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UMSL partners with St. Louis Police

By Hali Flintrop, News Editor

UMSL's Department of Criminal Justice is now partners with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

Just before Christmas, the University of Missouri – St. Louis' Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice announced the formation and formalization of a three-way partnership between UMSL, the office of Mayor Francis Slay and the St. Louis Metro Police Department, which is headed by Police Chief Dan Isom, an alumnus of the UMSL Criminology PhD program. In this partnership, faculty and students from the UMSL criminology department will maintain a presence in the police department to gather data primarily on the effectiveness of enforcement strategies employed by St. Louis Police.

"You can classify it as a police-researcher partnership," Professor Richard Rosenfeld, criminology,

UMSL, said. "For now our work is pretty focused on the way in which the police enforce the law and how those practices might help to reduce crime... A graduate student is in the police department 20 hours a week... in the division that produces police crime statistics."

The first goal of the partnership is to better understand where crime takes place in the St. Louis Metro Area. "What we want to do is get a broader picture of the distribution of crime... and evaluate the effectiveness of particular [police] responses," Rosenfeld said.

Michael Deckard, doctorate student, criminology, is the student who will carry out the partnership in the police department. For him, this offers an opportunity to gain an understanding of crime patterns in St. Louis that may not have been available otherwise.

For the partnership, Deckard is particularly interested in hot spot style crime distribution data. He believes that learning more about where crime takes place in St. Louis will help the criminology department to better understand St. Louis crime rates and give the police department and Mayor Slay's office access to more and better crime distribution information. This could change the way the police department and city politicians approach crime, as well as indicate ways which police and city resources could be used even more effectively.

"We're trying to make

the process [of data gathering] more intelligent and more effective by using more evidence-based strategies, more sophisticated analysis of the data," Deckard said.

Also, by studying crime at a micro level as opposed to by neighborhood or region, Deckard believes a better understanding of St. Louis' identity could be discovered. St. Louis might not be as dangerous as national crime statistics indicate.

"Think of any area in the city typically characterized as 'dangerous,'" Deckard said. "Certain neighborhoods or groups of neighborhoods come to mind. People tend to see those places as dangerous and avoid them. What we are doing is looking more specifically at where exactly the majority of crime is

taking place. Often we are finding that the majority of the 'dangerous neighborhoods' are actually relatively crime free, and that high levels of crime are concentrated in a few streets or blocks with chronic crime."

Along with the city, the partnership also directly benefits the UMSL criminology department because, according to Deckard, police data can otherwise be difficult to come by or may not be collected or distributed in a manner most effective for study.

Rosenfeld sees the partnership as indicative of both the city's progressive willingness to work with UMSL researchers and the criminology department's interest in community betterment. "Our commitment is to improve public safety,"

he said. "...I think [the partnership] is quite an important development for the city. We want to take advantage of [the police department's] openness and use our expertise in a way that we can perhaps help the department be more effective."

Though the UMSL criminology department has, to a certain extent, been working with St. Louis Police Department data for years, this is the first formalization of the partnership. This could represent a better understanding of and future for St. Louis.

"There are many different stakeholders who have a vested interest in lowering crime," Deckard said. Ultimately, this partnership gives all three parties a chance to pursue that interest symbiotically.

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ABOUT The Current

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The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. The Current edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

AFFILIATIONS



News

200 UMSL students volunteer their time in Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

While many were enjoying the last day of winter break on January 16, 2012, two-hundred University of Missouri – St. Louis students volunteered their time and supplies at various locations around St. Louis in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. 11 different sites received the help of volunteers with painting, yard work or one-on-one activities with the local youth.

Students proclaimed they were more than happy to spend some time together working on a project that truly made a difference. They felt they fulfilled the dream by participating in such activities instead of just remembering why they had the day off.

The MLK Day of Service is a division of United We Serve, the President's national call to examine initiative. It calls for Americans from all different backgrounds to work together and supply answers to the most vital national troubles. The MLK Day of Service empowers people, strengthens communities, provides solutions to social troubles and brings everyone closer to Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community."

Alan Byrd, director of admissions, UMSL, attended the St. Louis Juvenile

Detention Center with his assigned group. The group provided a lesson plan about Dr. King and later played an MLK jeopardy game that gave the young men a chance to show what they had just learned. T-shirts were given to the winners.

"The young men had an opportunity to connect with positive mentors and role models from UMSL and St. Louis University," Byrd said. "Many of them did not know anyone in college and had no aspirations of pursuing a college degree. The guys who had educational goals simply wanted to finish high school. I think the college volunteers also benefited from interacting with the young men. We all saw how fortunate we are in our lives and that there are many people who are still isolated from educational opportunities and social mobility in society."

A group of 16 UMSL students painted the hallways at a safe shelter for teenage mothers and their children called the Almost Home. Another group conducted a similar activity at the Unity Lutheran Church of Bel-Nor, Missouri. The spaces worked on by the students are set for a series of murals that will be painted in the next few weeks.

Other groups that were not affiliated with UMSL performed productive activities such as clearing out vacant lots in North St. Louis.

This is the fourth annual MLK Day of Service event sponsored by the UMSL Students of Service and the Office of Student Life. Last year, double the number of students came.

"I definitely encourage students to participate in the MLK Day of Service next year," Byrd said. "Community service is one of the more rewarding experiences you can have in college. It is always good to do something for other people, especially the poor and disadvantaged. This was one of the key principles of Dr. King in his fight for equality and justice. We tend to tie his legacy solely to race relations, but it was much larger than that."

Ashlee Roberts, coordinator, community service, also encourages everyone to participate in such activities, and this just is not the last of its type this year.

Anyone interested in getting involved should sign up at oslservice@umsl.edu to be on their listserv, participate in projects or join the UMSL Students of Service, UMSL's service programming board.

Crimeline

January 30, 2012 – Report # 12-36. Theft – Provincial House Dining Hall. A Sodexo food service employee reported the theft of \$150 taken between 8:00 p.m. January 29, 2012 and 7:00 a.m. January 30. Disposition: Investigation continuing.

January 31, 2012 –7:20pm Report # 12-38. Found property - Social Science Building. A purse was found in the Social Science Building, the owner was identified and notified. Disposition: Held for safekeeping.

February 1, 2012 – 09:40am Report # 12-39. Informational report – off-campus. A third party notified UMSL Police regarding the potential sexual harassment of an UMSL student; the student was contacted by the UMSL Police and refuted the claims. Information was provided to the student regarding University Counseling Services available and appropriate University administrators were notified. Disposition: Information only.

For further details, visit safety.umsl.edu/police/campus-crime-info, or check out UMSL Campus Police on Facebook and Twitter.

A Simple Addendum

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 last week's issue, a quotation was attributed

to Alpha Xi Delta, Incorporated, in the article concerning the Associated Black Collegians' Greek Auction the preceding Thursday night. The ladies of Alpha Xi Delta would like it to be known this quote does not reflect the views of Alpha Xi Delta as a whole.

