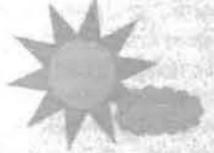


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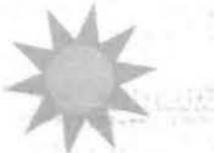
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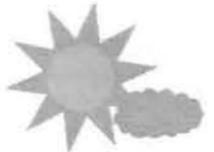
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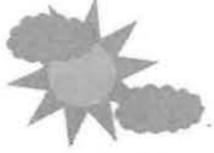
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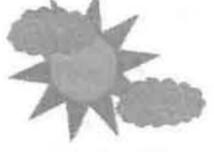
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Fri



High: 89
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Sat



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Sun



High: 88
Low: 70



UMSL's mascot 'Louie' at last year's 'Pack the Stands' event photo by Leon Devance

'Weeks of Welcome' plan for entertainment, meaningful student opportunities

SHARON PRUITT
Opinions Editor

For University of Missouri–St. Louis students, faculty and staff, the end of summer is signaled by the Welcome Week activities that serve as a grand commencement of the fall semester featuring a wide range of events open to all UMSL students and staff. This year, Welcome Week is part of a list of events, called Weeks of Welcome, extending through September.

Jessica Long-Pease, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Life, has collaborated with the planning of several Weeks of Welcome activities since spring. UMSL's Weeks of Welcome encompass the first six weeks of classes. "Offices, departments and organizations across campus host events to provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage with the campus and learn more about the UMSL community," Long-Pease said.

The Weeks of Welcome activities began on Sunday, August 19, with the annual Welcome Picnic located at the Millennium Student Center. The picnic started at 4 p.m. and ended at 6 p.m. The event was hosted by the Office of Student Life and, according to Long-Pease, was planned to include a BBQ buffet, a DJ, face painters, caricature artists, a photo booth, free UMSL T-shirts, snow cones and plenty of other ways for students to enjoy themselves.

"Our mascot Louie and the UMSL athletic teams usually stop by for a visit as well," Long-Pease said. "It's just a really great way to say 'Welcome back to campus.'"

Welcome Week events and entertainment continue on Monday, August 20, with the University Program Board's Ice Cream Social. The event will begin at 12 p.m. in the Nosh at the MSC.

Also on Monday, the Welcome Center will host the Welcome Center Popcorn event, which will continue on Tuesday, August 21. On both occasions, the Welcome Center Popcorn event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

More Weeks of Welcome events will take place on Tuesday. The UPB will host a Commuter Break at the North Campus Metrolink Stop beginning at 9 a.m. The UPB will also be hosting a drive-in movie screening of "The Avengers." The event starts at 8 p.m. in Parking Lot D.

Marissa Steimel, Executive Chair of the UPB, has taken a central role in preparing for the Weeks of Welcome. "The University Program Board strives to program events that reach a broad audience of students, which can be seen throughout the events of Welcome Week," Steimel said. "Personally, I am really looking forward to the drive-in movie. I love 'The Avengers' and I think many people will enjoy the opportunity to see the movie for the first time or the fifth time."

Meanwhile, the Expo Student Organization and Involvement Fair is Wednesday, August 22. The event aims to inform students of the various ways they can get involved on campus. The event, located at the North Campus Quadrangle, will begin at 11 a.m. and last until 1:30 p.m.

For those craving a quick bite to eat after the Expo Student Organization and Involvement Fair, a watermelon feast will be held on Wednesday at the University Meadows Student Apartments and will last from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Weeks of Welcome activities on Thursday, August 23, will begin with the College of (continued on page 3)

UMSL's David Robertson provides local news with political insights

KATHRYN BEWIG
Staff Writer

University of Missouri–St. Louis is home to many great educators. Professor David Robertson of the Political Science Department is no exception.

Robertson has served as a political analyst for KSDK News for 12 years now. He has been quoted by at least 13 different news sources, including the Post-Dispatch, the New York Times, and many others.

Robertson's experience with the media has been all about helping people understand what is happening in politics. For instance, when Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan was killed in 2000 in a plane crash while campaigning for the Senate and when the September 11 terrorist attacks targeted the World Trade Center, it was Robertson's job to help people comprehend and learn from what would become historical events. He is proud to say that he "gets to do something about it" while helping people to remain calm and understand what is happening.

Robertson grew up in a working class family, and he lived mostly with his mother in Chicago, Ill. His interest in politics began in his youth.

"I would watch the election reruns and think about all the strategies utilized," Robertson said.

Robertson's political career began with studying Latin American and urban politics in college, as well as working for a small political campaign.

Robertson moved to St. Louis in 1983, after leaving University of Texas – San Antonio. He said the reason for the switch was due to higher course loads, which were a direct result of the university being newly established in 1969. Also, Robertson sentimentally claimed to be a "Midwestern guy." (continued on page 4)

Artwork by UMSL faculty and students alike to be featured at Galleries 210 and Visio this semester

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
A&E EDITOR

The University of Missouri–St. Louis' campus art galleries, Gallery 210 and Gallery Visio, are known for hosting a robust roster of artwork throughout the school year. This fall is no exception. With a stable of artists both locally based and nationally recognized, Visio and 210 promise to offer an engaging fall season.

The latest and most noticeable addition to Gallery 210 is "Whelm," an expansive sculpture located on the Gallery 210 grounds. The sculpture, composed of over two miles of steel rebar, was constructed on-site over the course of the summer by Arny Nadler, a St. Louis artist and associate professor at Washington University.

"I had the privilege watching the work evolve for the two weeks it took to complete," Terry Suhre, Director of Gallery 210, said. "Although titles like 'Lead Salad' were suggested, Arny's wife came up with 'Whelm,' a title that perfectly describes the undulating liner elements that curve around to enfold the viewer."

The sculpture will be on display indefinitely. A reception featuring Nadler as a guest speaker will be held in the gallery auditorium on September 6.

The artwork inside the gallery promises to be just as striking.

"Exposure 15," opening on August 23, is the latest installment of Gallery 210's long-running "Exposure" exhibition series. Like previous entries in the annual series, "Exposure 15" will showcase the work of three St. Louis area artists. This year's entry, titled "Re-Domestic," will feature sculptures and drawings from Gina Alvarez, mixed media collages from Deb Douglas and sculptures from Heather Corley.

Although the artists utilize very different mediums, there are common underlying (continued on page 5)

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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 thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

Monday, August 20

Welcome Center Popcorn

The Welcome Center, in MSC across from the bookstore, is offering free popcorn to welcome students back, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

University Program Board Ice Cream Social
Come out and enjoy an ice cream sundae to start off the year on the right foot! Come get some while supplies last. It takes place in the Nosh in MSC, Noon. Call R.V. Jenkins or other UPB member at 314-516-5531 for more information.

Community Chorus

Membership is open to all who enjoy singing in a large choral group. Choral music of all kinds will be rehearsed and performed. Former high school chorus members or current church choir members will find the chorus a satisfying continuation of that experience. Fee: \$25. 205 Music Building, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call Jennifer Clemente at 314-516-5994 for more information.

Tuesday, August 21

Event Photography class

Event Photography is an intermediate to advanced level photography class, focusing on the digital capture of images, the business of photography, and client relations. We will discuss a variety of event photography types, including weddings, corporate and non-profit events, photo booths, concerts, etc. Special emphasis will be placed on photographing for the client. We will learn how to make fabulous WOW shots of the bride and groom as well as how to photograph a 30 person family portrait in a dimly lit church. We will focus on the appropriate lens and lighting choices in each situation in order to make your clients look their best. General pricing, selling techniques, cost of goods and cost of business will be discussed so that you will understand how to price yourself to make a living as a photographer. Fee: \$399. 226 Fine Arts Building, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For information, call Mary Gough at 314-516-5974

UPB Commuter Break

UPB offers a fast break for commuters to get some food before a long day of classes, at North MetroLink Stop, 9 a.m. For information, call Charlie McDonald or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Welcome Center Popcorn

The Welcome Center, in MSC across from the bookstore, is offering free popcorn to welcome students back, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

UPB Drive-in Movie: "The Avengers"

Did you miss your chance to see The Avengers this summer? Here is your chance to see this amazing summer blockbuster for free in Parking Lot D at 8 p.m.! Bring your friends and family for one of the summer best movies! There will be two more screenings in the SGA Chambers on August 22 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. You would not want to miss this! Avengers Assemble! For information, call Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Global Development &

Sustainability Seminar

Students in this course will study how human behavior influences and impacts culture, patterns of consumption, development, and sustainability. The process of Systems thinking is introduced, along with how to apply it to organizational decisions, including the class team Community Re-envisioning project. Fee: \$225. 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the MU Extension Center, 121 S. Meramec, Suite 501, Clayton, MO. For information, call Jennifer Clemente at 314-516-5974

Crimeline and Reports

Property Damage in Lot B

August 6, 2012 - 4:46pm - Report # 12-309

An UMSL staff member reported that during the day someone scratched their driver's side door with a key or similar item. Disposition: Report taken.

Theft outside Oak Hall

August 9, 2012 - 6:00pm - Report # 12-311

An UMSL student reported they left a bicycle chained to a railing near Oak Hall and it was taken between May 10, 2012 and August 9, 2012. Disposition: Report taken.

