

The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

MARCH 14, 2011

VOL. 44;

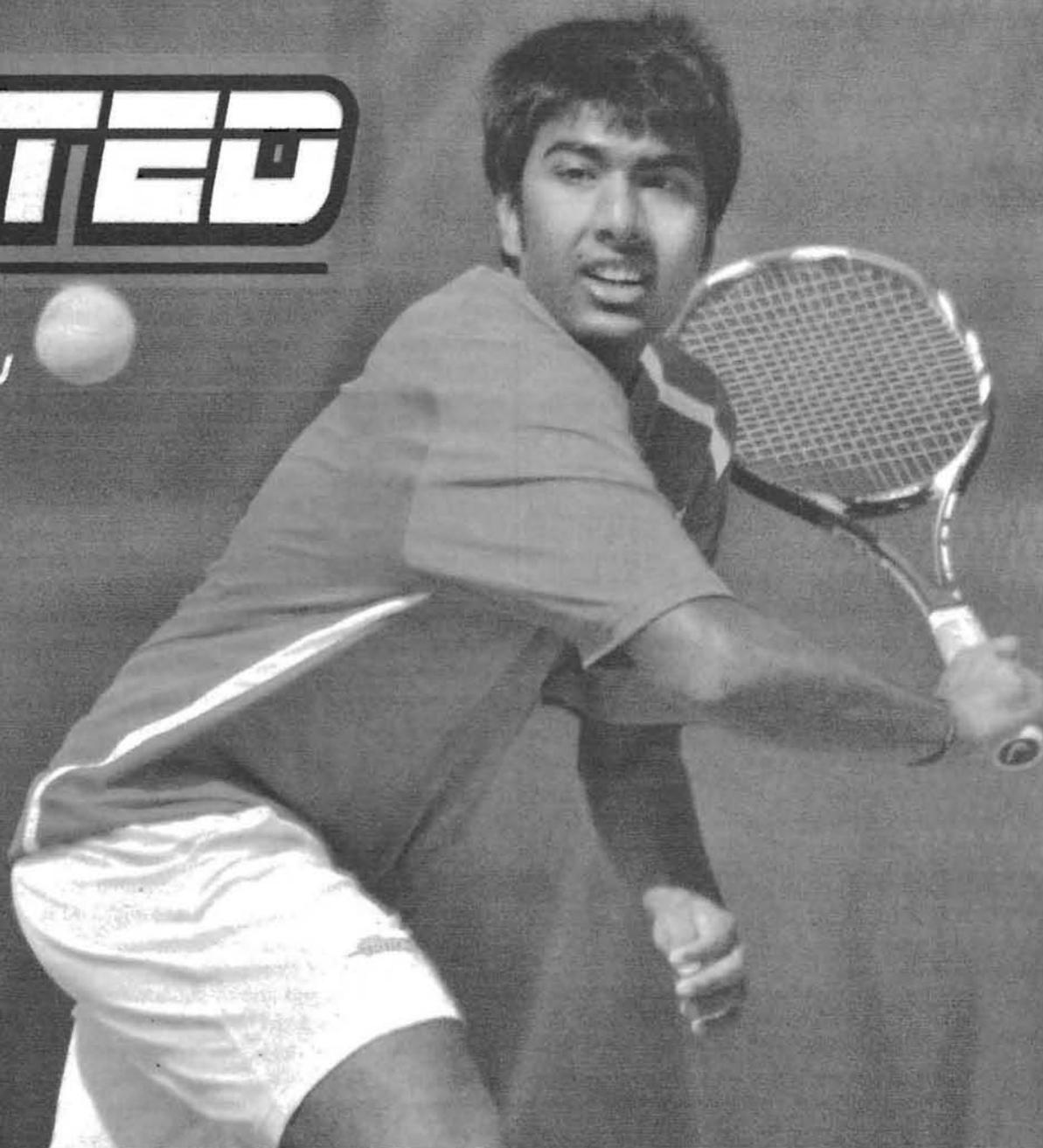
ISSUE 1340

SWATTED

MEN'S TENNIS TAKES A
BEATING AGAINST NWMSU



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The Current

VOL. 44, ISSUE 1340
WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

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AFFILIATIONS



News

UMSL Police and ITS crack down on computer thieves

A campus initiative to strengthen IT security needs the input of concerned students and faculty

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

A recent wave of technological theft is threatening to undermine Information Technology Services' goal of providing University of Missouri-St. Louis students with convenient, campus-wide computer access. To combat this trend, the UMSL Police Department and ITS are launching a collaborative investigation of the recent thefts with the hope of finding the individuals responsible.

Last week, a mass email which outlined the situation was sent to all UMSL students and faculty on behalf of Lieutenant John Schupp of the UMSL Police Department.

Schupp was unable to provide an exact estimate of the monetary damages caused by the thefts but stated that the UMSL police force was chiefly concerned with computer components and parts taken from ITS labs, university classrooms and the public kiosks throughout the Millennium Student Center.

Associate Vice Chancellor of ITS Operations Lawrence Frederick said that the stolen computer systems numbered five desktops, three from classrooms and two from kiosks.

According to Schupp, this is not the first time that ITS has encountered thefts of university property. "About three years ago, our campus and several others in the area experienced the theft of overhead projectors, mostly from classrooms," Lt. Schupp said. "We were able to make arrests in those cases, not anyone affiliated with UMSL, and they were convicted."

In the interest of finding the perpetrators responsible for the current thefts and preventing any future ones as well, the campus police and ITS are focusing on strengthening the police presence in ITS facilities and the security of the computers themselves. "We are stepping up patrols in the concerned areas and working with ITS on preventive measures," Schupp said.

The campus police are counting on the contributions of UMSL students and faculty to ensure a successful investi-

gation and improve the security of the university's ITS facilities. Due to the level of discretion required for criminal investigation, Schupp could not divulge any information concerning potential suspects or leads, but he encouraged any individual with information relevant to the thefts to contact the UMSL Police Department.

"As I stated in the campus-wide email, we are asking that everyone be our eyes and ears," Schupp said. "Anyone seen tampering with a computer or component should call the police at 5155 immediately."

As with any police force, college campus or otherwise, the UMSL Police Department relies on the input of witnesses in their investigations. Lt. Schupp stresses that the campus police will keep the identity of witnesses protected and do not require that callers disclose their identity or personal information.

"I think some people are reluctant to call us because they aren't sure of what they are suspicious of," Schupp said. "I encourage everyone to call us and let us be the judge. It is alright to remain anonymous."

"Note that these were computers paid for by the Information Technology Fee, so they are your computers, so to speak," Frederick said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

WEATHER

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Panel discusses the high cost of low quality loans

UMSL professor highlights discussion on local banking woes

JEREMY ZSCHAU
Staff Writer

The Community Partnership series of seminars at the University of Missouri-St. Louis continued on Tuesday when a group of five panelists led by Todd Swanstrom, an E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Community Collaboration at UMSL, held a discussion entitled "Fair Access to Financial Services: What is the Problem and What Can We Do About It?"

