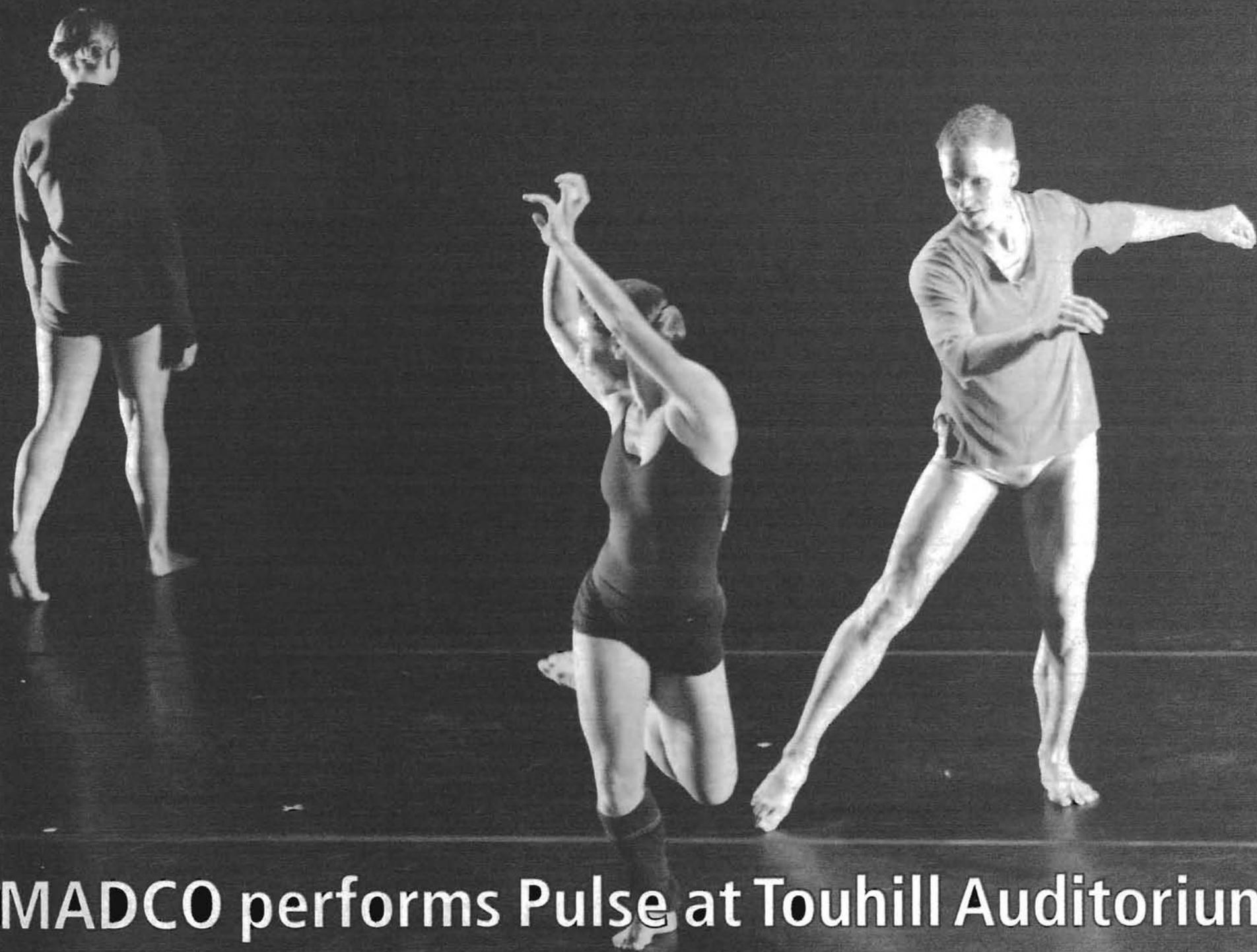


The Current

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The Current

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ABOUT The Current

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AFFILIATIONS



News

Jubilee celebration kicks off From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls project

UMSL gets ready to celebrate 50th anniversary, calling out for student volunteers in planning for Jubilee celebration in 2013

RYAN KRULL
Staff Writer

Last month at the annual State of the University address, University of Missouri St. Louis Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Marketing Officer Ron Gossen officially kicked off the planning of the UMSL's upcoming Jubilee celebration with the debut of *From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls*, a video documenting the early years of UMSL.

Beginning in January 2013, the Jubilee will be a year long celebration of the university's first 50 years to celebrate the achievements and honors have been made for the past fifty years since the foundation.

According to the project's charter, the Jubilee will include "tangible & intellectual, ephemeral and permanent undertakings."

"'Tangible' could be finishing out the Margaret Ross Burnett Plaza, 'intellectual' could be a special lecture series on civil rights then and now, 'ephemeral' could be an event like a Jubilee homecoming,

and 'permanent' could be a Jubilee flower garden," Gossen said.

Gossen stressed that the aforementioned ideas are only possibilities and it is only the foundation for the planning of the Jubilee that has been set. Because the celebration's framework is in its nascent stage, students who believe they might have ideas for great ways to celebrate 50 years of UMSL are more than welcome to join the Jubilee's organizing committee. Students who would like to volunteer can do so at www.umsl.edu/jubilee. Gossen says that students who will have graduated by 2013 are still more than welcome to volunteer.

Gossen sits on the Jubilee Steering Committee, but he did not commission the video shown at the State of the University address. The video emerged from the University Archives, who wanted to tell the early history of the university as well as put on display of few of the beautiful historical photographs that

the archives had been keeping and maintaining all these years.

"I think it's very important to get these individuals to give us an insight into what the actual history of the university was and how it grew from the beginning," Interim Dean of the Libraries Christopher Dames said.

"We weren't there, but they were and once they pass away we will no longer have their voices. So I think it's important to record what they say."

Even though Dames says he is very proud of *From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls*, he is adamant that he merely gave the project his approval. The video is the result of hard work from people like Linda Belford, a Senior Manuscript Specialist with the University Archives, and others from that department as well as the State Historical Society of Missouri.

"It started with Zelli Fischetti, he is the director of the archives and now the state historical society of Missouri.

It was his idea to interview Dr. Primm, and from there we just started thinking of people who would have been here in the early days who could maybe tell the story of what it felt like to be on campus. We wanted to get a faculty point of view as well as from some students that were here."

Fortunately, former Professor of History Neal Primm was interviewed when he was, as he passed away not long after being interviewed and before the video was completed. His passing underscores the feelings of Dames and others that UMSL history should be recorded for future generations while it still can.

From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls can be viewed at the Jubilee website, and a trove of early-UMSL era photos that were not used in the video can be accessed through the UMSL library homepage by clicking on the University Archives link under the Libraries and Archives tab.

Corrections and our sincere apologies

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

In the previous issue, a mistake occurred in the content of an article on page 4.

First, the article's headlines stated that inflation drives

down crime rate, whereas it actually increases them. Also, there is a positive correlation between the two, not a negative co-relation. These headlines inadvertently reversed the portrayal his research results.

In addition, Richard Rosenfeld's name was misspelled in a few spots. An "i" was added, making his name Rosenfield, instead.

WEATHER

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
83	83	80	72	69	69	75
62	61	58	55	49	54	52

Month of Giving highlights and celebrates philanthropy festival at University of Missouri-St. Louis campus

MINHO JUNG
News Editor

The month of October in 2011 was designated as the month of giving by Thomas George, chancellor of University of Missouri-St. Louis, in order to promote and highlight philanthropic acts on campus. Throughout the month of October, all the student organizations will participate in the annual United Way Fund and Community Health Charities Drive.

"The month of giving is to celebrate philanthropy that happens across the campus. We have students who engaged in philanthropy fundraising for lots of different organizations and programs around the area. We are also doing our own campus campaign." Patricia Zahn, coordinator of Community Outreach &

Engagement and director of Des Lee Collaborative Vision, said. "What we are trying to do is to show UMSL is really connected to the broader community. We provide not only education, as a [part of the] community, [but also] give back [what we can do] to this region."

United Way Fund and Community Health Charities are both federal campaigns at the national level, with each of their primary headquarters located in Virginia. United Way leads fundraising campaigns with almost two-hundred agencies in the St. Louis region alone. Community Health Charities focuses more on fundraising for health-related issues. Both United Way Fund

and Community Health Charities are expected to play pivotal roles in executing the fundraising campaign through the Month of Giving at UMSL this year, as well as in years yet to come.

During the month of October, information tables will be arranged one day per week for students who are interested in donating to particular causes they are passionate about. These causes may range from breast cancer to Children's Miracle Network program, and all are expected to have some representation at UMSL's Month of Giving campaign.

"Basically, what we are able to do is that you don't have to go find ones that you are looking for. It's all together [at one

spot]. You can just select one or two however many you want." Zahn said. "Again, they do their research to make sure that these charities are viable."

The Month of Giving will also highlight fundraising activities enacted by student organizations as well as employee campaigns, which have been going on throughout the whole year. The campaign aims to cause more student engagement with other special events of this month, such as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and 2011 UMSL Homecoming, thus allowing the Month of Giving to function as another project to increase student awareness across the UMSL campus.

"This is the first time of Month of Giving."

Zahn said. "The goal of the campaign is \$75,000. We are pretty confident that we can reach that goal through various giving. We have students [who really believe in this campaign]. I know that, through various activities, they are anticipating \$25,000 just [from their own fundraising activities]."

The money raised during The Month of Giving will be distributed to the areas within the community to improve the quality of a variety of areas in St. Louis region. The campaign is expected to raise awareness of many areas where help are needed in the community. It is also expected to enhance the image of the school within the community.

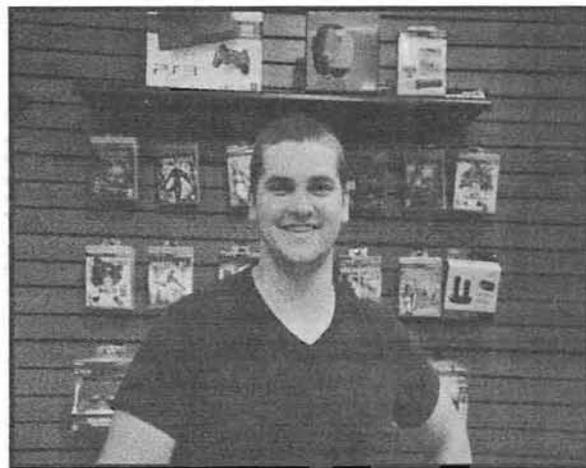
"What's wonderful about this program is that we really can make a difference in the community. We have over 15,000 people here on campus. If everyone gives \$5, we can reach our goal [and therefore] we can reach people in the community and make difference in their lives. Just a small group of people [can] make a big difference. Students, they can change the world." Zahn said.

The Month of Giving campaigns for subsequent years are expected to be improvements upon even the events planned for this October. Of course, this all depends on the success of this year's event. So, join UMSL this October, and help charitable organizations grow and continue work.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Nikki Vahle

"What do you think about Mexico City's idea to make temporary marriage licenses available to couples?"



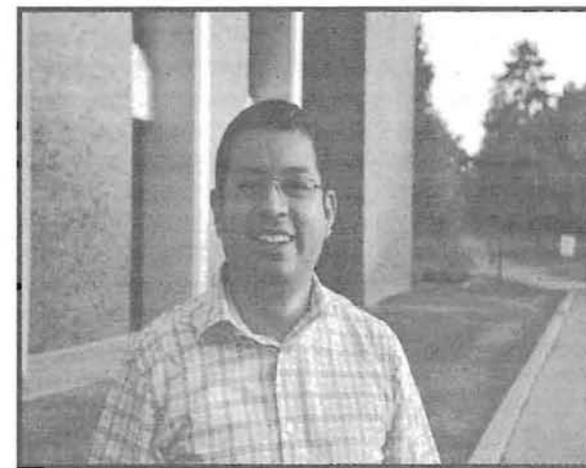
"I think that it's not needed because it reminds of a cell phone contract. Why put a name other than than marriage?"

Matt Dickson
Accounting
Junior



"It makes marriage like a business. I'd like something forever."

Mengjia Li
Communication
Senior



"That undermines the purpose God had for marriage. It's like a get out of jail free card."

Victor Chinin Buele
Masters of Business
Administration
Graduate

UMSL archeologist receives a grant for remarkable discoveries

UMSL professor Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, awarded grant to continue work in Greece

MADDIE HARNED
Staff Writer

Greece is a country known for its rich history, classic myths and, of course, delicious gyros. Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, professor of archeology at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, has had a passion for Greek culture and history that has become a career that has spanned a quarter of a century.

