

The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

MARCH 21, 2011

VOL. 44;

ISSUE 1341



'MIKADO'

- A youthful spirit -

BY ASHLEY ATKINS **PAGE 10**

ALSO INSIDE

3 **Global Healthcare**
Susan L. Lang on world health issues

7 **"Marriage of Figaro"**
Classic opera gets turned on its head

13 **Chinese immersion**
Students take part in foreign culture

The Current

VOL. 44, ISSUE 1341
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, Racheal White
 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

UMSL's big marketing push

Increased marketing tries to parlay big accolades into positive perception

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

The cover of the current "Ladue News Magazine" features a group of University of Missouri-St. Louis students posing with the school's mascot and holding signs that proclaim recent accolades the school has received.

The headline reads, "UMSL National Rankings 2011: UMSL's 'Breakout' Year." The cover is emblematic of two things: the fact that UMSL has been gaining respectability and that UMSL's marketing team is now doing something to get the word out.

The facts about UMSL that the marketing department has been trying to spread the word on include an eighth in the nation ranking for UMSL's Master of Arts in Philosophy program and an extremely high rate of job placement for graduates of the nursing program.

"I'm really excited about the quality of the nursing program here," Angela Zangara, a graduate nursing student, said. "But I'm glad that they are trying to let everyone else know about it, too."

During the early months of this year, most of the marketing was geared towards attracting as many people as possible to UMSL Day, which was held March 5. The efforts paid off and 632 parents and potential students signed up for the event, compared to 369 a year ago.

But it was after UMSL Day that the marketing really kicked into high gear.

Recently UMSL has begun airing radio spots aimed at potential students

and their parents, emphasizing the value of an UMSL education. Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Marketing Officer Ronald Gossen said that the commercials reach 77 percent of St. Louis' 18-24 year olds several times a day.

UMSL has also purchased billboards along major commuter routes on both sides of the river. There are currently six billboards in the St. Louis area and one in Illinois. Gossen estimates these billboards are seen by half a million people daily.

The radio and billboard ads will continue throughout the summer and into August. Sprinkled in will also be ads specifically highlighting the Master of Business Administration program which takes advantage of locally headquartered Express Scripts. In conjunction with all the other marketing and recruitment efforts, a new website for the school will launch April 1 as well.

There has also been advertising for explore.UMSL.edu in high school newspapers as well as on Google and Facebook. "We want people to say 'Hey, UMSL is a

really good academic education' because people don't know that," Gossen said.

"We've been sitting here doing all these great things with all these great programs and not telling anyone about it." Gossen expects a 6-7 percent increase in student enrollment applications for fall 2011, but said that will only be the beginning.

"Where this is really going to work is not this fall but next fall, because all those juniors who are making up their minds, we're getting to them now and we're going to see a windfall not this fall but next," Gossen said.

"This fall is going to be great, but next fall is going to be super. It makes us feel good because we know what a good university this is, and we're glad that people are starting to realize it."

Gossen stressed that the better the reputation UMSL has in the community at large, the better it is for people with degrees from UMSL on the hunt for a job.

"If it helps me get into grad school or find a job—I'm super-happy," Tom Manion, junior, liberal studies, said.

“I’m really excited about the quality of the nursing program here.”
-Angela Zangara

WEATHER

MON. 60	TUES. 57	WED. 75	THURS. 76	FRI. 71	SAT. 60	SUN. 48
49	48	58	58	51	40	36



Susan L. Lang, senior VP and chief supply chain officer at Express Scripts, shared her experience Tuesday at the Lee Theater in the Touhill.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

Susan L. Lang discusses global healthcare at UMSL

MINHO JUNG
Staff Writer

A discussion about "Global Healthcare", presented by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association, was held in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts on Tuesday, March 15.

Susan L. Lang, senior vice president and chief supply chain officer at Express Script, was invited to the event as the main speaker. She opened the discussion with her favorite quote from Margaret Mead, who is a well-known anthropologist, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change then world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

At the beginning of the discussion, Lang emphasized the importance of global healthcare matters as well as broad knowledge in various fields.

"Global healthcare leadership matters. Since we are globally moving, it has become really important. Because we have such a complex market place now globally, you have to have tension around the issue to get any movement for that issue," she said.

"There is a lot of tension between social science and business. There is a lot of tension [about] who gets funding and resources. At the end of the day, my goal, and your goal, is to increase the tension around that issue to force it to solution."

Currently, there are approximately 6.9 billion people living in the world. More than 8 million children under the age of five die each year from malnutrition and mostly preventable diseases. There are also around 33 million people living with

Human Immunodeficiency Virus infections, mostly in developing countries.

Additionally, half of the population of Africa does not have access to clean water or sanitation services. Moreover, 17.5 million people die globally due to cardiovascular related diseases, which is the cause of more than five percent of deaths in the United States.

Lang broached the question of how we respond to this problem from both business and anthropology perspectives. "How do we sustain in global economy? How much human suffering? Between those two [anthropology and business] disciplines, there has to be an answer somewhere," she said.

Lang earned her master's degrees in business finance and medical anthropology from Stetson University and the University of Memphis, respectively, after she got her bachelor's degree in marketing from University of Florida.

Having a variety of international experiences throughout her career, Lang was able to understand the global market from two different perspectives thanks to her unique academic background.

"I think the best thing that anthropology has given me is the ability to listen, which is, [as] a business leader, more difficult because of the impatience and drive to move forward. At the end of the day, everything about business is about relationships. So those components of shared experience [with people from different cultures] and listening are really important," Lang said.

Participants were invited to the reception after the discussion. "The conference was intellectually interesting. [I was able to] gain different perspective outside of my normal ground," Michael Smith, Master of Business Administration, said.

The UNDERCURRENT

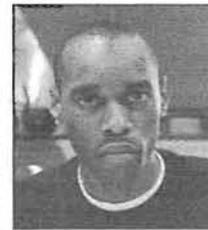
by Zheng Zhang

"How do you feel about scholarships that are exclusive to certain races?"



"I believe scholarships should be given based on income, not race."

Emily Leeker
Sociology
Sophomore



"I think it's fair, for oppressed races because in all truthfulness, there are more minority groups with very little economic means compared to whites. I know it doesn't seem fair but I think other ethnic groups will attend college if the money is available."

Jerron Jones
Criminology
Senior



"Some scholarships in my opinion such as one that requires study abroad might be justified by offering it to some races. And some should not exclude certain race such as scholarship to study at UMSL"

Fazli Dullovi
Mathematics
Junior

"Does the Westboro Baptist Church have the right to free speech?"

- From issue 1340

The Westboro Baptist Church has hurt a lot of feelings because of their protesting and I think that with the right minds we can at the least get limits set on how far they are from the burial and the funeral.

I am a high school student and I look at this like an adult; this is an outrage and when I heard about the ruling, I was very upset.

The case was about emotional distress and the malice the church has in their hearts and the slander they said about the soldier who died to protect them, not free speech.

-Alice Morales

Just how good is Missouri, relatively speaking?

UMSL professor takes a comprehensive look at Missouri

JEREMY ZSCHAU
Staff Writer

Recently, the Public Policy Research Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis released a report entitled "Missouri's Economic and Governmental Status Across States and Over Time: A Comparison Guide."

Written by Donald Phares, professor Emeritus of Economics here at UMSL. The report examines how Missouri compares with other states using 58 different factors, ranging from relative population to taxes and revenue.

According to Phares, the report was not intended to be a complete analysis of Missouri's fiscal and demographic situation, but to summarize Missouri's status in comparison with the nation's other 49 states and to highlight areas that may be worth further attention and study by state officials.

"[The intent was] to get a reference manual for government officials to look at how Missouri really ranks [and to] put together the information that's been released over the last twenty years," Phares said.

In addition, the report was intended to set straight a number of misconceptions about the economic situation in Missouri. "I began to realize there was some misinformation [go-

ing around] about Missouri's welfare," he said. "I wanted to clear up the misconceptions."

According to the report, while Missouri has experienced "modest growth" in many of the 58 factors examined by Phares, in most cases the state's rankings have actually declined in comparison to the rest of the nation, signaling below average rates of growth.

For example, while Missouri's population has risen by 1.23 million between 1970 and 2008 (a rate of 32,000 per year), it has actually slipped from being the 13th most populous state to 18th. Similarly, while per capita income in the state has risen substantially in the same time frame (\$3,850 in 1970 to \$35,238 in 2008), its rank in that category has fallen from 25th to 35th.

Of particular interest to students at UMSL and other state universities are the numbers pertaining to state funding of higher education. Only 2.9 percent of state revenue goes to higher education, a figure which has not varied much from 1992 until 2006 (the most recent year for which said figures are provided).

Missouri's higher education spending ranks in the bottom third of the nation, over 70 percent lower than the national average. This has had the direct effect of forcing universities to

raise the cost of fees and tuition due to the lack of state funding — an increase surely felt by many families across Missouri.

Most public programs, not just higher education, have felt a similar crunch. Overall, Missouri has one of the lowest state tax rates in the nation, which has adversely affected the state's spending potential.

Or, as stated in Phares' report, "Low revenues with a low burden lead inexorably to low support for public programs... Missouri is clearly not using the potential it has to raise revenue and fund public programs."

A connection can be drawn between this lack of fulfilled potential and Missouri's slipping economic and demographic status among the rest of the states in the U.S.

Phares expects his report to be available to all state legislatures within the next week.

Phares is the author of the books "Who Pays State and Local Taxes?" and "State-Local Tax Equity: An Empirical Analysis of the Fifty States", and over eighty other assorted articles and book chapters as well as scores of technical and government reports.

In addition, he has consulted with and done research for a number of local, state, and federal governmental and educational agencies.

"Statehouse Sisters" panel discusses problems for women in political office

MARY GRACE BUCKLEY
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 11, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life held a panel titled "Statehouse Sisters: The Risks and Rewards of a Life in Public Service." The panel focused on how women are represented in government and the dangers they face, especially in light of the shooting of Representative Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Arizona, which the panel momentarily touched upon.