WEATHER

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Questionable factory practices conflict with consumers' morals

HALI FLINTROP
News Editor

Last May, two Asian factories contracted by Apple to assemble iPads and accessories underwent explosions that killed four people and injured about 80 workers. A newly conducted in-depth investigation by *The New York Times* into the safety policies established by Apple for its contractors and employees shows that contractors overseas may not necessarily comply with such policies and are creating Apple products more cheaply, but at a higher cost for factory laborers. This fact has caused American consumers to reconsider their responsibility to choose manufacturers that treat workers according to standards established by American law.

On January 25 *The New York Times* released an article that explored the safety and labor standards of Apple and other big-name technology factories. They found that Apple does have standards put in place for

its own workers as well as those of contracted factories. However, according to some sources, the factories do not always meet those standards, and Apple knows it.

Workers from Foxconn Technology factories reported to *The New York Times* that employees are expected to work under horrible conditions, as well as safety practices that do not limit the possibility of potentially deadly factory accidents. It has been alleged that employees may have to stand on assembly lines for long enough to cause their legs to swell, that they are expected to work too many hours and that sometimes underage workers are assembling Apple's products.

Reputable independent labor advocates in China whose reports are known for being accurate and unbiased have commented on many practices in Apple and other technology factories in the region that

they find unacceptable.

Foxconn, one of Apple's main manufacturing contractors, is taking the majority of the heat for its treatment of workers. Foxconn defended its practices, releasing a statement that said, "Conditions at Foxconn are anything but harsh," Foxconn noted that the majority of workers do not need to stand up to complete their tasks, that they get regular breaks and that their safety standards are up to par.

There is still concern. Apple began auditing their factories, including those run by Foxconn, and the results have not been entirely satisfactory. Some situations found employees working excessive overtime or being paid below the established minimum wage for the region. There were reports of poorly-implemented safety measures, placing yet more workers at risk as they prepare Apple's products for the market.

Apple policy mandates that all factories fix any

problems found during an audit within 90 days or the contract may be terminated. However, there are questions regarding whether this policy is carried out when it should be. Anonymous Apple executives alleged to *The New York Times* that frugality and the quality of its products are the company's main concerns, not the state of its factories or the conditions of workers who turn out Apple creations. They said that if Apple really wanted to fix the problems in factories, the problems would have been fixed already.

Fox News reported on May 23, 2011, days after an iPad factory explosion, that said explosion was not expected to drastically affect the number of iPads scheduled to be produced and released to the market.

Reports like *The New York Times* investigation of Apple have prompted consumers to consider where their products come from



and how they affect those who contribute to them.

Daniel Griesenauer, civil engineering student, Missouri University of Science and Technology, said that it is unsurprising that corporations take advantage of less stringent overseas labor laws and that some of the burden must fall to the consumer to push manufacturers into responsible production of goods.

"It is difficult for a consumer to stay informed about all the companies

that they are somehow supporting," Griesenauer said.

"Though when something big like this happens, consumers should definitely reconsider buying things from companies that don't care about their workers."

Griesenauer said that companies like Apple should do more to protect workers while they are on the job. "[Companies like Apple] should be at the forefront of that kind of stuff, because they can definitely afford it," Griesenauer said.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Jarred Gastreich

"How do you deal with the stress of school?"



"When I am stressed out I usually just take a long bath with some great music and chill!"

Laila Massoudnia
Freshman
Political Science / French



"I work out usually. It's just a great way to take school off my mind."

Emilee Pals
Freshman
Undecided



"Normally when I am stressed at school and need a break, I put on my headphones and press play."

Brandy Pollard
Junior
Criminology / Criminal Justice

The Political Corner - presidential candidate reviews

Herman Cain fails in his Presidential candidate Mitt endorsement of Gingrich Romney - taxes, taxes, taxes

JOSEPH GRATE

Staff Writer

Herman Cain arose from the state of Georgia as a potential candidate for the office of President of the United States. After fixing a broken region of Pillsbury's Burger King Company and turning Godfather's Pizza stores from a struggling franchise into a thriving company, becoming a Republican nominee for the 2012 presidential race was going to be Cain's next accomplishment. But on December 3, 2011, Cain dropped from the race due to sexual harassment allegations. "I am suspending my presidential campaign because of the continued distraction, the continued hurt...on me, on my family," Cain said.

His political run was short and fast. In the beginning, he was billed as an energetic African-American candidate with conservative morals running against President Barack Obama. Then the so-called "Cain Train" started to gain momentum from edgy ideas blended with fundamental concepts. His "9-9-9" tax reform plan is one example of this blend.

He advanced his campaign during his book tour for "This is Herman Cain!: My Journey to the White House". His base grew as he trumpeted business and simplified tax reform. Tea-party activists began flocking to him. "Cain and

the Tea-Party genuinely resonated with each other," Colin Hanna, president, Let Freedom Ring, said.

But the business background that boosted Cain's reputation started to tear him down. His tax plan was derided by critics, who called it an overly simplistic plan that would put an inordinate burden on the lower and middle classes. Soon after his campaign began, women began to accuse him of sexual harassment in the workplace. This brought up a troubling past that included paying these women to remain silent.

The biggest blow came when a woman named Ginger White came out and told the public that she had maintained a 13-year affair with Cain. "I was aware that he was married, and I was also aware that I was involved in a very inappropriate situation - relationship," said White to Atlanta television station WAGA.

Finally, the campaign came to an end when Cain announced that he was stepping down, quoting the theme song of the movie "Pokémon 2000" on his way out. But when the campaign ended, Cain did not go away.

Comedian and talk show host Stephen Colbert created a Super PAC to express the faults of political campaign funding. The money was used to bring

Cain back into the South Carolina Primaries through campaign ads that stole over 6,000 votes. They hosted a rally called "Rock Me Like a Herman Cain: South Cain-Olina Primary Rally." The whole thing was a show mocking the political campaign process.

Nevertheless, Cain arrived and urged the people to "sign up to be a member of this army of Davids" on his website cainconnections.com. According to Cain's chief of staff, Mark Block, they were just having fun. "America, lighten up," Block said to *The Huffington Post*. Block was also the man who created the Herman Cain ad featuring himself smoking a cigarette in a close camera shot.

On January 28, 2012, Herman Cain announced he would be endorsing Newt Gingrich for the Republican presidential nomination. "I had it in my heart and mind a long time," Cain said at a Republican fundraiser. "Speaker Gingrich is a patriot. Speaker Gingrich is not afraid of bold ideas."

The former presidential candidate brought with him a popular conservative campaign. His ideas and policies rallied a Tea Party base and gave him a fighting chance at the Republican nomination. His first endorsement before Gingrich was "We the People."

DIANNE RIDGEWAY

Staff Writer

The 2012 presidential race brings former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney back for a second shot at the Republican nomination in another round of expensive campaigning that, like his father's, includes the family and does not exclude sharing controversial tax information and a proposed tax plan for the country. Romney's father George ran for President in 1968, when the tax rate for anyone making more than \$200,000 was 70 percent; he paid about 37 percent. After much anticipation, Romney released his tax information last week revealing a 15 percent tax rate, which is the same or lower than the average American.

George Romney made his millions on stock options as the chairman and president of American General Motors Corporation after combining two models of AMC's Rambler under one name and differentiating them by options while standardizing parts. His son Mitt worked for the management consulting firm Bain & Company after receiving business and law degrees from Harvard. He brought the company out of financial crisis and later became CEO. In 1984, the younger Romney also cofounded the spin-off company Bain Capitol, a private investment firm that "delivers industry-leading returns for investors that currently man-

age \$60 billion in assets."