Recently, Cosmopoulos received a \$130,285 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his excavation work in Greece. The grant money will be going toward Cosmopoulos' annual summer digs in Greece, as will also be assisting in starting the project titled "Early State Formation and Expansion: Iklaina, a Secondary Center of the Mycenaean State of Pylos, Greece" in the very near future.

During the upcoming 2012 summer dig, Cosmopoulos and his team will be excavating a Mycenaean site that could have a serious impact on how Greek history is perceived around the world in the coming years.

"It appears to be the earliest state capital in Greece," Cosmopoulos said. "The goal is to understand when and how states were formed in Greece and Europe."

Cosmopoulos received funding from the National Science Foundation by application at the national level. Other funding for his

archeological work in Greece has come from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The National Geographic Society and UMSL.

Through the funding from the National Science Foundation, Cosmopoulos will be exploring the formation of Mycenaean states from 1600 to 1100 B.C. during his upcoming summer digs. Cosmopoulos will be working with over 30 students and 25 staff members, several of whom are from UMSL.

"Our evidence about Mycenaean states comes from three or four main places, but we don't have information from non-palatial sites – it's like trying to understand life in the USA by looking only at Washington D.C. and not at any other city," Cosmopoulos said. "Our site was a secondary, as opposed to the primary or central, center and can give us, for the first time, clues about life outside the main capitals."

Cosmopoulos' upcoming excavations, which will be funded by his National Science Foundation grant, may unearth artifacts that could lead to a new understanding, of early Greek history.

"We are working on the hypothesis that the earliest states developed out of the unification of previously independent chiefdoms and that it was the capitals of these chiefdoms that became

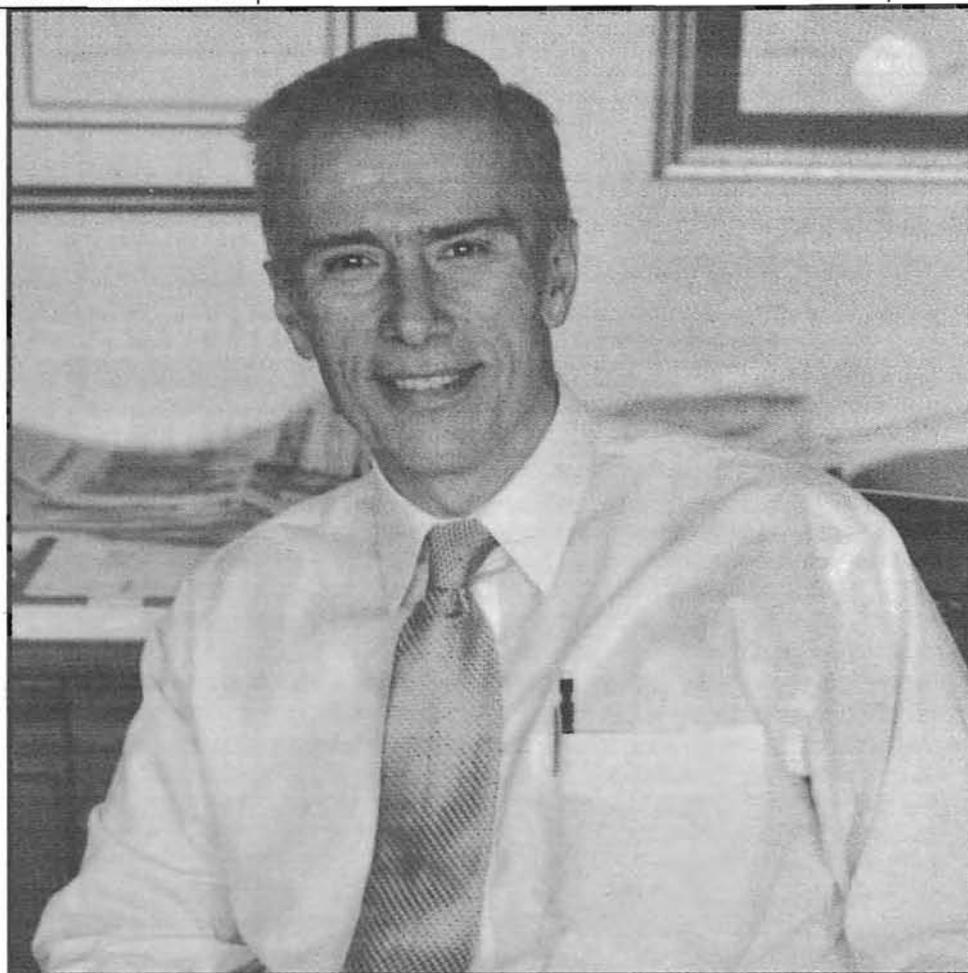
the secondary centers of the Mycenaean period," Cosmopoulos said.

During an excavation last summer, Cosmopoulos and his team unearthed a clay tablet that proved to be the earliest written record in Greece. The uncovering of the tablet challenged previous knowledge about literacy, state formation and bureaucracy in ancient Greece.

"This means that state bureaucracy started earlier than we had thought," Cosmopoulos said. "The fact that the tablet was found in a secondary center suggests that literacy was more widespread than what we knew and that states were de-centralized."

Measured in at two inches by three inches, the tablet is estimated to date back somewhere between 1450 to 1350 B.C. The tablet was discovered at an excavation site in Iklaina, Greece.

Cosmopoulos considered this rare artifact to be the most interesting find he has come across during his work in Greece. The discovery of the tablet garnered extensive international media coverage from major media companies. Reports of the find have been published in both the New York Times and the National Geographic Society. Future discoveries will hopefully lead to a further understanding of Greek history.



Professor of Archeology Michael Cosmopoulos. JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The Current
and
the Center for Teaching and
Learning
Present:

News at Noon

October 19 - Individual Mandate: who needs healthcare?

November 2 - The Results are in: census numbers mean BIG changes for Missouri

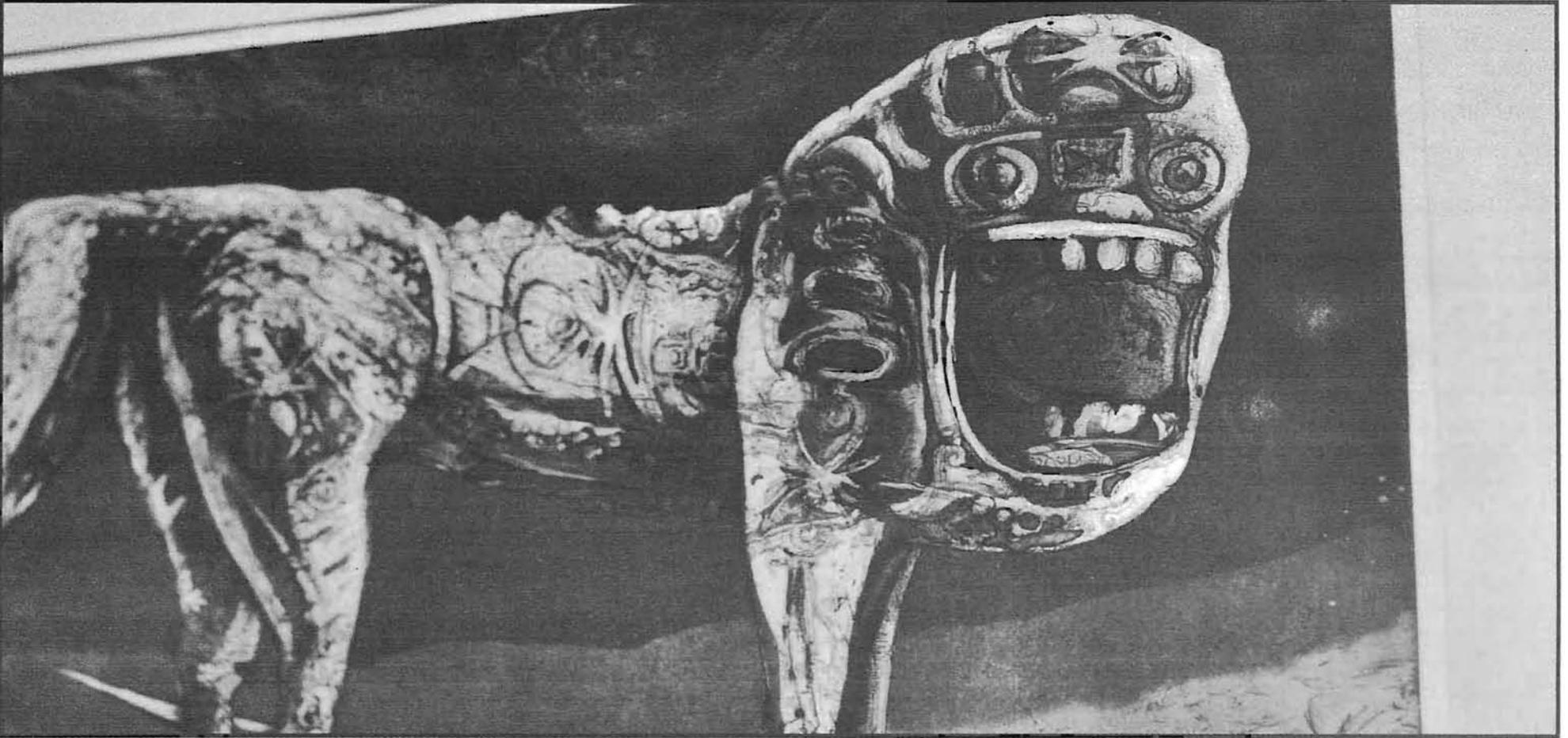
December 7 - Homeless in the City: what it's like to go without

Come discuss community issues with UMSL students, faculty, and staff.

Free Pizza!

What's Current

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



This work by Ralph Slatton is one of his works featured in the "4 Directions, 4 Artists" art exhibit.

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Monday, October 10

Homecoming: where's Louie?

From 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Located campuswide and open to students. Check your email for the clues, and keep an eye out around campus for Louie. He will be hidden somewhere new each day, and finding him will earn prizes. For more information, call Jared Thimes at 314-516-5531.

Homecoming kickoff fair

From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Located at MSC on the patio and lawn and open to UMSL. Inflatable objects, free food, and socialization will be present to help kick off this year's Homecoming week in style. For more information, call John LaLoggia at 314-516-5294.

Tuesday, October 11

Homecoming blood drive

From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Located in the MSC Century Rooms and open to UMSL. Donate blood at the MSC to help the local community. Canned good donations will also be accepted at this event. For more information, call Ashlee Roberts at 314-516-4833.

That darned s!

From 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located in SSB 222 and open to all. Come learn about plurals, possessives, subject-verb agreement, and contractions. For more information, call David Linzee at 314-516-6863.

Wednesday, October 12

Big man on campus

From 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Located at MSC in Century Rooms A and B and open to UMSL. UMSL's Panhellenic Council sponsors their annual Big Man on Campus male talent pageant as a part of Homecoming Week 2011. Cheer on your student organization of choice as they compete in active/sportswear, talent contests, formal attire, and a Q&A session. For more information, call Brandon Nelson at 314-516-4031.

Executive Fellows mentoring project - Robert Muldoon

From 12:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Located in SSB 427 and open to all. The purpose of this mentoring project is to help students meet their career goals after graduation. Executive fellows (Business and Organizational leaders) facilitate three sessions per program with small groups of three to five students. Any major and classification accepted, must attend all three sessions. For more information, call Dr. Malaika Horne at 314-516-4749.

Thursday, October 13

Homecoming shopping cart parade

From 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Located at MSC patio and open to UMSL. All student organizations and campus departments have the opportunity to participate in this quirky take on a campus tradition. Organizations and departments are encouraged to decorate a shopping cart to match the Homecoming theme "Where Our Journey Began." For more information, call Krista Hedrick at 314-516-5291.

A&E



Live music made up the beats for the dancers of Friday's performance "Pulse!" by MADCO. Cover photo: Dancers move for MADCO's "Pulse!" concert on Friday at the Touhill

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

MADCO delivers a mad dance show, in 'Pulse!' at Touhill PAC

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

At the Modern American Dance Company's "Pulse!" dance performance last weekend, dancers plus musicians equaled an awesome show.

MADCO's "Pulse" was performed October 7 and 8 in Touhill Performing Arts Center's E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater. There wasn't a bad seat in the house. From a duo that performed in an adult version of a baby door jam jumper to a surreal number reminiscent of death and relying on one another in life, this show had something for everyone.