The panel consisted of Missouri State Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal (of District 14) and Representative Jeannette Mott Oxford (of District 59).

The event opened with remarks from Vivian Eveloff, head of the Sue Shear Institute, shedding light on women's current amount of government representation. Colorado has the highest with 40 percent and South Carolina has the lowest with 10 percent. However, South Carolina does have a female governor, Nikki Haley.

Missouri ranks 24th in its female representation in state government, with 40 (25 percent) out of 163 seats in the House of Representatives and 6 (18 percent) out of 34 Senate

seats. And unlike South Carolina, Missouri has never had a female serve as governor.

Eveloff also remarked that faculty vastly outnumbered students in the audience, but this most likely happened due to the fact that, the majority of University of Missouri—St. Louis students do not come to campus on Fridays.

“I was stalked when I first ran for office.”

- Chappelle Nadal

After that, two students from the Institute's UMSL Women LEAD program, Diana Fetouh and Chelsea Miller, posed questions to Chappelle-Nadal and Oxford about invasion of their privacy and what they have found shocking in the political sphere. "I was stalked when I first ran for office," Chap-

pelle-Nadal stated. "I was followed in Taco Bell, and I was stalked again in 2008."

The senator also explained that she has created a pact with her mail carrier to protect herself from threats and does not leave her office door open to be cleaned because things have gone missing.

Oxford followed up saying that she had not had nearly as many threats as Chappelle-Nadal, but worried about running as a lesbian. "When you're out, you have to run out or someone will bring it up against you," Oxford said. She found help with the Victory Fund, a group that helps Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transexual candidates run for office. She lost to Russ Carnahan in 2000 but won her district in 2004 and is now in her final term.

Near the end of the event, the panel took questions from the audience on topics ranging from why they chose to run to the power of mentors.

Overall, both Senator Chappelle-Nadal and Representative Oxford came across as transparent, honest government representatives who care more about serving their constituents than serving self, family, or friends, as is the issue with so many politicians.

Sports



UM-St. Louis baseball coach Jim Brady signals Triton infielder Joe Wieczkowski to stop at third base during Saturday's doubleheader against St. Joseph's. CEDRIC WILLIAMS / THE CURRENT

Triton Baseball opens GLVC season with split against SJC

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's baseball team earned a doubleheader split in its Great Lakes Valley Conference opener against St. Joseph's College Saturday afternoon.

The Tritons, behind a terrific six-inning start by Adam Radick, junior, undecided, and three near-perfect innings by relievers, Tim Hassett, Paul Richmond, and Kurt Driemeyer, pulled out a 5-4 win in Saturday's opener.

But the host, the SJC Pumas, used a six-run inning in game two to secure an 8-4 win over UM-St. Louis.

The win for Radick in game one was his second of the season. Against SJC, the six-foot tall right-hander from Webster Groves High and Forest Park CC tossed six brilliant innings, allowing just two earned runs on seven hits and three walks.

Radick left the game after allowing a leadoff walk in the seventh inning, with the Tritons ahead 5-3.

SJC did get a run in that inning that was charged to Radick, after a UMSL fielding error allowed a Puma runner to score with two outs. But that was as close as SJC would get, as UMSL's Hassett and Richmond wriggled out of a bases-loaded

jam in the eighth to preserve the lead.

UMSL had to rally back from an early deficit to get the win. SJC led 3-0, after picking up a run in the bottom of the first, and two more in the bottom of the second.

But the Triton batters got going in the top of the fourth.

Designated hitter Brian McCulloch, senior, business, got the rally started with a one-out walk, but was forced out on a ground ball by Andrew Keating, secondary education science.

Left fielder Taylor Holman, sophomore, undecided, moved Keating to third on a line-drive base hit. And shortstop Jeremy Butler, junior, undecided, drove Keating in with a base hit to left. But the big inning for UMSL was the sixth, when it got three runs thanks to hits by Keating and Butler, a run-scoring passed ball by SJC, and a run-scoring single by centerfielder Adam Blum, sophomore, undecided.

The Tritons added an insurance run in the seventh on an RBI hit by Keating, which proved important as SJC picked up a run in the bottom of the seventh, setting up the critical relief pitching situation that Hassett, Richmond, and Driemeyer got out of to win the game.

In game two, UMSL got on the board first when Bechaud singled in McCulloch in the top of the second inning, to make

the score 1-0.

SJC took a 2-1 lead in the third, but UMSL tied the score in the fourth, when Keating singled in Tierney with two outs to make it 2-2.

But SJC jumped on UMSL pitching in the fifth inning for six runs, thanks to several Triton miscues, to go up 8-2.

Drew Standefer, sophomore, nursing, blasted his first home run of the season in the top of the seventh, a two-run blast that could've ignited a UMSL rally. But several SJC relievers closed out the inning and the game to preserve the win for the Pumas.

This week, UMSL will begin the home portion of its season, hosting the 2011 Triton Home Opener against William Woods University, on Tuesday, March 22.

The game will be a nine-inning affair at the UMSL Baseball Field on south campus, and first pitch is set for 1 p.m.

This weekend, the Tritons will host two doubleheaders against GLVC foes Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis.

The doubleheader with UWP will be Saturday, March 26, with first pitch set for noon. The twin bill against Lewis is slated for Sunday, March 27, again with first pitch set for noon.

Women's softball beats up on Kentucky Wesleyan

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team broke out the big bats in order to pick up two big wins against Great Lakes Valley Conference foe Kentucky Wesleyan last Saturday afternoon.

The Tritons, who had been in a bit of a hitting slump lately, broke out of those doldrums in a big way, bashing out 27 hits and scoring 22 total runs, in 5-4 and 17-2 wins over the Lady Panthers.

Junior catcher Katherine Tennis, junior, anthropology, and senior second baseman JaCee Ellis, senior, business management, were the hitting stars of the day for UMSL.

Ellis had four hits, two runs scored, and five RBIs in the two games. Tennis added five hits, four runs scored, and four RBIs, including the game-winner in game one for the Tritons.

UMSL had built a 4-0 lead against Kentucky Wesleyan thanks to huge fourth inning that saw the Tritons send eight batters to the plate.

Ellis, UMSL's all-time softball home run queen, cracked a

two-run, two-out double that drove in Tennis and teammate Erin Driskell, junior, business, to give the Tritons the lead.

Then rightfielder Karey Kruse, senior, special education, smashed her second home run of the season, to make the score 4-0.

UMSL was on cruise control. But Kentucky Wesleyan rallied, scoring one run in the bottom of the fifth and three more in the bottom of the sixth, to tie the score at 4.

Leslie Davis, sophomore, psychology, who started the game in the pitcher's circle and was responsible for the four Kentucky Wesleyan runs, started the game-winning rally with a line-shot single to left field.

She advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt, and came around to score the winning run on Tennis' clutch stroke up the middle.

Stephanie Benson (2-2), junior, criminal justice, picked up the win in relief, tossing two strong innings, allowing just one hit and one walk, while striking out three.

In game two, UMSL actually trailed 2-0 heading into the fourth inning, before completely destroying Kentucky Wesleyan pitching the rest of the way.

The Tritons got four runs on four hits in the fourth. Then added two runs on three hits in the fifth, two runs on two hits in the sixth, and a season-high nine runs on seven hits in the seventh.

Davis, the all-time hits and home run queen at Piasa Southwestern High in Brighton, Ill., had four hits and four RBIs to pace the UMSL attack.

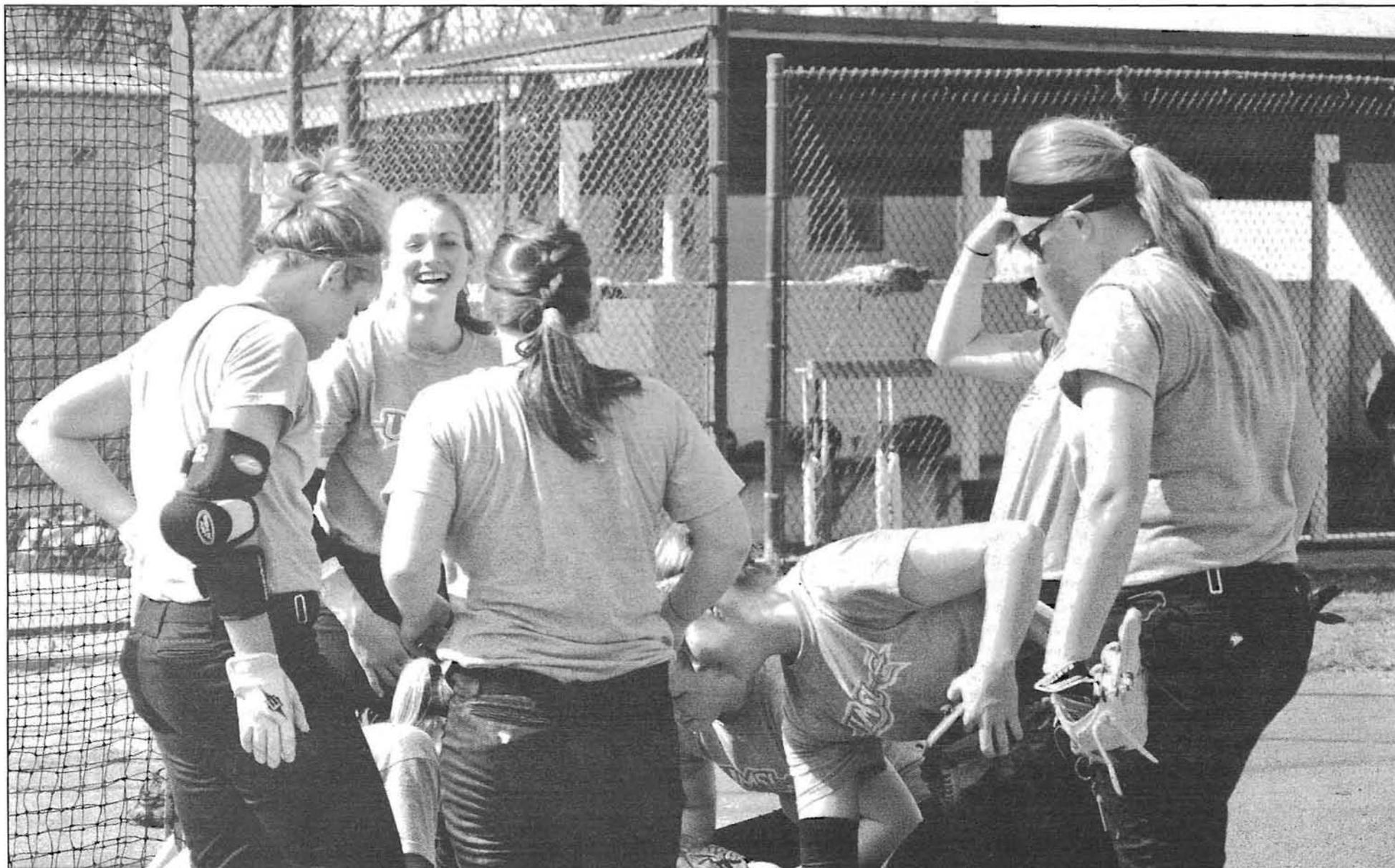
Amanda Seib (2-1), senior, finance and management, also pitching in relief picked up the win, as UMSL improved to 6-8 on the season.