Other panelists were Mira Tanna and Elisabeth Risch of the Metro St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity; Eddie G. Davis, of the Center for Acceleration of African-American Business; and Ed Wartts, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The cornerstone of the seminar was Risch and Tanna's presentation of a report published by the Equal Opportunity Housing Opportunity Council entitled, "Redlined: A Fair Lending Analysis of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area." Redlin-

ing is defined as "a discriminatory practice by which banks, insurance companies, etc., refuse or limit loans, mortgages, insurance, etc., within specific geographic areas, especially inner-city neighborhoods."

to areas with a predominantly African-American population (defined in the report as 80 percent or higher) decreased by 68 percent, and loans to all low-income households in the same time frame declined by 60 percent. In 2009 only 4.73 percent of loans went to African-Americans, despite the fact that they make up 17 percent of all households in the area. Meanwhile, loans to Caucasians and high-income earners actually increased in this time period, by 22 percent and 46 percent respectively.

"This long history still weighs upon us," Swanstrom said. Despite the efforts of professionals in the banking industry and government organizations, as well as organizations such as St. Louis Equal Housing and Community Reinvestment Alliance (SLEHCRA), which promotes the Community Reinvestment Act-mandating investment in low-income and minority communities, old practices die hard.

"It's going to take a different way of thinking," Clifton Berry, principal of Berry Advisors LLC and a guest at Tuesday's seminar, said.

Overall, reception to the seminar was very positive. Galen

Gondolfi, Chief Communications officer of Justine Petersen lending company, believed the discussion was a constructive one. "I enjoyed the call to action," he said of Berry's remarks and those of other audience members.

Ann Estes, of Clearpoint Credit Counseling, agreed. "I thought it was very helpful," she said. "[There were] some good ideas on collaboration between lenders and non-profits."

While, as the presentation proved, the financial landscape for minorities and the poor is less than ideal, the report and the remarks of the presenters and audience members make it clear that the financial industry is, by and large, doing more and more to address this continuing disparity in economic opportunities.

Although redlining practices were prohibited by the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the report shows that the effects of those policies are still seen today. Even now, minorities and the poor have very limited access to banking services; seven zip codes in the city and in St. Louis County, all of which have a majority African-American population, have no full service bank branches.

This deficiency only made it more difficult for minority and poor households to get a loan. Between 2007 and 2009, loans

The UNDERCURRENT

by Zheng Zhang

"What is your favorite Youtube video?"



"My favorite Youtube video is Dejan Tubic - Lady gaga Telephone (Dance)"

Zakia Parris
Education
Sophomore



"The Bad Romance Music Video."

Gerry Xin
Finance
Senior



"I just watched too much of them, hard to decide which one I like best."

Siyun Zhang
Communication
Freshmen

"Fox 2 News reporter calls magazine 'government waste'"

- From issue 1337

"46 percent of respondents reported that the magazine 'improved my opinion' of UMSL." Take away the spin and that line actually says "54% reported that the magazine DIDN'T improve my opinion of UMSL". Maybe it is not waste, but you'd have to agree that Elliott Davis has done a great service by raising awareness to some in the community about how their \$ is being spent, regardless of it being waste or not. As a university employee, in the last year my dept.'s budget was cut to the point that we had to buy ineffective whiteboard markers that didn't work for all the classrooms, which negatively impacted instructor effectiveness, as relayed by the faculty. Yet we can spend \$44k on a glossy PR mag?

-Robert M.

“It's going to take a different way of thinking.”
-Clifton Berry

UMSL professor publishes forecloser report

“Resilience in the Face of Foreclosure: Lessons from Local and Regional Practice.”

MINHO JUNG
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Todd Swanstrom, Des Lee endowed professor in community collaboration and public policy administration at University of Missouri-St. Louis, wrote a research report, “Resilience in the Face of Foreclosure: Lessons from Local and Regional Practice.”

The report deals with issues of foreclosed and vacant properties around the nation, which has been pervasive since the deregulations on housing loans were implemented.

“I started research on this topic as a part of a national network called Building Resilient Regions Network which is sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation,” Swanstrom said. “This report was written with the National League of Cities. We had a meeting at Washington D.C. with six scholars from different cities. And we had two practitioners from every one of those metropolitan areas. [At the meeting,] we talked about what is the problem like [and] what can we do locally to re-

spond to it.” According to the report, many indicators suggest that foreclosures in 2011 will meet or exceed those noted in the record-setting year of 2010. The costs of foreclosure to locals and to the entire nation have been devastating.

“Nationwide, the problem is still severe. It has been a serious crisis because it caused the financial meltdown and economic recession. In fact, it really is a global recession,” Swanstrom said. “The second thing is that it has local impact. It impacts neighborhoods. It has caused a huge drop in property values. [Also,] it has forced people out of their homes. Children get pulled out of school. There is a high crime [rate because of that.]”

St. Louis has suffered foreclosure problems since the St. Louis region set the record on the highest level of foreclosures in 2008. The foreclosure rate of St. Louis County was at an all-time high in 2010.