Trespassing at the SSB

August 11, 2012 - 8:00pm - Report # 12-316

A non-student was found sleeping in the SSB, additional investigation revealed outstanding warrants from neighboring police departments. The subject was arrested and released to Ferguson PD. Disposition: Report taken

Wednesday, August 22

Expo: Student Organization &

Involvement Fair

Come check out the various organizations and departments on campus, in the Quad from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.! Learn how to get involved and take advantage of the opportunity to make contact with organizations of your choice. Hosted by the UPB. For information, call Marissa Steimel or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Watermelon Feast

For Welcome Week, come have some watermelon at University Meadows from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

'Workbook' Interactive Art Exhibit at

Gallery Visio

Gallery Visio is excited to present its first ever viewer interactive live art show. "Workbook" activity pages will be recreated on the walls of the gallery for show attendees to contribute to and enjoy. Opening reception in the gallery from noon to 3 p.m. "Workbook" runs until September 19. For information, call Stephanie Sivils at 314-516-7922.

Introduction to Labor Studies

This course covers many topics important to the role of unions in the American political system and American society from a labor perspective. Topics include the role of workers in current and future times, unions' institutional structure, collective bargaining strategies and obstacles for union organizing, recent union campaigns, labor's political role, and the relationship between labor and the media. In room 200A SCCB from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call Jennifer Clemente at 314-516-5994.

Thursday, August 23

College of Arts & Sciences Ice Cream Social

The College of Arts & Sciences welcomes all students, faculty and staff in celebrating a new academic year. Cool off at our Ice Cream Social in the North Campus Quadrangle (front of Clark & Lucas Halls) from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enjoy complimentary ice cream under the big tent. Enjoy live music from our UMSL Music Department. For information, call Fern Mreen at ex 5403

Fall Volunteer Fair

Check out the Fall Volunteer Fair and see how you can get involved in the community and campus service projects. Many different local non-profit organizations will be present in the North Campus Quadrangle (front of Clark & Lucas Halls) from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This event is brought to you by the Office of Student Life and Employee Volunteer Program. For information, call Carly Nivison at 314-516-5291.

Office of Student Life

Open House

Provides an opportunity for students and staff to visit the office, meet the staff and learn about programs and services offered over food and drink, from 2:29 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pop Violinist Josh Vietti concert in the

Touhill Lee Theater at 7 p.m.

Hip hop and violin!? what??? That's right! Come to the Lee Theater to see Josh Vietti and enjoy a new sound that you that you won't want to miss! For information, call Scott Morrissey or other UPB member at 314-516-5531. call Jennifer Clemente at 314-516-5994.

Friday, August 24

UPB Welcome Back Party

Come out to party with UPB! We will have FREE FOOD, PRIZES, KARAOKE, and BLOW-UPS. The pool will also be open so bring your suit and hang in the pool at the Oak Residence Hall, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call Erin Potts or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Saturday, August 25

UPB Trivia Night

Do you have what it takes to win the first place prize for Trivia Night? All you need to do is bring yourself and four friends to create a team. After that just show us what you know and hopefully win first place. It takes place at the Provincial House's Museum Room on South Campus, 7 p.m. For information, call Katie Green or other UPB Member at 314-516-5531.

News

'Weeks of Welcome' offer many events open to UMSL students, staff

(continued from page 1)

Arts and Sciences Ice Cream Social. The event will be located at the North Campus Quadrangle and will last from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In addition, on Thursday, the Office of Student Life will host an open house that will begin at 2:29 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The open house will provide students and staff with a chance to visit the Office of Student Life in the MSC, meet the office's staff and learn more about the programs and services offered while enjoying complimentary food and drinks.

Events on Thursday conclude with a performance by pop violinist Josh Vietti at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater. The performance

begins at 7 p.m. and has many fans waiting with bated breath.

"[Vietti] is a pop violinist with a great energy and he puts a unique spin on popular music," Tegan Klevorn, Student Activities Coordinator said. "We have not had an event like this in the past, and I know all of UPB is excited for this show."

On Friday, August 24, the UPB will host their Welcome Back Party from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Oak Residence Hall.

The first week of events will conclude on Saturday, August 25, with the UPB's Trivia Night at 7 p.m. in the Provincial House's Museum Room meeting room on South Campus.

Welcome Week Events

(Weeks of Welcome week one)

MADDIE HARNED
Staff Writer

**August 19:
Welcome Picnic,
Millennium Student Center,
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Hosted by the Office of Student Life. Includes a BBQ buffet, a live DJ, face painters, caricature artists, a photo booth, free UMSL T-shirts and snow cones.

**August 20:
Welcome Center Popcorn,
Welcome Center, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

University Program Board Ice Cream Social, the Nosh in the MSC, Noon.

First come, first served ice cream sundaes for UMSL students and staff.

**August 21:
UPB Commuter Break,
North MetroLink Stop,
9 a.m.**

**Welcome Back Popcorn,
Welcome Center, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Welcome Back Health Services Station, MSC 2nd Floor Rotunda, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**UPB Drive-in Movie:
"The Avengers," Parking Lot D, 8 p.m.**

**August 22:
Expo, North Campus Quadrangle, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Hosted by the UPB. Various student organizations and campus departments participate by showing new and returning students ways to get involved at UMSL.

**Watermelon Feast,
University Meadows, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**August 23:
College of Arts & Sciences Ice Cream Social, North Campus Quadrangle, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Office of Student Life Open House, 2:29 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Provides an opportunity for students and staff to visit the office, meet the staff and learn about programs and services offered over food and drink.

**Pop Violinist Josh Vietti,
Touhill Lee Theater, 7 p.m.**

**August 24:
UPB Welcome Back Party,
Oak Residence Hall, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**August 25:
UPB Trivia Night,
Provincial House's Museum Room on South Campus, 7 p.m.**

News Brief: Equality Day brunch

Join the Missouri Women's Network, American Association of University Women and other women's groups in celebrating the 92nd anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote and the 40th anniversary of the passing of Title IX. The 25th Annual Equality Day Brunch will be held on Saturday, August 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton.

Highlights include special guests speakers Kathy Bull and Lori Flanagan, director of athletics at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Flanagan will be speaking on Title IX. The event includes a raffle that will be held for a four-night stay in an adobe house in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$37 for general admission and \$15 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance or on the day of the event.

For additional information or to make late reservations, contact Shirley Breeze (314) 831-5359 or Pat Shores (636) 938-3958. Only a limited number of late reservations will be allowed. Scholarships are also available.

Des Lee Collaborative Vision continues to serve the community

STACY BECKENHOLDT
Staff Writer

St. Louis philanthropist E. Desmond Lee was known for his commitment to building a better St. Louis. The Des Lee Collaborative Vision utilizes university resources and collaborates with community outreach programs in order to make a positive impact on the St. Louis community.

The Des Lee Collaborative Vision, known as the DLCV, consists of a network of partnerships between endowed professors and community organizations. There are 35 professorships, 30 of which are at University of Missouri-St. Louis, four at Washington University and one at St. Louis University.

"We are creating a shared vision of how we can make our community a better place through our work and outreach," Patricia Zahn, who has been director of the DLCV since November of 2010, said. "We are able to come together as a community of scholars to recognize, support and even challenge ourselves in our efforts. I am very proud to be a part of this work and to offer opportunities for us to come together and create new synergies."

Endowed professors divide their time equally between scholarly responsibilities and their work within the community partnerships they maintain. With such a large number of professorships, there are many efforts and initiatives taking place each year in the St. Louis community.

Dr. Patricia Kopetz holds the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professorship of Education of Children with Disabilities and is the director of the College of Education's Center for the Research and Study of Disability, Education and Culture (CRSDEC). It is through the CRSDEC that she does much of her work with the community. The Center sponsors Project SEARCH, though the project is funded largely by the Epworth School and Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As part of the project, a class of autistic high school students from Webster Groves Epworth School meet on UMSL's south campus to receive instruction from UMSL College of Education faculty and graduate students, in addition to their own special educators. The focus is on graduation and post-school employment.

Dr. Kopetz also works closely with Variety, the Children's Charity of St. Louis. The CRSDEC aids in the development of programs and activities that, according to Kopetz's estimate, benefit over 24,000 families containing children with significant limitations. During last summer's Variety Adventure Camp, graduate students of the CRSDEC conducted research that enabled them to use iPad technology to teach communication skills to non-verbal children at the weekly camp programs.

E. Wendy Saul is the Allen B. and Helen S. Shopmaker Endowed Professor of Education and International Studies in Collaboration with (continued on page 8)



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Students are the focus of new recreation facility scheduled to open in 2015

STACY BECKENHOLDT
Staff Writer

By 2015 there will be a new 94,000 square foot recreation center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus built entirely with the needs of students in mind. After an architect is selected for the project, there will be approximately one year of planning and two years of building.

Support over the years there have been cycles of high interest in the project that would eventually fade away but last semester a research agency was hired to find out what students wanted and were willing to approve. An aggressive campaign on the subject was launched. Part of the campaign included reaching out to students on Facebook as well as through the student government with the help of Jericah Selby, then-president and current vice president of SGA. Students have overwhelmingly approved of the new building.

Campus Recreation Manager Larry Coffin has spent the past several years fighting to give students a better recreation facility than that which is currently available at the Mark Twain building, which is used for recreation, athletics, physical education and fitness classes.

Because the athletics department does not receive state funding, money is raised by renting out the Mark Twain building for various events such as local high school graduations. In addition, athletic needs require team usage of the gymnasium for several hours at a time. This limit shows much access students have to recreational activities.

Coffin explained that one of the issues with the current location involves sharing space with athletics.

"My recreation philosophy is that students ought to be able to workout, play basketball (or play) badminton, anytime that we're open but they can't do that here," Coffin said.

Coffin repeatedly stated that the students are his first priority.