The Tritons will look to improve their record this week, when they'll host their home opener doubleheader against Lincoln University, on Tuesday, March 22, at the UMSL Softball Field.

First pitch that day will be noon.

Next weekend, the Tritons will also host a pair of Great Lakes Valley Conference doubleheaders against Northern Kentucky and Bellarmine.

The Northern Kentucky doubleheader is slated for Saturday, March 26, while the Bellarmine double-dip is scheduled for Sunday, March 27. Those games will also begin at noon.



The Triton softball team rallies together before Thursday's outfield drills.

SAMUEL J. SURGENER / THE CURRENT



Classic Italian opera the "Marriage of Figaro" was performed Friday at the Touhill.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

"Marriage of Figaro: Slice and Diced" means fun with Mozart

THEATRE

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Opera Theater's "The Marriage of Figaro: Sliced and Diced," showing March 11 through 13 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater, was an unexpected delight.

The production featured a student cast, many of them vocal performance majors, in an abridged version of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's comic "Figaro." The singers performed the big arias, duets, trios and choruses of the opera, without the more-spoken recitatives. The plot was summarized in text projected on a screen. Basically, the story is a farce, in which the servant Figaro has to out-smart his employer the Count to protect his fiancée Susanna while bringing the nobleman back to his neglected Countess.

"The Marriage of Figaro: Sliced and Diced" turned out to be great fun, playing up the comedy and featuring surprisingly good voices. While the opera is paired down to the big musical numbers, this was no spare production on a bare stage. The opera had sets, costumes, live music and even acting, all modified in comic and creative ways.

This playful, tuneful production was both funny and

charming. A rotating cast of 18 singers played and sang the roles with clever costumes helping identify each character.

Opera is a musical art form that emerged long before microphones. Big, beautiful, knock-out-of-the-seat voices are what it is all about. The stories are big and melodramatic or in the case of the more comedic vein, crazy and farcical.

One might expect little of a student production, but a very pleasant surprise was in store. Not only were the sets and costumes more than expected but the voices were also big, lush and beautiful. While some singers were stronger than others, all were clearly talented.

Particularly delightful were sopranos Elizabeth Smith, Lauren Weber and Stephanie Clonts. Weber sang the majority of the Countess' arias in a rich, moving manner. Between them, Clonts and Smith sang many of Susanna's arias, and they did so beautifully. Smith's and Brown's duet as Cherubino and Susanna in the first act was a special comic delight.

Baritones Bryan Ziegler and Dale Robison were notable, as they largely shared the singing as the Count. The role of Figaro was split among several singers, but baritone Ryan Myers was one standout.

Pianist Donna Pryon provided musical accompaniment.

The singers' comic performances, directed by Stella Mar-

kou, director of vocal studies, were wonderful. Performed in a pantomime style that matched the curly white wigs and rouged cheeks, they mugged, rolled on the floor, leered comically at each other and winked at the nearly-packed audience in a delightful fashion.

The audience was charmed, both by the animated stage antics and the glorious music. There is little more tuneful and appealing in comic opera than Mozart's music.

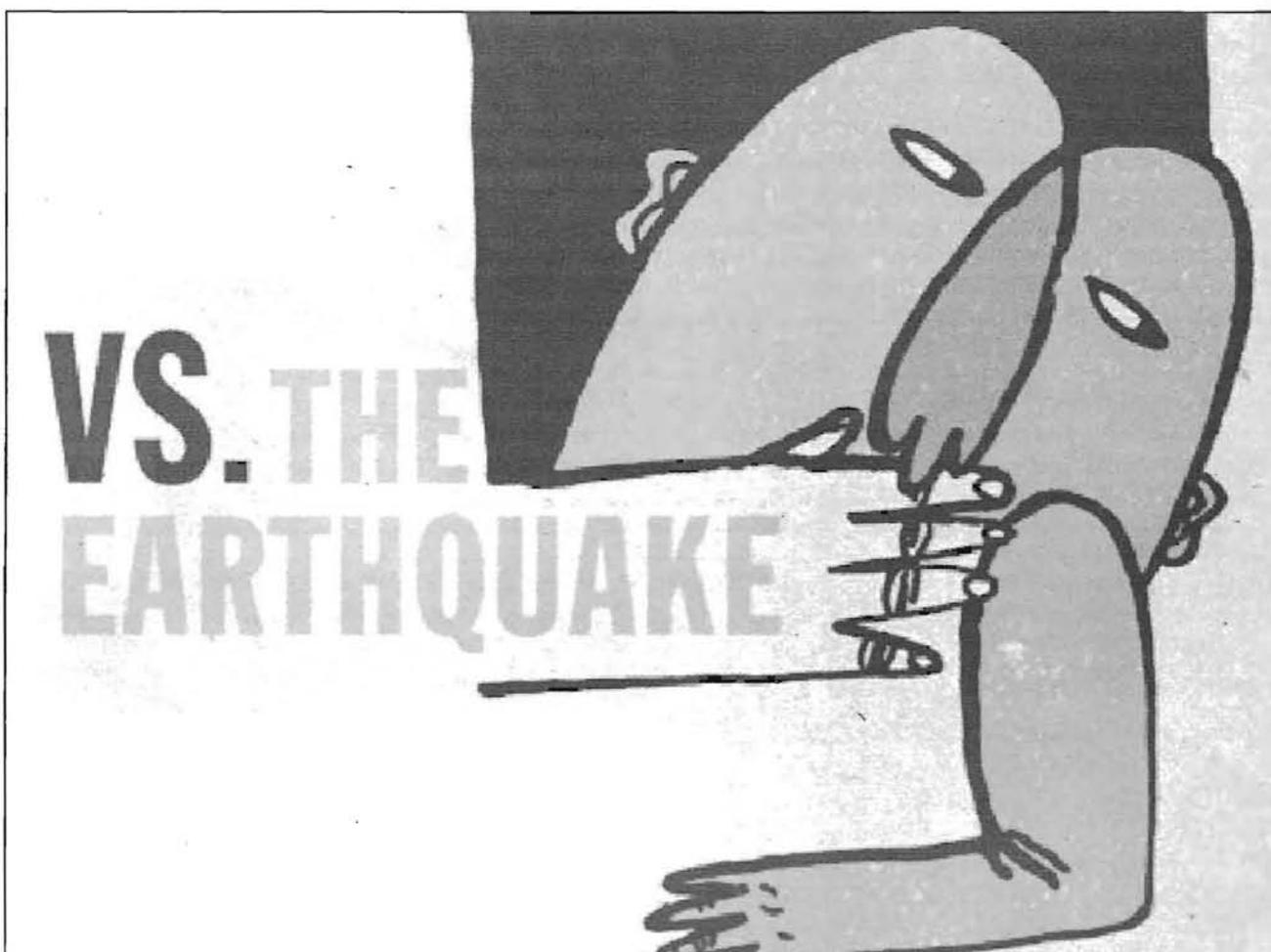
The clever costumes and surprisingly attractive sets deserve some recognition. All the characters wore a combination of skinny jeans and eighteenth century-inspired attire, created by Felia Katherine Davenport, assistant professor of theater. The visual impression promised farce and fun, a promise that was kept.

The sets designed by Glen Anderson, assistant professor of theater, were a pair of tall, moveable structures with doorways. They served as interior walls but when rotated were decorated as ivy-covered garden walls.

The singing and the comic acting of the performers, along with the creative costumes, sets and staging, combined to make this an enjoyable experience. "The Marriage of Figaro: Sliced and Diced" was pure fun.

A - Cate Marquis

Bands "VS. The Earthquake"



COURTESY OF RED HAND RECORDING

MUSIC

In the attempt to ease the hardships that Japan is facing, alternative bands from across the scene have joined together. Twenty-two bands and Limited Press have combined their passion for music and compassion for their fellow human beings and donated music toward the "Vs. The Earthquake."

A minimum donation of \$5.00 is asked of each person downloading the album, but higher donations are encouraged. All of the proceeds go toward the Japanese relief efforts. Dan 'Soupy' Campbell, lead singer of The Wonder Years, said, "Paypal is allowing you to send money to charities without taking any fees. This means that, aside from the standard fee Paypal may take out when money enters an account, 100 percent of the money will be going to Americares to help the Japanese."

Those interested in donating can visit vstheearthquake.limitedpressing.com. After a donation, the download is instant and the music can be easily transferred into an iTunes library.