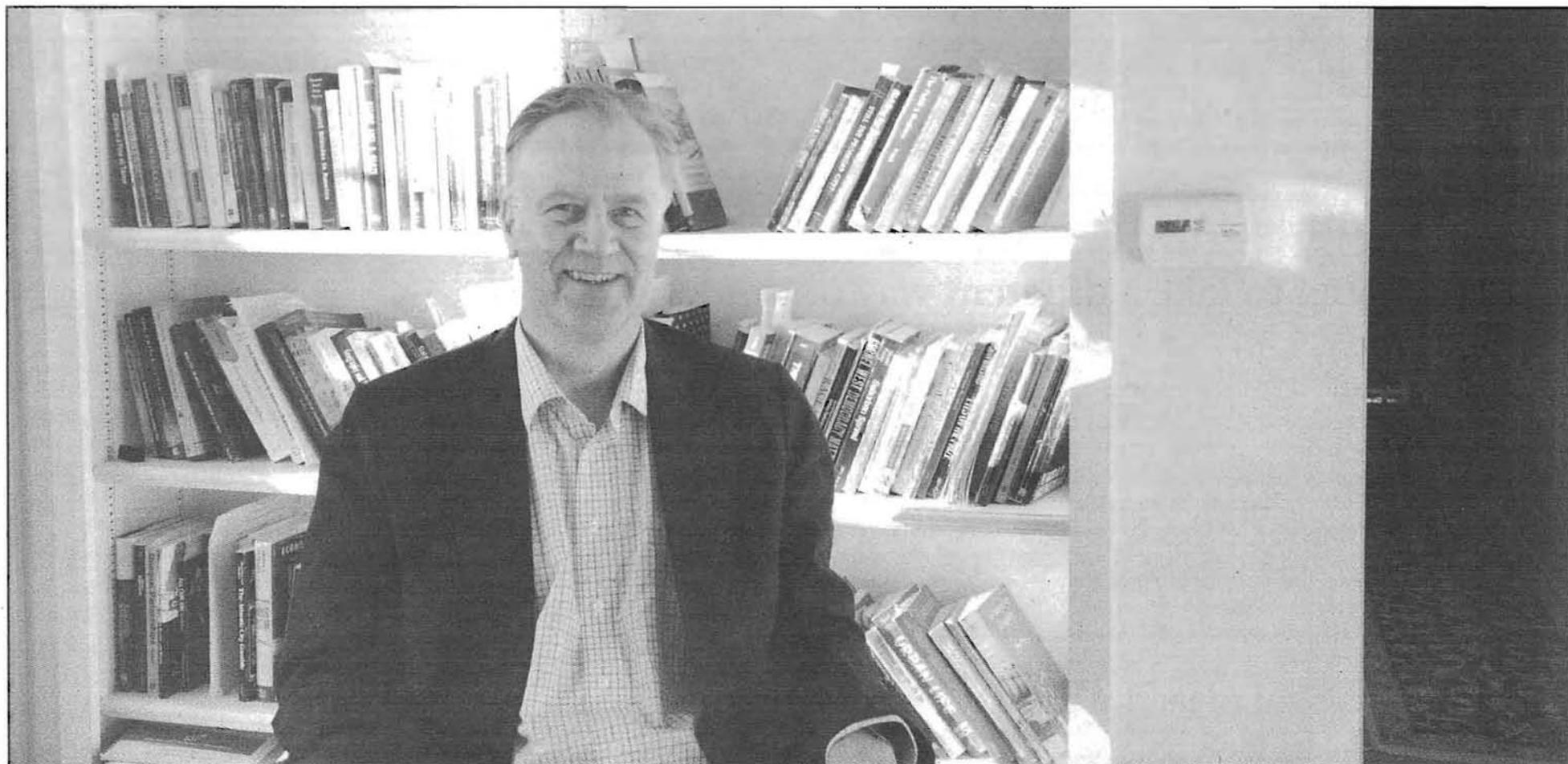
Deregulation of the mortgage lenders has been pointed out as one of the causes. Deregulation made it possible for mortgage lenders to offer the deceptive housing financing to con-

sumers who cannot afford it. In addition to reinforcing regulations on foreclosures, the report suggests mediation between lenders and borrowers as a solution which can be beneficial for both parties.

“The most important thing will be for the federal government to regulate mortgage industries so [that] we don’t have predatory lending epidemic again. The first thing we need is federal regulations to make sure we don’t have an unregulated market that has all these predatory loans. [Also, locally,] for example, we have a very fast foreclosure process in Missouri. We can lengthen it. That will make it easier to modify and avoid the foreclosure” Swanstrom said.

“Finally, one [other thing] we could do is mediation. That means between the servicers and borrowers, they go before a mediator who suggests solutions. That could be a win for the mortgage lenders and borrowers.”

Another Swanstrom article about the influence of federal laws on local responses to foreclosures will be published this summer.



Todd Swanstrom, professor of political science, in his University City study.

SAMUEL J. SURGENER / THE CURRENT

Sports



Andreas Hammar, undecided, sophomore, plays in a doubles match against Northwest Missouri State.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Men's tennis tries to swat nationally ranked NWMSU

Men's tennis loses first spring meet of the season

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's tennis team lost its first team meet of the season Saturday afternoon at the UMSL tennis courts when the Tritons suffered an 8-1 match loss to Northwest Missouri State.

The Bearcats, who came into Saturday's matchup ranked No. 19 in the nation, dominated the competition, losing just two sets against the Tritons.

UMSL had to give up two wins by forfeit, but even in actual competitive matches, the Tritons could not get much done against Northwest Missouri.

The day began with doubles matches, which the teams split. Northwest Missouri's No. 1 team of Malcolm Harrison and Vijit Sehgal grabbed a quick 8-4 win over UMSL's top team of Tim Bryant, senior, accounting, and Chetan Panditi, freshman, undecided.

But Triton No. 2 squad, Daniel Anthony, senior, management information systems, and Andreas Hammar, sophomore, undecided, evened the match up with a spirited 8-6 win over the Bearcats No. 2 ranked Giovanni Auricchio and Phillip Hultquist.

The Tritons had to take a default loss at No. 3 doubles because they did not have enough healthy players to complete a third team. That match loss gave Northwest Missouri a 2-1 edge heading into the singles matches.

The Bearcats dominated the singles competition, winning all five head-to-head matches, and claiming a sixth win because UMSL did not have enough healthy players to compete in a sixth singles match.

Northwest Missouri's Harrison took an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over Triton No. 1 Ham-

mar, and Bearcat teammates Hultquist, Sehgal and Daniel Quesada also earned straight set wins over UMSL's Bryant, Anthony and Felipe Naranjo, sophomore, international business.

The lone UMSL player who was able to push his match to a third set was Panditi, who won the opening set of his singles match against Northwest Missouri's Calvin Patterson, but lost the second and third sets in a 6-7, 6-4, 10-7 loss.

The Tritons hope to have a full squad available when they return to the courts on Tuesday, March 15, for another home team meet against Lindenwood-Belleville. The matches begin that day at 3 p.m., and will also be played at the UMSL tennis courts.

Tuesday's meet against the Lynx will be the second in a string of six home meets for the Tritons.

On Friday, March 18, UMSL will host a meet against cross-town rival and NCAA Division III competitor Webster University.

Then next Sunday, March 20, the Tritons will host another NCAA Division III opponent, Carroll College.

UMSL will close out its three-week long home-stand with back-to-back matches against two other local schools. On Tuesday, March 22, the Tritons will host NCAA Division I Saint Louis University, then the following day, Wednesday, March 23, UMSL will host current NAIA competitor and 2013 Great Lakes Valley Conference new member McKendree University.

The matchup with SLU will also be at the UMSL tennis courts but the showdown with future conference foe McKendree will be held at the Dwight Davis Tennis Center in Forest Park.

“The Bearcats dominated the singles.”

Women's tennis wins 2 of 3 doubles matches

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's tennis team fared a little better than the men's team did in their matchup against Northwest Missouri State, at the UMSL Tennis Courts last Saturday morning. Unfortunately though, like the men, the Triton women proved no match for the visiting Bearcats, who dominated the singles competition and claimed a 6-3 match win over UMSL.