The extraordinary amount of money in politics always becomes evident during an election year, and Romney spent more than any other Republican candidate in the last two elections. In 2008 he raised \$1.9 million from Wall Street during the first quarter of his campaign and spent \$20.7 million of his own money between April and June. He later dropped out after a total of \$62,829,069 was spent on his campaign. So far he has raised \$32.2 million this year in an attempt to secure the spot his father wanted to fill 44 years ago.

Romney's tax plan underwent a preliminary analysis by the Tax Policy Center (TPC) showing 50 percent of the benefit going to those who make \$1 million or more. His plan calls for permanent extension of the 2001 through 2003 tax cuts, a reduction of the corporate tax, elimination of the estate tax, an elimination of taxation on investment income and a repeal of "the taxes enacted in 2010's health reform legislation".

TPC reports that under this plan, half of families with incomes of less than \$50,000 who have children would see a tax increase. The plan increases taxes on 78 percent of households making less than \$50,000 a year. "Those making less than \$40,000 will be hit the

hardest," reports Pat Garofalo of thinkprogress.org, giving "the top 0.1 percent an annual tax cut of nearly half a million dollars" that "in 2015 alone...will add \$600 billion to the deficit."

Romney maintains that having spent most of his life in the private sector gives him "intimate knowledge of how our economy works" and that this, combined with his time as governor, makes him qualified for the job. Romney's campaign slogan is "Believe in America", and he promises he has "a plan to get America back to work."

He has changed his stance on abortion to a pro-life position. He supports gay rights in the workplace but not marriage. Attempting to explain his position, he said in an interview with Piers Morgan when he was running for governor that gay marriage was a big issue. "What happened was that the gay community changed their perspective as to what they wanted," he said.

"I've had the experience," Romney said when asked why he wants to run in a 2008 interview. "I have the love of the country. I have values that I think America shares and so I vote I could make a difference." His main issue is financial reform and he proposes to "restore the three foundations of American power: strong values, a strong economy, and a strong military."

READ

The Current

Pre-law mentoring program soon to emerge at UMSL

Professor Middleton appointed to aid pre-law students in pursuing path to law school

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in-Chief

The University of Missouri – St. Louis will be holding a large pre-law advising event on Thursday, February 9, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in room 331 of the Social Sciences Building. This event is meant to help prepare students currently preparing themselves through a pre-law program at UMSL on the steps they must take to further their education in this field, as well as to encourage students to participate in the pre-law advising program currently present at UMSL.

“We’ll have current law students, law school admissions officers, four panelists with welcome information, and all of this is just to help students prepare for the program. This mentoring is meant to help students get through the process,” Richard Middleton, associate professor of political science, pre-law advisor, UMSL, said. The process Middleton refers to is that of pursuing a degree through law school. Law school is a graduate program and thus requires applicants to have completed an undergraduate degree before being allowed admission. In addition, there is no specific pre-law degree at UMSL. “Students used to have to plod through everything by themselves. This program is meant to change that,” Middleton said.

Students looking to enter such a degree must improve their analytical and writing skills, according to UMSL’s

Pre-Law Advising page. The page also cites that studying the English language and literature as a whole are necessary, along with knowledge of the judicial institution’s processes. With such a wide array of topics requiring attention, all in addition to pursuing a typical undergraduate degree, the Department of Political Science appointed Middleton to the position of pre-law advisor, citing his experience as qualification.

“Dean Ronald Yasbin initiated the idea of a comprehensive advising program on campus for pre-law. He asked me to serve as pre-law advisor, because I also serve as a practicing attorney. The pre-law degree I housed in political science, and I also advise there, so now I can help prepare a coursework plan to help students prepare for law school. It can be a confusing process, and I am happy to help,” Middleton said.

According to a description provided by Middleton concerning the role of his position as pre-law advisor, the advisor’s roles are to assist students in “selecting challenging courses that will help students prepare for law school,” in order to ensure that students do not enter law school with preconceived notions of simplicity concerning their coming education.

The pre-law advisor also must “help students understand the law school admission process, making recommendations about personal statements, how

to obtain good letters of recommendation, the LSAT process, financial aspects of law school and dispelling ‘myths’ about the law school admission process.” As pre-law is not an actual undergraduate degree itself, confusion exists regarding the process of pursuing it, and this is where Middleton comes in.

Lastly, the pre-law advisor is to “direct students to LSAT test preparation programs,” as “the LSAT is required for admission to all American Bar Association-approved law schools.”

Middleton’s own history with law continues to this day, as he has a currently active practice which focuses upon immigration and minor criminal infraction defense. His licensure is with the Bar of Missouri and the Federal District Court, Eastern District of Missouri. As a candidate for this program, he is qualified.

The pre-law advising program is expected to help vastly improve the quality and ease of experience for students attending UMSL looking to attend law school. Middleton also advises that students presently pursuing or interested in pursuing such a degree should attend the event this coming Thursday. With panels consisting of practicing attorneys, current law students, admissions specialists and even a panel on the LSAT (Law School Admission Test), it is bound to be a treasure trove of knowledge for students of all grade levels.

February 7 | 12:15pm

Century Room A

BYOBanana:

How Does Sex Make the News?

Dr. Jennifer Siciliani

March 12 | 12:15pm

Century Room B

Where Did You Go to High School?

Does Place Matter, and... Should It?