There were two people on stage before the show on Saturday, October 8, Stacey West, executive and artistic director, and Matt Henry, music director. Together they

talked about the pieces and gave insights that eventually helped interpret the performances. The first, titled "Dancer + Musician = ?" was created as a piece in which the music was, in theory, never the same. The music was composed in what were called cells, as Henry explained. Each musician could independently decide how many times they wanted to play each cell before moving on to the next.

The musicians started together before moving forward in their own time. The performers wore warm up attire and alternately shuffled in a large circle around the stage or paused while a few danced in the middle. The point was to consider what might come of the creative time before a rehearsal when dancers and musicians come together to show off their individual

skills.

The second number, "Junk Garden Remix," was a cacophony of found object instruments. The harshest sound emanating from the impromptu instruments was a gong being dragged across a piece of siding. It shrieked behind the din of trashcans, washtubs, cymbals and cowbells. The dancers removed articles of clothing in slow motion and then paired off to lift one another and roll around, also in slow motion. The only thing missing was a strobe light.

"Rebounding," the next dance, was all about the bungee cords. According to West in the pre-performance talk, the bungee cord was chosen over aerial silks because they had less of a circus connotation. Another plus for bungee was that it allowed for the exaggeration of highs and lows in the

piece, which choreographers consider when creating their dances. Unfortunately there were points at which the bungee did seem childish, but at its best, when the duo interacted with each other or the other dancers on stage, it was beautifully unique.

The fourth and fifth pieces, "Groove" and "Journey," were the two that told the most complete stories.

Earlier in the program, the dance numbers had been about the music, the instruments or the accoutrements. At this point, it became about what "Groove" meant, what it implied. The costumes were pretty, the lights were rose-tinted, and the dancers interacted playfully. There were two repeated hand movements for "Groove:" one mimicked a wave in the water, which insinuated that the dancer was open

to advances. The other, a dusting-off motion, came when the dancers wanted to rid themselves of the "interested" party. It was a copy cat and mouse game.

In the other piece, "Journey," the performers relied on one another. They helped each other move around the stage and, at the end, as each woman exited, they would faint backwards and another dancer would catch them and push them forward. The line progressed until there was only one dancer left and she moved hesitantly around the stage confused by the lack of support.

Throughout the show, "Pulse!" was building toward its crescendo. The stage was awash with orange light and the music started with a tribal feel. The dancers remained hunched over in the beginning, only

straightening for a move here or there. There were a few minutes of this before the feeling changed into something a little more modern and the furious movement began. At one point there was even a cheerleader-like lift and fall.

As a finale, "Play or Be Played" was just another dance number until the musicians began to play faster, challenging the dancers to move faster and faster. By the end they were breathless, which is not a sight normally seen. They were covered in sweat, panting, and it was apparent they had been challenged. It was strangely life affirming.

MADCO's "Pulse!" dance performance at the Touhill truly was a show with something for everyone.

Grade: A

Zombies invade Visio in "Expired"

JANACA SCHERER
Managing Editor

Zombies have taken over in University of Missouri- St. Louis' Gallery Visio.

The latest exhibit, titled "Expired," delves deeper into death, murder and zombies than any exhibit before. The student-run gallery is located on the bottom floor of the Millennium Student Center. "Expired" opened on October 6 with reception, and will run through November 3.

Featuring several UMSL students' work, the gallery is a host to many creepy and terrifying pieces that explore the dark cloud that hangs around zombie culture. The exhibit is also being sponsored by the Made Monarchs.

At the pre-Halloween party for the exhibit's gallery opening, "Expired" is the perfect place for those who love the twisted minds of murder, zombies and even dead Barbies. Blasting dub-step during the opening, it was obvious that this exhibit is entirely in a league of its own.

As the night progressed,

zombies made their own appearance at the event. Walking around and "stalking" the patrons, the zombie-girls created what was possibly one of the most intriguing gallery openings UMSL has ever seen.

The first thing patrons will notice when walking through the doors are the stained walls. Featuring what looks like washed-away blood stains, it is obvious to see that Gallery Visio has never hosted anything quite like the "Expired" exhibit before.

Moving further into the gallery, visitors also have a chance to help create their own horror scene in an on-going art piece as well. "They're Coming to Board Up the Windows" allows for art appreciators to dip a severed hand (plastic, of course) into blood (just red paint) and streak it along the curtains that make up this installation art piece.

Other pieces in the exhibit include a line of photographs featuring a zombie housewife by Erin Sommer, senior, studio art. The pictures feature titles such as "A clean house is a happy house," "Show your

desire to please," "Plan to have a delicious meal ready," and "Always be presentable for your husband," among many others. The pieces adds an eerie effect to the ideals of the '50s housewife.

Another captivating piece is Virginia Harold's "Wake Up." The photographs feature a young girl. While the pictures are beautifully taken and tell a story, it is not a happy one. Harold's captivating pictures will draw you back several times in an attempt to put together a story behind the pictures.

Other pieces include a look at phobias, an interesting take on zombie Barbies and a mixed media piece that gives a new, yet extremely creepy, look into a pieced together zombie.

While there are too many pieces to fully be described, the exhibit was definitely top notch and deserves a visit from all UMSL students, despite their interest in the dark and creepy. The exhibit offers a fun look into a culture that continues to make its way into the mainstream.

Grade: A+

Cobra Skulls fire up Firebird

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

Since The Firebird's grand opening roughly two years ago, the little-rock club-that-could has quickly gained a reputation as the ideal venue for up-and-coming indie bands. Bands passing through St. Louis during their dogged tours of the various bars and basements of this great nation are likely to visit The Firebird.

On October 1, the rollicking rockabilly punk group Cobra Skulls, touring in support their latest album "Agitations," joined the quickly growing ranks of Firebird alumni, delivering another excellent rendition

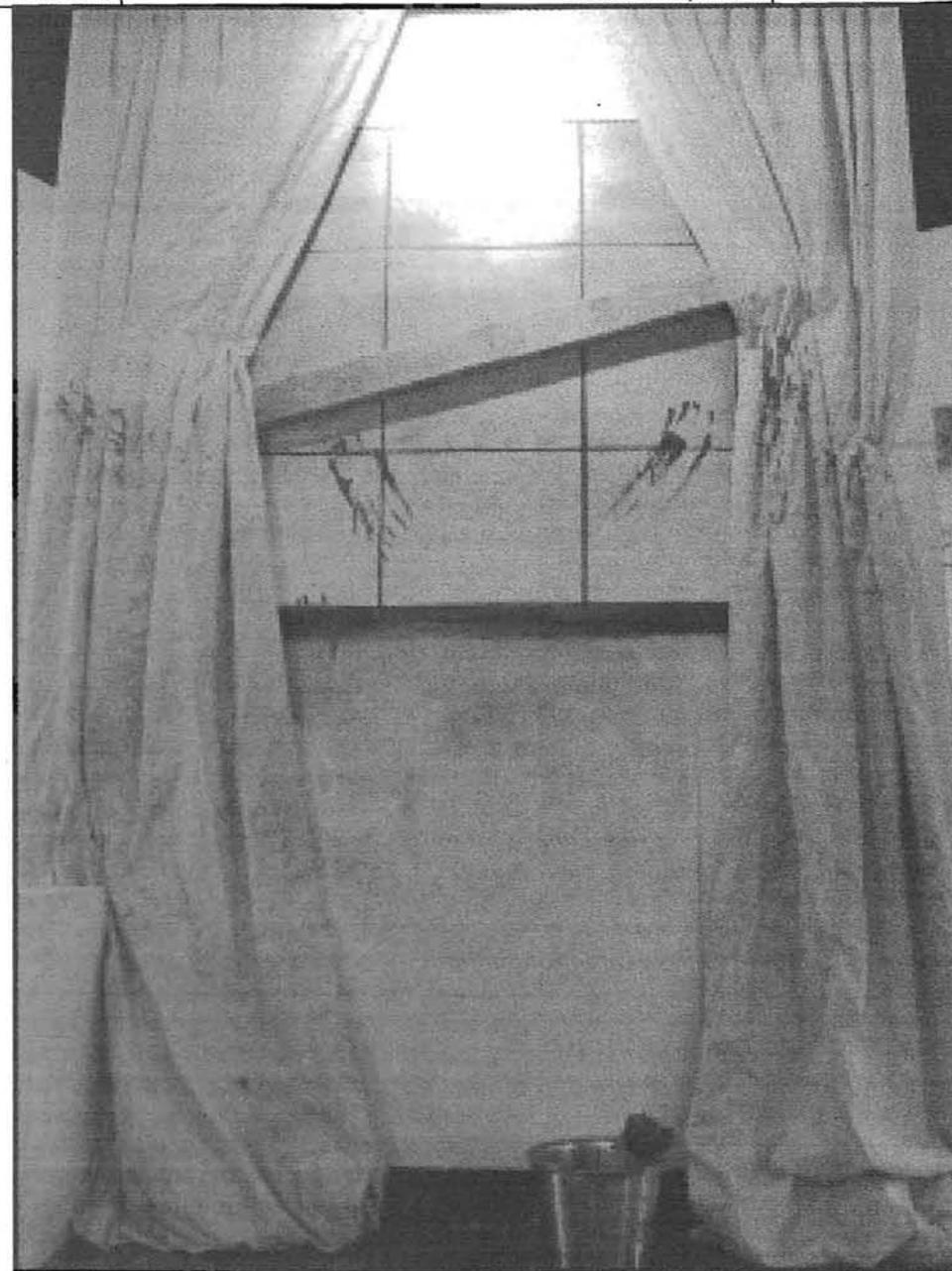
of the manic live show that the group has become renowned for.

Without a doubt, The Firebird is the perfect location to see a group like Reno, NV natives Cobra Skulls. Although the band's rabidly loyal fan-base might be somewhat too modest to fill a venue like The Pageant, the humble accommodations of The Firebird gives the kind of intimacy a trio of homespun punks like Cobra Skulls thrives on, allowing the audience to see (and in some unfortunate incidents, taste) the sweat that goes into their music. Seeing this band live is truly an eye-opening experience, for as solid as Cobra Skulls offerings like

"American Rubicon" and the previously mentioned "Agitations" could be, a studio recording cannot give justice to the spastic head rush their live performance delivers.

Tearing through such fan favorites as "Jukebox" and "Thicker than Water" with a vengeance, the group managed to both be endearingly earsplitting and astoundingly precise (a feat made all the more impressive considering the formidable jiggling Cobra Skulls guitarist Charlie Parker treated his spectators to).

The dynamic rapport the band built with the audience, one of the show's many highlights,



Gallery Visio's art exhibit 'Expired' includes an interactive piece by Jeremy Powers, titled 'They're Coming, Board Up The Windows.'

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

simply would not have been possible anywhere else but The Firebird, a particular delight being the ongoing exchange between Parker and a dyed-in-the-wool audience member with equally impressive dance moves. The group's infectious charisma was certainly a welcome change of pace from the muttering Michael Cera lookalikes who tend to populate a few too many of The Firebird's acts, exuding the kind of confidence that separates belated opening acts from true headliners. Cobra Skulls gave ample evidence of their membership to the latter category.

Of course, the opening acts, all of whom were

well chosen, deserve a fair amount of credit for the show's success as well. Particularly impressive was Nothington, a band which specializes in breakneck anthems in the same vein as Alkaline Trio and, like Cobra Skulls, plays gritty latter-day punk rock that has a lot more in common with '90s revivalists like Social Distortion than the toothless My Chemical Romance-derived pap which usually passes for punk in 2011. Their set was especially memorable due to the dual contributions of Cobra Skulls' frontman Devin Peralta and guitarist Parker, who charitably filled in for Nothington's absent bassist and performed the

role admirably.

The most impressive moment of the show, however, came from the surprising southern-fried twang which concluded the Cobra Skulls' set, as the band's roadie joined the group for a show-stopping, banjo-fueled psychobilly stomp. Of course, this move would only come as a surprise to the uninitiated. The band's first-rate performance gave convincing evidence that the number of people ignorant of the fearsome ways of the Cobra Skulls should be a dwindling group.

Grade: A-

Viral videos offer net-clicks to remember

BADIA EAD
Staff Writer

For those who have been fortunate enough not to have been diagnosed as Internet-challenged, the Web has many benefits. Assigned papers are aided through online research. Relationships are maintained through social networks. News can be sought and found. Our favorite TV shows are on call, waiting for us to beckon.

Forget all of that. For most, the beauty of the Internet is found in the viral video.