The day began on a high note for the Tritons, as they won two of the three doubles matches to start the day's action. UMSL's No. 1 doubles team of Pujitha Bandi, junior, business, and Louisa Werner, freshman, business administration, won a thrilling 8-6 match over Northwest Missouri's top team Erika Leston and Alexis Bartek. The same occurred for the Tritons No. 2 doubles team as well, as Katie Rynkiewich, junior, anthropology, and Leticia Garcia, junior, information systems,

knocked off Northwest Missouri's Leslee Feldhaus and Emily Hoffman by an 8-6 count. The Bearcats managed to avoid the sweep at No. 3 doubles, as Sureena Weir and Alison Wulff defeated UMSL's No. 3 pair Kristiana Lazarova, sophomore, nursing, and Danielle Henkel, freshman, biology, 8-4.

Following the doubles competition, the teams took an intermission, and the Tritons seemed poised to pick up their first meet victory of the spring.

But Northwest Missouri head coach Mark Rosewell must have said something particularly stirring to fire up his troops, who stormed back against UMSL to win five of the six singles matches to claim the meet victory.

UMSL's Rynkiewich did manage to push her match against Northwest Missouri's Rocio Fernandez to a third set. But she could never really force Fernandez to play her game, and eventually lost the match 10-8.

The team loss was the third of the spring for the Tritons. But they will get their chance to right the ship this coming

Tuesday, March 15, when Lindenwood-Belleville will visit the UMSL campus for a meet that begins at 3 p.m. Later this week, on Friday, March 18, the Tritons will host NCAA Division III foe and cross-town rival Webster University at the UMSL Tennis Courts.

The festivities that day will also begin at 3 p.m. The home tennis in March will not end there for the Tritons, who will host two more team meets before taking a spring break trip through Alabama. Next Wednesday, March 23, UMSL will host another area rival when McKendree University travels across the Mississippi River to take on the Tritons. That day though, the tennis action will take place at the Dwight Davis Tennis Center in Forest Park.

UMSL's final home match of the early spring will be Friday, March 25, when the Tritons will host the Concordia University (Neb.) at the UMSL Tennis Courts at 10 a.m.

Softball, Women's Basketball Announces New Signees

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Athletics Department announced recently the signing of several student-athletes who have signed on to become Tritons once they graduate high school this spring.

The list of eight names released by the athletic department, includes three women's basketball players and five women's softball players, who each will be eligible to play for the Tritons during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The three basketball signees include one local woman, Kelsey Sikes of Timberland High School in Wentzville, and two out-of-state players, Alexis Lawrence of Bowling Green High School in Kentucky and Samantha Swarts of Faith Academy of Marble Falls in Texas. Sikes is a 5'10" guard, who averaged 10 points and seven rebounds per game as a junior, while shooting over 40 percent from behind the three-point line.

Lawrence, a 5'7" guard, averaged 14 points, three re-

bounds and 2.5 assists per game as a junior. Last season, she shot a sizzling 52 percent from the floor, and sank 97 three-pointers, including a school record with nine three-pointers made in one game. Swarts, a 6'1" forward, averaged 10 points, seven rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals per game last season. She is also a standout track and field performer, where she qualified for the state championship meet in the discus and shot put. The five softball signees are Brianna Butler of Triad High School in Troy, Ill.; Katie Rutledge of Heritage High School in Broadlands, Ill.; Erica Schwarztrauber of Mascoutah High School; Katie Wood of Freedom High School in California; and Madison Zbaraschuk of Sequim High School in Washington state. Butler is a three-time all-Mississippi Valley Conference selection. As a junior last season, she earned first team all-conference honors at first base and was named to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Belleville News-Democrat all-area teams.

Butler was also selected as a "Top 5 Players to Watch" by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a "Top 10 Players/Pitchers to Watch" by ESPN Rise magazine.

Rutledge is a three-time all-conference selection and a three-time News Gazette all-area selection, who helped her team to conference championships as a sophomore and a junior.

As a junior, she posted a .579 batting average, a .600 on-base percentage and a .711 slugging percentage. Rutledge owns school records for stolen bases in a game (five) and a season (31). She helped her team to conference championships as a sophomore and a junior. Schwarztrauber preps at Mascoutah High School (Ill.) and plays club softball for Black Widows 18U/Midland Magic. Wood is a two-time first team all-league player at Freedom High School (Calif.) at utility and outfield. She is also a three-time scholar-athlete and principal's honor roll selection. Zbaraschuk earned all-league and all-peninsula catcher honors as a junior at Sequim High School (Wash.), while owning a .527 batting average. She also led the team in home runs and runs batted in and was named her team's Offensive Player of the Year.

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The Company from the Alexandra Ballet hold their final pose as they finish an excerpt from the Paquita at the Touhill on Saturday night.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

Alexandra Ballet Company is a bold personality

BALLET

The Alexandra Ballet brought beauty to the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on March 5.

The show was entitled 'Gems of the Ballet' which highlighted audience favorites in the world of ballet such as "Giverny," "Frescoes," and "Graduation Ball" among others. As the audience of friends, families and supporters took their seats, the show started off with two excerpts from the second act of the ballet "Paquita." The excerpts represented the discovery and celebration of one's birthright. Makensie Howe and Dillon Malinski headed the much-appreciated "Grand Pas de Deux" as a pair. Malinski took control of the crowd as he performed his solo with strength and control. His leaps extremely graceful. As seen throughout the rest of the night, he will be a dancer to look out for in future ballet performances. His partner, Howe, was flirtatious and confident in her role, leaving the audience believing that she was incapable of making a mistake.

The next two dances were from the ballet "Frescoes," which

is a Russian fairy tale by P.P. Yershov and the tribute ballet to Claude Monet entitled "Giverny." In this particular ballet, the dance was split into four different movements: "Waterlilies," "Springtime," "Fall Winds" and "Reverence," and included the whole cast. Each dancer's job was to represent the nuance, vigor and delicacy of a flower, a feat they certainly achieved.

"La Fille Mal Gardee Pas de Deux" was one of the best of the night. This ballet, which was based on the romantic-era comedy "The Wayward Daughter" displayed the flirtation and excitement of young love. Howe did not shy away from excessive eyelash fluttering, which surprisingly did not come off as annoying. Instead, it worked to exhibit the character's innocence. Whether it was choreographed or an improvisational decision, it worked.