Many bands have been promoting the album, through Twitter or on their band websites. Response so far has been extremely positive and fans from across the world have been purchasing the album.

The music on the album is awesome. The songs on "Vs. The Earthquake" are rare, unreleased or hard-to-find recordings and include everything from live recordings, acoustic versions and covers.

The bands that have donated music to the album are also diverse. Valencia, Transit, The Swellers, Allison Weiss, Bad

New Bears, Balance and Composure, The Wonder Years, Citizen, Koji and so many more all make their appearance. Genres range from indie to punk, and from power-pop to ska. Needless to say, everyone can find something on this album to his or her liking.

The album as a whole is a wonderful compilation. The fact that each song is also a gem in the music world makes it even better. None of the songs match up perfectly, but somehow they all combine to make one of the best collaborations to hit the alternative scene in quite some time.

Bad News Bears donated "Where Is Home," a fast-paced song that gets the album started off right. Extremely catchy synth melodies mixed with harmonic singing make this song easily repeatable. An acoustic version of Citizen's "Tracking Time" also made its way onto 'Vs. The Earthquake.' It is the perfect, completely understated rainy day song and is easily one of the most beautiful songs ever played acoustically.

"Everyone Knows" by I Call Fives is another power track. I Call Fives writes pop-punk at its finest and this song is quite easily the star of the entire album.

Valencia's acoustic cover of "Spinning" also makes the small donation extremely worth it. A beautifully written song before it turned acoustic, the song is just ten times more meaningful in a pure and simple form.

A \$5.00 donation for 22 songs is impossible to pass up. The knowledge that the all of the money goes toward helping out those who need it makes the deal even sweeter. By supporting the bands that donated their skills, not only will listeners ensure the longevity of the music but also the assistance of the Japanese people.

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, March, 25

"Jane Eyre"

"Sin Nombre's" Cary Fukunaga directs this fresh adaptation of the beloved Charlotte Bronte novel, about a shy governess who falls for her wealthy employer, who is concealing an awful secret. Stars "Alice in Wonderland's" Mia Wasikowska.



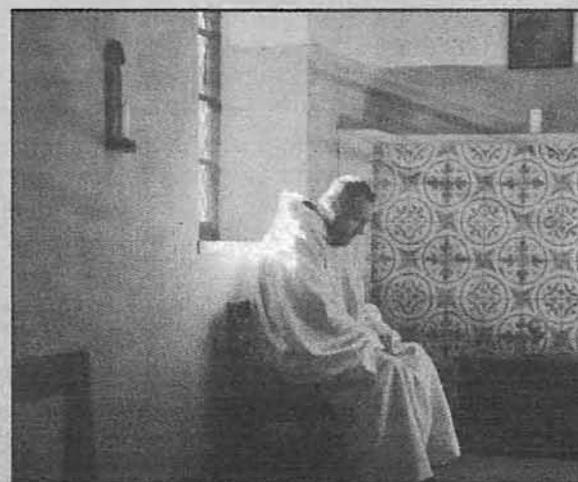
"I Saw the Devil"

(Tivoli) - "Oldboy" star Min-sik Choi is fabulous as a bloody serial killer pursued by the husband of one of his victims in this gory South Korean thriller. This horror fan's delight is in Korean with English subtitles, but who cares about words in a slash fest.

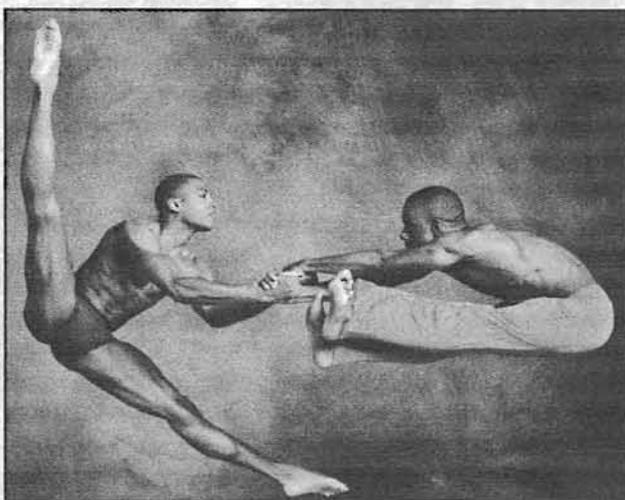


"Of Gods and Men"

(Plaza Frontenac) - Based on true events, a drama about Trappist monks assigned to a poor, small Algerian town who must decide whether to stay or go when religious extremist terrorists bear down on them. Stars handsome French actor Lambert Wilson. In French and Arabic with English subtitles.



Alvin Ailey's iconic Americana dance at the Fox



COURTESY OF ALVIN AILEY

DANCE

Although choreographer Alvin Ailey is no longer with us, his iconic work and his outstanding troupe continue to inspire and astound with African-American contemporary dance.

Dance St. Louis has set an annual tradition of bringing the Alvin Ailey Dance troupe to St. Louis. The troupe gave three performances at the Fox Theater, March 11 through 12. Each dance concert featured Ailey's masterpiece, "Revelations," now

celebrating its 50th anniversary. At the Saturday evening performance, the program was divided into three very different themes separated by two intermissions. The three sections seemed to represent the company's past, present and future. Besides the founder's "Revelations," the program includes works added under the troupe's current artistic director, Ailey protegee Judith Jamison, and a piece choreographed by Robert Battle, who is replacing Jamison at the end of this season.

The program opened with the multi-part "Uptown," a charming historical tour of the 1920s Harlem Renaissance. Breaking a number of dance conventions, the piece began with a narrator in dressed '20s attire on stage next to an old Victrola describing the remarkable era and setting up the dances to come. However, the emphasis was always on lively entertainment, not lecture. "Welcome To Harlem" offered jazz-era songs and dancers symbolizing the array of people in Harlem from well-dressed swells to ordinary workmen to jitterbugging teens. "Rent Party" featured dancers as high-energy partygoers, presenting a phenomenon invented in Harlem. "Great Minds" and "Weary Blues" movingly used interpretive dance to spoken-word recordings from W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes. "Shuffle Along" offered the first black musical in an inventive concept-to-stardom miniplay. The finale was "Cotton Club," a visit to the iconic venue. After intermission, the program resumed with a pair of dance pieces, representing male and female. "The Evolution of a Sacred Feminine" was a solo, danced impressively by Briana Reed

that night. Sometimes comic, sometimes tragic, it was set to songs of love, loss and triumph by Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter and Nancy Wilson. The pulse-pounding, all-male dance piece "The Hunt," choreographed by Battle, brought most of the audience to their feet. Bare-chested dancers were clad in long, flowing, black wrap skirts, evoking images of monks or tribal dancers. Propelled by percussive music, the dancers moved in unison or by alternating turns but always with great cohesion. As they stomped, pounded, spun about or raced back and forth, swirling turns revealed the red underside of their garments. The energetic nature of the dance revealed the rippling muscles of the dancers' bodies with electrifying effect.

The program's last portion was devoted to Ailey's iconic "Revelations." The dance was preceded by a short film about the choreographer and his masterpiece, crafted based on childhood memories of the rural South of the 1930s.

Even after half a century, the choreography is still moving and purest Americana. The troupe was splendid. The gospel music score now may seem conventional but it was groundbreaking at the time. The emotion of "Pilgrim of Sorrow" is still strong, and the floppy parasols, long white dresses and fluid movements of "Take Me To The Water" are still irresistible. The energy and heat of "Move, Members, Move" comes through clearly, as the women's fans and large hats spin under a giant sun. The finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham," brought the audience to their feet.

A -Cate Marquis

WARNING: BEHINDS VISION OF REALITY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WATCHMEN & BOO!
YOU WILL BE UNPREPARED

SUCKER PUNCH

LEGENDARY
www.sucker-punch-movie.com

The Current

INVITES YOU AND
A GUEST TO SEE
SUCKER PUNCH

For your chance to
receive screening passes,
log on to

WWW.GOFOBO.COM/RSVP

and enter RSVP Code:

UMSL5G

*Passes available on a first-come first served basis, while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Limit two admit one possessor per person. Void where prohibited. Employees of participating sponsors are ineligible. PG-13 for thematic material involving sexuality, violence and combat sequences, and for language. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

IN THEATERS
FRIDAY, MARCH 25



Are you planning to graduate this semester?
Have you applied for graduation?
If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!



2011 MAY Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 14
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

10 A.M. - College of Nursing
- College of Fine Arts & Communication
- School of Social Work
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry - Touhill Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, MAY 15
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

2 P.M. - College of Education
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
- Missouri University S & T Engineering Education Center

All Graduating Seniors

Activate your Free Alumni
Membership!

Get a FREE graduation gift.

Stop by the UMSL Alumni
Association Table
at the Grad Fair in the Bookstore
in the MSC, April 5, 6 & 7.

Don't Miss the Grad Fair

April 5, 6 & 7
UMSL Bookstore in the MSC
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Purchase your cap, gown and tassel, etc.
- Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 late fee will apply after Friday, April 29.

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at
www.umsli.edu/commencement for more information and to
pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.

Features



'MIKADO' REVEALS A YOUTHFUL SPIRIT

The Mikado performance at the Touhill on Friday, March 11 depicts three maids, a minstrel, a public official and an executioner.

COURTESY OF THE TOUHILL

ASHLEY ATKINS
Asst. Features Editor

On Friday, March 11 the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players brought the classic production of "The Mikado" to the Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"The Mikado" is one of the most popular staged musicals in the English language and has even been mocked in television shows such as "Alvin & the Chipmunks."

It is centered on the story of a wandering minstrel named Nan-ki-Poo. He comes to the town of Titipu to sweep the woman of his dreams, Yum-Yum, off her feet. This becomes a problem when the minstrel has to deal with the news of his love's set-in-stone engagement and all of the laws that intertwine.