The new recreation center will be in the recessed area of the parking lot of the Millennium Student Center by the

ponds. Being near the MSC, a place where students already congregate, means easy access at a central location on campus. There is talk of having a juice bar and places for students to hang out and do homework or visit with friends. The building will also house a weight room, a fitness center, aerobics room, gymnasium and lap swimming pool.

Funding for the new building will come from a student-approved increase in student fees at a rate of \$19.25 per credit hour. The increase will not go into effect until the building opens, so current students will not be charged for something they may never have the opportunity to use. Once open, students will be given open access while faculty, staff and alumni will be required to pay an annual fee to use the facilities.

"Faculty/staff are going to have to pay," Coffin said. "They do at Mizou, they do everywhere else, so somehow (UMSL) will have to come up with a fee structure for them."

At present, a decision has not been made in regards to access for community members who are otherwise unassociated with UMSL. An advisory committee of students will be asked to decide whether or not community members should be allowed access to the center. The decision will be based partly on the amount of space available.

"I just don't want the place to be taken over by anyone other than students," said Coffin. "If community members started to come in, and I'm a student and all six treadmills are being used and I can't get on one, that's a no-no—ought to be able to get on there."

After the recreation department moves, the Mark Twain building will be almost completely dedicated to athletics. Recreation will still need to use the space from time to time, particularly for outdoor intramural events.

Students do not have to wait until 2015 to benefit from some improvements. The fitness center has been completely remodeled. The wall between the original fitness center and the batting cage has been removed to make way for brand new equipment, including cardio machines with their own television monitors. Students are encouraged to check out the new space on Monday, August 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coca-Cola is sponsoring the event and there will be free giveaways to attendees.

Features



Alan Byrd is the Dean of Enrollment Services at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership at UMSL.

photo by Ahmad Aljurryed

Keeping enrollment strong: a lesson in marketing with Alan Byrd Jr.

BLAIR CONNER
Features Editor

With fewer high school students graduating in the St. Louis area, University of Missouri-St. Louis is facing the challenge of having to look elsewhere to populate its student body. Alan Byrd Jr., Dean of Enrollment Services, is the man spearheading this new project.

"We have fewer high school graduates than we've had in the past so we, naturally, have fewer prospects to attend our university," Byrd said. "The only way for us to really compensate for having less students is to retain more of our students or attract new students from outside of St. Louis. It's our goal right now to do both."

However, this is not an easy task. There are several challenges standing in the way. These obstacles range from financial difficulties to lack of activities on campus to a shortage of academic advisors.

"I think the financial aspect is the most prevalent reason," Byrd said. "Students are working more hours, and the bills are larger."

Byrd stressed that many students are forced to work full time to cover their expenses, and their grades are suffering because of this. An UMSL grant offsets the costs but only covers up to \$1,500. Byrd's goal is to increase this to \$3,000, which he said would narrow the average gap of \$3,600. "Right now, we are the most expensive public university in the state of Missouri, in terms of tuition," Byrd said.

The net cost for UMSL students is much higher because other universities offer greater financial assistance. "If students aren't having to come up with \$2,000 or \$3,000 a semester to attend here, they're more likely to be able to concentrate on school," Byrd said.

Even with the financial costs, UMSL posted record visits to the campus from potential students. However, getting these students to stay has been somewhat of a

problem. "A lot of it revolves around our facilities and campus amenities," Byrd said. "There's not really very many restaurants or bars or things for students to do within walking distance of the residence halls." He said that while UMSL has relied on the city of St. Louis to entertain students, the school should focus on providing night and weekend programming for its student body.

Another challenge is the perception of safety at UMSL. "Right now, we rank as the second safest campus in Missouri, right after SEMO," Byrd said. "A lot of people perceive us to be dangerous simply because we're located in St. Louis, and St. Louis is ranked as one of the most dangerous cities every year. But that's not the case for our campus."

The school is battling this misconception through marketing and by postings its crime statistics. "We have little incidents here and there but if you compare us to the other schools in St. Louis, we're not even close," Byrd said.

Understaffing of academic advisors is another problem for UMSL. "In terms of advising, we are understaffed," Byrd said. "Many of our students do self-advise because we just simply don't have enough advisors to effectively advise the number of students we have at UMSL. That's one area where we're trying to expand and come up with the resources where we can hire more advisors so students have the opportunity to meet with an advisor every semester."

Even with all of these challenges standing in the way, UMSL still maintains record retention rates for both freshmen and transfer students. The school is meeting the average graduation rate for a metropolitan institution.

"The little things we've done in the last two years have made an immediate impact," Byrd said. "The key is to build on that and make it even better."

For many news media outlets, UMSL's Robertson is go-to guy for political insights

(continued from page 1)

Teaching is another major part of Robertson's life. For him, teaching means making complicated things easier to understand for his students. Instead of using fancy words to convey a point, he feels it is better to break down the language into something that simply makes more sense to his students.

At UMSL, Robertson teaches a variety of American politics courses on everything from Environmental Politics to Federalism and American Political Development. All of these courses help students realize how and why government works.

Robertson explained his teaching style as being focused on "the big picture." Basically, he wants his students to seek out a general understanding of different political issues.

In class, Robertson also likes to get a little silly. In fact, sometimes he will bring his bobble head of President James Madison into class and ask him questions. His style is all about making

political science easier for students to understand while maintaining a relaxed atmosphere.

Robertson is also well versed in topics surrounding the creation of America and the type of government still used today. Much of his work is based on the idea that "the past is never dead, and America still lives with the same rules." With this in mind, it is important that Americans look to how our government system was created before making political assessments today.

When asked about major setbacks, Robertson immediately thought of researching in his field. The type of insight Robertson looks for is not exactly mainstream, which makes support for that research hard to come by.

Finding connections in politics throughout history is more telling to Robertson than looking to statistical data.

Despite previous obstacles, Robertson has big plans to start researching environmental issues, beginning with land distribution in America. Robertson feels this is important because there are many important factors that affect Americans that they do not know about. For example, many Americans do not know the government is the largest land owner in America. In fact, it owns up to 90 percent of land in Nevada alone.

Robertson hopes to use secondary sources as well as government documents to figure out where all of this started, and where it is going.

'Amazing Nano Worlds!' in our own backyard: UMSL's Center for Nanoscience has promising role

LIZ MILLER
Staff Writer

The Saint Louis Science Center is currently hosting an exhibit known as "Amazing Nano Worlds!" which runs until Sept. 3. As it happens, one of the research institutes at University of Missouri - St. Louis is the Center for Nanoscience.

Nanoscience is science at a very small level, as is indicated by the "nano" prefix. This type of science involves creating machines powerful enough to study the tiniest of cells. It also enables the creation of microchips and other tiny technology.

Nanotechnology involves devices smaller than 100 nanometers in size. One nanometer is equal to one billionth of a meter, so even 100 of them would not be large enough to grab the attention of the human eye. Technology this powerful enables scientists to explore and create worlds previously unknown.

At UMSL, The Center for Nanoscience (CNS) participates in the research and application of nanoscience on campus. Operating within the UMSL community as well as the larger St. Louis region, the CNS strives to enhance the research capacities of the UMSL faculty members, researchers, and students to better serve regional needs. The CNS is not only studying the complex world of nanoscience, it is also actively engaged in working with local universities and organizations, including the St. Louis Science Center, to bring economic development to the region.

"Cooperative and educational outreach are very important to the CNS," said Kendra Perry-Ward, Director of Business and Government Relations, who serves as a media contact for the CNS.

Perry-Ward notes that although the CNS has no affiliation with the exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center, she is pleased with what it has done. Ultimately, she is delighted that the Science Center is helping to bring information about nanotechnology to the public.

A focus on energy, food, health, and environment illustrates the significance of the CNS's research. The center's goals cover everything from alternative, sustainable energy to new methods of disease

diagnosis and treatment. One look at the CNS website, www.umsu.edu/divisions/artscience/nanoscience/index.html, demonstrates the degree to which it has involved itself in these subjects and how necessary such involvement is.

Translating research into practical applications in local communities is imperative.

According to the Saint Louis Science Center exhibit, nanotechnology "allows scientists to make new things like: smaller, faster computer chips and new medicines for diseases." The Science Center's website describes nanoscience as "not just something going on in a lab somewhere. Nanotechnology is already being used in all sorts of products we use every day."

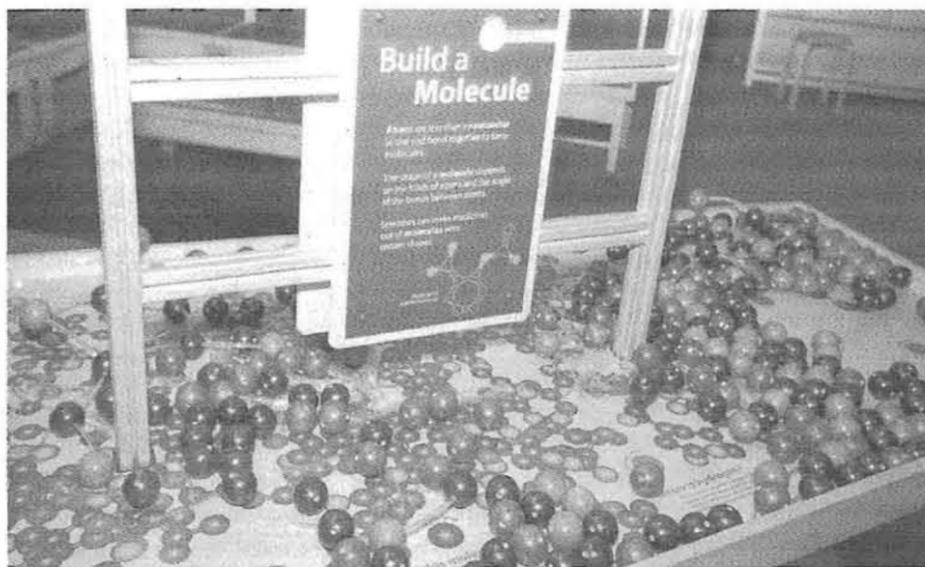
The technology impacts many aspects of daily life, and it does so entirely outside of public awareness. The use of the term "amazing" in the Saint Louis Science Center exhibit's title was not a mistake.