Dr. Todd Swanstrom

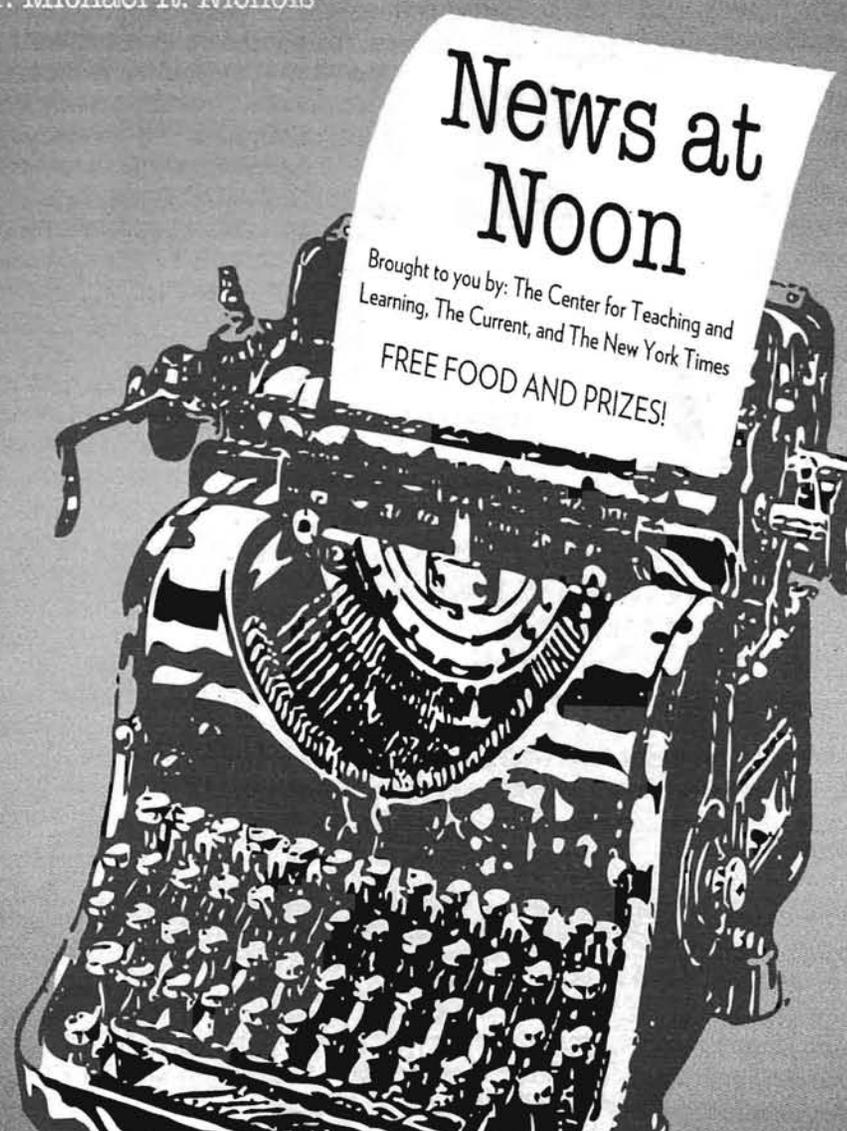
April 5 | 12:15pm

Century Room A

FORGOTTEN:

A Look at Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Michael R. Nichols



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.

Fractured Realities

by Donna Childree Gotlib

January 26 to February 16

'Fractured Realities,' artwork by Donna Childree Gotlib, is on display in Gallery Visio until February 16.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Tuesday, February 7

B.Y.O.Banana: How does sex make the news?

From 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Located in Century Room A in the MSC and open to all. News @ Noon presents, B.Y.O.Banana: How does sex make the news? Dr. Jennifer Siciliani will be presenting. Free lunch is provided. Prizes will be given out as well as information on services provided by UMSL Health, Wellness and Counseling services. For more information, call Lauren Masterson at 210-862-4523.

Thursday, February 9

Building rapport with your professors

From 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to students. Are you sabotaging relationships with your professors? Do you fully participate in the classroom? Effective communication skills and participation are both critical in college. Understanding faculty expectations is key to your success and intentional participation will yield great rewards. Learn how to facilitate effective communication with your professors in a variety of situations and learn about the benefits of classroom participation. For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Wednesday, February 8

Exploring MyGateway tools

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Located in 104 Express Scripts Hall and open to UMSL. If you're comfortable with MyGateway and would like to explore additional features to enhance student learning and expand levels of collaboration, this is the workshop for you! MyGateway has a selection of tools that foster engagement and partnership between faculty and students. Please join the Faculty Resource Center staff for this hands-on workshop. For more information, call the FRC at 314-516-6704.

Friday, February 10

Using SMART technology

From 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Located in Express Scripts Hall 104 and open to UMSL. This one-hour fun and interactive session will provide an introduction to using the SMART technology found in various classrooms at UMSL. On completion of this workshop, you will have a basic understanding on the technology and be able to integrate tools from SMART Notebook to enhance student engagement. Instructors who are interested in using SMART technology should attend. For more information, call the Technology Support Center at 314-516-6034.

Monday, February 13

A collage of Pecha Kucha: working globally

From 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Located in 402 JC Penney Center and open to all. Daniel B. Oerther, Mathes Chair of Environmental Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, shares vignettes of his global work in eliminating extreme poverty, ensuring universal access to water and sanitation and combating the obesity epidemic. Bring your cell phones for audience participation through SMS texting. For more information, call Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

A&E



Left to Right: Viggo Mortensen as Sigmund Freud and Michael Fassbender as Carl Jung.

LIAM DANIEL/ COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Fassbender, Knightley, Mortensen light up Cronenberg's tale of Freud and Jung

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Viggo Mortensen, Keira Knightley and rising star Michael Fassbender deliver powerful acting performances in "A Dangerous Method," director David Cronenberg's suspenseful and visually beautiful historical drama about Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and lesser-known early psychotherapist Sabina Spielrein.

There is nothing staid about this fact-based film, which features a raw depiction of mental illness and some steamy scenes of sadomasochism. "A Dangerous Method" is a passionate tale of ambition and deceit amid intellectual explorations and sexual deviations.

In 1904, a 29-year-old Swiss doctor at a

Zurich hospital, Carl Jung (Fassbender), is treating a challenging new patient. Beautiful 18-year-old Sabina Spielrein (Knightley) is brilliant, Russian-born and Jewish but also violently unpredictable. Jung decides to try the new "talking cure," developed by Viennese neurologist Sigmund Freud (Mortensen).

The patient responds so well to psychotherapy that she is able to enroll in medical school. Jung and Freud correspond and collaborate on her treatment, and eventually a kind of intellectual triangle forms with Freud, Jung and Spielrein. Eventually, the youthful, wealthy Jung travels to Vienna to meet with his older, middle-class mentor Freud, building on a friendship

that grows out of their professional relationship.

The film is based on the play "The Talking Cure" by Christopher Hampton. Hampton wrote this screenplay as well as the screen adaptation of "Atonement." The play was inspired by a book, "A Most Dangerous Method," based on information that came to light with the discovery of Spielrein's diary and letters to Freud and Jung. This historical film even lifts some dialog from letters between these giants of early psychoanalysis.

Although Freud and Jung discuss theories, the film focuses on personal conflict while offering a glimpse into pre-World War I attitudes on women, anti-Semitism and class divisions. Director Cronenberg is known for

skillfully-made, intelligent, edgy films like "Crash" and "A History of Violence." The director brings these Jung, Spielrein and Freud to life. The film was a hit on the film festival circuit, generating awards buzz.

The acting is brilliant, with Fassbender, Mortensen and Knightley all crafting unforgettable characters. Knightley gives a startling portrayal of mental illness in a fearless performance. Fassbender, a rising British actor who has been in a slew of films recently, gives one of his best performances in this film.

Fassbender maintains a cool and analytical facade as he and Mortensen engage in intellectual maneuverings. Mortensen even studied Freud's personal mannerisms for his role. Although

based on real people, there is nothing academic about them. The director maintains a tone of calm reserve above roiling waters.

Vincent Cassel is also excellent as another patient, Otto Gross, a fellow psychologist gripped by sexual addiction and a nihilistic world view, an echo of Fassbender's role in "Shame." Sarah Gadon plays Jung's lovely but socially-conventional wife Emma with a sad gentleness.

Visually the film is gorgeous, filmed on location at Jung's hospital in Zurich and at Freud's home in Vienna. The photography, sets and costumes are beautiful, giving a dreamy air to its intellectual discussions and emotional fireworks.

As the story unfolds, its focus shifts from

psychotherapy. Jung's privileged background makes it difficult for him to grasp issues obvious to Freud. Jung's elegant, coolly aristocratic Zurich mansion, with its manicured lawn and graceful sailboats, contrasts sharply with Freud's cramped middle class home and office, with its cozy family atmosphere. Ultimately, Jung's growing interest in mysticism and Freud's rigid adherence to his views on sex, plus their differences on Jung's relationship with Spielrein, help splinter their partnership.