Everybody loves them. Anyone who claims otherwise was dropped on their head as a baby. Here for your reviewing pleasure are four videos currently circulating the 'net, waiting to be passed on to your mother, cousin, friends and classmates. All videos are listed by Youtube title.

BBC Speechless As Trader Tells Truth: "The Collapse Is Coming..."

And Goldman Rules The World"

A trader informs a BBC anchor on live television that traders want the markets to fail so that they can make more money. Big investors do not believe in the big European rescue plan and are moving their money elsewhere. The jaw-dropping moment comes at 2:38, when the trader says "The governments don't rule the world. Goldman Sachs rules the world." He then proceeds to tell everyone to be prepared for this cancer to grow, predicting the "savings of millions to vanish." This is probably the part where you realize you do not know everything about hedge funds and the stock market, but that the savings of millions vanishing makes you want to rock back in forth in a fetal position until it all goes away.

Webcam 101 For Seniors

Ever wonder what Grandma and Grandpa look like as they attempt to take

pictures on the webcam of their computer? Wait no more. In this endearing video, an elderly couple tries in vain to take a picture, unaware that they are being recorded the whole time. As Grandma tries to be serious and figure the webcam out, Grandpa makes monkey faces, yawns like a 4-year-old, sings "Hello my baby, Hello my darlin'," burps and, in the golden moment at 1:50, tells his wife to "drop your dress a little bit, you'll see your boobies." It is a comfort to us all to know that grandparents are so frisky behind the scenes.

This video is for: Fans of cute elderly people, other technologically-challenged family members.

Epic Tea Serving Skills

Next time you pointlessly complain that a job is too complicated, or whine to your parents that your simplistic internship requirement of picking up a cup of coffee for the boss sucks, just think of this guy. This tea cup holding expert manages to handle

multiple cups of tea in one hand, pouring the hot tea into each cup and just when you think he is done, he pulls out a few more cups. This video will not make you laugh, it will not inspire you and it will not make you sing along. But it encompasses the "je ne sais quoi" (a lot of hot tea) that makes viral videos watchable.

RecordSetter.com: Most Bites of 3 Apples While Juggling Them In 30 Seconds

This video is short and sweet. The title is self explanatory, and the look on this man's face as he bites down on the incredible flying apples is priceless. It does not matter why this man juggled apples and one day thought, "I would like to eat the apples...as I juggle." It is only important that you take in this video and treasure the gift this man has given us. Ladies, try to control the urge to find this man and marry him. Men, you have found a new Friday night hobby.

No shortage of action in 'Killer Elite'

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

Jason Bourne meets "Taken"'s Bryan Mills sums up action thriller "Killer Elite." The film is based on a true story about a former hired killer. Danny, played by Jason Statham, is forced back into the game when his best friend and mentor Hunter, played by Robert De Niro, is taken captive for ransom. But there is a twist - it is not money these people want, it is the professional services of the former elite killer Danny.

The film takes place mainly in Europe and the Middle East, with most of the characters using English accents, as it is rogue agents within the British Special Air Service that Statham is after. This movie gets the viewer intimately acquainted

with the special ops scene, and gives a personal look at the life of a killer on the move.

It gives more than one side of the story though, as it follows multiple channels of the killing scene, from the British side, to the Middle Eastern side, to the independent Statham, who is only in it to save his friend, and be done with it forever.

One of the best things about this film is that there is hardly a character involved that has not worked for a special service, and been paid to kill, which make every scene epic and intense. Every character is skilled in hand to hand combat and a weapon.

This movie has everything that makes a great action movie: non-

stop explosions, fighting, killing, and chasing. It is not the most gory action film but will satisfy even those bloodhounds out there as this film does not shy away from exposing its viewers to death scenes. One thing that separates this movie from other action films is its originality. One will not feel like one is watching the same action film. It keeps it unique in the fight scenes and moments of death.

The cast has plenty of experience in action films, and it shows throughout. Dominic Purcell, former star of TV's "Prison Break," has a great performance as Statham's right hand man. This reviewer would not be surprised to see him getting similar roles in the future. For those die-hard De Niro fans out there, do not go

into the movie expecting to see a lot of him, as he was on screen for less than a quarter of the time. The screenplay here really focuses on Statham's action hero ability, and he was no doubt at his best.

Not only was it a good action thriller, with a great screenplay, the cinematography was unique as well. The plot will have you involved the whole time. The only knock might be that the plot developed and turns so quickly, so at times it was hard to keep up. However it always seemed to explain itself with a thrilling action scene, or distract by engulfing viewers in excitement.

"Killer Elite" provides just under two hours of action for action fans.

Grade: B+

LATEST + GREATEST

New Movies Calendar

Opening Friday, October 14 - (subject to change)

THE BIG YEAR (everywhere)

Quirky comedy starring Jack Black, Owen Wilson and Steve Martin as competitive bird-watchers at a big annual rare bird event.

FOOTLOOSE (everywhere)

Remake of '80s musical favorite, about city kid Kevin Bacon bringing rock 'n' roll dancing to a small town that banned it. This version stars Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough and Dennis Quaid, directed by Craig Brewer (*Hustle and Flow*). A whole new level of "six degrees of Kevin Bacon."

THE THING (everywhere)

At an Antarctic research station, discovery of an alien space ship leads to all kinds of trouble. Not a re-make but a prequel to director John Carpenter' 1982 horror film, which was a remake of a '50s monster flick. The new film is directed by Matthijs van Heijningen Jr., stars Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Joel Edgerton and Ulrich Thomsen.

THE MILL AND THE CROSS (Tivoli only)

Art history buffs will love this visually fascinating, imaginative film that brings to life a famous painting, Pieter Bruegel the Elder's "Way to Calvary," created in 1564. Entertaining and educational, the film is a guided tour through the painting's creation, its cultural context and its subject, with discussions between artist Bruegel (Rutger Hauer) and a nobleman (Michael York). Also stars Charlotte Rampling, directed by Lech Majewski, in English.

New Albums Calendar

(Subject to change)

October 4:

Feist "Metals"

One, two, three, four, Feist is back to sing some more. Sure the Apple iPod commercials helped her catchy song "1,2,3,4" stick in our heads but without Apple, how will Feist do? "Metals" apparently does not stray from her last album "The Reminder." If that is true, commercial or no commercial, the new album should be a fun listen.

October 11:

Evanescence "Evanescence"

Four years after the release of their third studio album, "The Open Door," which sold over 6 million albums worldwide, the melancholic rock band returns with a self-titled album. Crafted in Nashville with producer Nick Raskulinecz, lead singer Amy Lee describes the songs as "epic," "dark" and "beautiful," which should appease long-standing fans.

October 24:

Drake "Take Care"

After the massive success of his debut album, "Thank Me Later," hip-hop star Drake celebrates his 25th birthday with the release of "Take Care." The Canadian recording artist will most likely keep the radio hits coming as Degraffi High continues to fade into a distant memory.

“Catherine” puzzles, pleases video gamers

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in-Chief

Whoever said video games need a linear plot line and a single game-play style clearly never met the folks who designed “Catherine” over at Atlus, Inc. This gem shines brightly amongst its peers, putting other puzzle games to shame, and excelling in the art of social simulation more brightly than any “Sims” game ever hoped.

“Catherine” takes place on two fronts. The first is that which the player is immediately introduced to: a simulated reality in which Vincent Brooks, the player’s character, must form relationships with fellow bar-goers in the jazzy, mellow environment of “The Stray Sheep.” Designed with a typical dive bar in mind, “The Stray Sheep” is home to all sorts of patrons.

The player’s best friends gather here nightly. A jaded, aging cop with a serious beer gut will come to spill details regarding a recent rash of unexplained deaths in the neighboring community. The bar’s owner, known only as “The Boss,” will

share his “sage” advice regarding women, while a saucy waitress named Erica tears down the player’s every belief and action with intense scrutiny. Couples will share their difficulties, and an elderly pair of twins, Lindsay and Martha, will give advice to the player on the appropriate course of action and the time remaining in which to reach “freedom.” All of this adds up to one hodgepodge of personalities no socialite could hope to ignore.

“The Stray Sheep” does not only serve to simulate friendships, however. It is also in the bar that players may practice their skills for the truly challenging portion of the game, learn vast troves of trivia concerning the alcoholic beverages available to Vincent and company, and push Vincent’s beliefs towards order, or chaos. With eight different endings to discover, Vincent’s alignment is more important than most first-time players will credit it.

It is when Vincent finally returns home that the game’s truly challenging aspect is awakened. Nightly, Vincent

is thrown into terrifying nightmares, in which he is forced to climb ever-intensifying towers of blocks. Not so difficult, eh? Guess again. Not only is the stage constantly dropping from beneath Vincent’s feet but the path upward is very rarely apparent following the first night or two.

Throw in blocks that explode, blocks with spikes springing from beneath them, blocks that shatter beneath Vincent’s feet, and a few other dastardly variations, and the puzzles of “Catherine” become some of the most frustrating most gamers will have faced in recent years.

Of course, the game still has to become more complicated. What is a video game, without a boss fight or ten? Every stage Vincent faces down ends with a boss battle, as is traditional of video games. In these stages, not only is the stage falling beneath Vincent’s feet but he must now evade the maniacal attacks of a monstrosity based upon his real-world fears, which chases him up the towers. Everything from an unborn

child to a deformed bride will attempt to massacre Vincent, each with its own flavor of terrifying assaults. Tie all of this together, and “Catherine’s” gameplay is truly unlike anything else released on the market in recent years.

The game’s musical score is bafflingly well-done. The songs played throughout Vincent’s social life arrangements are jazzy and fitting to the scenes they have been chosen for. Interestingly enough, the entirety of the game’s puzzle section is composed to a score of classical music, ranging from Bach to Dvorak.

Oh, and the game’s name? There may be a couple girls by this name within.

Is “Catherine” worth the \$60 price tag? Hardcore gamers will certainly think so. Those with less motivation for replay and commitment to challenging games may wish to rent it. However, no matter what the case, be ensured that players of “Catherine” are truly in for a wild ride, unlike anything else on the market.

Grade: A-

“Ready Player One” makes nerdy cool

JANACA SCHERER
Managing Editor

Geeks of the world will rally around the delicious nerdy new book by Ernest Cline, “Ready Player One.” The novel has hundreds of references to ‘80s music, video games, movies and fads that will make any reader want to go grab a Walkman.

The book is receiving raves from everyone who reads it. While the book may seem too nerdy for some, it is an excellent read that anyone could appreciate.

The story follows Wade Watts in the year 2044. The depletion of natural resources has led Earth to become absolutely horrible to live in, so people live in the virtual reality world called “OASIS.”

In OASIS, the slightly overweight, completely broke and average-looking Watts has an avatar named Percival, who can become anyone or anything he wants it to be. Meeting people from around the world, battling other avatars for experience points, completing quests, going to school and buying virtual goods in OASIS are all part of daily life for everyone.

However, when OASIS creator James Halliday dies, he leaves behind a gigantic quest for all OASIS users: Find the three keys to open the three gates. Be the first to do so and gain Halliday’s insanely large fortune.

For five years, Watts and millions of other users have been searching for Halliday’s “Easter egg” (named for the surprise hidden in some video games) with absolutely no luck. Despite the clues Halliday left behind, which revolve entirely around the ‘80s, no one has been able to successfully interpret where the first key is hidden.

That is, until the day Watts gets lucky and hits the jackpot. Being the first

to find the Copper Key, he becomes instantly famous among all ‘gunters’ (Egg-hunters) despite his obvious lack of money and weaponry. Questioned almost immediately by his close friend Aech, it is obvious Watts needs to keep a steady pace if he wants to get through the final gate first.

Following Watts through his journey to collect all three keys and open all three gates, the book takes on more than just a sci-fi edge. There is a romance story, as Watts meets his online crush Art3mis and things heat up. There is action, as Watts fights off the evil Sixers in an attempt to get to the final gate first while trying to avoid their grasp in the real world outside of OASIS. “Ready Player One” is constantly changing and every reader will be able to find something to like.

Cline, who also wrote the screenplay “Fanboys,” wrote quite possibly the perfect all-encompassing book. Readers will not have a single issue with it. It will be hard to put down and once finished, readers will want to pick it back up again. There is a character for everyone to identify with, and in the end, it will be hard not to smile with satisfaction.

Those who are not into nerdiness or the ‘80s should still give the book a chance. It is an amazing read and even though every reference may not be understandable, does not make “Ready Player One” any less enjoyable.

