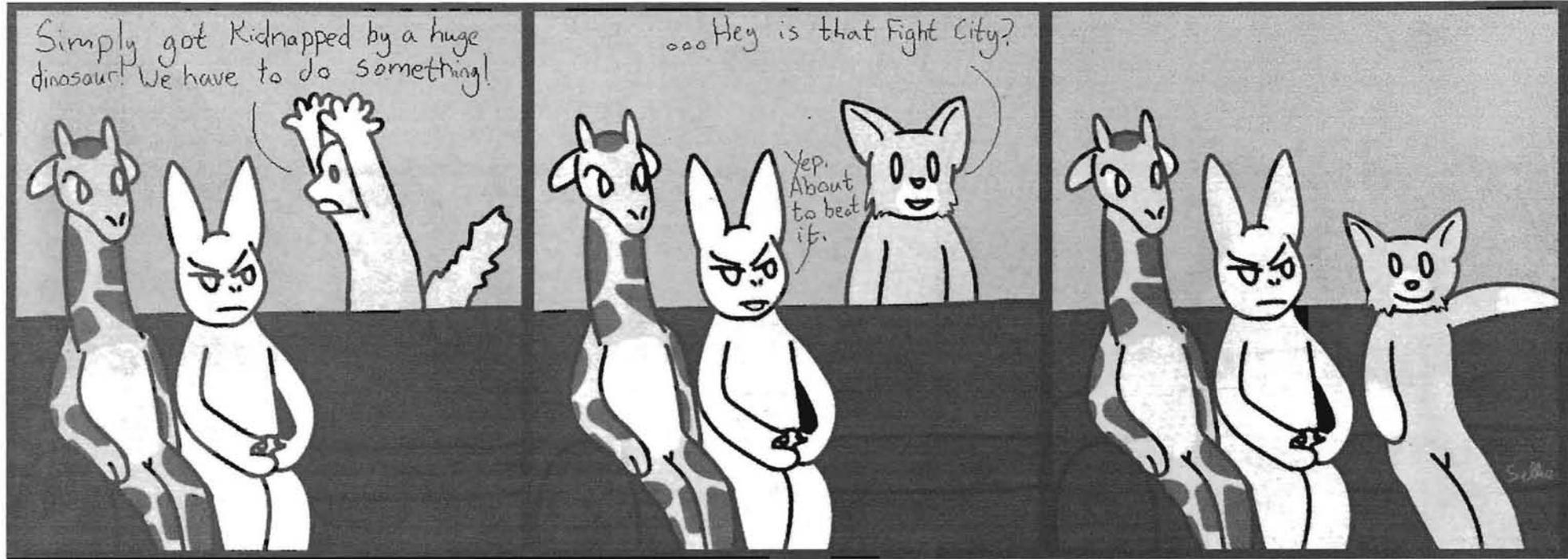
If Americans are truly angered by this, perhaps they should provide a better alternative to providing a tax cut to the drug companies.

Rather than simply complaining, perhaps American citizens should attempt to make true changes, those which would allow the world they wish to live in to truly exist.

Obama and his administration are simply doing what they deem best in order to guarantee that drug companies in this country do not suffer from complete and utter financial collapse, so that Americans can continue being given health benefits.

Comics & Puzzles

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



**WHAT DO YOU
THINK?**

**Let us know at
www.thecurrent-online.com**

A SPECIAL EXHIBITION

CLIMATE CHANGE

Organized by the AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FINAL WEEKS

Upcoming FREE events:

Save the Frogs Day

Learn about international amphibian conservation efforts through hands-on activities.

Friday, April 29, 9:30am - 4:30pm

AlgaePalooza

Find out how algae might be the next source of biofuel and part of our new energy future.

Saturday, May 7, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Examine one of the most urgent scientific and social issues of the 21st century.

Admission to this exhibition is FREE.