A powerful, well-acted, worthy film, "A Dangerous Method" opened Friday, January 20, at Landmark's Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

Grade: A

Radcliffe is good, but The Woman in Black is all shadows

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Daniel Radcliffe leaves Harry Potter behind for a ghostly Edwardian Gothic horror tale. In "The Woman in Black," Radcliffe plays Arthur Kipps, a young, widowed lawyer with a small son who has been sent to a small town to sort out the affairs of a recently deceased, wealthy woman.

James Watkins directs this film, and it was produced partly by Hammer Films, an old British studio famous for 1960s Gothic horror movies. Hammer has forgotten none of its old tricks. The film is the first adult role that Radcliffe has taken; he is clearly attempting to move on from his long term at Hogwarts and establish a serious film career. The actor has already made a promising start with stage productions on Broadway and in London.

The isolated English village to which Kipps is sent is decidedly unfriendly. Upon arriving, he finds that his hotel reservation has mysteriously vanished. Although pushed to leave, Kipps resists. Eventually, he finds a room with the only person who has been friendly—Mr. Daily (Ciaran Hinds), a wealthy man with a stately home, an eccentric wife (Janet McTeer) and the only car in the village. Nonetheless, the disorganized state of the deceased's papers means Kipps has to

spend considerable time at her remote mansion, which he quickly begins to suspect is haunted.

The production rolls out all the tricks of old-fashioned horror films—creepy mansions, wind-swept moors and pale-faced children in Edwardian attire. Everyone dresses in black or dark colors except for possessed women and girls who wear ghostly white. The decrepit mansion is isolated on a spit of land that is inaccessible during high tide and surrounded by an overgrown yard and sagging fence. Inside, everything is covered in dust and cobwebs, with clutter and mysteries around every corner. Everything is in classic Gothic style.

One scene in particular illustrates the film's attention to detail and its mastery of the genre. As he hunts for the source of a creepy noise, the lawyer enters a formerly locked room as a host of dusty antique toys look on. The dolls' eyes seem to follow Radcliffe as he walks by holding a candle. Although our brains tell us it is only the candlelight reflected in the glass eyes, the effect is indescribably chilling, as are the close-ups of broken toy clowns with evil grins. Mechanical toys play tinny tunes at high-tension moments. The film overlooks nothing in building the creepy tone, including foggy overgrown cemeteries, glowering villagers and a mysterious half-glimpsed

woman in mourning black.

The film drips atmosphere but lacks a plot. As well-done as the creepy scenes are, we have seen all of these classic horror tricks before. There is nothing new here, nothing creative or fresh, and atmosphere alone cannot sustain this thinly-plotted film.

Radcliffe and the other actors do their best, but there is little for them to work with. Radcliffe's portrayal makes clear Kipps' persistent sadness over his dead wife and his affection for his three-year-old son. Similarly apparent is Hinds' character's longing for a human connection beyond the superstitious villagers in his daily life. McTeer's portrait of a mad, mourning mother is movingly, strikingly drawn. But the characters seem to simply move from one familiar Gothic horror set piece to another. There is an endless stream of ghostly goings-on, but the overall feeling is of running in circles as the film looks for a purpose for all this Gothic atmosphere.

The whole production has the look of a project that never jelled—often the case for February releases. However, the film may serve to propel Daniel Radcliffe into his post-Potter career with a good performance in a film that has all the shadows but none of the substance.

Grade: C

LATEST + GREATEST

New Movies Calendar

OPENING FRIDAY, February 10:

A SEPARATION (Plaza Frontenac)

-The front-runner for the Oscar for best foreign language film, this outstanding drama explores both particulars of modern Iranian society and universal themes of modern life through a story about a couple going through a divorce that impacts their young teen daughter and the husband's elderly dementia-afflicted father. Brilliant acting with an excellent script and masterful directing highlight this film, which is in Farsi with English subtitles.

THE VOW (everywhere)

-The obligatory romantic film for Valentine's Day, this drama stars Rachel McAdams as a woman who awakes from a coma with memory loss, which forces her husband, played by Channing Tatum, to woo her all over again. Also stars Sam Neill and Jessica Lange. Directed by Michael Sucas.

SAFE HOUSE (everywhere)

-Denzel Washington stars as a fugitive hiding in a CIA safe house, in the charge of a young agent, Ryan Reynolds. An attack on the house puts them on the run in this action-packed thriller directed by Daniel Espinosa (director of the Swedish hit "Easy Money").

PINA (3D) (Chase Park Plaza)

The great German director Wim Wenders turns to documentary with this stunningly beautiful, visually dynamic 3D tribute to the late dancer/choreographer Pina Bausch. This film is not much on story but a delight to watch, with samples of Bausch's dance performed in unexpected, striking locations in a way that makes the most of 3D. Worth seeing for the visual delight alone.

STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (3D) (everywhere)

-The restart of the Star Wars series in 3D.



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**What's blowing up your
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Andy Grammer and company make mass appeal perfectly unappealing

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

On February 1, the Old Rock House trembled with the high-frequency keening of preteens and soccer moms from the greater St. Louis area. The cause of this siren song of hysterical fandom was Andy Grammer, one of the greater success stories amongst 2011's disposable AM radio super-hunks. Joining Grammer in his crusade against the interesting and unexpected were Rachel Platten, an effervescent adult contemporary songstress, and Ryan Star, a contestant from the 2006 season of CBS's canned reality show "Rock Star: Supernova."

In an age when the success or failure of an up-and-coming artist is measured in Twitter followers, Star is apparently enough exposure to warrant a record deal with Atlantic. (Coincidentally, Star—clearly an expert self-promoter—was sure to plug his Twitter feed five times within a 30 minute time span.)

Platten's and Star's sets were decidedly minimal affairs, as both lacked the support of a backing band. Of course, the presence of actual instrumental ability would probably distract too much from the banal uplift of ballads like Star's "Brand

New Day" ("let's open our eyes to the brand new day") and "This Could Be the Year" ("this could be the moment / this could be the year, I know it"). In a fitting tribute to his reality TV pedigree, Star's set climaxed with an audacious rendition of—what else?—"Don't Stop Believing." Clearly, the half-decade that has passed since his 15 minutes of fame expired has not diminished Star's knack for painfully obvious AM radio staples and drunken karaoke favorites.

Grammer's set was an improvement, if for no other reason than the presence of a backing band, which infused some much needed perk into the adult contemporary doldrums. The audience was clearly impressed with the group's musical versatility, which was demonstrated through Grammer's white-boy beat boxing (probably the closest to a rap concert the average white American will ever get) and a five-second reggae groove so toothless it would make Shaggy blush. In a skillful bit of self-promotion, the chorus to one number, "You Should Know Better," involved simply stating Mr. Grammer's name repeatedly.

Throughout the concert, Grammer periodically stroked his own ego with

profound insights into his songwriting process ("this song is about a soul having a conversation with God") and self-congratulatory references to his previous gig as an L.A. street musician. In reference to the latter, he noted that "if I can make it, anybody can"—as fitting a condemnation of the music industry as any other. To the surprise of no one, the set concluded with Grammer's top 40 hit "Keep Your Head Up."