The Touhill had no problem accumulating attendance for this performance. The Orchestra level of the theater was full front to back with eager audience members.

One particular couple found out about the show in the local newspaper and decided to treat the performance as a birthday gift. "I like Gilbert and Sullivan," Carol Gruen, retired banker, said. "I must admit, I was a little apprehensive in view of the earthquake and the Tsunami. I did not know if it was quite appropriate to have the performance, but I guess it is." Another couple had made it out to the performance out of sheer luck.

"I actually wanted to come really badly but could not get tickets and then a friend of mine called me this afternoon and said he won some free ones online somehow," Gary Krekow, speech-language pathologist, said.

"He shared them with me and now we are here." Unfortunately, not many of the "young" were present at that day's performance of "The Mikado," but that did not stop the mature crowd from having a blast.

As the crowd went silent for the show to begin a spotlight hit the base of the stage where a red bow-tied conductor quickly appeared waving his baton in the air.

For the night, he would be instructing the orchestra that was hidden beneath him, an old-fashioned technique of the staged musical compared to the current trend of performing to a soundtrack.

Throughout the play, audiences were entertained with colorful musical numbers, fan clapping, fantastic solos and an excellent amount of comedy.

At times, characters would refer to the "Jersey Shore" and issues with excessive texting, things that the audience did not expect to come out of a classic character's mouth.

The characters also did not hold back on stereotypical culture jokes such as when they switched from singing in English to singing in some form of made up Japanese. This joke had the audience members laughing pretty hard. Audience member and accounting clerk, Nan Moore, could not believe that something that was written over 100 years ago could still be so funny.

"I was very surprised at how much I enjoyed it and I have seen several other Gilbert & Sullivan productions, but I just was not prepared to enjoy this as much as I did," Moore said. "I thought it was so humorous."

Moore's favorite part of the show was watching the character of Pooh-Ba, portrayed by Louis Dall'Ava, and the physicality he brought to the stage.

It would be safe to conclude by the cheerful expressions left on the faces of the crowd pouring out of the performance hall that the production was a success.

NOW HIRING

KITCHEN WORKERS · HOSTS/CASHIERS
 BARTENDERS · COOKS
 FOOD SERVERS
 STEWARDS · LEAD COOKS
 PREP COOKS · MANAGERS
 SOUS CHEFS · ROOM CHEFS
 ASSISTANT MANAGERS



ENERGETIC AND MOTIVATED?

The Stadium Sports Bar, Grill and Lounge at Lumière Place Casino is hiring!

The future home of Fox Sports Midwest Cardinal's post-game show, Stadium provides more televisions with sports coverage than anywhere else in the city. The Stadium will be filled with unique experiences and a menu that will satisfy every appetite! Apply online at lumierejobs.com.

STADIUM
 SPORTS BAR • GRILL • LOUNGE
 AT LUMIERE PLACE CASINO

Not a permanent position. Must be a Missouri Deregulated Personnel for persons who have either a high school diploma or GED and are at least 18 years old. Open to all applicants. For more information, please contact the Stadium Sports Bar, Grill and Lounge at Lumière Place Casino, 10000 N. Merit Road, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63143. Phone: (314) 991-1111. Fax: (314) 991-1112. Email: stadium@lumierejobs.com

Bosnian students set trail for future exchanges

MINHO JUNG
Staff Writer

Traveling to a foreign country can be intimidating and exciting, especially when you are one of the first students from a University to participate in an exchange program. With the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Bosnian exchange program just beginning, that is how Ivana Aleksic and Joshua Lassing felt.

Chancellor Thomas George signed papers approving the Bosnian exchange program in 2007. However, the first two students did not take the trip until spring semester 2010. For Lassing, it was a door of opportunity for his filming career. For Aleksic, it was a chance to reconnect with her roots. The center of International Studies and Professor Rita Csapo-Sweet, associate professor of communication, both took a part in bringing this possibility to students.

Aleksic and Lassing had very different experiences while in Bosnia. As a child, Aleksic and her family came to the United States as refugees. Her return to Bosnia was filled with familiarity and learning all at once.

"When I first arrived, I stayed with a lovely woman: an elec-

trical engineer by profession who was a friend of my aunt's. I learned a lot about the history of Bosnia, the war, and Sarajevo from her.

Since she spoke only a few words of English, I was forced to speak Bosnian 100 percent of the time," Aleksic, senior, political science, said.

On the other hand, Lassing, who has no connection to Bosnia whatsoever, found himself in a series of new experiences.

"I had no idea what it was going to be like. To be honest, I hadn't even boarded a plane before this trip. It was totally worth it," Lassing, senior, media studies, said.

"I lived in a hostel for about two or three months and then finally found an apartment outside Sarajevo. It was beautiful. It overlooked the entire city."

Csapo-Sweet has envisioned the idea of a connection between St. Louis and Bosnia for years. Missouri is where the United States government placed most Bosnians before and after the war. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 Bosnian refugees. In addition, UMSL is the only university that has a functioning two-way exchange program with Bosnia.

"This was my vision to create this opportunity. The reason for that is that I'm a first generation American. I am a big be-

liever in foreign exchange programs because when I was in college I went abroad to Hungary, which is where my family was from. It was a year that changed my life," Csapo-Sweet said.

In addition to helping begin the program, Csapo-Sweet continues to be an active part of it as well, mentoring, preparing and counseling students interested in becoming exchange students.

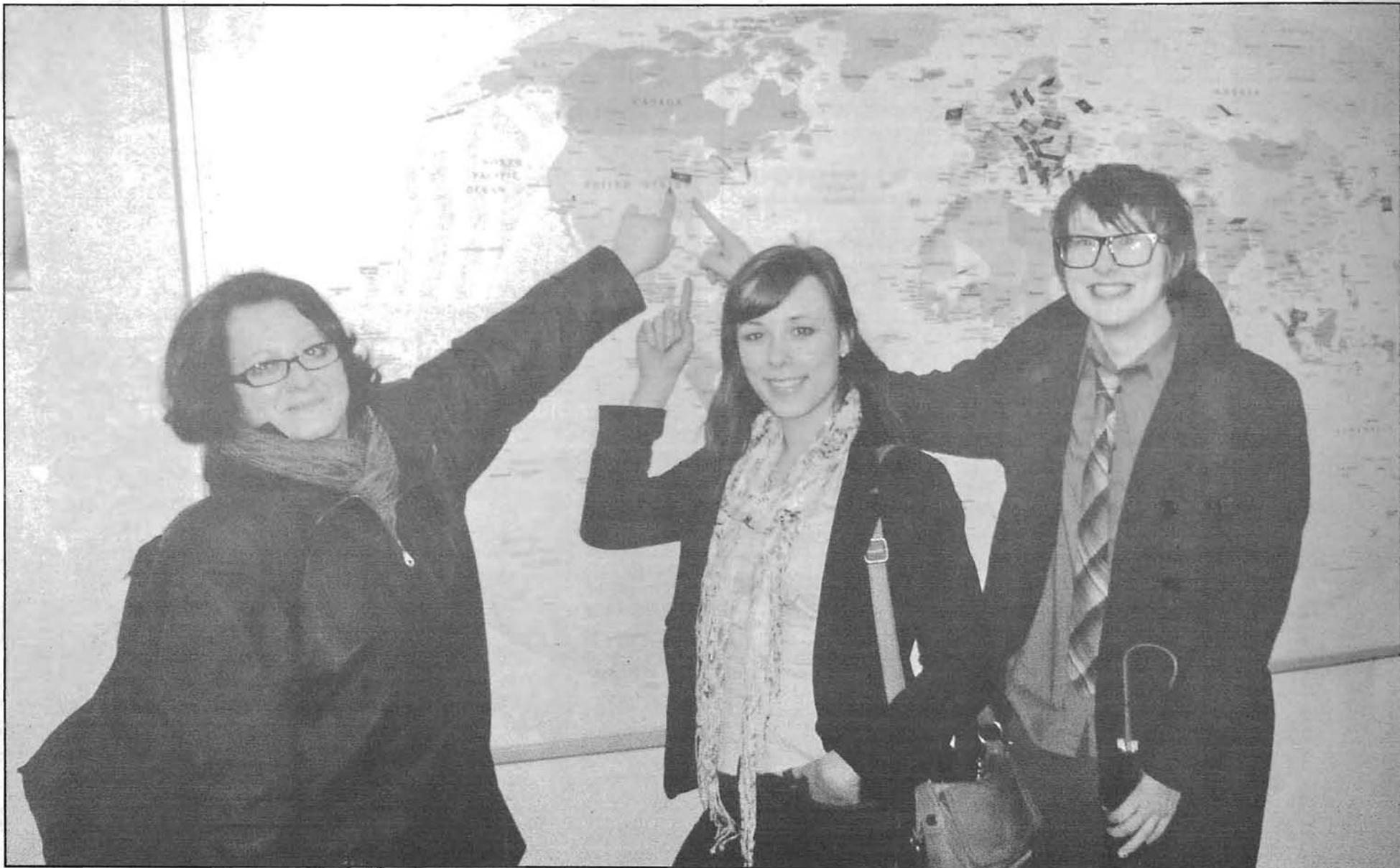
Csapo-Sweet, Aleksic and Lassing all encourage others to partake in an exchange program.

"My time in Sarajevo was the most rewarding five months of my life. I learned more about myself in those five months than I did in the previous 20 years of my life" Aleksic, said.

Despite trials experienced at the beginning of his trip, Lassing also agrees that the exchange program was a positive experience.

"If I had to convince someone to go to Bosnia, I would say that it is an amazing experience that will totally, absolutely change your life completely. [For] anyone who really wants to make it in film or cinema, it's an opportunity to see how the real world lives," Lassing said.

Students interested in being a part of the exchange program should contact the center for international studies.



Members involved in the Bosnian exchange program.