Cline recently sold the rights to Warner Brothers for a possible movie adaptation, anticipation will be high until it is released. While no real information has yet to be released about the movie’s release dates, the movie is sure to be as big of a success as the book.

Grade: A

Red Hot Chili Peppers refuse to cool off

OWEN SHROYER
Sports Editor

Those who enjoyed the Red Hot Chili Peppers last album, “Stadium Arcadium” (2006), will certainly enjoy the work put in to “I’m With You,” the band’s new album.

Many fans were heart-broken when they heard the news that tremendously talented guitarist John Frusciante was leaving the band again to pursue a solo career.

It would be Frusciante’s understudy Josh Klinghoffer who would play guitar for the band on “I’m With You.” Klinghoffer, thirty-one, is the group’s only member that is not forty years old. He was four when the band

produced their first album.

Current band members vocalist Anthony Kiedis and bassist Flea are both on the album. It was also very clear how much experience Klinghoffer had working with Frusciante, as his rhythm and harmony synced with the band as if he had been playing with them for years.

Flea’s style is still classic, as his riffs on the bass guitar seem to be in harmony with everything. Kiedis’ and Flea’s ability to adapt to all music styles is incredible, and it is very apparent in this album. It is if they have not changed a bit, yet are malleable to any musician’s influence.

Throw in the ever-persistent drummer Chad

Smith, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers have done it again. This album proves to be more of a work of art, as every song on the album is clearly played with passion.

The band released a single from the album, “The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie.” The tune starts with a funky baseline for each verse, then gives listeners a classic rock vibe for each refrain.

Another really popular song from the album is “Brendan’s Death Song.” This song is very emotional, and Kiedis’ voice portrays that. This is the slowest song on the album, with most of the song keeping a soft rock melody, until they build it up to a harder more typical

Red Hot Chili Peppers finish.

The song that was the most classical Red Hot Chili Peppers tune was “Annie Wants a Baby.” The baseline and drums for this song, as well as Kiedis’ melody, are the most recognizable as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, with Klinghoffer’s guitar riffs keeping the sound fresh. But there is hardly a dry spot in this album, as every song is beautiful within itself.

“I’m With You” is a truly great album, certainly one anyone should add to their collection. This is the kind of album that stays on one’s iPod or car CD player for weeks, keeping one’s attention the whole time it plays through.



Ryan Gosling stars in Columbia Pictures' IDES OF MARCH. Copyright Ides Film Holdings, LLC. All rights reserved.

PHOTO BY SAEED ADYAN

'Ides of March' is political thriller of Shakespearean bent

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

The political drama "Ides of March" has a title derived from Shakespeare. "Shakespearean" also describes powerful film's smart, powerful human drama.

"Ides of March" is a brilliantly conceived, masterfully acted and skillfully directed drama that is certain to surge to the head of the Oscars race. It is near-perfect film-making on all levels.

Some summaries of the film's story may lead one to draw certain conclusions what this story is about. Those conclusions would be wrong, as the summary is somewhat misleading. More a political thriller than a movie about politics, "Ides of March" is a drama about the moral choices of that idealistic campaign worker, as he navigates the ethical morass that is political campaigning. This film is less the expected political standards and more the unexpected truth of

human nature and the dangers in good intentions. Think Shakespeare and Machiavelli.

Ryan Gosling stars as Steven Meyers, a young but rising campaign worker, whose skills with new media are helping fuel his career. Meyers is working as campaign spokesperson for Democratic presidential candidate Governor Mike Morris (George Clooney), in part because he believes in this candidate. The campaign is in the final weeks of a March primary which may cinch the nominations. Meyers's boss is Paul Zara (Phillip Seymour Hoffman), Morris' experienced campaign manager.

Marisa Tomei plays Ida Horowitz, a political reporter for the New York Times, with a personal relationship to Zara. Paul Giamatti plays Tom Duffy, the campaign manager of another leading candidate, Senator Pullman (Michael Mantell). Evan Rachel Wood plays Morris campaign intern Molly Stearns, the daughter

of the Democratic National Committee chairman Jack Stearns (Gregory Itzin).

Both candidates are wooing the endorsement, and delegates, of the state's Senator Thompson (played by the gifted Jeffrey Wright). But Thompson has his own agenda, and demands he wants met, before supporting either side.

Meyers's idealism is challenged by the reality of down-and-dirty campaigning. Rising above it all proves more difficult than he imagined. Betrayal, intrigue, ambition and seduction help create a minefield of ethically gray areas. One seemingly simple step leads to a cascade of complications.

George Clooney directs the film. The director reassembled many of the same creative talents behind his award-winning film "Good Night, and Good Luck."

The story was adapted by Clooney and Grant Heslov from Beau Willimon's 2004 play "Farragut North."

The play's title refers to a Washington, D.C. Metro stop in the heart of the lobbyists' district. Playwright Willimon drew on his own experiences on the campaign trail to craft his drama, which played off-Broadway.

Clooney chose to change the title to the Shakespearean reference, a line from "Julius Caesar." "Beware the ides of March," the soothsayer warns Caesar, meaning March 15, the day he is assassinated. March 15 is also the day of the primary in this film.

"Ides of March" features an amazing cast. Director George Clooney wisely gives himself more of a supporting role, in which he is strong, but the film focuses on Gosling's character in this taut drama. One advantage of having an actor as a director is that he knows to linger on actors' faces to allow them to develop the emotional nuances.

Gosling is amazing in this film, bringing out nuances of scenes other actors might miss. In one early scene,

he reads a portion of the candidate's speech of a sound check, infusing the words with a remarkable mix of idealism and cynicism. Having set the acting bar high, Gosling exceeds it throughout.

After Gosling's equally brilliant performance in the neo-noir "Drive" he will likely be competing with himself for the Best Actor Oscar. Gosling is having an overall terrific year, with a strong performance in the surprising comedy "Crazy Stupid Love" as well.

All the cast is spot-on. Hoffman is great as the nervous, cautious veteran campaigner, while Paul Giamatti is so cunning, we can see the wheels turning as he smiles at his opponents. In her smaller role, Tomei is a stunning mix of smooth and ruthless.

Besides giving this great cast the space to do their work well, "Ides of March" is tautly directed, with no wasted time in a film with a running time under two hours. The story is

like a rock rolling down hill, gaining speed, although we never know what twists are ahead.

The film's look is realistic, stark and wintry, with scenes shot on a Ohio campus. One gets the sense of being behind the scenes, in the shadows, rather than on the bright stage of the campaign's public face. Clooney's use of half-light and color is masterfully, as are well-composed scenes and close-ups where the actors' feelings play fleetingly across their faces.

The result is a compelling and human drama, drawing on the unintended consequences of actions and opportunism of adversaries on display in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," the tragedy that is the source of that quote.

With wonderful acting, masterful direction and a compelling story, "Ides of March" is a sure thing as an Oscar contender. Let the race begin.

Grade: A



Steven Rowan, History professor at UMSL, speaks of his research of Baron Friedruch Wilhelm von Egloffstein's expeditions to the West.

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

UMSL Professor Previews New Book at "Monday Noon Series"

ELI DAINS
Staff Writer

For over 20 years the Monday Noon Series has been one of the main projects for the University of Missouri Center for the Humanities. Weekly hour-long presentations are free to the public and held every Monday, scheduled through November 7, in room 222 of the JC Penney building on campus. The goal of the series, according to assistant director Karen Lucas is, "to display the wide range of talent and creativity in the St. Louis community," adding, "we aim to offer musical performances, literary readings, and illustrated talks by both established and newly emerging musicians, dancers, artists, writers, and historians."

For the October 3rd edition of the series the presenter was University of Missouri- St. Louis history professor Steven Rowan, who spoke about and shared images from his upcoming book on innovative 19th century cartographer, printer, and adventurer Baron Friedrich Willhelm von Egloffstein.

The book, titled "The Baron in the Grand Canyon: Friedrich von Egloffstein in the West," will be released by the University of Missouri press in the spring, and covers the life and achievements of a man who displayed a wide array of talents while making his mark on history.

Egloffstein, who came from a family of Bavarian nobility,

was born in 1824 in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1849, "in order to search for adventure and probably get away from his father," according to Rowan. He would end up in St. Louis in the early 1850s, and in his time here he would make some of the earliest maps of the area.

The maps produced by Egloffstein, which Rowan used to augment his presentation, were the highlight of the presentation from a local perspective. Looking at the area around what is now Valley Park from 1852, with its accompanying illustrations, is like stepping into a time machine as many of the streets that are frequented today were

there over 150 years ago.

After his time in St. Louis Egloffstein would venture west, and play a part in the production of many of the earliest maps and engravings of the Old West.

Many of his maps of the plains included panoramic landscape illustrations, creating a third dimension and making them look more lifelike and fluid. Many of Egloffsteins illustrations from his time in the west can be found in the Pacific Railroad Reports, at least one copy of which is in the Mercantile Library on campus.

Egloffstein would fight for the Union in the Civil War, albeit briefly. He was commissioned as a colonel

in the New York Volunteer Infantry, but the war ended for him in 1862 when he received a serious wound to his knee in a battle in North Carolina. His later life would be associated with his innovations in the field of printing, namely his legacy as the "Father of Halftone Printing."

After a failed attempt to secure a contract to print United States currency he would eventually return to Europe to live out most of his final days before dying in 1885.

"I found it interesting that a Bavarian nobleman ended up as a colonel in the Union army, then returned to Europe still drawing a US

army pension," said Jeremiah Vistine, senior, history, after the presentation.

The story of Baron Friedrich von Egloffstein is one that appeals to any fan of Old West or St. Louis history, and well worth an hour's time. The presentation by Professor Rowan was both informative and interesting, and is an example of what the Monday Noon Series has to offer on a weekly basis. "We'd like to see more students attend--maybe we need to advertise that we serve free cookies and punch!" says Lucas, adding, "It's easy to attend--the programs are right on campus, last only an hour, and there's no registration needed--just show up."

PRIZM pulls out all the stops for an affair to remember

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

"Is that somebody's baby? Man, every time I come to this show, somebody brings their baby," Emcee Dieta Pepsi, announced to an eager crowd.

Last Thursday in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, PRIZM (the queer/straight student alliance) threw their 8th Annual Drag Show. A popular event, co-sponsored by the University Program Board, it never fails to bring the people in, no matter what their sexual orientation is.

"A lot of the kids that come to the bar where I work go to school here. They started having a Drag Show eight years ago and asked me if I would like to emcee," Pepsi said. "I have been here ever since."

As is tradition, guests were offered complimentary condoms upon arrival. This

action was not due just to the promotion of safe sex, but to promote awareness of LGBT Rights month. PRIZM also encouraged guest to buy their themed t-shirt of the year. This year's slogan was inspired by the lyrics of Rihanna's "S&M".

"I am here because I love the gays and I spend a lot of time at Saint Louis University involved in the Rainbow Alliance," SLU student, Carrie Bross, senior, psychology, said. "I love being able to support other people's efforts like PRIZM and Washington University's Pride Alliance."

When the show began, it was immediately stated that this would be a "mature show". Veterans of the spectacle looked around for the blushing newcomers gathered in the back of the room.

First to take the stage and perform was Alexis Principle, accompanied by the theme

song for this year's show. Draped in a silver cape with chains and a whip she got the crowd revved up. The monetary process had begun. It is encouraged at a drag show to pay the performer if one appreciates what they have seen, so as a result, the crowd favorites generally earned the most cash.

Performers used this concept to their advantage by pushing limits with every performance. Entertainer, Jaida Kiss, chose to dazzle the crowd with skin and rhinestones. It was an extreme not usually depicted on your average college setting, but it gained praise because of its boldness.

Jameelah Jones, junior, criminal justice, enjoyed the risqué choice of outfit choice for the event, praising the performers for their confidence, no matter what their sexual orientation was.

"It inspired me to be

more comfortable with who I am and what I wear," she said.

Crucial, also known as Lauren Peebles, performed twice during the night with booty shaking back-up dancers and an R. Kelly tribute.

She agreed to participate in order to help PRIZM educate the masses. "I have done a couple of drag shows back in Kansas City. I did it for about a year or two at a place called Tootsie's and I just have a lot of fun," Peebles, said. When the event came to a close, Dieta Pepsi stuck around for Q&A.

"I love seeing the kids here. I love hanging out and talking to them and taking pictures after the show. A girl was just telling me that she was having the worst day ever and I just made her laugh and forget about how bad her day was. It just makes it all worthwhile," Pepsi said.