In all fairness, Grammer is simply the latest offender in a long line of blandly handsome and inoffensive adult contemporary superstars, evoking everyone from John Mayer to Adam Levine through his syrupy tenor, faux-urban attire and well-polished tunes about (you guessed it) love. But he lacks Mayer's guitar chops and Levine's unctuous charms, and one cannot help but wonder whether such an aggressively average artist can sustain a career through good intentions alone.

Grammer's act is the musical equivalent of a Twinkie—pleasant enough at first bite but ultimately hollow and not at all nourishing.

Grade: D

This Will Destroy You brings the art of repetition to a new level

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

Post-rock concerts are hit-or-miss affairs. Only the finest of lines separates the trancelike harmonics that come with artful repetition from the drudging tedium which accompanies self-indulgent wankery. This Will Destroy You's January 31 performance at The Firebird fit firmly between these two poles. Though the group's celebrated ambling demanded listeners to summon every shred of patience at their disposal, the undeniable instrumental prowess

beneath successfully captured the emotional payload that the genre thrives on.

Still, it was difficult not to become frustrated with the barrage of intentional tedium which characterized the show. The needlessly bloated opening—three acts, three hours—served more as a test of the listeners attention spans than as an appetizer for TWDY's labyrinthine slabs of sound. The evening could have easily been dubbed "Night of a Thousand Distortion Pedals." Though there is something to be said for getting the most of out a concert, when the opening act is literally putting audience members to sleep, it is more than a little counterproductive.

Individually, the groups were all enjoyable, if not particularly astounding. The lineup included Keygrip, a seven piece post-rock troupe; John LaMonica, a mumbling dubstep musician; and Amen Dunes, a droning neo-psychedelic group. With the exception of LaMonica, the acts all nicely complemented This Will Destroy You's exquisite monotony.

Keygrip's set consisted of a lengthy suite of prog-rock pretensions, and—for no clear reason—the 1920 horror classic "Der Golem" played in the background of their set. This transitioned awkwardly to the soft-spoken LaMonica, whose set should probably have been trimmed for the sake of continuity. Other than his energized bouncing, there really was no visual component to LaMonica's set that justified a live performance. His enthusiasm was largely wasted on the audience: the closest an audience like this comes to dancing is the synchronized white-guy head bob, which they saved for TWDY. Amen Dunes was the clear standout among the acts, and their acid-drenched brew of freak folk and psychedelic rock made the long wait for TWDY a lot more bearable.

When TWDY wordlessly took the stage after the drawn-out introduction, they leaped into their

lumbering set without pause. The electronic textures of "Tunnel Blanket," their latest album, were largely abandoned in favor of the buzzing mountains of guitar which characterize most of their output. Even if their unassuming performance belied it, it was easy to see the passion that makes them such a widely touted live act. The strength of their set lies in its immediacy, and TWDY were able to consistently overpower the audience with their loud/quiet attack-and-defend approach before boredom could set in.

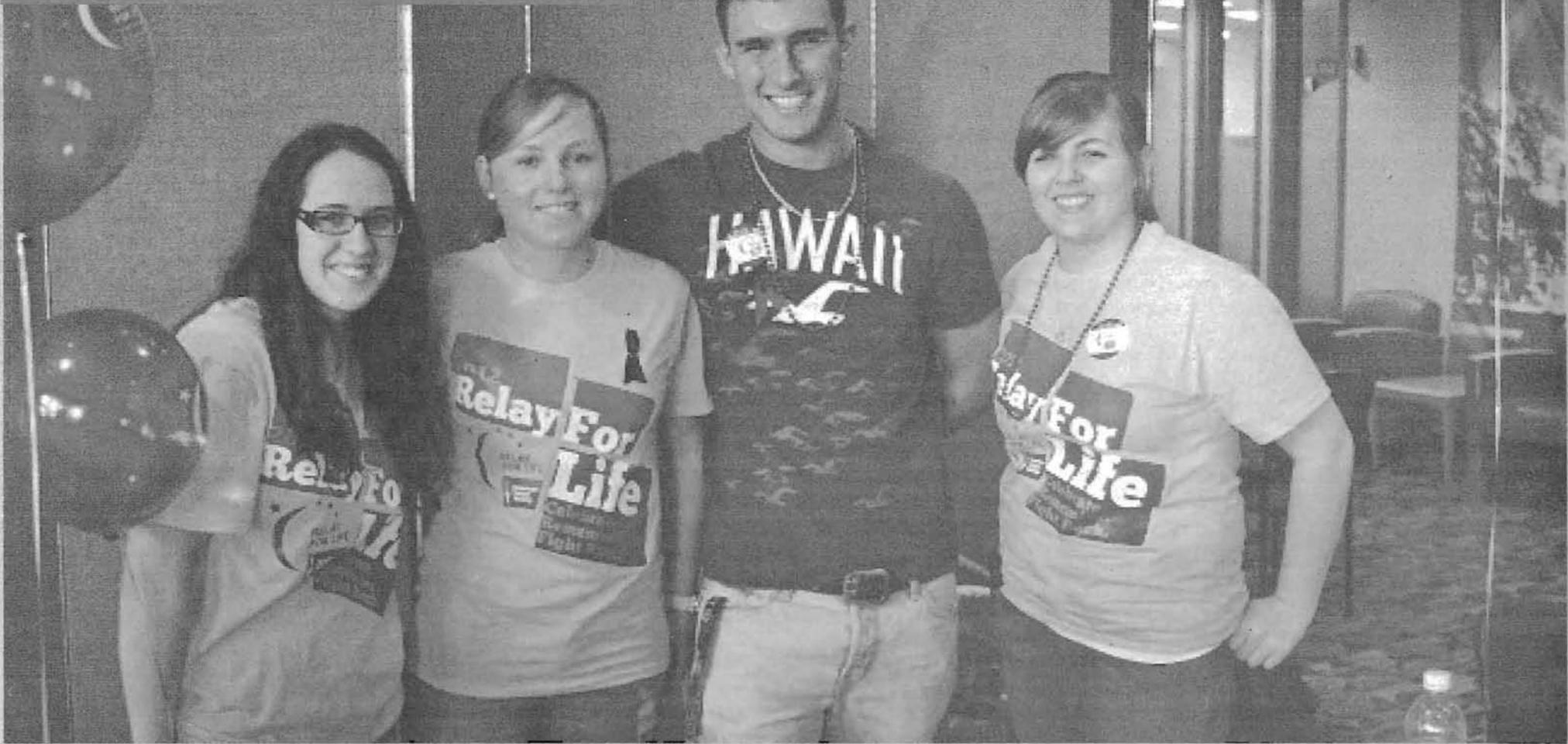
As an outsider to the cult of TWDY, it was difficult to recognize any particular standouts, or even individual songs, from the set. Their buzzing monoliths floated by in a rather faceless fashion without leaving much of an impression. Other than the obvious differences between the loud parts and the quiet parts, everything fell into a fairly predictable pattern. Still, the concert, much like their albums, carried the same sense of accomplishment that comes from enduring an hour-long barrage of sonic gut-punches. The audience left feeling enlightened, emboldened and a little sleepy.

Grade: C+

We put out on Mondays.