Although the exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center is by no means a complete lesson in nanoscience, it seems to provide a basic understanding of the technology and can be appreciated by all ages.

At first glance, the exhibit appears to be little more than a child's playground, with various games strewn about. However, these games serve a purpose. They are geared toward creating a positive learning environment. Many activities utilize a diction easily deciphered by children, which allows for effortless knowledge acquisition.

The exhibit also provides posters and videos for older patrons desiring more complex information. As the St. Louis Science Center portrays it, it is impossible to exit the exhibit without reaching some understanding regarding nanoscience.

It is easy to see why nanoscience needs the support of the general public. Affecting nearly everyone's lives, nanotechnology aims to enhance the health and safety of human beings and enables the creation of useful, powerful technology. Even the economic growth brought to the St. Louis area as a result of the CNS affects citizens in some form.



Nano Worlds is a great introduction to nanotechnology and family fun for everyone. Open until September 3rd in the Exploradome.

photo by Ahmad Aljurryed

A&E

'All That Tap XXI' shows the magic of tap still works at Touhill Theater

CATE MARQUIS
Editor in Chief

When "All That Tap" presented its twentieth annual celebration of that grand American dance form, tap dance, in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's Anheuser-Busch Theater last year, organizer Robert L. Reed announced it would be the show's final year. That announcement was greeted by a roar of "no" from the audience.

It appears the audience was right. The venerable show returned again this year, with some familiar faces and some new talent. The July 28 show, presented by the Robert L. Reed Tap Heritage Institute, was a less elaborate production in a more intimate setting at the Touhill's Lee Theater.

Tap dance, like jazz, is a uniquely American art form. The dance style mixes rapid footwork and percussion and was largely created by black Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. "All That Tap" has been an annual celebration of the heart and its range of styles, from traditional to modern, presenting an array of talented dancers.

As last year's "All That Tap XX" show reminded audiences, this percussive form of dance is the ancestor of or influence in many dance styles, including hip-hop, popular and modern dance. This year's show included examples of tap's newest forms and its shared ancestry with other percussive folk dance traditions.

The move to the Lee Theater proved a plus. The new space gives the show a feel of cabaret and allows a more close-up view of the dancers' feet and nuances of movement, detail easily missed from a more distant stage. The show has a relaxed structure that focuses on the dancers, which also suits the Lee performance space. It is cozy in the best possible sense.

This year's show featured some familiar faces alongside some spectacular performers new to the series. Evan Ruggiero and Issac Gardello were featured performers and the show also paid tribute to dance legend Bob Scheerer. All the performances were given by individual dancers rather than troupes. Music was provided by the Carolbeth Trio, whose light jazz stylings were a highlight in their own right.

The program began well, with Claudia Rahardjanoto, a German-born dancer of Chinese-Indonesian heritage, performing winningly before a near-full-house audience. Rahardjanoto was followed by Robin Reed, the daughter of founder Robert Reed. Reed performed a wonderful

showcase of traditional tap that proved the founder's talent has been passed down.

Denise Caston, a leggy redhead in a short ruffled dress who was a long-time Radio City Rockette, took the stage next and began her portion of the performance by tap dancing to a jazzy version of "Roxanne." It was a fast, energetic performance, seasoned with a ballet spin or two and finished with a playful curtsy.

Featured performer Issac Gardello followed with a folkloric dance inspired by his native Argentina. Dressed in black and with long black hair and a carefully-shaped small mustache, Gardello was a striking figure just standing on stage and an explosion of energy when he danced. Gardello's clicking heels, snapping fingers, clapping and thigh-slaps provided the only music for his intense, high-kicking, flamenco-flavored dance. The dance was extremely high-energy, leaving the audience as breathless as the dancer and showcasing why Gardello has become a rising international star.

In a change of pace, the next dancer, Martin "Tre" Dumas III, was the epitome of cool in sunglasses. With small, beautifully controlled flourishes, he danced two numbers that showcased his considerable tap skills. Dumas' performance was embellished by his stage presence and personality, with a touch of fun.

Next up was Logan Miller, a Reed protégé. Miller was very good, and his relaxed style and '50s-inspired outfit added a little modern retro to his tap dance cool.

At the end of the first half, the show honored Bob Scheerer, a dancer and director whose career in Hollywood had him working with stars such as Donald O'Connor, Bob Fosse, Phil Silvers, Danny Kaye and Fred Astaire.

After intermission and a musical interlude, the show's next featured dancer took the stage. Evan Ruggiero is a performer who so loves to dance that nothing could keep him from it. Ruggiero was already on his way to a successful career in dance, having participated in performances at Lincoln Center with stars like Maurice Chestnut, when bone cancer struck and caused the amputation of his right leg. Inspired by the legendary tap dancer Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates, Ruggiero taught himself a new way to tap and danced his way back onto the stage.

Ruggiero delivered a remarkable, show-stopping performance. Sporting a bright blue "peg leg," Ruggiero not only tapped with ease but even balanced his full weight on the prosthetic limb. The talented Ruggiero delivered impressive moves no ordinary dancer could. His muscular performance and artistry were breathtaking. The audience response was deafening, with a mid-show ovation.

Next, Gardello returned, with another riveting, electrifying performance, in which he danced while spinning bolas, the whip-like weighted tools used by the gauchos of South America to rope cattle.

Gifted dancer-choreographer Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, another regular of "All That Tap," closed out the individual performances in rousing fashion.

As is the tradition of "All That Tap," the show concluded with the "Shim Sham Shimmy." All the program's performers returned to the stage, joined this time by several audience members in a fun and joyous finish for the evening of great dance.

Gallery B from September 6 through December 1.

While Gallery 210 will be inviting the College of Fine Arts faculty to display the fruits of their labors, Gallery Visio, the student-run gallery on campus, will be extending the same offer to UMSL students.

The first exhibition of Visio's fall program, "Workbook," will task viewers with recreating the experience of a childhood coloring book on the gallery walls. Visitors can contribute to the life-size activity pages at the opening reception on August 22 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through September 19.

Visio will also feature the artwork of UMSL graduate Rebecca Haas. The exhibition "Synesthesia" will feature a collection of surreal photographic pieces which Visio anticipates will distort and challenge its visitors' perceptions, allowing for a more intuitive gallery experience. "Synesthesia" will run from October 3 through November 14, with a reception to be held on opening day.

Of course, though Visio will be attracting a number of talented St. Louis-based artists this year, it remains equally (continued on page 7)



Buyi Zama as "Rafiki" in the opening number "The Circle of Life" from THE LION KING National Tour.

photo by Joan Marcus

'Lion King' roars back into the Fox Theater

CATE MARQUIS
Editor in Chief

The Broadway smash "The Lion King" is back at the Fox Theater, through Sept. 2, giving those who missed the Disney musical the last time it stopped in St. Louis another chance to catch the spectacle.

Spectacle is the word for "The Lion King," with its amazingly creative costumes that are part puppet, part costume and a production that features tons of showy pageantry.

"The Lion King" began as an animated Disney film but was transformed into a unique Broadway experience by Julie Taymor's imaginative costume design and direction. With music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice, it opened on Broadway in late 1997 and went on to win multiple Tonys. It is one of Broadway's longest running shows and its highest grossing one.

The Broadway touring production of "The Lion King" opened Thursday, August 16 to an early sold-out house. The evening's tone was set by its opening number, with Rafiki (Buyi Zama), the face-painted shaman-like character, singing out in an African language to call the animals in from the savannah. Performers in animal masks and elaborate costumes responded with their own calls from the balconies, as performers representing giraffes, birds and cheetah emerged on stage. Elephants and other "animals" paraded up the aisles. Assembled on stage, they launched into the signature song "Circle of Life" as a puppet of the new-born lion cub was held aloft and presented to the animals. What a spectacular opening.

The storyline was pared down from the film but that allowed more emphasis on the production's showy musical numbers and visual fireworks. The story is easy for young ones to follow, although some scenes may be too scary for the very young. The eye-popping, head-twisting costumes and sets paired with stirring musical numbers made the show a winner for the grown-ups as well.

The story is a coming-of-age tale about a lion cub named Simba born to the Lion King Mufasa (Dionne Randolph) and his Queen Sarabi (Tryphena Wade). Mufasa's younger brother Scar (Brent Harris) resents that he has been supplanted as next in line from the

throne, and broods about his position in life. Young Simba (Zavion Hill) has a playmate, a female cub named Nala (Khail Bryant), and the cub prince is sometimes watched over by his father's adviser, a hornbill named Zazu (Mark David Kaplan).

Taymor's masks and costumes were unique in that they also revealed the people behind the costumes, giving a surreal sense to the moving apparitions on stage. One was often torn between looking at the mask/puppet and the performer behind that mask, leaving one undecided about where to look to best appreciate what was unfolding. In truth, alternating between them was likely Taymor's intention.