Drag Queens and Kings perform at the 8th Annual Drag Show held by Prizm in the Millennium Center, including Jaida Kiss.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

Retro Game Night promotes healthy, offline competition

YUSEF ROACH

Staff Writer

On Friday October 7th, students gathered in the Oak Hall kitchen area and game room to participate in the Retro Game Night at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Available to play were boxes upon boxes of board and card games, including favorites like Apples to Apples, Connect 4, Taboo, and Life.

The event, co-sponsored by the Resident Hall Association and the University Program Board, is a response to the surge of electronic gaming among college

students, which tend to be more solitary in nature. There was but one rule in effect among those attending the game night:

"We did not want to play with anything with batteries," Katie Green, junior, communications, said. "We wanted to bring back the good old days of being a child."

Upon arrival at Oak Hall, attendees were greeted with the faces of smiling students, a plethora of board and card games, and a wide array of delicious snacks and

light refreshments. Custom made "University Program Board" red cups were given away freely with the food.

Most of those in attendance gravitated towards forming two larger groups, varying in game play choice between the board games for more players, while others paired off and played less involved, more intimate games.

"I am having a load of fun," Jessica Myers, sophomore, Spanish education, said, "I have met a lot of new people... Plus I won a

game of Hungry Hungry Hippos."

The room grew livelier as the night drew on, and passing students were invited to join in on the hard-to-miss fun. This game night is just one aspect of a concerted effort by UPB to stir a more vibrant, engrossing campus community.

"We came up with the idea over the summer for more of the residents to stay over the weekend," Green said.

Another UPB member in attendance, Scott Morrissey,

junior, spanish education, said that the purpose of the event was to relieve stress. "What better way to spend a Friday night, after a long week of schoolwork and jobs, than just kicking it and playing some awesome old board games."

Even though the games played were unplugged, that does not mean the participants were lacking in energy. One particularly heated game of Taboo lasted almost 45 minutes!

"Everything is pretty good. We are just sitting

back, relaxing, and having a great time with a little bit of competitive energy," Green said.

The only disappointment, according to one student, was the distinct lack of the classic board game "Monopoly."

Oak Hall, located on south campus, is the six-story, main dormitory on UMSL's campus, housing over 400 students. Housing primarily younger students, Oak provides a secure atmosphere in which students may acclimate to college.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.thecurrent-online.com

week of events

monday:

HOMECOMING KICKOFF • 1PM
OUTDOOR MOVIE • 7:30PM

tuesday:

BLOOD DRIVE • 10AM-3PM
ALUMNI CHILI SUPPER • 5:30PM
LIP SYNC COMPETITION • 7:30PM

wednesday:

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS • 7PM

thursday:

SHOPPING CART PARADE • 12:30PM
ABC STEP SHOW • 7PM

friday:

GREEKS VS. ROMANS KICKBALL • 1PM
STAT TAILGATE, SOCCER GAMES • 4PM

saturday:

HOMECOMING DINNER & DANCE • 6PM

HOMECOMING FIND EACH DAY
MONDAY-FRIDAY

university of missouri- st. louis

HOMECOMING

2011
where our journey began

Sports

Almin Sabotic leads Triton offense

OWEN SHROYER

Sports Editor

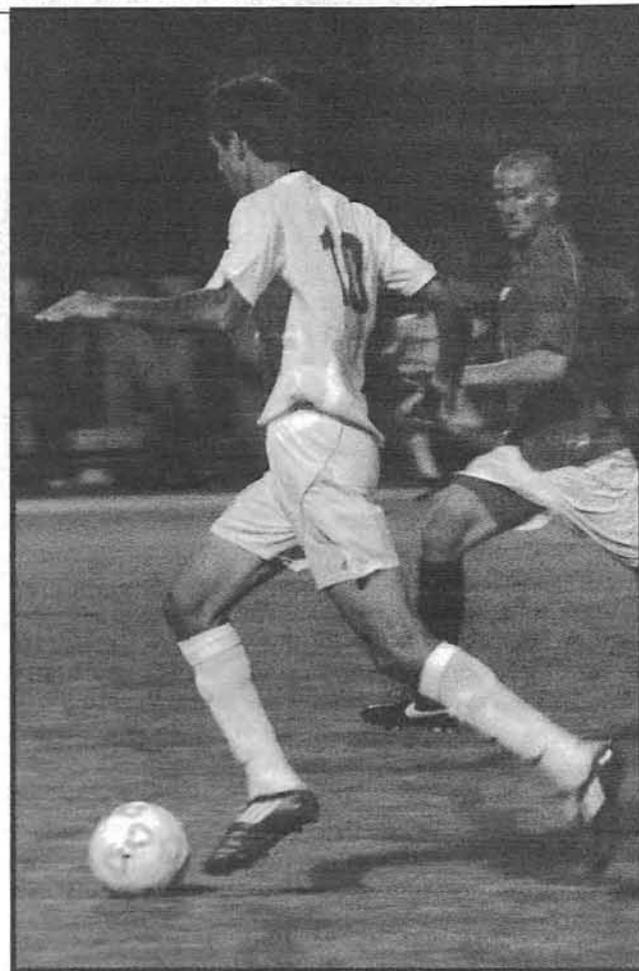
Forward Almin Sabotic, senior, communications, has been an offensive catalyst. Almin grew up in a soccer household in Germany, his father was a soccer player and signed Almin up to play for a local club team at the age of four. It wasn't long for his skills to be noticed, and Verein für Leibesübungen Bochum, a professional team in Germany, put him on their youth team, to hone his skills and potential. Almin played for this team until he moved to St. Louis. "I always wanted to continue to play soccer and the next step was to play college ball," Almin said, reflecting on leaving Germany to pursue a soccer career in the States. Almin attended Melville

High School, where he earned four letters for his achievements in soccer. His first chance to play college soccer at came St. Louis Community College-Meramec, where he played for two seasons, scored twenty eight goals in two seasons and earned the honor of Region Sixteen player of the year, second team all-American, two time all-conference, and first team all-region. Almin then came to UMSL. In his first season, Almin scored ten goals in seventeen games, and was named to the second team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference. For the Tritons, Almin has played a vital role in their success. "I have always played the role of a play maker because I grew up watching Zinedine

Zidane who was my idol growing up. My role as a forward is to score goals and open up the space for our midfielders to slot the ball," Almin said. Almin has great foot skills that stand out in every game, "I was one of those kids who would be juggling the ball or dribbling around while the coach would speak because I always wanted to play with the ball" Almin said. Almin has played for many different teams and has felt blessed to have all the great coaching, but credits his father as his most important influence, "I have been very fortunate to have been coached by many fantastic coaches including [Tritons head] coach King, but my father has been my biggest mentor on and off the field," Almin said. Almin cites Brazilian Ricardo Kaká, of Real Ma-

drid, as his most influential professional player at this time, admiring the way Kaká makes plays on the offensive side of the ball, something Almin looks to do every game.

Almin is in his final season here, and has a personal goal to break the scoring record for Tritons soccer. Almin's goal for the team is to earn an NCAA tournament berth. "Growing up in Germany I always dreamed of playing professional soccer in Europe. It's been a boyhood dream of mine to play in a big stadium having people cheer you on. I plan to continue with soccer after school and see where it takes me," Almin said. Almin is truly a talent who is enjoyable to watch, and with professional soccer hopes, certainly worth the price of admission for an UMSL soccer game.



Almin Sabotic dribbles the ball down field against Drury

NIKKI VAHLE/ THE CURRENT

Men's soccer takes huge upset conference victory at home

OWEN SHROYER

Sports Editor

After a thrilling overtime goal to beat Drury, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons men's soccer team had a huge home game against seventh ranked in the nation Missouri S&T. "This win certainly gives us momentum heading into the game Sunday." Dan King, head coach, said after the overtime game. The momentum was certainly apparent. The Tritons were on the offensive all game, as usual. It was a key substitution by Coach King in the nineteenth minute that would make

the difference. Luc Wells, junior, liberal studies, whose playing time has been increasing throughout the season, would net his first goal of the season three minutes later on assists from Mike McCarthy, senior, information systems, and Evan Schumacher, senior, business administration. In the thirty first minute it looked like the Triton's would strike again on a shot by Peter Hyde, junior, finance, but his shot would ring off the crossbar. The Tritons had another shot on net right before the half ended, as

Almin Sabotic, senior, communications, put a header on goal only to be stopped by the keeper. The Tritons dominated the first half, only allowing one shot to the opposition, and they got to the offense quickly in the second half. Wells scored his second goal of the game just five minutes into the half on an assist from David Schwer, senior, business administration. Schwer has been a great passer all year, especially on the offensive front. Schwer got a few chances to score as the half progressed, but missed high and wide on the opportunities. In the seventieth minute UMSL

added another goal to their total, further widening their lead when Jordan Bruce, junior, criminology, scored his second goal of the season on the assist from Peter Hyde. One could sense the confidence the Tritons had at this point, as they knew they had just delivered a knockout blow to the heavily favored opponent. Sabotic added another goal just before the final whistle sounded, his team leading fourth of the season. The Tritons defeated the visiting Miners four to nil.

This win was huge for the team, and the solid defensive effort that the

team has been displaying was matched with offense. The defense had looked extremely well rounded recently, putting on solid performances only allowing two goals in their last four games to that point. "Our defensive chemistry is important. Of all things the defense needs to be the one together and in sync. Coming into this season, for a full season together, I think we have really integrated and made a connection, and we have been talking real well together," Logan Ream, sophomore, undecided, said. Ream is an anchor of the defense.

The team headed to

William Jewell, with hopes on continuing the winning streak. The scoring started early, with William Jewell scoring eight minutes into the match. The Tritons answered quickly. Hyde found the back of the net for his second goal of the season. William Jewell scored three more goals, giving them the four to one victory.

The Tritons find themselves just outside of the postseason picture. The team has a big game at conference opponent Rockhurst on the horizon, before they come home for two important conference games, where victories are imperative.

Tritons volleyball continues to win, defeats Southern Indiana 3-1

OWEN SHROYER

Sports Editor

The women's soccer team has had an up and down season, swapping wins and losses each week. After a strong mid-September that had two home conference victories, the women dropped two away conference matches to Wisconsin Parkside and Lewis. They looked to end the month on a good note against Drury at home. There was a lot of offense early in the game from both teams, but the Tritons were able to find the back of the net fourteen minutes into the game when Samantha Faron, senior, psychology, scored her first goal of the season on an assist from Kaylee Neutzling, senior, criminal justice, her second for the year. The pace of the game slowed after this, both teams trying to gain an edge through possession, and only one shot would be fired wide by Drury in the rest of the half.

The second half brought

another early goal for the Tritons. Kelley Muesenfechter, senior, liberal studies, scored her third goal of the season just one minute after the half started. It was good for the Tritons that Muesenfechter was able to finish, as they were outshot for the remainder of the half four to one. This win extended the team's home winning streak to three games.

The Tritons looked to continue that winning streak two days later against Missouri S&T. Early offense was the story again, as Muesenfechter looked to get the Tritons on the board five minutes in, but her shot went over the net. Missouri S&T scored on their first shot of the game in the eleventh minute. University of Missouri-St. Louis had ample opportunities to answer. The Tritons had six shots, only making the keeper work one time for a save, the other missing high and wide. In the

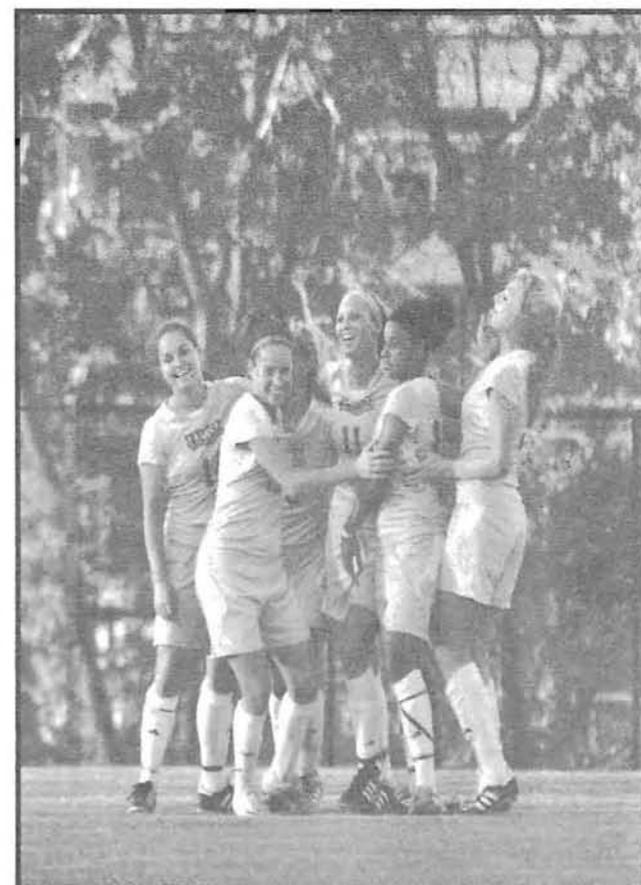
thirty ninth minute the Tritons had a golden opportunity to force the tie when they got a penalty kick. However, the shot from Bridget Belli, senior, education, could not beat the keeper, and the score remained one to nil going into halftime.