The Current

Features



Sign ups for the Relay for Life event kicked off at the Nosh on Tuesday.

ERICA THOMPSON / THE CURRENT

Can UMSL raise \$30,000 for the fight against cancer?

ALADEEN KLONOWSKI
Staff Writer

There were bright balloons, a personable DJ and candy-colored "Cancer Sucks" T-shirts on display in the lower level of the University of Missouri – St. Louis Millennium Student Center. The Relay for Life kick-off took place Tuesday, January 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nosh. There were three tables decorated and spread with freebies such as information and stress balls, and purchasable items such as the T-shirts and boxers sporting the slogan "Protect your balls."

"We are accepting donations," Brandi

Grieshaber, junior, finance, said. "We have luminarias that individuals can buy that will be displayed at the Relay. They are only five dollars apiece and [students] can buy them in memory or in honor of someone who does have or who has had cancer."

This year, individuals who chose to register at the Colleges Against Cancer booth had the luxury of paying half of the usual registration fee. Individuals who chose to make a donation at last Tuesday's kick-off event were also given the opportunity to take home some free swag. Contributors were encouraged to leave behind their signatures, which will later be displayed

in the MSC Bridge.

"I donated and got a stress ball," Gustavo Perez Diaz, sophomore, music, said. "I am going to try and get my organization to do it with me, the Opera Theatre Ensemble. I do not know if we are known for being athletes in Opera, but it will be exciting."

Diaz is referring to the Relay requirement that each participating group try to have a representative on the track throughout the entire event—either walking or running—because cancer never sleeps.

With Backstreet Boys jams as the soundtrack for the kick-off, one might wonder whether the event as a whole was too flashy. In a light-

hearted atmosphere, with hot pink "Cancer Sucks" T-shirts, one could easily be offended by the exploitation of such a serious topic if it was not handled carefully and with respect. Fortunately, UMSL Relay for Life volunteers showed that the event was not all fun and games through the representation of the T-shirts that they were selling. Each colored T-shirt represented a different kind of cancer. Hot pink represented breast cancer, purple defined pancreatic cancer and turquoise gave voice to ovarian cancer, to name a few. So while it may have seemed lighthearted, everything has a purpose and a reason and that reason

was never out of sight.

"I think there are things to celebrate," said Anna Bell, sophomore, nursing. "My initial background is in biology. I have done a lot of research, and so I know how hard this is and the big leaps and bounds we have been making in the progress of trying to solve the different cancers or at least slow them down. There are certain things to celebrate. Celebrate remission, celebrate getting rid of it. While we remember those that have not beaten it, we are also celebrating those who have survived."

If you missed the kick-off, do not worry. There are a few more events planned between now and

Relay for Life, which will take place on April 20-21.

"In February we have Kiss Away Cancer," Grieshaber said. "We will be down here in the Nosh again from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and we will have a kissing booth—a dollar for a kiss on the cheek. You can give or get the kiss."

The student body will also be given the opportunity to attend a pep rally at a baseball game against Maryville University on April 3.

There is a banner between the second and third floors of the MSC that shows UMSL's progress toward its fundraising goal. The campus currently sits at \$230 and the goal is \$30,000. The student body has some work to do.

The Global Game Jam strikes again, breaking Guinness record

MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor in Chief

Video games take an extraordinary amount of time and effort to create, especially those with any kind of true merit. Anybody with a bit of flash knowledge can create a five-minute game in a day or so, but they told no true experience. The 11,240 people from 48 countries around the world who participated in this year's Global Game Jam, with showcasing of over 2,000 new games, would disagree.

Through the weekend of January 27-29, the University of Missouri - St. Louis was one of many sites around the country to host a chapter of the Global Game Jam. At UMSL, 13 games were created. Around the world, there were 244 locations

in 48 countries," Dinesh Mirchandani, associate professor of business administration, UMSL, said. "With 93 participants, UMSL was among the largest sites in the world. The 2012 GGJ (Global Game Jam) is likely to enter into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest number of games developed [in under] 48 hours."

Indeed, the two rooms dedicated to the purpose of the GGJ that weekend were packed to bursting with participants. Students and professors alike, along with members of the general St. Louis community, gathered in order to work together towards a common goal. "The intent was to challenge participants to create a game in 48 hours

and spur interest in the field of game development," Mirchandani said.

A large digital world map occasionally flashed at the front of the room, with lights signifying participating countries around the globe. A fact that may surprise some readers - the 48 countries participating were not all based in areas typically associated with game development. While areas in eastern Asia, Europe and, of course, North America, had sites scattered throughout their borders, countries in Africa, South America and smack in the middle of Asia had participant lights on the map as well. "You can see on the map how some parts of the world have more participation than others, but there is participation

in this all over the world," Elonka Dunin, executive producer and general manager, Simutronics Corporation, said.

Games varied from role-playing games to first-person shooters; from adventure games to puzzles; from platformers to simulations. Artists, programmers, testers, writers, designers and even musicians were present throughout the entire weekend, all with their own parts to play in creating a much larger, grander product. Despite the great variance in products created and the overall creative inspiration differing from country to country and, indeed, from group to group at each site, a common theme was suggested for every team involved.

"We announce different themes each year when members show up to start this event," Dunin said. While no details were given during the event concerning the theme for this year, a post-event interview unearthed that the theme this year was that of "a snake biting its tail. It was held a secret till after the keynote video presentation," Mirchandani said. A snake biting its tail is a symbol known as an Uroboros, a symbol for eternity and repetition and was utilized in many of the games created this year through imagery, theme and story.

Attendees and participants ranged in skills and experience. "This is my first GGJ. I found out about this from my teacher and signed up. I'm not that confident in

my programming skills, and this is a great experience for me. I've seen programs used to create games and how they turn out. I can't wait to actually learn this stuff," Laura Bretsnyder, senior, information systems, said.

Those looking to learn more can check out www.globalgamejam.org. Those without an extensive history with gaming should not feel discouraged from investigating further. After all, the field of game development is one which requires the participation of a wide variety of talents, as any attendee of a Global Game Jam will gladly cite. No game is complete without a full team behind the wheel and gamers themselves cannot further this field without the aid of outside eyes.

Come check out the MSC and see what's happening!

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Einstein's Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM-6:00 PM, Friday 7:30 AM-2:00 PM, Closed Saturday and Sunday

Subway Monday-Thursday 7:00 AM-9:00 PM, Friday 7:00 AM-5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Closed Sunday



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Valid Monday February 6th - Friday February 10th

UMSL student wins \$5,000 grant for remarkable dissertation



ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

The price of oil directly affects the price of everything, from food to raw materials, according to University of Missouri-St. Louis doctoral student Michael V. Sciaroni. Sciaroni explains the chain of effects that oil prices have on goods and services in his dissertation, "The Impacts of Oil Prices on Supply Chain Network Design," which received the 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Award from the Supply Chain Management Research Center at the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Sciaroni is the 12th recipient of the award, which will include a \$5,000 grant. The Supply Chain Management Resource Center at Walton College, established in 1996, is a direct link between the private sector and University of Arkansas supply chain resources. It sponsors activities that promote both the academic and general body of knowledge encompassing supply chain management. The center also supports the college's Department of Supply Chain Management established in July 2011. UMSL was one of the smallest schools to be the recipient of the award.