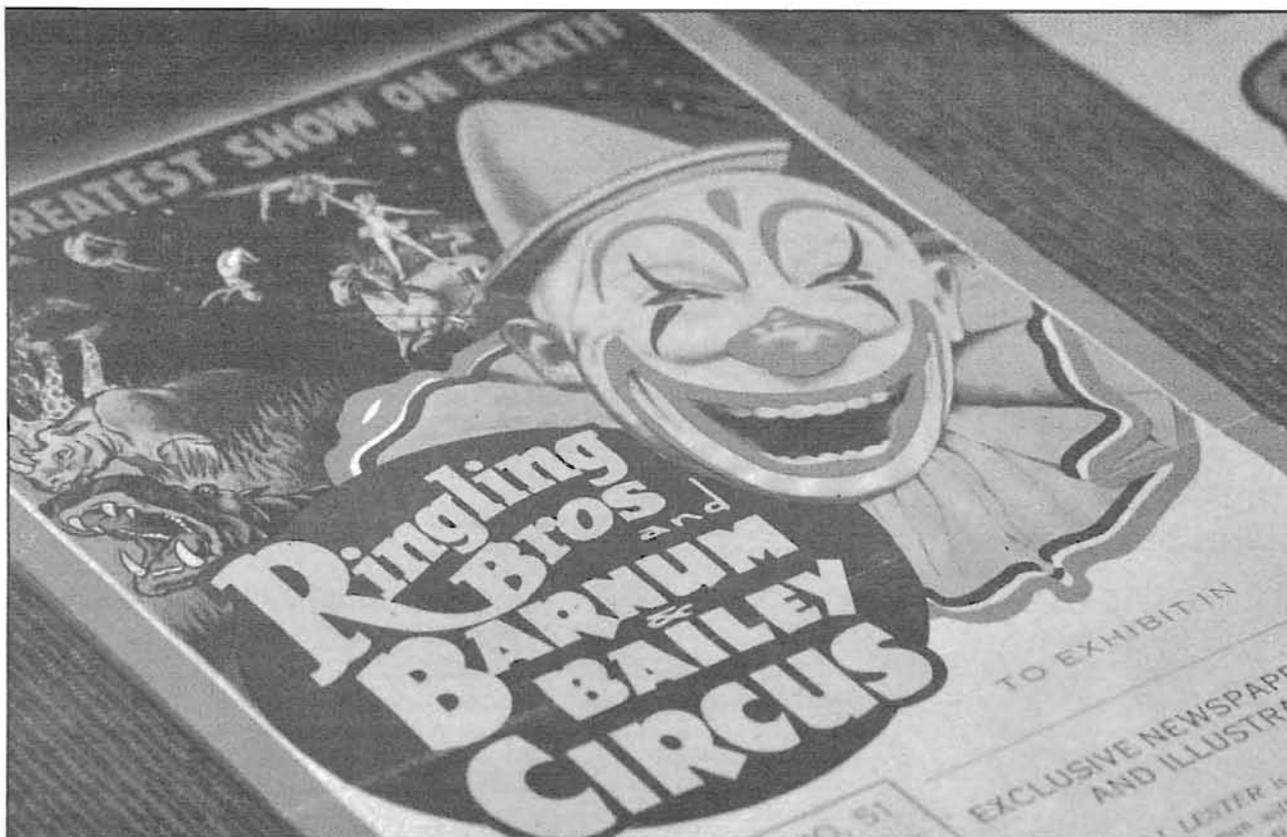
"Graduation Ball," the story of a ball held at an all girl's boarding school in Vienna, Austria, was the crowd's favorite with its comedic acting and the eager schoolgirl in Pippi Long Stocking pigtailed (Catherine Zaegel). This ballet also guest starred Sergey Sergiev as the drummer boy, Octavio Nieto-Jacobo as the General and Hillary Zimmerman as Headmistress. It was a great way to close the show, sending the audience away

laughing.

While the dancers and choreographers had a great part in presenting the show to audiences, attention must not be taken off of the amazing Judith Bonnot who supplied some of the best costuming of the night, from the eye-popping pink dress from "Paquita" to the Claude Monet inspired 'Giverny.' The blue, green, yellow and purple dresses glided across the stage like water, producing a ripple affect. It was an awe-inspiring sight. The audience was speechless. And who could forget the bright dress of the young female lover in "La Fille Mal Gardee Pas de Deux." Was it Howe that brought a playful light into the character or could the dress be held responsible? Bonnot is certainly not afraid to showcase the female form in her costumes. A little girl playing dress-up would be delighted to own such a costume.

Overall, it was a delightful show and sight. It showcased the preparation the Alexandra Ballet goes through in order to entertain with the best of their abilities.

A - Ashley Atkins



The exhibit "The Magic Speed of Dreams: Life in the American Circus" displays circus memorabilia including toys, outfits, posters and publications.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Circus memorabilia exhibit rekindles magic of an earlier era

EXHIBITION

The word "circus" still conjures up images of glitter and magic. In an era before mass media entertainment, "the circus is coming to town" was a promise of magical, exotic entertainment to people in cities and towns all across America.

The magic of circuses, and the mundane behind the magic, are the subjects of "The Magic Speed of Dreams: Life in the American Circus 1900-1956," an exhibit of classic circus artifacts currently on display at the Mercantile Library, located in the lower levels of the campus' Thomas Jefferson Library. St. Louis' historic Mercantile Library, once located downtown, sounds like a collection of dry business records but it has a fascinating, artifact-filled collection about the history of the city of St. Louis.

An exhibit about this important aspect of American cultural history fits right in. "The Magic Speed of Dreams: Life in the American Circus 1900-1956" includes classic circus posters, photographs, props and other artifacts chosen from the Tegge Circus Archives. The massive collection of circus memorabilia belongs to Timothy Tegge, a life-long circus performer born into a circus family, who continues to work as a ringmaster for several American circuses.

Tegge's wife Barbara VanVoorden, associate teaching professor of English at University of Missouri - St. Louis, also comes from a circus family and still performs as a foot juggler. Running away with the circus is an old cliché but circuses were usually family businesses, with generations growing up performing on the road. The exhibit gives a taste of circus performers' lives but focuses more on the travels and essential

elements of a classic circus and how they evolved with time. At the time the exhibit covers, American circuses traveled a circuit of cities by rail and smaller towns by truck. The exhibit highlights important moments of circus history, development of iconic elements that made up classic circuses, how circuses were promoted, spotlights sideshows and menageries and gives a glimpse into the life of performers.

As one descends the stairs into the exhibit, the visitor finds glass and wooden display cases of well-displayed memorabilia - classic posters, photos of performers, circus train toys, an official list of tour dates and cities and a contract for a circus worker. Other cases are filled with historical artifacts such as the sequined costume of a famous acrobat, giant clown shoes and make-up kits and bits of circus rigging.

A highlight is a hand-carved diorama depicting a circus train's arrival in town, displayed to the left as one enters the exhibition. Above the model train, a film loop assembled from years of film footage of circus life plays silently. In the center of the room is a large semi-circular display case filled with posters from several circuses, including Barnum and Bailey and the Ringling Brothers. The posters are arranged to tell the story of how a circus visit was promoted, and the iconic elements of circuses such as classic animal acts, trapeze and acrobats and the role of spectacle and thrills.

A brochure available at the exhibit details the posters and some highlights of the display, along with a circus time-line of the period, circus terms and bits of trivia, along with information on additional resources and on the Tegge archive.