COURTESY OF BOSIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

UMSL students take part in Chinese immersion

ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff Writer

Last Friday, while the public was still recovering from a luminous St. Patrick's Day, a few University of Missouri-St. Louis students gathered at the Pilot House to participate in a two-day activity for a one credit hour course known as "Language and Culture Immersion". The objective of the course was to develop an open perspective on Chinese culture by participating in cultural activities and by doing so, develop an appreciation for them. The course, as a whole, was led by Fushun Le, lecturer, foreign languages & literatures.

The first activity for the day was a demonstration of a Chinese exercise which among the culture is considered important for a students' daily life. Founder of Shaolin Chan City in St. Louis and co-founder of the Shaolin Gongfu School in Illinois, Fushun Le, acted as guest instructor for the morning exercises. He showed the class how to do Shaolin Qigong.

"It is both a health preservation technique and also self defense technique," Le, said. "I started when I was very young with my grandfather who did Yang Style Taijiquan (Tai Chi).

That first interested me in Chinese martial arts and I just kept studying more and more as I grew up."

Although the activity would appear to be relaxing and delicate from the on-looker's perspective, it was strenuous and required a lot of concentration. That did not scare the students away from finding the enjoyment out of it, of course.

"I do exercise on a normal basis, so it is still kind of hard, but I really enjoyed the different types of movement because it was all fluid," Greg Nelson, sophomore, economics, said.

"I was imagining myself doing it [Shaolin Qigong] in the morning, it was awesome. Following exercise, the group was moved to the South campus where they would try their hand at preparing a Chinese meal. For appetizers, the students had Jiaozi, which was a form of pork dumpling.

Many could compare it to the healthier version of a pot sticker. The students would go on to make eight entrees and a soup. Usually a 30-minute project for a traditional Chinese household, the cooking took the majority of the day in order for the participants to grasp the technique of what they were cooking. Gathered around the kitchen table of the Honors College, everybody got a chance to sample the result of all

their hard work. Meanwhile, the instructor shared some unknown trivia revolving around why tea comes last in a meal and the reason why the Chinese knock on the table to thank the tea server.

The meal was followed by calligraphy work. One student let his love for foreign languages; in general, drive him to participate in the course. "They have been a passion of mine since I was seven and I would have to say my most favorite would be the East Asian languages, Japanese and Chinese," Adrian Hendricks, senior, Spanish, said. "I wanted to seize the opportunity to learn more about the culture, language, and the food of China."

The experience closed with a kitchen clean-up and dessert dumplings which the students seemed to enjoy. The day turned out to be a learning experience for most. The highlight on the agenda for the following day would be their attendance at the Joy Luck restaurant in St. Louis. "I recommend to the other departments in the foreign language division to do something similar to this kind of program for the Spanish students, French, German, or Japanese," Hendricks, said. "It is a great experience to be shared by all."



Students are playing Shaolin, a Chinese traditional exercise, at the Pilot House on Friday.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Young voters will not give up

The Republican Party is getting pretty desperate.

Despite the influx of Tea Party voters, the GOP is still scared of Obama and his college-age supporters. After all, far more young people stumped for Obama than McCain.

Without a viable candidate for 2012 yet, Republicans have decided to return to their old tactics of disenfranchising voters. After all, it worked in Florida in 2000, right? Denying voters their rights is old hat for the Republican party.

It is like the GOP is a super villain group from a comic book, gleefully rubbing their hands together over their latest plot to foil the Democrats. Unfortunately for the United States, the GOP leadership is a tad more effective than Cobra Commander or Megatron.

Their latest target? College students. We're being accused of being uninformed and uncaring about the political process.

New Hampshire House Speaker Bill O'Brien (R) thinks we are "foolish" and that we vote liberal because we "don't have life experience and [we] just vote [our] feelings."

Feelings, Mr. O'Brien, like not wanting to see anymore of our friends, family, and loved ones being killed in two senseless wars started by a Republican President. If 18 year-olds can be sent off to die, then they deserve

the right to have a say in the government that asks that of them.

Feelings, Mr. O'Brien, like wanting a sensible national policy on the sale and use of marijuana in order to bolster our country's economy and simultaneously deal a crippling blow to the violent Mexican cartels currently shipping weed across our southern border by the ton.

Feelings, Mr. O'Brien, like wanting equal rights for our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens, granting them the rights and protections guaranteed them in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Rights, mind you, that Republicans refuse to give or even talk about giving.

The foolish one here is you, Mr. O'Brien, for thinking college students are uncaring and inexperienced. Indeed, the voter turnout for our age group in the 2008 Presidential election was the second highest ever, right after the 1972 election.

The 1972 election, of course, was the first year 18-year-olds could vote. Despite that momentous occasion, in '08 our voter turnout was 54.5 percent, coming in less than one percent below 1972's 55.4 percent.

Steve Benan from *The Washington Monthly* said it best: "If the GOP is so panicky about losing elections, they should field better candidates and adopt a more sensible policy agenda, not

push schemes like voter-ID bills that depress minority, youth, and low-income voter turnout."

Sadly, it is not just New Hampshire that is trying to disenfranchise young voters. According to *The Washington Post*, "A pair of bills in the GOP-controlled state legislature would prevent many of those students from voting in their college town, or at all."

Mr. O'Brien and fellow Republicans are trying to pass these measures off as protection from voter fraud.

The only recent memorable voter fraud in a major election is the one perpetrated by the GOP in Florida in 2000.

Republicans are trying to ensure they'll be able to do it again and again without repercussion. Strangely enough, the states where Republicans are pushing voter legislation are "expected to be battlegrounds in the 2012 presidential race," according to the *Washington Post* article.

Republicans beware: there is a reason why we rallied behind Obama and his call for change; we still oppose you, now more than ever, due to your efforts to stymie national progress and stifle discussion on important issues.

See you in 2012.

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

Hollywood's whitewashing ridiculous and shameful

Recently, Hollywood has come under some serious accusations of whitewashing. And not the kind of whitewashing that Tom Sawyer tricks others into doing for him.

For those unfamiliar with the term, "whitewashing" is the process of casting white Caucasian actors in roles that usually call for a different race.

In a recent example, the titular role in Jerry Bruckheimer's "Prince of Persia" movie was not given to an Iranian actor. Which is confusing, because the nation of Iran is where the kingdom of Persia was in ancient times. Indeed, the role was not even given to someone of Middle Eastern descent at all.

It was given to Jake Gyllenhaal, a brown-haired, blue-eyed American of decidedly Swedish and Jewish descent. In a worse move, the reason for his different skin tone was shoehorned into a shoddy plot device. Sadly, the movie also failed to account for the female lead's milky white skin in a desert nation. Perhaps the writers ran out of ideas and simply gave up.

Of course, Hollywood whitewashing roles is not a new concept. It has been around ever since the dawn of cinema; only back then, it was called "yellowface" (Caucasians portraying Asians, usually very offensively) and "blackface" (Caucasians portraying African-Americans by painting their skin black or brown).

What is happening now is that Hollywood seems to

have stepped up its whitewashing attempts. Besides the "Prince of Persia" film, there was the whole "Racebending" scandal from last year.

"Avatar: The Last Airbender" was an anime-inspired cartoon series that ran on Nickelodeon. In the film version, two white children were cast as Katara and Sokka, who in the cartoon series are clearly shown with darker complexions. And the "bad guy", Zuko, who was first cast as white Caucasian pop singer Jesse McCartney, was eventually replaced by Dev Patel, an actor of Indian descent. Though Patel has darker skin, the controversy changed to be about the fact that the only minority in the film was represented by the villain.

Naturally, there are two sides to the argument: one, that roles in films should be cast colorblind; that is, that as long as the actor has the chops, the role is theirs. The problem with this is that as talented as Renee Zellweger is, she is probably not the best choice to (hypothetically) cast as Rosa Parks.

Nor, for example, would Morgan Freeman be a solid casting choice for George Washington. For certain roles, it seems, skin color does need to be a prerequisite.

The other side of coin is that whatever the source material calls for is sacrosanct. Katara and Sokka from "The Last Airbender" are implied as being similar to Inuits from our world, so those roles should have been filled by Inuit actors with



Andrew Seal

the appropriate skin color. The problem with this is that some roles can be hard to fill; say, two Inuit actors who look enough alike to be brother and sister, for example.

The solution is simple: for non-fiction roles, race needs to be a bit of a factor. Liam Neeson starring in Oliver Stone's "Obama" would be a travesty, for obvious reasons.

For fiction, though? Go nuts! Halle Berry as "Catwoman" was a good start, despite the movie flopping harder than Selina Kyle onto the pavement.

I guess what I am asking for here is reciprocity. Blonde-haired, blue-eyed Jennifer Lawrence as the supposedly olive-skinned Katniss Eberdeen in the upcoming "Hunger Games" movie would be fine if more actors of color were cast in roles that Hollywood has been reserving for white Caucasians.

Basically, for fictitious films, casting needs to be completely colorblind. Hollywood should be ashamed of itself.

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

What do you think?

Let us know at

www.thecurrent-online.com

SCIENCE MATTERS

Nuclear safety in the wake of Japan's earthquake/tsunami

The earthquakes and tsunami that hit Japan last week were devastating and heart-breaking enough but the disaster is further compounded by the on-going events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility. As this column is being written, this nuclear emergency is still unfolding. Last week, it had already surpassed Three Mile Island to rank as the second worst nuclear accident behind Chernobyl.

It seems incredibly sad that the people who were the only ones to experience a nuclear bomb are now suffering through this awful nuclear disaster as well.

The catastrophe in Japan is the topic of this week's News at Noon, a current events discussion co-sponsored by the Current and the New York Times. News at Noon takes place Wednesday, March 23, at 12:15 p.m. in Millennium Student Center's room 315. Free pizza and soft drinks are served, along with copies of a New York Times article on the topic.