The mask and costume combinations of the major characters were complex but some of the most visually impressive were the animals in the background. Puppeteers in costumes portrayed flocks of birds or even grasses and bushes. One of the most striking was a cheetah, a costume/prop worn on the performer's hips in which the puppeteer's arm and head movements were mirrored by the puppet body that jutted out in front. A wheeled contraption represented a flock of birds passing over a field, while kite-like pieces of cloth on long poles represented buzzards or butterflies.

"The Lion King" features a number of spectacular musical numbers, each more eye-popping and imaginatively than the next. One of the most impressive and playful, "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," featured the two young cast members Hill and Bryant on large props as they evaded the watchful eye of Zazu. The show's two young performers, Hill and Bryant, were energetic charmers who delighted the audience.

The show was filled with humor as well as melodrama. The oddball, laughing Rafiki, who is a monkey in the film but seemed more human in the musical, chattered and conjured in a variety of African languages before switching to English so the animals (and the audience) could understand her. Zama's Rafiki weaved her own spell on the audience, winning some of the loudest applause at the show's end.

Randolph's King Mufasa was dignified, as were Wade's Sarabi and the other lionesses. Brent Harris' evil uncle Scar, however, (continued on page 7)

Busy semester for UMSL galleries

(continued from page 1)

themes—longing, isolation, devotion—in their respective works, which "Exposure 15" hopes to capture. "Exposure 15" open to the public in 210's Gallery A from August 23 through September 29. Alvarez, Douglas and Corley are to make an appearance at the gallery's upcoming reception on September 6.

Gallery 210 will also feature the work of prominent video artist Michael Gitlin, whose 2011 feature "Dust Studies" promises to deliver a microscopic escapade on par with its title. Screenings of "Dust Studies" will continue in the gallery's video exhibition space through the end of the semester.

There is plenty of talent to display close to home as well. The UMSL Fine Arts Faculty Biennial Jubilee will promote artwork by the faculty of the Art and Art History programs. Pieces from UMSL professors Dan Younger, Jennifer McKnight, Ken Anderson and others will be on display in 210's

Purity Ring's 'Shrines' mixes ultramodern and otherworldly

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
A&E EDITOR

If the breathless media hype accompanying artists like The Weeknd, Twin Shadow and Purity Ring are any indication, R&B is making a major comeback in the indie community.

The duo at the heart of Purity Ring, Corin Corrick and Megan James, cut their teeth on the Canadian indie-electronic outfit Gobble Gobble. After a single largely under-the-radar album, the duo decided to quit their day jobs to collaborate on a new project born of their shared love of contemporary R&B.

This origin story is abundantly clear throughout their new album "Shrines." Each track is propelled by a layer of 909 percussion, snarerushes and handclaps that sound perfectly at home in a modern-day booty track (think of it as dream pop by way of The-Dream). But while the bump and grind of the mix echoes a chart-topping club anthem, the duo's chilling, ethereal production and the unsettling imagery of James'

bizarre lyrics quickly deflate the seduction.

Much like the similarly lauded Grimes, the heart and soul of Purity Ring is vocalist James, whose thin, airy voice pierces through the lavish mix. But while a lesser group would exploit a honey-voiced indie diva like James as a cheap bid for sex appeal, Purity Ring allows her to assume a far weirder, more interesting role in "Shrines."

The inattentive listener could easily assume that James is cooing the typical T&A proposals which are the core of dance music but closer inspection reveals a kind of cryptic malevolence behind her chirpy vocals. On "Fineshrine," for example, she offers to "cut open my sternum and pull my little ribs around you" behind a swaggering, sensual groove. Elsewhere, she entreats guest vocalist Isaac Emmanuel of Young Magic to "dig holes in me with wooden carved trowels" and "stake rare toothpicks in my dirt-filled heart." Not exactly the stuff of an Usher and Beyoncé duet.

Though "Shrines" is arguably an album which thrives on a single conceit—the juxtaposition of dance floors sensibility with spooky, Goth-tinged mysticism—it is too (continued on page 7)

Sports

Tritons Optimistic about 2102 Season

LEON DEVANCE
Staff Writer

For the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons men's soccer team, the 2011 season came down to one goal. Unfortunately, the Tritons never scored that goal, as they finished ninth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with a 8-5-4 record and a 7-5-3 league mark.

However with 17 letter winners and five returning starters, led by seniors Peter Hyde, finance major, and Gino Valenti, business administration, and junior Matt Burrus, international business, the squad prepares to forget last year and kick-off the 2012 season against Northeastern Oklahoma State on August 31 on the Don Dallas soccer field.

The four match home stand that includes Lake Erie. Conference play begins against the Bellarmine Knights on Pat Hogan/Tim Smith Recognition Night and McKendree.

Coach Dan King said that with the trio of Hyde, Valenti and Burrus back in the fold, the Tritons will not lack for leadership.

"Those guys play with vision, tact and awareness (of where the opponent) is on the field. They understand and play to the situation. That is why they provide great leadership for us," King said.

King said that the GLVC conference race will be competitive among the pre-season favorite Rockhurst Hawks, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Championship and tallied 13 first place votes and 222 points.

The Quincy Hawks collected one first place vote and 189 points. The Indianapolis Greyhounds were third at 187 points. The Lewis Flyers had one first place vote and 182 points and the Knight had the last first place vote and 173 points. The 16 league coaches picked the Tritons to finish in eighth place with 119 points.

"Rockhurst has a direct style in that they advance the ball (quickly up the field) from their end of the field to your end of the field. Rockhurst also have great size and strength. Both Lewis and Quincy have traditionally strong programs," King said.

King said that when the Tritons play, they will play aggressively and attack teams both offensively and defensively.

"Hyde, (last year's second leading scorer with four goals and six assists and 14 points), will be the main goal scorer for us this season but we will attack with 11

players on offense against the opponents' 11 players on the defense. On defense, we will defend the same way," King said.

The core of the Triton's defensive effort will be led by mid-fielder Burrus and back defenders Valenti, junior Logan Ream, marketing, and sophomore Alex Wilson, business. As a group, this unit pitched eight shut-outs for the Tritons last year. Seniors mid-fielder Jordan Bruce, criminology, and back/ midfielder Thomas Mihalcz, political science, complete this unit.

The Tritons added new eight players for the 2012 season that includes seven freshmen and one four-year school transfer. The freshmen are Tyler Collico, Jeremiah Cooper, Tim Michael, Chris Peterson, Clay Stocker, Michael Schlemper and Jared Swierk. The transfer player is Taylor Nord.

Collico attended high school in O'Fallon, Illinois, where he earned all-state honors and was the Belleville News Democrat's Player of the year and a First Team All-Southwestern Conference selection. He earned all Midwest honors and was a selection of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's all-area team.

Collico's senior season statistics included 34 goals and 12 assists and set a school record of 14 game winning goals. Cooper attended Trinity High School and his prep resume has 14 shut-outs as a senior while he ranked 10th in his class academically. Cooper was the Archdiocesan Athletic Association Goalie of the Year and the Missouri Class 2 Co-Goalie of the Year.

At Christian Brothers College High School, Michael earned all-conference honors and was a member of the 2010 Scott Gallagher club team Missouri state champions. Peterson was an all-sectional and all-conference honor player at Edwardsville High School in Illinois. As a senior, he collect eight goals and four assists. Schlemper earned all-conference and all-sectional honors as a senior at Greenville, Illinois. Schlemper also was a team captain.

Stocker and Swierk both prepped at Oakville High School in Missouri to lead their team to the Missouri Class 3 state finals.

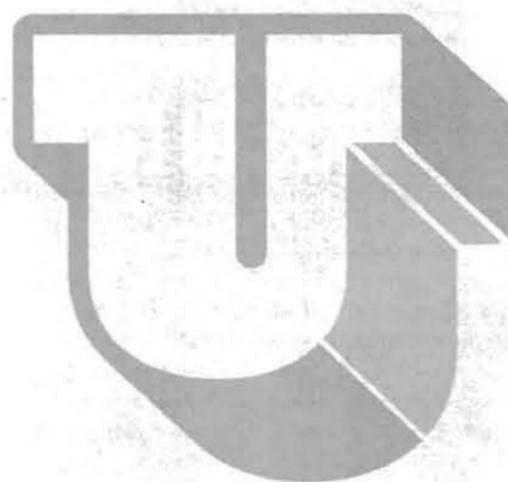
King insisted that the Tritons were focused and ready for the season with no hangover from last year.

"We will be ready to go from the bell. The returning players realize that we have a standard to uphold. That is to strive to be consistent and make the GLVC play-offs. And we intend to uphold that standard," King said.



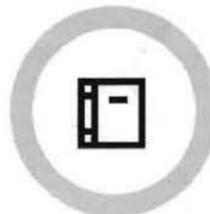
Gino Valenti, backfield

photo by Leon Devance

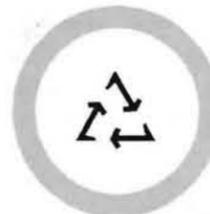


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Patrick Ream, goal keeper

photo by Leon Devance

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Busy semester for Gallery 210 and Gallery Visio

(continued from page 5)

committed to promoting the talent within UMSL's own College of Fine Arts. The centerpiece for the fine art department's schedule will be the annual FAB Expo, which features the artwork of UMSL Fine Arts students. The Expo will run from November 28 through January 9.

From renowned St. Louis artists to UMSL's very own faculty and students, 210 and Visio will be offering a diverse assortment of talents this semester. Admission to all gallery events and exhibitions is free, so the artistically-inclined should have no difficulties finding campus entertainment this fall.