"The Magic Speed of Dreams: Life in the American Circus 1900-1956" will be on display through August 7.

A - Cate Marquis

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, March, 18

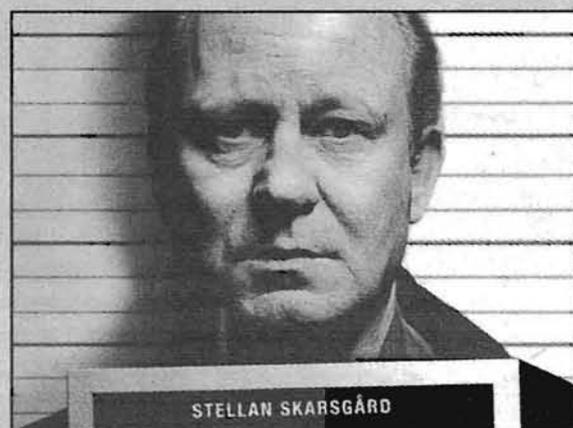
"Paul"

No director Edgar Wright, but "Shaun of the Dead's" Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, plus Seth Rogen, star in this comedy about an alien named Paul who is discovered near Area 51 by two British comic book fans traveling across the U.S. in an RV.



"A Somewhat Gentle Man"

(Plaza Frontenac only) - A crowd-pleaser hit at the Berlin International Film Festival 2010, this Norwegian crime comedy is a dryly-humorous tale starring Stellan Skarsgård as a gangster fresh out of prison who would rather live a quiet life except his old crime boss wants to put him back to work in his old business.



"Lincoln Lawyer"

Matthew McConaughey stars as a defense lawyer who works out of his Lincoln Town Car in a legal thriller adapted from a story by Michael Connelly. Star-studded cast includes Marisa Tomei, Ryan Phillippe, William H. Macy, Josh Lucas, John Leguizamo and Michael Pena.



“Red Riding Hood” easily clears out a crowd



Amanda Seyfried as Valerie in Warner Bros. Pictures' fantasy thriller "Red Riding Hood".

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

MOVIES

An early screening of "Red Riding Hood" leaves audiences stunned after they witness the unmerciful annihilation of a fairytale favorite.

The Grimm Brothers may be dead, but that does not mean their legacy should be mangled with a movie that is guaranteed a number-one box-office spot for its first week in theaters. Think about what a poor college student can do with an extra \$10 on spring break.

A film managed by "Twilight" director, Catherine Hardwicke, "Red Riding Hood" is focused on the life of a woodcutter's daughter (Amanda Seyfried) and her lustful relationship with a childhood friend (Shiloh Fernandez).

While Seyfried's character spends the majority of the movie complaining about her arranged engagement to her hot fiancé, her town is being destroyed by a wolf.

The romance plot is not so involved that it should prevent some crazy-sick developments in other areas. Grimm's fairy tales are notoriously dark and twisted. Ample opportunity for something a little more meaty right? Wrong. The arrival scene of Solomon (Gary Oldman) was probably the only force driver in a movie that he should not have stooped to be a part of in the first place.

The alluring cinematography of the film was used as a selling point in the previews but the wide shot of the landscape in the beginning of the movie is basically "Twilight" with snow. The crew seemingly had a solution for that problem.

They decided to put a random village smack dab in the center of the forest. Just add a tall dog with fangs and magically a plot appears. But just as a large dog with fangs does not make a wolf, nice camera work and the inclusion of Gary Oldman cannot make a plot.

The idea of another mythological being is introduced in this movie as well, besides a werewolf. Thankfully, it is not the

overused vampire. The writers decided to try something old—school. For those who are disappointed about the exclusion of vampires in this disaster of a film, do not worry. An extreme amount of hair gel was used, because everyone knows that hair gel was widely available in that time period. Yeah, it actually kept the lice away.

What indeed destroyed this film was the lack of storyline. The revelation is so complicated and poorly put together that viewers' heads will hurt as they leave the theater squinty eyed and wondering what just went down. Moviegoers' hard-earned money will be better spent elsewhere.

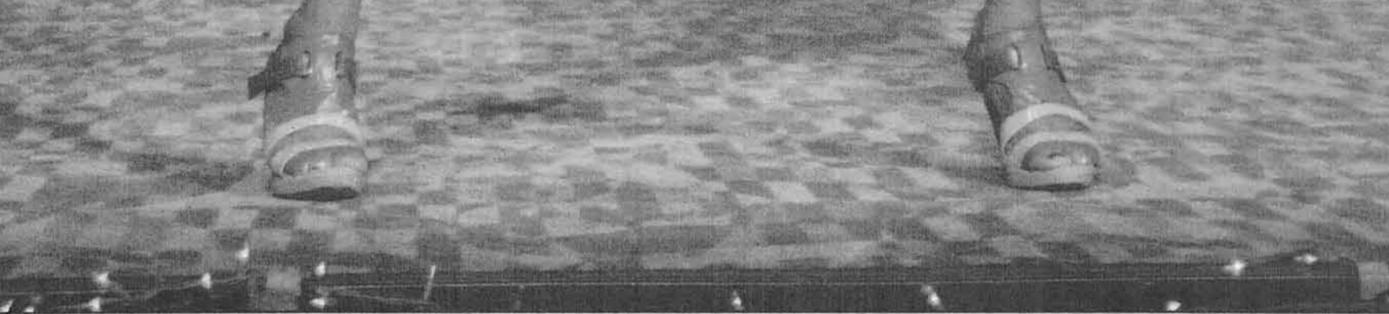
Considering the short length of the original story, Hardwicke and the followers of Hardwicke had an opportunity to explore the unknown and make this a fantastic movie. Instead, they give viewers a lesser version of "Twilight" without vampires and abstinence, but who cares as long as the male lead looks like Robert Pattinson, right?

D -Ashley Atkins

Features



RHA ROCKS THE PILOT HOUSE IN DRAG



During the talent portion of the Mr. and Mrs. Drag Show Competition, Jared Thimes, performing as Sydney Gabor, lip syncs at the Pilot House on Tuesday.

JEN O'HARA
Features Editor

In the not too distant past, a group of people in the Residential Housing Association began one of the most popular traditions at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The sixth annual Mr. and Mrs. RHA Drag Show held last Tuesday had the highest attendance in the history with over 150 people in attendance. The doors had barely opened at 6:30 a. m. before a crowd of 50 people piled in and the rest came in at a steady rate. In fact, people were still entering well into the beginning of the show.

This year's theme was "Call me Mr. Flintstone, I can make your Bedrock," dubbed from a hip-hop song by Lil Wayne. The theme showed up in places as simple as free T-shirts and as part of the question and answer segment. Past performance themes included "Experience the Rainbow" and "Pillsbury Doughboy." "Every year, we kind of come up with an off the wall type of theme to kind of keep people in the spirit of the drag show," Fredreka McGlowen, RHA President, said.