The Tritons had more opportunities to score in the second half, but couldn't find the net. Neutzling hit the post in the fifty-third minute, continuing her frustrating day of shots not finding the back of the net. Courtney Blake, junior, anthropology, had a shot on net in the eightieth minute, but again the shot would hit the post and leave the Tritons without a goal. The game ended with the Tritons on the losing end of a one to nil score.

The Tritons headed to William Jewell to try to pick up the pieces and get back in the win column with a conference game victory. This would not be an easy task, as William Jewell hadn't lost a home game all season, a five game streak,

and had one more win than the Tritons in conference. But the Tritons overcame the odds to grind out a one to nil victory. The lone goal came from Kelly Muesenfechter, who has been on a hot streak, and now has a team leading four goals. The Tritons outshot the Cardinals thirteen to eight, including a six to three advantage in shots on goal.

UMSL is in tenth place in their conference, one game out of the postseason. Hopes are still high, as they come home to play conference worst and one win Kentucky Wesleyan on October 14, and then again at home against Southern Indiana on October 16, who is right above them in the standings. The next matchup, however, is against Rockhurst, who is two wins ahead of UMSL in the conference standings. The Tritons will try to kick the current trend of trading off wins and losses, and make a nice winning streak down the final stretch of the season.



Team mates celebrate after getting the second goal against Drury Friday

JENNIFER MEAHAN/THE CURRENT

Men's tennis team sweeps final two matches to end fall

JOSEPH GRATE

Staff Writer

The University of Missouri St. Louis men's tennis team has six players with different backgrounds and history, but when they get on the tennis court, lately they all have had the same result - victory.

On September 27, the team had a match against Lewis and Clark, and they easily controlled this matchup. The doubles teams were Nils Mueggenburg and Marius Schumacher, who won 8-4; Nils Corrales and Felipe Naranjo, who won 8-4; and Tim Gorter and Karl Antwi-Adjel, who won 8-2. In their single matchups, Mueggenburg won 2-6, 6-1, and taking the tiebreaker match; Schumacher won 6-0, 6-3; Gorter won 6-1, 6-1; Corrales won 6-0, 6-1; Naranjo won 7-6, 6-1; finally, Antwi-

Adjel won 6-1, 6-7. This gave the teaming a 9-0 victory, giving them momentum into their final fall matchup.

On October 4, they scored another sweeping win against Lindenwood-Bellefonte, which made a second consecutive win following the prior week's victory from Lewis and Clark Community College. They won this match in dominant fashion. The doubles pairings were Schumacher and Mueggenburg who won 8-0; Gorter and Naranjo who won 8-1; and Corrales and Antwi-Adjel who also won 8-0. The singles matches went about the same, with each match never going longer than two sets. Mueggenburg's match went 6-1, 6-0; Schumacher's 6-0, 6-1; Gorter's 6-2, 6-4; Cor-

rales's 6-0, 6-1; Naranjo's 6-1, 6-0; and Antwi-Adjel's 6-0, 5-0, for dominant 9-0 team win. This was a nice turnaround to see after the team lost to Lindenwood earlier in the season. The small group of diverse players has played their part, but not without competition. Despite a hectic schedule, however, they wrapped up the fall season with a convincing victory.

Overall on the year, the players' records were solid, with none having a losing record. Two consecutive wins gave the team two wins and one loss. Ending the season with two team sweeps will certainly give the team a confidence boost heading into the spring season, where they hope to contend in conference play, in which they were 3-2 last spring.

The team is rarely heard of among UMSL's campus. Even faculty working in the

athletics department seem vague about them. That may be due to the busy schedule they maintain. Their head coach, Rick Gyllenborg, has been constantly on the move. If not with his team, he's participating with another sports event. Once in a while they are spotted walking around with their tennis bags, then disappearing to their daily tasks.

The six players make up a diverse group of students according to their biography on the Tritons website roster. One player that made it on the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Single Leaders list was Karl Antwi-Adjel, junior, international business, who comes from Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Felipe Naranjo, senior, international Business, comes from Ibarra, Ecuador. Both these players were the ones who held single wins against

Lindenwood University in which the rest of the team lost.

Hailing from Germany, Nils Mueggenburg and Marius Schumacher are both freshmen and international business majors as well. Tim Gorter, sophomore, accounting, is from the Netherlands, and Nils Corrales, freshman, is from Caracas, Venezuela. Players that derived from Europe and South America make up the tennis team. They have been showing a good track record lately, even thought it is only the fall season.

Coach Rick Gyllenborg is not only the head coach of the men's team, but of the women's as well. This will be his sixteenth season as the men's tennis coach. Last year he led them to third place in the GLVC Quarterfinals.

The team's work is paying off, as the men's ten-

nis team has brought two landslide victories with 9-0 wins in both matches in the last two weeks. They remain UMSL's secret treasure, lingering among the larger teams. Winning the last two games is definitely a plus, but two winning games don't bring championships. So far, though, they have proven a winning ability from the Art Peterson invitational to the latest Lindenwood-Bellefonte win. Even with the loss with Lindenwood University, they were able to earn a win at Washington University's Invite.

The recent wins may just bring them more publicity among the students, and definitely among international students. At that point, it may not be so hard to find and support them. After all, they have come from around the world and are now playing on UMSL's tennis team.

Point/Counterpoint



Can a satirical news production take things too far?

Onion offends: audience not amused by reports of fake Capitol building holdup

Ask almost anyone on the street, and they will claim to value free speech and freedom of the press as paramount among the rights guaranteed in the Constitution. However, when it comes down to it, those same people want to limit “hate” messages and the “obscene,” even when limiting any speech is questionable as per the First Amendment.

Now, a third type of speech is gaining scrutiny: satirical speech. On September 29th, The Onion, a well-known, active news source published a series of tweets that garnered a strong reaction. “BREAKING: Witnesses reporting screams and gunfire heard inside Capitol building,” tweeted The Onion. Shortly thereafter, The Onion tweeted, “BREAKING: Capitol building being evacuated. 12 children held hostage by group of armed congressmen,” as well as, “Obama: ‘I know this Congress well. Trust me, they will kill these kids.’”

If the satirical nature of the tweets was not clear simply because of the source, which is also credited with breaking stories about discovering your pet fish’s personality and the in-

experience of President Obama at receiving compliments, the tweets’ ludicrous nature should have quickly cleared up any confusion.

For those unfamiliar with The Onion’s body of work, the first tweet could have been legitimately alarming. However, the subsequent tweets were clearly satirical commentary on the behavior of Congress and the volatile relationship between Congress and President Obama.

The actual likelihood of Congress holding up a group of children at gunpoint is nonexistent. If the audience of these tweets found them unfunny or in poor taste, they should at least have realized that they could not be real.

But apparently they didn’t. According to The Christian Post’s website, “The Onion’s tweet... turned the laughter into stone-faced fear.” Even after the fear subsided, some found no humor in the situation. Some responded shortly to the tweets, saying simply “#notfunny,” reported The Christian Post.

It is unfortunate that, with all of the stupid humor in poor

taste available, some people fail to appreciate an edgy joke with a point. Instead of choosing humor pertaining to boobs and beer, like Larry the Cable Guy, The Onion does a service to American society by providing entertaining commentary on subjects relevant to the nation, such as... the stubborn Republican Congress, perhaps? Even those who were initially alarmed by the tweets ought to find some gratitude in their hearts for The Onion’s relevant, comparatively responsible comedy.

Those who do enjoy The Onion scoffed at the negative reaction its tweets received. In the end, The Onion’s tweets were not harmful to anyone, and the benefits of a relevant comedy and a daring social commentary to society far outweigh the hyper-reactive feelings of those who may be offended by it. People should check the facts of “actual” news sources, and use The Onion for giggles and social commentary, while taking nothing at face value. In short, The Onion should keep doing what they do, and the rest of us should get a sense of humor.

The Onion’s “breaking news” crosses the line into the realm of bad taste

The Onion, a satirical news publication, caused uproar with its Breaking News on September 29th.

On Twitter, The Onion tweeted “BREAKING: Witnesses reporting screams and gunfire heard inside Capitol building.” The Onion followed up the first tweet with a second tweet which stated “BREAKING: Capitol building being evacuated. Twelve children held hostage by group of armed congressmen.” Throughout the day The Onion updated their website, twitter, and facebook with false “developments”.

The tweets on Twitter were retweeted over one hundred times by various followers of The Onion. On the day that The Onion tweeted the false news, Capitol Police told the Washington post, “Conditions at the U.S. Capitol are currently normal. There is no credibility to these stories or the Twitter feeds. The U.S. Capitol Police are currently investigating the reporting.”

Americans were very upset at the false alert. Some people have stated that The Onion clearly crossed the line in this case. The Onion has not yet

publicly responded to complaints about the tweets. So far there is no proof that any hacking occurred, so it is believed that the tweets did surface from someone employed at The Onion.

The question that comes up is did the satirical news publication go too far? The answer is a clear, unequivocal yes. Any time someone’s joke or prank involves children being in harm’s way, the joke then becomes distasteful. What if police officers had panicked upon hearing the “news”? What if parents had panicked? What if no one realized this “breaking news” was intended to be a joke and dropped everything to run to the rescue? It becomes an exercise in extreme bad taste when children are involved.

Of course, that’s not to say that one should only think of the children. America has seen and been through so much in the last decade, why would anyone want to send off any false alarms? Some people are saying that if one knows the type of publication the Onion is, there is no way that one would believe or should believe anything that is posted by them

to be true. If you read the tweets about the hostage situation, it did seem a little far fetched. The Onion is typically known for satirical reports, however a false report about children being held hostage in the Capital building is a bit much.

Some people are arguing that if a person follows The Onion on Twitter then they should know what to expect from them. There is one problem with this argument, however. What about the people who are not following The Onion, who have never heard of The Onion and only heard of the false reports through the retweets from the people that they do follow? A person did not have to necessarily be following The Onion to hear of their tweets of the hostage situation.

A joke about children being held hostage is the type of joke that should be shared with a close group of friends who share the same sense of humor. To share that joke about terror with a country that is already on edge when it comes to safety, however, is highly distasteful and untimely, not to mention extremely irresponsible.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Campus smoking ban little more than smoke and mirrors

Walking on campus there are many things that one can notice: the beautiful fall weather and the changing of the leaves, the plethora of student activities hosting events or looking for new members, the wide range of students smoking in between their classes right next to the doors of all the buildings.

Wait, that can't be right, can it? Wasn't there a ban on smoking on campus? Didn't it state that "Effective July 1, 2011, the University of Missouri-St. Louis will become completely smoke-free?"

Why yes, confused reader, it did!

So why is it then that all of these students are smoking literally a few feet in front of the door with absolutely no repercussions in sight?

Because UMSL has been failing miserably at enforcing their movement towards a smoke free campus. Despite the fact that it has been over four months since the ban has been put into effect, there is no enforcement. And students, both smokers and non-smokers, have been noticing.

Walking from the library to the MSC bridge it is blatantly obvious that students who are also smokers aren't worried about getting a referral or a fine, because it simply isn't happening. As of the end of September, no fines had been given out.

At the beginning of the current semester, it wasn't so much of a problem. Walking in the Quad, a lone smoker here and there might have been seen, but that was it. However, now almost half way through the semester, it is obvious that smokers realize no penalties are going to come of their actions.

Almost in an attempt to rub it in the faces of those who enacted the policy, the smokers slowly migrated towards the doors of the buildings. And it's only going to get worse. As cold weather creeps its way into Missouri, they will continue to get closer and closer until it is entirely impossible for a non-smoker to get to class without having to walk through a cloud of smoke.

But students aren't the only ones having problems following the rules. Faculty and staff have also been spotted doing the same exact thing. Perhaps their status provides them some sort of immunity that students don't know of?