There are important differences between what is happening with the reactors at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi facility and what happened at both Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. While Three Mile Island was partially due to human error and poor safety, the Japanese workers appear to be doing everything they can to control the situation, earning world-wide admiration for their efforts and bravery. At Chernobyl, poor design was a factor, particularly the lack of contain-

ment in the event of a core melt-down. Design differences are one reason experts believe this nuclear disaster is unlikely to replace Chernobyl as the worst in history.

The nuclear disaster unfolding in Japan is quite different, more the consequence of the natural events knocking out power and transportation. Nuclear power plants require constant cooling, so constant water and electricity. Reactor design and safety procedures had little to do with the problems at Fukushima Daiichi. It is mostly location, bad luck and the inherent risks of nuclear power.

This raises questions about the wisdom of building any nuclear power plants in earthquake and tsunami prone areas like Japan. Despite the optimism of nuclear power proponents, not all accidents can be anticipated and prevented, especially those involving unpredictable nature. There is no risk-free nuclear power, and this accident reminds the world of that.

Since Japan has limited hydrocarbon energy resources, nuclear may have seemed like a good option once. What are the other energy options? There are more than one may think, although a change from centralized to decentralized power and a flexible power grid would be needed. Shifting to a decentralized energy system opens up a range of energy options. While a single particular alternative energy source may not replace a big coal or nuclear-fired centralized power plant, a decentralized system



Cate Marquis

of smaller power facilities avoids this need. It becomes a matter of distributing energy, in the form of electricity, from various smaller energy generation facilities to where it is needed.

Technology already exists for a "smart grid" and for a host of alternative energy options. The energy generation method can be chosen to suit the site. Being an island, hydro-power and wind power may top that list, but geothermal and solar could be part of the mix. Combining power from several small facilities means the loss of one does not bring down the whole system.

If offshore underwater turbines are damaged in one location, there is another location with a wind turbines. Picking more than one energy option means flexibility and back-up. Such a change gets rid of the risks of both nuclear power and fossil fuels. Like all big changes, effort, time and money would be required but it would be safer.

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

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Limbaugh, fellow pundits need to stop mouthing off

Everybody is entitled to their own opinion. This is a truth, as without it, *The Current's* audience would not be subjected to the views of this column on a weekly basis, some of which are certainly controversial.

However, when one's opinion becomes immensely harmful or spiteful of others who have done nothing to deserve the criticism they are receiving, sometimes it truly is best to just keep one's mouth shut!

Specifically, this article will focus upon Rush Limbaugh and his sympathizers in this nation. While Limbaugh is known to be a very controversial, heavily right-winging media star (and yes, he is a star, a celebrity, essentially, and not much else), there are still certain lines the man ought to know not to cross. For instance, Limbaugh is of the opinion that teachers are all leftwing activists, who would rather put their concerns in their political agendas and personal interests than the well-being and furthered education of the nation's children.

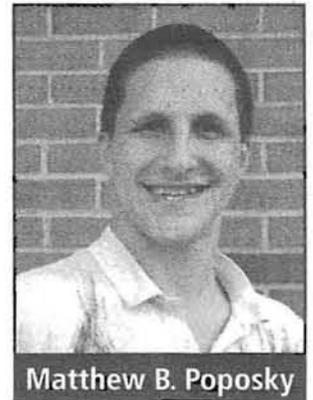
Now, while there are certainly some teachers who get into the field of education for the wrong reasons (a regular salary and "job security" come to mind as reasons spouted off by some potentials, not to mention that wonderful summer break), it is rather ridiculous to claim that teachers join the educational field with the intent of using it as a political machine. Yes, the playing fields

of politicians and teachers cross paths on a regular basis. This has been unavoidable ever since nations decided it was a good idea to allow politicians to decide what and how students ought to be taught.

As educators are apparently no longer the experts in the field of how to educate the nation's children, it is essential that they cross blades with politicians from time to time in order to guarantee the safety and true furthered education of America's children.

It just is not possible for educators to do their jobs adequately without involving themselves, at least marginally, with politics. But, according to Limbaugh, this involvement and concern for the future world students will be inheriting makes all educators far leftwing activists who care more for themselves and their agendas than their students' well-being. Wonderful opinion, Limbaugh, thanks for telling educators you know more about their passions than they do. Another example of Limbaugh's overstepping the line of proper opinion can be seen in his response to the recent catastrophe which struck the island nation of Japan. In a recent live talk show, Limbaugh was commenting on the irony of Japan's being destroyed by a natural disaster.

Limbaugh not only poked fun at the fact that the Japanese, despite being in a national state of emergency, were still making efforts to



Matthew B. Poposky

recycle and help do their share to help the environment, but even went so far as to claim that it is this very concern for their surroundings that led to their destruction at "Gaias" hands.

Having cited Japan's success with motor vehicle fuel-economy, such as the Prius, and their mastery of public transportation, in addition to their excellent recycling programs, Limbaugh laughed. "And yet, Gaia levels them! Just wipes them out!" Rush Limbaugh, said.

Seriously, Limbaugh, there is a point where your opinion is simply contrary to what humanity ought to understand regarding proper expression. Again, this column is absolute proof that each individual is entitled to their own opinion.

However, when opinions are harmful to the very nature of another human's activities, especially activities which are undertaken to further the well-being of humanity as a whole, maybe shutting one's mouth is a better choice.

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

Does science matter?

Let us know at thecurrent-online.com

We agree with Matthew.

Do you?

www.thecurrent-online.com

Point/Counterpoint



Do white males deserve specific scholarships?

White males are not mistreated in education

The American education system is causing drama again, particularly in Texas.

Colby Bohannon, a Texas State University student, was having difficulties finding scholarships for him and his friends to apply for. Taking matters into his own hands, Bohannon created the Former Majority Association for Equality. FMAE now offers grants solely to Caucasian men.

Bohannon claims that he is handing out scholarships now to a group that needs them most. Apparently, white men are forgotten about, while women and minorities are given more scholarship money.

Groups across the United States are in uproar at the brashness of Bohannon's newly created scholarship.

While he claims that racism is not being promoted and he is solely trying to provide school money to those who truly need it, oth-

ers believe that he is using "discrimination to promote equality."

Scholarships are not offered to white males for the sole reason that, in all honesty, they typically do not need the money.

White males have always been favored in the American society (anybody wanna go grab a history book?), perhaps it is their turn to do a little suffering.

Women are still overcoming the "glass-ceiling"; minority groups are still overcoming stereotypes; low-income families are still overcoming financial obstacles. All of these groups deserve a little extra assistance in providing for their futures.

But think about how this "white male" mentality exists even after the college realm. In the job market, it is literally everywhere. Business Chief Executive Officers are almost entirely white males, police forces are almost en-

tirely white male, and even computer-related fields are filled with white males.

In order to quit forcing the American population to stop thinking solely about white males, we need to start here. There is no reason for this scholarship. There are other ways to get money. Bohannon claimed he couldn't find any for himself. Did anyone ask if his extra-curricular activities and grades were lacking?

To those that say it is about time that white males deserve a scholarship like this, only one question can be asked. Why?

When white males are constantly handed the best life opportunities for the rest of their lives, then why do they deserve any better before they graduate? Why do they deserve to be favored throughout their entire life? Why do they deserve to go through life without a little hardship?

White male scholarship is not racism, but smart

It is very common to see scholarships given to many minority groups to create equality amongst students receiving the rewards.

Then it makes sense for a Texas group to be giving out a scholarship to "white men only" as the Huffington Post and the group put it, to avoid seeming racist towards white men.

The scholarship was created to alleviate the discrimination towards them and all other minorities hence creating equality.

Only allowing white males to apply for the scholarship may seem racially prejudiced, but in actuality, most minorities get scholarships because they are a different race or because of monetary issues anyway.

So what is the big deal if there is a scholarship for only white males? It is no different from a scholarship that is only for black males, or only for Asian males, or only for white females, or only for black females, or only for Asian females, etcetera.

If the scholarship is only for a certain minority somewhere, then it is just applying towards the students who have a harder time receiving

money for college because there are not enough scholarships out there for them anyway.

It is not racist against any of the races at all; it is helping them. There are all sorts of scholarships out there that only apply to specific minorities. What about the white males who struggle with providing money to go to college as well? They need help too. So what did they do? They created a scholarship for only white males to take care of the problem and to make it more equal.

It would be more discriminatory against white males to not have a scholarship out there for them.

Colby Bohannon, the creator of the group, Former Majority Association for Equality, is actually in the minority of non-Hispanic whites in Texas as the Huffington Post reports. If all other minorities have scholarship opportunities why should they not?

Of course, this poses a debate because it seems the group is prejudiced against all other races, but when other scholarships are geared specifically towards certain other races you do not hear

anybody debating about how its racist against white people.

It is fair to say that this scholarship is creating more equality for college students, allowing white males who struggle to get scholarships the chance to receive them.

Rather than white males feeling excluded from scholarships why not make one just for white males? There is nothing wrong with making the scholarship specifically to white males. It is not discrimination towards any other groups.

It is very balanced to let there be a scholarship for another minority in Texas, that is really all it is.