Dieta Pepsi, infamous among the drag scene of UMSL and else where, graced the Pilot House as the host. Pepsi introduced the judges and contestants after contestants made their appearance with a group lip sync and dance to "Call me Mr. Flintstone..." The judges this year were Mitiam Huffman, director of student life; Johnathan Lidgus, director of residential housing; Khalilah Doss, assistant director of Residential Housing; Curt Coonradvice provost for student affairs; and D'Andre Braddix, assistant to the vice provost for student affairs.



Keith Darris, competing as Bellatrix Black, dances and lip syncs during the talent portion of the RHA Mr. and Mrs. Drag Show Competition at the Pilot House on Tuesday.

One by one, the contestants made their way down the middle of the Pilot House. There were six contenders for the crowns. First down the aisle was Iris Dalton as Reecko DeBarge. Following was Mallory Rucker as Jay Aur, Dwayne Clemons as Jazelle, Yasmine Moody as Yayo, Dakota Dancy as Kada Williams, Erika Morris as Pleasure E., Jared Thimes as Sydney Gabor, and Keith Darris as Bellatrix Black. "This year we have eight performers. They practice throughout the year. This is something they love to do. I know most of our performers have been practicing all year," McGlowen said.

Each of the contestants was participating for a either title Mr. RHA or Ms. RHA. Each of them competed in a talent, sports-wear and question and answer section. In addition, when the audience entered, they voted on most photogenic. All of the contestants are students at UMSL. Some of them have previously participated in the annual show. "I only do drag for the Mr. and Mrs. RHA show. This was my second year participating in drag," Morris said. "I might think about doing another drag show, it is so much fun and an overall great experience." At the end of the night, Rucker, playing Jay Aur took home the Mr. RHA crown. At Ruckers side, was Thimes as Sydney Gabor. The most photogenic was given to Reecko DeBarge and Kada Williams and the congeniality crown went to Pleasure E. and Sydney Gabor.

"I think the performances this year blew the previous year's show[s] out of the water. All of the performers took it seriously and took the time to think their performances out thoroughly," Dancy said.



Jared Thimes, competing as Sydney Gabor, wins the RHA Mrs. Drag Show award at the Pilot House on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

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Faculty Profile:

Music professor Barbara Harbach given Visionary Award

MINHO JUNG
Staff Writer

There are many titles attached to Barbara Harbach: composer, orchestrator, organist, harpsichordist, pianist, editor, scholar, author, entrepreneur, director of Women in The Arts and director of music at Little Flower Church.

In addition, she is also a passionate professor of music at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Recently, the Grand Center announced her as this year's Visionary Awards winner, honoring her contribution to the St. Louis community.

The Current: How do you feel about receiving the Visionary Award from the Grand Center?

Barbara Harbach: I am humbled, honored [and] overwhelmed. There are so many wonderful women who have won in the past. I'm just thrilled.

TC: You have many titles that describe you. How do you define your career and yourself?

BH: It is very interesting because my career has evolved over the years. I started out just being a concert organist and harpsichordist. And then, I got very interested in recovering women composers from 18th to 19th centuries.

I would find their music in the British Library. I would

publish [and] record it. I did this for my scholarly activities for many years. Then, I started writing music myself about 1984, and it just blossomed from there. If you had asked me when I was 22-years-old, I would never have thought that I would be doing what I'm doing now.

TC: Do you have any difficulties with having too many jobs?

BH: [Just] not enough time. It's always challenging and fascinating [to have a] career in music.

TC: Have you always had a passion for art? How did your family influence your career?

BH: [Back in college], I wanted to be a performer. [Recovering women composers] was an opportunity for me to bring them to the listening audiences.

Then, I found my own composition voice, and writing skills. My mother was my first piano teacher. I was 4-years-old. I went from there; I took piano lessons. She inspired and encouraged me so much.

TC: How do you like your teaching career at UMSL?

BH: I absolutely am thrilled by my students. They are so good and so bright in music. I sometimes think I learn as much from them as they do from me because they are very bright.

They think out of the box because they are [not] yet contained to one type of thinking. It is a lot of fun. I teach music

composition, orchestration and some history courses.

TC: What do you think is the most important qualification of a good artist?

BH: I think, for one thing, you have to be very proficient in your instrument and [you have to be a] very good communicator.

I think an artist who can communicate the music [is a good artist]. That's what we try to do; be a good a communicator. That is also what I teach students to be.

TC: What is your biggest inspiration?

BH: I have been very inspired by many historical women who have made a difference in the world, [like] Harriet Scott who was married to Dred Scott. They sued their masters for their freedom. They lost their case in [the] Supreme Court. It led to the American Civil War. Yes, I'm very inspired by strong women.

TC: Tell us about your future plans.

BH: I just got back from London where London Philharmonic Orchestra recorded a compact disc of my orchestra works. That will be released in September or October.

That is my big thing. I have several pieces I have been asked to write [for] the next eight months. I have a big schedule to do.



Barbara Harbach University of Missouri - St. Louis music professor

Swing the night away with University Program Board and U Can Dance

MATTHEW B. POPSKY

Opinions Editor

The University Program Board presented students with a unique opportunity last Thursday in the Provincial House's Multi-Purpose Room with free dance lessons for two hours. Starting at 7 p.m., this event taught the art of swing dancing and participants were certainly taken to school in a new way that evening. The studio U Can Dance, of St. Louis, sent two of their instructors to provide these lessons to University of Missouri-St. Louis students. Couple Mary and Stan Collins presented lessons over the course of two hours, typically following a set schedule for presentation of new material.

Gentlemen and ladies lined up across from one another, matching up one-to-one. A new step would be introduced, followed by each pair practicing it in time, without any music. After a couple of tries, ladies would rotate to the left, switching up each group to allow for further practice. As soon as the line had completed rotations and ladies returned to their original partner, it was time to face the music. The selections ranged from Kid Rock to AC/DC and Katy Perry, providing the students present with familiar tunes, rather than more traditional swing music, which may have been entirely unfamiliar. The Collins have been working for U Can Dance for years, and are quite proud of the studio.

"We have group classes open to everybody, all ages. They range from like five to ten dollars, whereas private classes can range from like 35 to 50 dollars, depending on what you want and the age and everything," Mary Collins, dance instructor, U Can Dance, said. U Can Dance has been well-established in the St. Louis area for quite some time, and is located on Adie Road, just east of the intersection between St. Charles Rock Road and I-70. "We're celebrating our 20th anniversary this fall. We're having a big gala in October with the Latin Show Dance Champions. It's going to be a great show," Collins said.