'Lion King' returns to Fox

(continued from page 5)

was filled with sarcasm, a dryly funny villain, one of the performance highlights.

The musical's other villains were a trio of hyenas, Shenzi (Rashada Dawan), Banzai (Keith Bennett) and Ed (Robbie Swift), who were as dim and slapstick comic as they were blood-thirsty. They delivered a lot of the comedy, as well as some comeuppance in the end.

The show was packed with crowd-pleasing musical production numbers like "Circle of Life," "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" and "Hakuna Matata."

In the second half of the show, the now-grown Simba (Jelani Remy), exiled from his homeland, hung out with his laid-back pals, meerkat Timon (Nick Cordileone) and warthog Pumbaa (Ben Lipitz), until he encountered the grown-up Nala (Syndee Winters). Her tales of what had become of his homeland in his absence sparked the show's dramatic end.

Cordileone and Lipitz were terrific in their comic duo roles. Remy and Winters delivered the heroic swell and a touch of romance as Simba and Nala, in appealing performances. Lipitz as Pumbaa performed with an enormous costume that encased his body, yet the character was always as lively and comic as he needed to be.

"The Lion King" is a spectacle for adults and humor and action for kids, making this Broadway tour one winning ticket for families seeking a theater experience to please all.

'Shriners' showcases The Purity Ring's eclectic style

(continued from page 5)

remarkably well-crafted and executed for monotony to set in. For this reason, choosing individual standouts proves difficult, but the dramatic "Belispeak" and lead single "Obedear,"

are definite highlights. "Obedear" may even be the greatest electro-pops single since The Knife's "Heartbeats."

It is extremely rare for debut albums to sound as assured and compelling as "Shrines." Much like this year's other breakout 4AD release, Grimes's near-masterpiece "Visions," Purity Ring's much-anticipated debut is an addicting dance-pop confection with a strange aftertaste.

Though "Shrines" may very accurately be described as dance music, its eerie, lo-fi production and inscrutable lyrics suggest some enigmatic purpose that extends far beyond the dance floor. If the Heaven's Gate cult opened their own nightclub, "Shrines" would surely be a valuable addition to their playlist. Just be sure to steer clear of the Kool-Aid cocktails.

Indie kids who would normally be too bashful for dance floor antics will have a golden opportunity to get their plaid shirts sweaty when Purity Ring performs at The Firebird in downtown St. Louis on Sunday, August 26.

Opinions

Preparing for Japan: Part 1

RACHELLE BRANDEL
Staff Writer

When I applied to University of Missouri – St. Louis, I never thought I would be learning Japanese, let alone signing up for a year-long study abroad trip to Japan.

But that is exactly what I'll be doing this year. My student advisor informed me that I would have to take a foreign language for my degree and all that three years of French taught me was how to ask to use the bathroom. I had two options: try to survive French II, or choose a new language. Well, learning Japanese sounded easier than forging ahead in French.

Thankfully, my love of Japanese culture extended to its language. Learning Japanese has been incredibly hard, but mastering it comes with an incredible sense of accomplishment. So, as my senior year approached, I did not want to be like the majority of liberal arts majors who just drop their foreign language after completing what was required for their degree. I truly love the Japanese language and culture, and I wanted to include it in my life and career. This began my quest toward a study abroad trip.

The first step, perhaps the most important step, was to express an interest. I visited the study abroad office, located in room 261 in the Millennium Student Center. There, and online at <http://www.umsu.edu/services/abroad/index.html>, one can find a list of study abroad programs organized by country or length of time. These programs vary as some universities only offer classes dealing with that country's language and culture, while others offer additional degrees in areas.

The only additional degree options available in Japan at the time I wanted to study are in the business field, which was not what I wanted out of my study abroad experience. Thankfully, Kansai University in Osaka, Japan, offers courses that focus entirely on language and culture, which is much more appealing to me.

Having chosen the program best suited to me, I then filled out the application form and began writing the study abroad essay. The essay requirements specify that you write exactly what you expect to do with your study abroad experience. I wrote about what I hoped would happen while I was abroad, what I hoped to learn, what I hoped to experience and why I thought this experience was essential to my future. Writing the essay allowed me to dream about what might happen while abroad and got me more enthusiastic about the process. I had to write my essay in both English and Japanese. It is preferred that before you study abroad you have some foreign language under your belt, but it is not strictly required. This essay and application were submitted with a few letters of recommendation.

To be sure I received the proper credits towards my degree at UMSL upon my return, I had to choose the classes I would take while abroad and fill out a course equivalency form. The course equivalency form helps to calculate the amount of credit a student will receive for classes taken at a foreign university. My professors helped me with this, and after it was finished, I knew I was one step closer to my trip.

Of course, I had to acquire the standard documents for leaving the country: a visa and a passport. My passport took a short amount of time but a large chunk of my money. I feel it was worth the cost, however, since it will be valid for ten years. Some countries do not require visas depending on the length of stay. In Japan, a visa is required for a stay of longer than three months. Kansai University helped me with my visa process, making it easier to get the visa on my end.

I also needed insurance, specifically Medex and HTH insurance. This is essential for a safe trip abroad. HTH insurance is medical insurance and Medex is security insurance that takes care of emergency transportation and evacuation plans if a natural or political disaster occurs.

My favorite step was attending the pre-departure orientations, which covered issues I had not even thought about and provided resources for preparing for them. One issue the orientations covered was culture shock and reverse culture shock. While I knew going to another country could be stressful and hard to get used to, I didn't realize that oftentimes coming home can be just as stressful. The orientations prepared me for this possibility.

With all of the paperwork taken care of, I was finally ready to book my flight and start packing for my big trip!

Unsolicited Advice Column

Toxic Chick-Fil-A controversy incites, reignites healthy sense of passion

HALI FLINTROP
Opinions Editor

People can see themselves in one of two ways: 1) as entities trolling through life engaging in random activities that seem innocuous and disengaged from one's identity, or 2) as a bundle of values that interacts with the activities and items of life accordingly. Sometimes all it takes is a little controversy and hullabaloo to convert folks from the first category to the second.

Quite recently, the commentary of a corporate fast food leader and the subsequent explosion of backlash did just that. When Chick-Fil-A bigwig Dan Cathy made public comments to the effect of "Gay marriage is unholy and my whole chicken empire along with myself will monetarily oppose it," the slurry not yet formed into nuggets hit the fan.

Those in disagreement with Cathy accused Chick-Fil-A of discrimination and swore off waffle fries forevermore — or at least until this debacle is long forgotten a few weeks from now. Meanwhile, those in agreement with Cathy vowed to support him by gorging themselves on waffle fries on an "appreciation day" for Chick-Fil-A promoted by some key politicians and organized on social media.

Some said Cathy's personal opinion should have no bearing on his product. Others called shenanigans on that, because he is a corporate leader who chose to publicly profess a political opinion and whose profits go to support his cause; how could he not expect backlash? But backlash Cathy got, and that backlash begot still more backlash.

For over a week, the world woke up to a recap of the gay chicken tug-of-war on their social media, courtesy of arguing friends and beloved memes. The carnage of this war? Some alliances, a few friendships, thousands of peaceful moments and plenty of deliciously greasy meals.

The attacks devolved to name calling and second-and-third-wave memes became even less clever than those before them. All anyone could talk about was gay marriage and chicken until eventually, just the mention of either gay marriage or chicken was enough to nauseate.

So now we know what won't be provided for dinner at gay weddings. Whatever.

The point is that this whole debate is incredibly heartening.

While it has not been overwhelmingly intelligent and does not seem to have inspired a particularly large progressive budge in any direction, the Chick-Fil-A versus civil liberties-of-the-gay debacle has proven one insurmountably wonderful thing: We the people still have it in us to care about something, passionately.

The uproar proved that we have not become politically apathetic, self-absorbed robots who, buried in our own personal affairs, could not care less about civil liberties and controversial commentary. Normally disengaged folks were nudged into fiery passion, not only expressing genuine interest in a public issue, but even committing to boycott a product or support a worldview through consumer choices.

Impressive as it is that people talked the talk by tossing memes and engaging in impromptu verbal wars, it is even better that those people embodied ethical consumerism. Reevaluating one's relationship with Chick-Fil-A in light of the conflict and consuming it or boycotting it accordingly is a way of living deliberately. Instead of floating around aimlessly, people have acknowledged their personal sense of ethics and behaved accordingly — at least in regards to fast food preferences.

Every instance of living deliberately matters. It is a small victory every time a person is able to evaluate him or herself against a controversy and respond with conviction and passion.

Even though we cannot care about everything, we need to remember to care about something every once in a while. Though it may mean never eating waffle fries again, or eating them every night for the rest of one's life, the passion is worth it. It means we understand ourselves in relation to our values and can even follow through on them when the situation calls for it. Through the choices we make and the passions we feel, we remember our humanity.