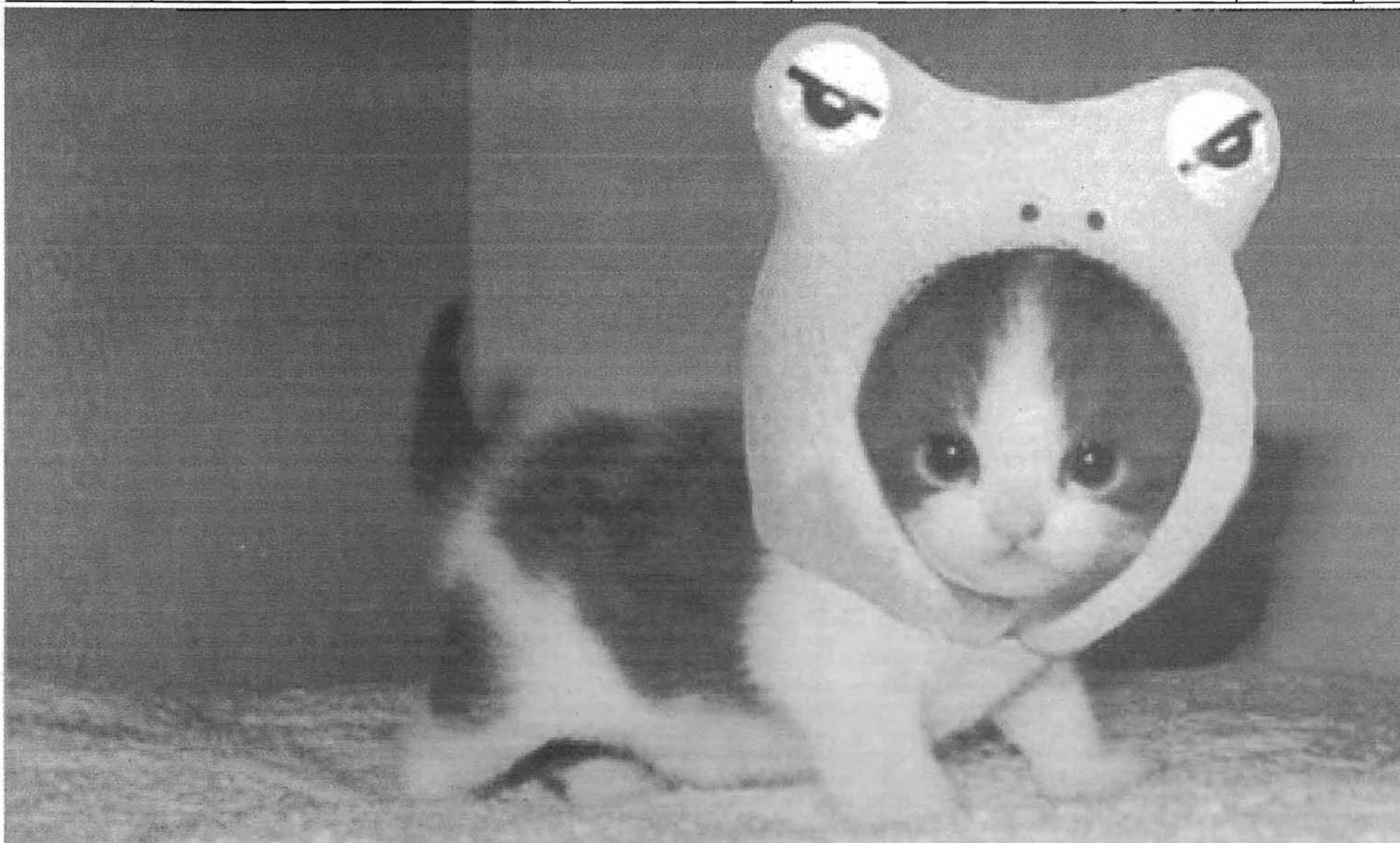
If someone else was looking for scholarships and kept realizing the scholarships they are looking at are for specific races, then they would start to wonder where all the scholarships are for people who are like them.

Then eventually, just like Colby Bohannon, they would possibly create one just for those people. It does not matter who the scholarship is for, in the end it is helping the people who need it, no matter what their race or ethnicity.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at

www.thecurrent-online.com



Are you this cute?

If so, you might be able to get a great job with **The Current**.

The Current is looking for Editor-in-Chief candidates for the 2011-2012 school year. All applicants considered! For more information, please visit www.thecurrent-online.com

Also hiring Staff Writers, Illustrators, Page Designers, and Cartoonists. No experience necessary, though if you wanna be head honcho, a little experience would be nice, right? Right.

Reptiles from the Cretaceous period are encouraged.

Job descriptions and how to apply at

www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment/

Puzzles

CURRENT HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

That movie on Friday was amazing! Now have a cup off tea and shut up about that movie.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Cheese is pretty good, but on Tuesday, milk is going to be so great you'll forget about cheese, for realz.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taurus, you normally go to a trash bin to eat your ear wax with gloves and then fall asleep drinking water at a bar. You're so odd.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

You are madly in love with this crab meat that you see at the store, lately you have been doubting if it is true love, but crab meat is tasty.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Recently, your twin found a long piece of string. Then you saw him swinging it in the parking lot, stop him before someone gets hurt.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You wear green a lot, have you ever noticed it? Everyone else has, so just stop it already, sheesh.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 21)

What do a fish, Jesus of Mexico City, Mexico, and two kinds of hats have to do with you? Watch Judge Judy tonight to find out.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Woah, last week was stupid busy. If you had a dollar everytime you were late you could sleep on the money instead of a bus.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

It's March. RAWR. Be a lion. Or don't. Your call.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Guess what? Turns our you CAN has cheeseburger. And you can has fries with it, too. And soda: get a Coke.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

You missed out on a great party Thursday, but don't let that stop you from rocking out all next week in style.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Don't be standing out there like one o'clock all struck. Start doing something with your life.

CURRENT WORD SEARCH

Spring Break

V	U	L	H	S	Q	X	Z	S	H	K	V	Q
Q	D	O	W	N	T	I	M	E	A	F	B	S
K	M	G	N	A	D	M	B	E	S	B	T	H
L	Y	R	V	O	F	G	R	E	I	U	S	M
D	L	S	H	K	Q	B	H	Q	D	F	J	K
T	I	D	S	K	G	C	V	Y	Y	T	Y	Y
E	M	W	D	N	A	A	I	K	K	M	F	W
Y	A	O	I	E	C	N	W	Z	H	P	P	J
G	F	R	B	A	G	S	E	I	T	R	A	P
S	P	K	T	Z	M	L	F	E	E	U	J	E
S	N	I	X	G	N	I	P	E	E	L	S	E
U	O	N	E	C	A	N	C	U	N	C	G	T
N	S	G	T	R	O	A	D	T	R	I	P	E

Beaches
Cancun
Down time
Family
Parties
Road trip

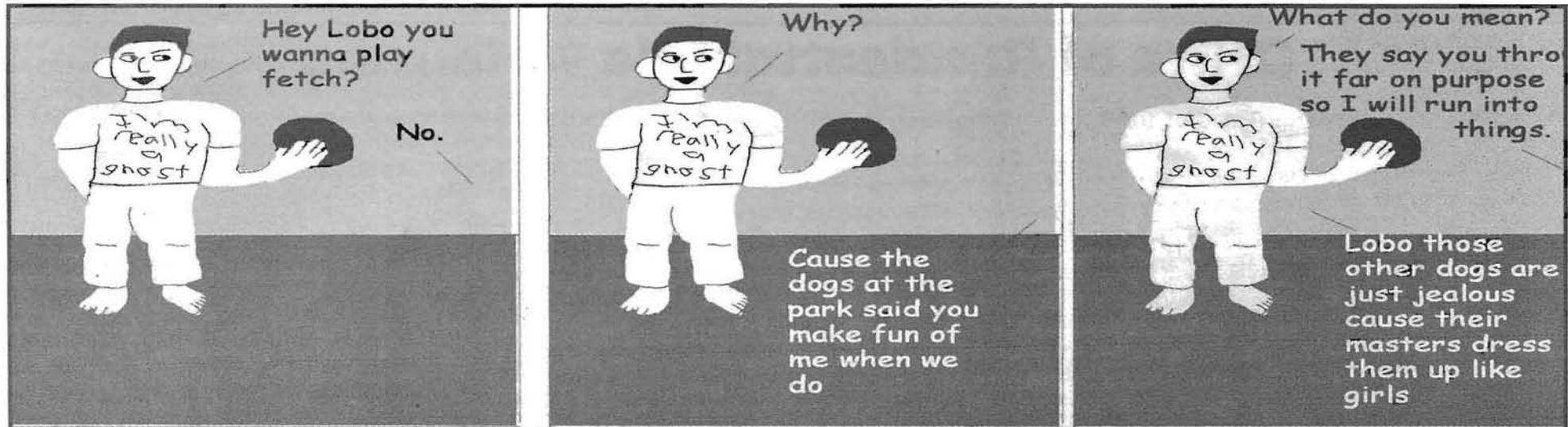
Sleeping
Spring Break
Studying
Vacation
Working

Comics

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



The Current needs cartoonists

CAN YOU DRAW?

ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?

IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS,

STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP, ALSO.

OR YOU CAN E-MAIL US AT THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

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 submissions.



Sean Hamre, electrical engineering, math and music, sophomore, shot a three-pointer at the first station at the three-point shooting contest at the Mark Twain Building Tuesday.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

Office of Residential Life & Housing

Tired of the commute? Fighting through traffic? Searching for a parking spot?

Simply your life! We have two on campus, traditional living options to fit your lifestyle!
Come take a tour and learn about the many benefits of living on campus!



Why Live On Campus?

Conveniently Accessible, No Commuting Hassles, Shuttle Services, Better Leadership and Network Opportunities, Access to Campus Services, Lasting Friendships, 24/7 Security and Staff



Oak Hall

(23 and younger)
The Suite Life

104 suites, each suite contains four private bedrooms and a bathroom with enclosed stalls and dual vanity.

All Rooms Conveniently Include:

XL twin bed and mattress, desk, desk chair, dresser, closet, window view, sink, mirror and microfridge/microwave.

Room Amenities:

Wi-Fi and Ethernet internet, basic cable, and land line telephone.

Hall Amenities:

Dining Hall, swipe card access, several meal plan options, shuttle service, heated pool, TV lounges

Villa Hall

(23 and older)

Upperclassmen & Graduates

Private, single rooms for upperclassmen and graduates without the nonsense starting as low as \$460 per month!



Live, Learn, Experience, Grow

umslreslife@umsl.edu ~ (314) 516-6877

www.umsl.edu/reslife ~ www.facebook.com/umslreslife