The lack of enforcement can also be seen on the UMSL website as well. Under the Office of Academic Affairs, the Non-Smoking Policy page has not been updated since 1991 when the ban of smoking inside the buildings was set in place.

Smokers can not really complain about the change either. As a student

of UMSL, you are to follow the rules and policies that are set in place. UMSL has also told students that as long as they are in their car (with the windows rolled up) that they can smoke. Quitting options and coaching sessions have also been provided for those who wish to quit.

This is a call to action for whoever is in charge of patrolling the campus to ensure that this policy is being enforced. What is the point of establishing a ban on smoking if no one is going to enforce it? The lack of action by UMSL to follow up on this policy reflects poorly on the campus, but also on the students that aren't in compliance as well.

Non-smokers, whether they are students or staff, need to ask why further action isn't being taken. If smokers are spotted on campus, find someone from Campus Security and tell them. Ask the smoker yourself to stop.

Regardless of who does it, however, steps need to be taken to enforce the smoking ban. The real question is if UMSL will take those steps.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Minh Jung, Ashley Atkins, Cate Marquis, Jennifer Meahan, Jeremy Zschau and Janaca Scherer.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

"There's too much confusion; [we] can't get no relief"

There is a reason the Republican Party has, particularly within the past three years or so, become known as "The Party of No." How did they receive this unflattering appellation? It's quite simple, really: by opposing every major proposal or piece of legislation from the President or a Democratic legislator, for the sole reason that it was proposed by a Democrat.

Paradoxically, the Republican Party has become even more obsessed with power ever since they lost it in 2008. Since John McCain's defeat in that year's presidential election, they have been scrambling madly to hold on to whatever power they could. Since the Republican victory midterm elections of 2010, they have had the power to disrupt the agenda of the Democrats, a power they have not hesitated to use. This has, unfortunately, rendered political consensus between left and right nigh impossible, and turned the legislative process into a tortuous ordeal.

Ordinarily, this would be bad enough in and of itself. But, as the reader is no doubt aware, there is a bit of an economic crisis going on at the moment. In times like these, decisiveness and swift action is vital if the country's fragile recovery is to continue apace. Unfortunately, those are the last things to be found in Congress these days.

Many have blamed the current state of affairs in Washington as the fault of both parties, claiming that

the entire system is rotten and that everyone, both Democrat and Republican, should be called to the carpet to account. On the surface, it is not an unreasonable proposal. Few reasonable people will argue in favor of the government's current job performance.

However, laying the blame for the deadlock on both sides is an overly simple response to the problem. It isn't as if there are no ideas to be had in Washington, after all. For example, a number of economists have signed off on President Obama's recently announced jobs plan, saying it will add a number of desperately-needed jobs to the economy, using ideas that even Republicans have supported in the past – but apparently no longer. The "Buffett Rule" might as well be pronounced DOA right now, if the predictable Republican screaming about "penalizing job creators" is any indication of the reception it will receive on the voting floor.

The purpose of this is not to assign blame; the subject of Republican obstructionism has already been addressed in this column in the past on several occasions. What continues to baffle the mind, however, is the search for a reason for their intransigence. Yes, they manage to talk a pretty good game about jobs, the middle class, and a return to prosperity. However, where are their answers? Where are their plans? Several months ago, the GOP leadership published their own "recov-



Jeremy Zschau

ery plan", as it were. It was roundly panned as being more rhetoric than substance, with little more than lofty statements and vague promises.

The fact is, penalizing the so-called job creators is the last thing that anyone should be worried about. It was those selfsame "job creators" whose unchecked greed got the country where it is today. The private sector had their chance to sort things out, and like the Republican Party's attempts at governance, failed miserably. The simple answer is that they have no answers. Now, instead of trying to find those answers or fix their mistakes, the Republicans are instead pointing fingers and distorting the issues, hoping they can distract the populace into focusing their rage elsewhere – at which, unfortunately, they are succeeding. After all, any suggestion of incompetence in their leadership would seriously threaten their designs on power, and that is truly what today's Republican Party craves.

Jeremy Zschau is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

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

SCIENCE MATTERS

Inventors helped make our country a leader in innovation

This week's Science Matters column is going to stray a bit into the world beyond just science, because the combination of practical innovators and research geniuses is one of the most powerful in human life.

It is not just the Einsteins who transform our world but the Edisons who translate basic research into practical tools. Visionaries who take the basic research and discoveries and create things that touch our everyday lives is the second half of the scientific story.

Albert Einstein's genius is enhanced, not diminished, by what came after. His revolutionary theories changed how scientists saw the physical world. Working out the puzzle of how the universe works gave rise to quantum physics, which in turn gave rise to the host of electronics that fill our world, like the iPhone.

The world lost one of those innovators recently, with the passing of Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple computers. St. Louis lost another kind of innovator recently with the tragic death of Bob Cassilly, the sculptor/builder of the City Museum.

Steve Jobs was not a scientist, or even a computer engineer, yet he saw the potential within the computer and the internet. His vision drove his engineers to create the Apple personal computer, the iMac, the iPod, the iPhone, and the tablet computer. He changed what had mostly been a dull, big business tool into fun toys everyone wanted, even needed. He may have done more to create a world where everyone is always connected, good or bad, than any other single person.

It was much like the way Henry Ford put everyone on the road in cars. There have been a few comparisons to Henry Ford since Jobs' death, but an argument also could be made for a parallel with Thomas Edison. Edison is remembered as an inventor but

it is important to note that many of his inventions came out of the workshop he created, staffed by a team of inventors and engineers in his employ. Like Jobs, Edison was the marquee name, the name the public knew, but there was a team of engineers working behind that creative force.

There is great creative force for society in that kind of lone visionary.

St. Louis sculptor Bob Cassilly represented another incarnation of that creative force, transforming the physical world and society. His work opened the imagination to possibilities, and possibly some minds to the overlooked beauty of our architectural heritage.

This is not to diminish ground-shaking basic research or genius like Einstein's, only to note that transformation from discoveries proceeds in steps. The inventors and visionaries who turn discoveries into practical tools and toys are part of that continuum. The visionary cannot produce those popular products without those scientific discoveries, yet how many practical uses will remain undiscovered with that idea man (or woman).

Think of the evolution of the Internet. The basic idea came out the foundation of quantum physics, which gave rise to a host of electronics, including computers. The engineers at DARPA, a United States military research division, invented something interesting called the internet, linking computers together, but when they could see no use for it passed it along to universities. Universities turned it into the World Wide Web, created web browsers and even launched the tech boom of the '90s when it was opened to commercial uses.

DARPA did not see the full potential of what they had; that was for the next group of clever minds. Steve Jobs saw the useful



Cate Marquis

and crowd-pleasing toys within the electronic wild woods all around. It would not have happened without quantum physics but the music industry likely would not have been transformed by the iPod without Steve Jobs and the clever minds at Apple.

But both inventors and scientists need to be free - to imagine, to experiment and fail and try again (the heart of scientific method, really). Both the business and academic worlds seem increasingly less friendly to that sense of freedom, and to the singular geniuses that display it. Scientists need to work in a system where the free exchange of ideas, not secrecy, is encouraged. A university research system that fosters basic research through funding, and does not rely too heavily on private companies seeking only short-term results, is best. A business environment that ties up original thinking and new ideas in a top-down, immediate-results system, mandating all ideas belong to the company, or by discouraging new companies by sitting on unused ideas through excessive patents, runs the risk of strangling national innovation.

Being a place that encourages both the inventor and the research scientist has been one of our country's strengths. It is also critical to our future to be a place friendly to Einsteins and Edisons.

Cate Marquis is Arts and Entertainment Editor and a columnist for The Current.

MAD WORLD

Australian fashion retailer revels in arrogance, remains unashamed

An Australian chain clothing store called GASP has been facing some serious criticism due to their gross mishandling of a customer service situation. Keara O'Neil went shopping with her bridesmaid in the hopes of finding a dress to wear for a night out; instead of a pleasant shopping experience, she was met with a hideous display of entitlement and disrespect. Having found nothing she wanted to leave the store with, the unsuspecting shopper was berated by an employee, who yelled things after them such as "I knew you were a joke the minute you walked in."

The most ridiculous part of this situation, however, is the response her complaint garnered from the company. In a nasty response, rather than apologize for treating potential customers extremely rudely, the GASP area manager proceeded to go on a tirade that included telling the shopper that she's not fashion-forward enough to appreciate their clothing and that their items are priced so that they "remain inaccessible to the undesirable." As for the rude employee, the area manager insisted that his only fault is being too good at what he does. He even went so far as to suggest that she was provoked out of the store because talented "retail superstars" do not tolerate having their time wasted.

For a company to respond to any complaint by a customer in such a condescending, unapologetic manner is unbelievable. While self-importance is not a rare quality to encounter

in the fashion industry, one would think such displays of ego would have no place in the world of retail, where customer satisfaction is as big a part of monetary success as the quality of the product.

By only catering (or even just being respectful) to those customers who they feel deserve it (celebrities, rich people, etc.), snobby retailers alienate the average customer. Interestingly enough, however, the fashion retail industry profits from the desire most have to feel that they are worthy of respect. Some choose to anchor that sense of self-worth in outward appearances and the material things that they own, such as what they wear (and can afford to wear). By alienating those potential customers whom they've decided are "not good enough" (non-celebrities, etc.) retailers can build a large customer base made up of the people who want to change that by changing what they wear - and buying the expensive clothing snobby retailers sell. After all, it's the image people often buy, not the clothes.

As long as the fashion industry fosters a superficial image of exclusivity and luxuriousness, this kind of rude behavior will only attract the type of people who are looking to buy the lifestyle and sense of entitlement they feel comes with it. This allows materialism at its worst to shine.

Since the incident, the retailer in question has appeared to learn very little from the experience. The same "retail superstar"



Sharon Pruitt

who caused a ruckus by tearing into Keara O'Neil reportedly later called another potential customer a "fat b****" when she left the store without buying anything, despite his abusive nagging that began as soon as she walked through the door. The only response GASP has had to these incidents, however, continues to be a shockingly arrogant attitude of "good riddance, we don't want you here anyway and we certainly don't want to hear your complaints."

Taking pride in one's work can be admirable. Trouble arises, however, when too much pride is taken. GASP employees work in a mall store, not behind the scenes of a Parisian catwalk (and even then it wouldn't be the least bit acceptable). This kind of ego-tripping is akin to the guy in the hairnet working the grill at Denny's pitching a Gordon Ramsey-level fit when someone sends back their cheese fries for being too soft.

In the surprisingly self-aware words of fashion designer Santino Rice: "Lighten up; it's just fashion."

Sharon Pruitt is a columnist for The Current.

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

Horoscopes

CURRENT HOROSCOPES by The Inane Collective

altered by:

Feverish Nerves and Apples the Interns

LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

While on a relaxing trip to Grandma's house this weekend to help cope with your twelfth midlife crisis to date, do not forget the awesome baked beans and whipped cream.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Even the most absurd camping trips should not cause firestorms. Should the situation arise, just use your talented fingers to dial your pirate firefighter buddies from the Atlantic.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

The frighteningly honorable mice who live in your attic will construct an assembly line. Its sole purpose will be to finally find a healthy treatment for depression.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Face it: the intense truth of going to school everyday is that you miss your favorite daytime television. Make the effort to see some blood spilt at the bull fights while on break: that will make up for it.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

The frazzled pigeons outside your bedroom window are a constant reminder of that ancient time when you believed in marriage. Now, they're dead. So are your dreams.

PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

When Tiger Woods and Keanu Reeves have a glamorous encounter at the Oscars, duct-tape level negotiations will be necessary to clean the oil spills of their fangirls' love.

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The funny thing about high school proms is that the most influential people you'll meet in your life are not likely to be in attendance. May as well find a primitive solution to that flat tire, rather than waste the night.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

The elitist televangelists at your local supermarkets throw filthy funeral parties every weekend, but remember: you have the legendary "snake" body piercing.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

When chunky babies of the Great Depresseion idiotically used silly putty for currency, the boisterous ways of early American capitalism actually seemed a logical. Don't repeat this mistake.

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

The classical silliness of fly fishing may result in no more profit than a plastic bottle. However, should you hear spooky country music, resort to comfort food: steak and potatoes.

LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

A sexy Big Mac is awaiting you at home should you manage to land that funky ollie 180 for the big television spot this week. Just don't let your sleeping pills make you too cuddly around Hans.

VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

The principled ninjas you regularly keep as company may be rather shallow. However, their meat cleavers are often the best solution to the howling in the nearby trailer parks.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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