Through the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, UM-St. Louis continues a tradition of giving back to the St. Louis community

(continued from page 3)

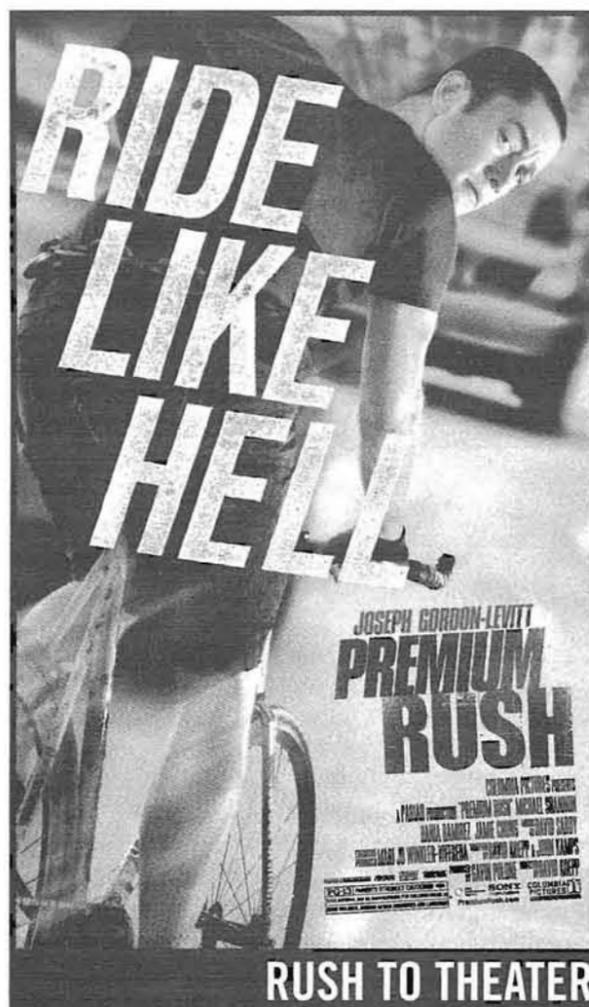
Springboard to Learning, the St. Louis region's largest provider of in-school arts and cultural integration and enrichment programs.

Dr. Saul says her strengths are generating ideas and analyzing what does and does not work in particular contexts. She utilizes those strengths in her work with Springboard. She helps to create a formal relationship between Springboard and the International Studies Program Outreach Library. Located on UMSL campus, the International Studies Program Outreach Library builds and lends out kits whose purpose Saul describes as fostering global understanding through hands-on, minds-on learning. Springboard offers those kits to schools and provides feedback on what

works well in the classrooms, exemplifying a relationship that Dr. Saul describes as being "truly a win-win."

"I believe in (the DLCV's) mission — in the importance of, in Des's words, 'leveling the playing field,' and in the role of the university to help better our collective community," Dr. Saul said.

Since its establishment in 1996, the DLCV has partnered with such institutions as the Missouri Historical Society, the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri Botanical Garden and many others. The DLCV currently works with over 100 partner organizations and includes professorships in music, nursing, zoology, museum studies, public policy and more.



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*While supplies last. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. Two admit-one passes per person. This film has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for some violence, intense action sequences and language.

RUSH TO THEATERS AUGUST 24

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Fit and Fierce column**My journey begins**STACY BECKENHOLDT
Staff Writer

I started fall semester of 2011 as a 270-pound couch-dwelling, chocolate-and-french-fry-loving graduate student. I frequently told friends I was too busy to make plans but spent about five to seven hours each night zoning out in front of the television. My downtime activities always involved food. I went to restaurants, diners and even Quik Trip to get my fix.

The effects of all this included only seeing a Munny show if I sat in a handicap seat and not being able to fly when traveling. I even dreaded dropping a pen in class because I could not bend over to pick it up. I decided to make a change, so I started the spring semester of 2012 by fighting for a better life.

As a gerontology graduate student, I have seen firsthand the damage people do when they don't take care of themselves and now I am determined to be in the best physical shape I can be when I am older.

I decided to invest some of my earnings back into myself by joining Club Fitness and hiring a personal trainer. During my first session, Trainer Darin had to hold my feet and talk me through each of just 10 sit-ups. He told me that I was to walk for three miles on the treadmill three days each week. The first time I did it, I was angry because I did not want to walk for that long. He also set me up with an online food journal that he would monitor. On the third day I was angry because I had lost my favorite activity. I did not give up on my new diet or exercise regimen though because in one month I would have my first measurement and weigh-in day and there would be no hiding the truth.

It slowly became easier to eat healthily and exercise five days each week. In the first month I lost 15 pounds, followed by another 15 pounds the second month. This earned me a pair of boxing gloves from Trainer Darin as a reward for breaking his and the fitness center's weight-loss record. Exercise became a priority. At the

start of each week I scheduled exercise in whenever I could and I stuck with it, no matter what.

One night, while watching YouTube videos about running techniques, I ran across a video titled "Inspiration: Be Great, Powerful Beyond Measure." The music and words grabbed me and would not let go. At the end of the video, a quick note about participating in a Spartan Race appeared, so I went to the site and found that a Spartan Sprint, more than three miles, was taking place in Indiana on April 21. I signed up as a volunteer because I believe in surrounding myself with greatness for the sake of inspiration. Five days before the race, the volunteer coordinator told us that we could race for free.

The day of the race, in 40-degree, rainy weather, I hobbled across the finish line with a badly sprained ankle, a six-foot barbed-wire cut on my back and a sense of amazement over all the crazy and wonderful things I had done during the previous three hours and 44 minutes.

Last Wednesday was my seventh measurement and weigh-in day. I have lost 77 pounds and 47 inches. I am signed up for two more Spartan Races. They are the Super Spartan (over eight miles) in October and the Spartan Beast (over 13 miles) in December. My goal is to earn my place in the elite Spartan TriFecta for having completed all three levels of races in one calendar year. In addition to training for the Spartan races, I am also training for my first 5k, which has been challenging as I have never been a runner.

I am a hiker. I have not been in over a decade. I run up stairs for fun, climb beastly hills on hikes and walk or run four to seven miles when I get to one of our many fantastic local parks. I rarely turn on the television and I frequently meet friends at Club Fitness or outdoors for hikes and walks. I have also taken up boxing and rock climbing.

This is not the life I ever imagined having. This is far better.

Our Opinion: The Current relaunch The Current as phoenix: a redesigned newspaper, new website will offer students news to use

Welcome back to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and welcome to the new Current!

The Current is the real student newspaper and news website at University of Missouri-St. Louis. We are undergoing some big changes, and doing a relaunch of our news outlet, to bring students better news and a better news experience.

We will have a new campus focus this school year and new presence on social media. We will have new columns, new features and bring back some favorites from past years. We want to shine a spotlight on all the great things this university does, all the things that seem to go unappreciated in our town.

Our aim is to inform and entertain the UMSL campus community. We want to provide students, faculty and staff with news they need to know about campus, things that impact our university or matters that impact students generally. If something is happening on campus, we want to know about it and we then see that you know about it.

The Current is an all-student news publication and the only real, independent news publication on campus. Our printed edition, which published every Monday, has a fresh new design. You will find the Current all over campus, sometimes in new locations. This year, the Current will even be found in other places in the metro area like the Delmar Loop.

We will have a much bigger social media and web presence this year, with a renewed website—www.thecurrent-online.com—with additional stories. We're on Facebook and Twitter as well.

The Current actually has a storied history as a great student newspaper, winning multiple story and design awards over several years, despite being found on a

campus that does not have a journalism program. This year, we will try to get back to that tradition.

The Current is going to be the voice for students and student organizations. We want to make sure the campus, and the greater St. Louis community, knows when great art exhibits are hosted on campus or when the best of professional dance makes our campus' Touhill Performing Arts Center their regular touring stop. We want readers to know when one of our professors becomes the go-to source for political analysis on local TV stations, when the founder of one of our research institutes considered the leading name in his field or when an UMSL economics professor suggests a new way to look at power generation that captures the attention of the White House. All these faculty members have been featured in stories in the Current. We plan to take that kind of coverage up to a new level.

This year, we are bringing back the Undercurrent, a chance for students to comment on issues impacting campus, their lives or events in the news. We want to encourage letters to the editor and guest columns. All UMSL students are eligible to write for the Current.

We are planning new "fun stuff" too, with more and new comics, an advice column, games and more reviews and entertainment stuff, in print and on our website www.thecurrent-online.com.

The Current is entirely staffed by students. We find the news, write the photos, design the pages, sell the ads and take the photos. Because we are students, we are learning. We will make mistakes but each issue, we will get better. All we ask is that you give us a chance, to serve you, the reader, and give students a voice and the real campus news they need to know.

Olympic Committee directs gender tests unfairly at female competitors

In today's world, it can be hard to clearly define male and female social roles. Since the movement for women's rights, borders between genders have become more obscure. Exclusively male professions have opened to women and women's voices in society have gained more value. And it is no longer surprising to see a man working in what would have once been viewed as a female occupation, such as nursing.

But even with such advancements in equality, there are still many cases of discrimination on the basis of gender.

We rarely see both genders on the same professional athletic team, for example. This is usually excused as men are generally believed to be stronger and faster. But differences in strength and speed between men and women can be at least partly the result of psychological influences, not just biological ones.

Since ancient times, the male image has always been that of the hunter, the soldier or another type of "hero" who is supposed to protect and care for women. Society often does not welcome feminine males or strong, independent women.

When children start school, both male and female students start with the same average knowledge and abilities. However, as girls move through the grades, their mathematical ability decreases. Females are influenced to believe that their mathematical skills are lower than those of males, which may be the actual cause for their average lower performance in mathematics.

Genetics are important in physical development and a large part of human features depend on genetic

development. However, genes are not the only factor in physical development or ability. The rest of physical human development is controlled by social influences, which includes factors like surroundings, family and culture. Humans can often increase their abilities by working towards goals and disregarding inhibiting social influences.