Although the steps may have started out simple at the beginning of the night, the entire routine grew larger and grander as the night progressed. Despite the increasing complexity, however, students were satisfied and excited overall at the end of the night. "I had no prior dance experience since I was like 6-years-old but tonight was awesome. I loved it. I hope it can continue and expand, because I think it's really important to teach people rhythm and beats if they want to dance," Erin Potts, junior, accounting, said.

Some students were left wanting more. "I'm the Administrative Chair with UPB, and was involved with planning the event. It was a group idea, as we all wanted to do a dance lesson, but it was mostly Jared [Thimes'] idea. I wanna learn how to dance more after tonight," Katie Green, junior, education, said. At the end of the night there was one thing on all the participant's minds: would U Can Dance be interested in supplying a regular series of lessons to the UMSL community?

"We'd love to come back. You guys are fun, exciting, and enthusiastic, we don't always see that. I was suggesting we do like a Latin or Ballroom session sometime. Thursdays are usually best for anybody hoping to set something up," Collins said.



Students Nathan Arndt and Courtney Fender at UPB's Swing Dance Night on Thursday in the Provincial House.

SAMUEL J. SURGENER / THE CURRENT

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Muslim radicalization reminiscent of McCarthyism

America has a tendency to lash out against anything it does not understand. This has been done numerous times in the past, with recent occurrences including forceful introduction of democracy in the Middle East following military occupations, and, closer to home, Muslim radicalization trials very reminiscent of the McCarthy-era "Red Scare" trials. Senator Joseph McCarthy, during the Communist scares which arose of the World War era, actively participated in the acts which resulted in millions of Americans being accused of Communistic activity. Several false allegations were made, millions were falsely convicted and the prison system boomed.

Granted, it is important to be proactive in the act of defending oneself. Late action can result in dangerous outcomes, such as death and destruction. However, to overreach in situations such as this is just as bad, if not worse. This situation seems to yet again be bursting onto the scenes in the United States today. As Americans become increasingly terrified of Muslim American citizens and, worse, immigrants from Muslim nations, it is becoming a regular act to not only silently, but actively, discriminate against and accuse one's Muslim neighbors of terrorist activity.

Granted, September 11th was a terrifying day in American history. Thousands of Americans were killed, more were left with holes where a loved one once lived and yet more were called to action to guarantee this did not happen again. Since this time, even more Americans have been lost to the war on terror, leaving even more families absolutely devastated at the losses which are inevitable in a time of war. This is all to be expected. Pain, frustration, and suffering are natural results of the loss of loved ones. However, much as America has done in the past, and still does today, in discriminating against African Americans, Mexicans and leftists due to the acts of a few individuals, so too are they doing to Muslims since the acts of September 11th.

Claiming that everybody who practices Muslim teachings is a potential terrorist runs along the same line as saying everybody who is Christian, or Baptist more specifically, must agree with the actions of radical groups such as the Westboro Baptist Church. It is despicable, and goes against the freedoms granted by the Constitution for freedom of religion. Discrimination based upon anything is disgusting, and it must stop now. Yes, Muslims were involved in the terrorist bombing of the twin tow-

ers on September 11th. Yes, Muslims are involved with radical groups in the Middle East who believe all Americans must die in the name of their God. This does not mean that all Muslims are terrorists. It does not mean all Muslims ought to be put on trial for crimes they have not committed and that, quite frankly, most of them abhor and wish they were not related to simply because they believe in the same basic religious beliefs.

Radicals will always exist, in any group of people. It is an unfortunate side effect of allowing humanity to split off into a great variety of groups. The more variety is allowed, the greater room is seen for radicalization to some and the more tempting radical behaviors become.

However, to disallow the differentiation of humanity is not the answer, either. Rather, humanity needs to consider tolerance and understanding, rather than instant fear and discrimination, as the basis of human interaction. If this is deemed impossible, humanity truly will destroy themselves through fear of their neighbor.

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

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Japanese disaster calls attention to nuclear power

Japan now has more in common with Ukraine than it did a mere four days ago.

Ukraine, of course, is home to the ruins of Chernobyl, the worst nuclear power plant accident ever to occur. Japan's Sendai region is now experiencing a Chernobyl of its own, on a larger scale.

Whereas only one reactor failed in Chernobyl, at least six (as of publication) have failed in Japan.

To put this into perspective, Chernobyl was rated a seven, the highest possible on the International Nuclear Event Scale, or INES. The United States' own accident, Three Mile Island, rated a five.

The crippled reactors at Fukushima have currently been graded a four on INES. The issue is that the situation could easily slide out of control, which means that four could become a five, a six or even God-forbid, a seven.

Proponents of nuclear power have long-touted its safety, its cleanliness, and its lessened environmental impact. But the reality of the situation, as the Sendai earthquake and resulting tsunami have shown, is that it is still an incredibly dangerous technology.

Granted, a nuclear power plant (NPP) is a lot more clean and green than traditional coal-fired power plants. Not relying on fossil fuels for power is a great advantage. Sadly, that advantage is negated by the fact that the fuel for NPPs is uranium, which has to be mined and refined from the

earth a costly, time-consuming and dirty process.

And after that nuclear fuel is spent, it is still radioactive and dangerous. Storing it for the thousands of years it will take for the waste to decay to safe levels takes money, time, and monitoring.

Perhaps the problem with our modern-day NPPs is that they are anything but modern. The Fukushima reactors, for example, were built during the late 1960s. That is 40 years of constant use, wear, and replacement parts. The reactor at Chernobyl was actually newer than the ones at Fukushima, being built about ten years later. That did not stop it from malfunctioning on April 26, 1986, when an explosion and subsequent fire sprayed 50 tons of radioactive material into a massive plume that settled over a million acres of forest, the cities of Chernobyl and Pripyat, and many surrounding countries.

One of the reactors at the Fukushima NPP was so damaged that in order to prevent pressure building up and possibly causing an explosion, radioactive steam was vented from the building into the surrounding atmosphere.

It gets worse. "Radiation levels outside the plant, which had retreated overnight, shot up to 1,204 microsieverts per hour, or over twice Japan's legal limit," according to an article on the New York Times' website. Japanese officials have begun evacuation efforts, as well as distributing potas-



Andrew Seal

sium iodine tablets.

One hydrogen explosion has already occurred in the number one reactor at Fukushima. On Sunday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano warned that the same could occur at the number three reactor: "The possibility that hydrogen is building up in the upper parts of the reactor building cannot be denied. There is a possibility of a hydrogen explosion," he said.

Thankfully, both reactors' steel containment units should withstand any blasts. The number one reactor already has; hopefully if the number three follows suit, it too will be contained.

The situation in Japan is at least being handled better. The ongoing meltdowns at Fukushima were caused by an unforeseen natural disaster instead of the poor oversight and utter incompetence that occurred at Chernobyl.

The ghosts of Chernobyl still haunt the world, warning of the dangers of nuclear power. It is about time they were heard.

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

What do you think?

Let us know at

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