The case of Caster Semenya, an Olympic runner who was subjected to gender testing, has raised many arguments on whether it is unethical and biased to perform such tests on women. It has been argued on Semenya's behalf that such tests are sexist and humiliating. They focus too much on gender as the sole cause of an athlete's ability and are seemingly always directed towards highly competitive women.

The Olympic Committee should be more concerned with problems such as drug abuse, the following of a moral code of conduct during the games. Accusing Semenya of being dishonest and forcing her to go through gender testing after she won the medal was humiliating and biased, relying on a defective social stigma of what constitutes a woman and an idea that women's physical capacities are limited.

If a person grew up and developed into the person they are, we have no right to tell them that they are not normal or to ask them to change and become what we think they should be. This is especially true where athleticly superior women are concerned. When women like Semenya exceed what is physically expected of women, the reactions should be one of high regard and congratulations, not aggressive gender tests.

Benefits of Olympic gender testing outweigh drawbacks

Olympic history is rich with accounts of heroism, triumph and inspiration. However, the games have also had their fair share of scandal gracing the international stage. Most notably in recent years, the issue of gender testing, specifically in terms of female athletes, has become a hot topic for Olympic fans, gender equality activists and athletes.

Gender testing was thrown into the public spotlight when South African runner Caster Semenya won the 800 meter at the 2009 World Championships in Athletics in Berlin. The International Association of Athletics Federations affirmed that Semenya had agreed to a sex-testing process. The following year, the AAF confirmed that Semenya was authorized to continue competing as a woman.

At this year's London Olympic Games, Semenya earned gold in the 800 meter event as headlines across the world rehashed her past gender testing incident.

It is unfortunate for Semenya and other athletes who have been subject to gender testing that their moment of glory can be tainted by gender confusion scandal. However, gender testing is essential to making the Olympics fair for participants. One athlete's discomfort does not outweigh the overall benefits of gender testing. While the Olympics undoubtedly provide inspiring moments of personal achievement, when all is said and done, what brings home the coveted gold is sheer athletic ability.

For ages, the scientific community has held the consensus that the average male typically has greater muscle mass, strength and endurance than the average female, this is in addition to the lower rate of fat storage in males. These factors make male athletes more physically capable than their female counterparts, therefore making it essential to separate games into male and female categories in the name of fairness.

The lines of this categorical divide blur when transsexual athletes come into play. Yet, it is crucial to analyze an athlete's physical attributes separate from their thoughts, views and appearance. Despite an athlete's personal gender identity, he or she must be looked at from an anatomical, not from a psychological, standpoint.

While an athlete may feel as if s/he were born as, for instance, a female trapped inside a male's body, the fact that s/he is anatomically male clearly gives him/her an unfair physical advantage over anatomically female athletes.

Furthermore, barring transgendered athletes from participating in events outside their anatomical gender category does not prohibit these athletes from competing in the Olympics after completing sex reassignment surgery. This procedure allows the athlete to be legally recognized as a member of the sex they wish to compete as after having undergone two years of hormonal therapy. These new rules may seem strict and perhaps intrusive, but they are a necessary part of creating a level playing field for all Olympic athletes. When athletes enter the public arena at the Olympics, they must give up some amount of personal privacy that they once held.

Gender self-identification becomes a public issue for transgendered athletes because anatomical gender plays an enormous role in physical capabilities. Gender identity is viewed similarly to the use of performance enhancing drugs and should be handled comparably as both affect the basic athletic ability of athletes. If there were to be even a whiff of alleged performance-enhancing drug use by Olympic athletes, testing measures would be enforced swiftly and passionately.

Some have further criticized Olympic gender testing using the argument that female Olympians are singled out unfairly for the procedure. However, this is not the case. While there have been more incidents of gender testing on female athletes than males, it is ridiculous to broadly surmise that female athletes are targeted due to a discriminatory and chauvinistic bias.

Each incident of gender testing is highly context specific and these separate incidents cannot be lumped together. Females may have undergone more frequent gender testing due to more numerous occurrences of official speculation or observable physical male characteristics. However, there are reasons that are irrelevant. If there are significant enough doubts concerning the anatomical sex of an athlete who identifies as a female to warrant gender testing, then the tests should be required. The same applies to athletes competing as males.

Although gender testing has given birth to its fair share of controversy, the drawbacks are outweighed by its role in providing overall fairness to the Olympics, eliminating potential cheaters looking to fraudulently win gold medals and eliminating any unfair advantages in the games.

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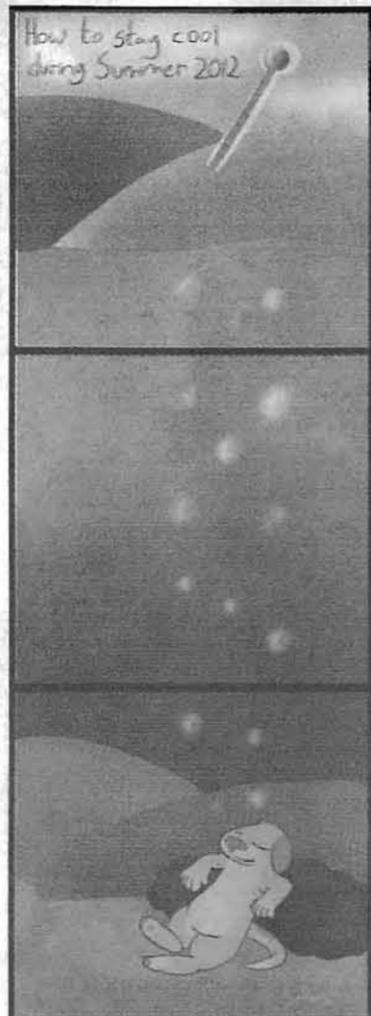
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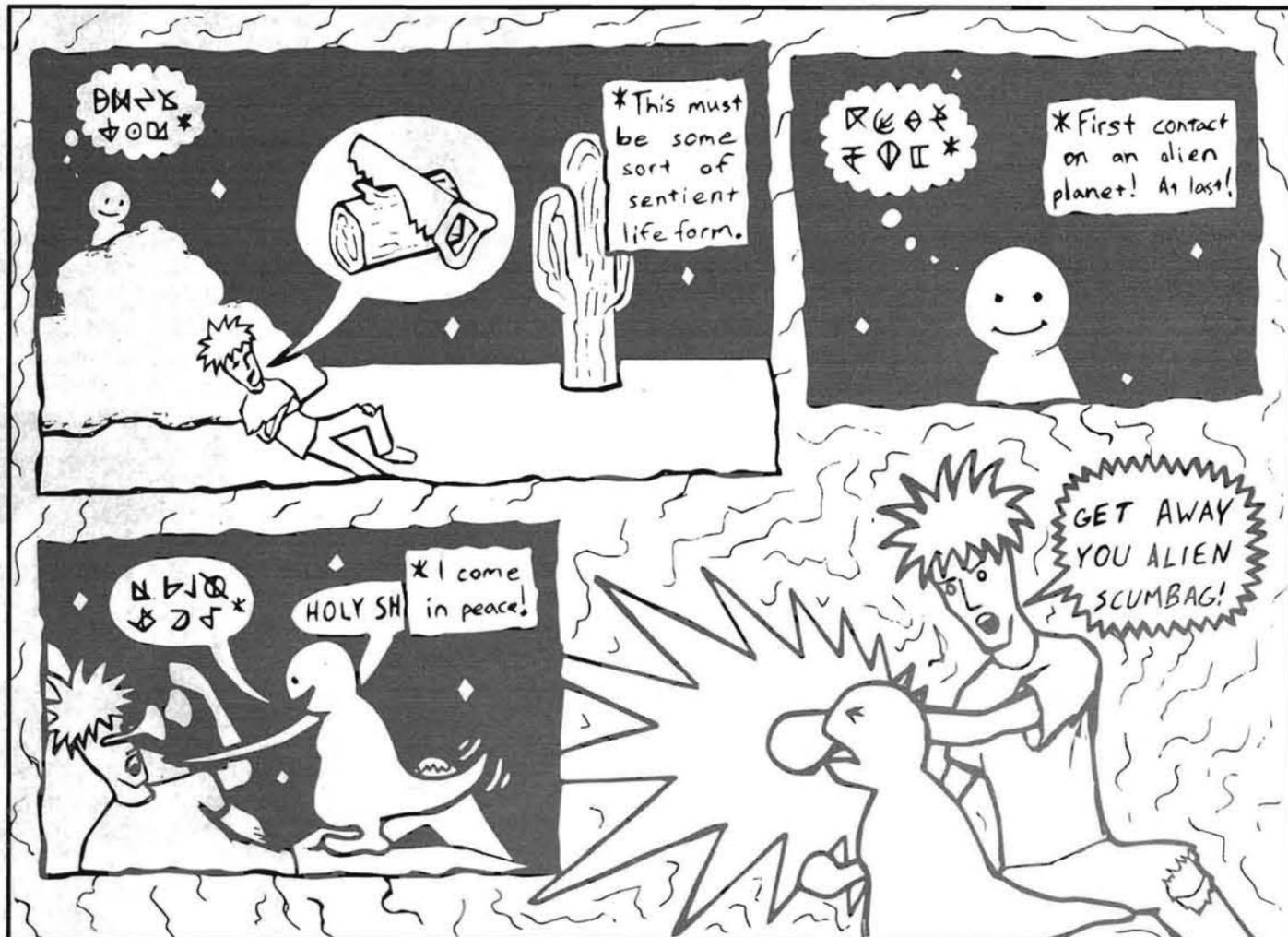
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ZACH'S DUMB BRAIN COMIC

Zach McDaniel