The Current: What prompted your interest in selecting your topic?

Michael Sciaroni: Over the last ten years,

the inflation-adjusted price of oil has increased by almost 200 percent. Given the central role that oil plays in our economy, from fueling our cars to providing raw materials for a large variety of products, I felt it was important to try to pin down some of the details regarding how oil prices propagate through the economy.

TC: How has living in St. Louis affected your beliefs on this topic?

MS: St. Louis is uniquely positioned in the center of the country with excellent connectivity to all the major transportation modes. This makes St. Louis a natural transportation and logistics hub and an excellent place to study how oil prices impact the price of other goods that are transported to or through St. Louis.

TC: Why are the findings of your research relevant to UMSL students?

MS: This is fairly intuitive, but all UMSL students feel the impacts of rising oil prices, from the increasing commute costs to the general inflation associated with many consumer goods. The major finding of the research differentiates products which are particularly sensitive to oil prices such as products made from plastics or those that are transport-intensive due to weight or girth from those that are relatively insulated from the effects, such as textiles and apparel.

TC: What do you do in your position as a

graduate researcher in the Center for Transportation Studies at UMSL?

MS: The Center for Transportation Studies conducts transportation related research for both public and private organizations. Previous studies include transportation and warehouse network optimization, a feasibility study for containerized household goods movements and simulating barge operations on the upper Mississippi River.

TC: What do you hope readers will get from your dissertation?

MS: I think many people are unaware of how crucial oil is to our economy, and how pervasive its price effects are. Hopefully, the research will provide some clarity for those interested in learning more about these effects and potentially gaining some insight into what we might expect.

TC: How accurate do you believe your predictions are in the spectrum of economics?

MS: If the oil content of a product or commodity can be determined and the location of raw materials and final customers are known, the calculation of cost impacts is actually fairly straightforward and should be pretty accurate. The real unknown question is whether oil prices will continue to rise or eventually return to lower levels. If I knew the answer to that, I would probably be making a fortune in the futures market.

Plans for UMSL's 50th anniversary celebration are underway

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

2013 will be a landmark year for the University of Missouri – St. Louis. In September of next year, the university will celebrate its fifth decade of providing post-secondary education to the St. Louis area. The university will commemorate this milestone through a year-long Jubilee celebration beginning in January 2013, and efforts to organize the festivities are already underway.

According to David Ganz, Associate Dean for the College of Business Administration and Chair of the Jubilee Organizing Committee, the Jubilee will manifest itself as an ongoing celebration through the spring and fall 2013 semesters. UMSL's

annual student events will all carry an anniversary theme commemorating the noteworthy accomplishments of the university's half-century of existence, and new events will be introduced into the academic calendar as well.

"We envision particularly meaningful Jubilee opening and closing activities, in addition to key signature Jubilee events," Ron Gossen, senior associate vice chancellor and co-chair of the Jubilee Steering Committee said.

The UMSL Jubilee Council is being helmed by a number of key St. Louis area officials, including University of Missouri Curator Wayne Goode, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Dan Isom, former Federal Reserve Bank official Ruth Bryant and retired Normandy School

District Superintendent Jim Westbury.

Once the Jubilee commences with a kick-off ceremony in January 2013, UMSL students can anticipate a vigorous roster of events and celebrations. Some of the events already planned include a 50-year retrospective on human rights in conjunction with UMSL's annual Martin Luther King Day observation, a COFAC-sponsored performance of the classical composition "Carmina Burana" at the Blanche Touhill Performing Arts Center and unique anniversary-themed variations on UMSL's annual Civic Engagement Day, Mirthday and Homecoming celebrations.

Interdepartmental events unique to each of UMSL's academic units are also anticipated, and

the university will rely on the campus-wide participation of students and staff in implementing the Jubilee theme into their curriculum.

Planning for the Jubilee officially began last semester, when the Jubilee Organizing Committee was introduced during the annual State of the University Address. A video overview of the history of the university, entitled "From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls," is available on the UMSL website.

The Jubilee Committee is currently working on a promotional campaign to inform UMSL students of what they can anticipate from the celebration. A variety of promotions designed to engage students in Jubilee preparations are already being planned for the upcoming semester.

"Dr. Barbara Harbach is composing a unique Jubilee piece to be performed by students during the Jubilee," Gossen said. "We'll have a 'Dress Wayne' web utility where visitors can have fun electronically 'dressing' the Wayne Goode statue with selection of Jubilee accoutrements, and then there's discussion of a Jubilee Commemorative Book."

Although much of the planning for Jubilee events remains tentative, UMSL students can expect to see a great deal more information and promotion for the celebration as the 2013 spring semester draws nearer.

"These activities are just the very earliest look into the year," Gossen said. "The SGA, *The Current*, The U, colleges, work units, retirees and other

groups' activities will create an ongoing Jubilee excitement on campus and throughout the greater St. Louis Region."

Dean Ganz hopes that the Jubilee will provide students, staff and alumni of the university with a fitting impression of UMSL's continuing influence on the greater St. Louis region. He believes that the university's current slogan—"We educate St. Louis"—effectively sums up the tone of the celebration.

Although the Jubilee will not officially commence until next year, interested students can visit the Jubilee's website at <http://www.ums.edu/jubilee>, which includes a comprehensive overview of the university's past five decades and a registration form to volunteer for a role in the organizing.

Businessman murdered at Catholic Newman in the midst of a murder mystery

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

"Welcome to the Deadwood Saloon, my humble but prosperous establishment. For those of you who don't know me, I am Harry High-Stakes, the owner of this saloon and the organizer of this tournament and party. As you may or may not know, bribery, extortion, blackmail and whatever creative means you use to spend your money are not only expected, but encouraged here at the Deadwood Saloon," Jasper Williams, junior, education, said.

Friday night, a fictional character was murdered in the living room of the Catholic Newman Center, and it was the job of those in attendance to

figure out who among them had committed the crime. The western-themed murder mystery started off with an announcement that Mitch Maverick (businessman and outsider) had won the \$100,000 poker tournament, an announcement that not too many people were pleased with.

"I find it suspicious that an experienced gambler such as myself would be beaten by a simple business man such as Mitch Maverick," Mike Sullivan as "Gambling Jack," junior, business administration, said. "I don't wanna go makin' wild accusations 'bout the man, but I do find it interesting that someone who is not a pro like Holly Hickcock or Clay Codwell would beat all of us."

"I almost won. I came in

second place. I was really quite sure of myself, but I have been talking to Mr. Maverick all night and he seems very unagreeable and very suspicious, so I suspect there was some foul play going on," Lucy Ellermann as "Holly Hickcock," sophomore, pre-optometry, said.

Denying any accusation of foul play, Maverick, played by Sean Leahy, senior, engineering, could not help but voice his concerns about the threats he had been receiving from a land investor named Montgomery Money.

"The money that I won in the tournament is going to go back into my company back East. It is just some trading company, nothing special," Maverick said.

These were the last words Maverick uttered

before being shot dead in a crowded room. Clutching an envelope filled with his winnings, Sheriff Sam (played by Rochelle Simon, campus minister) proceeded to trace his lifeless body in masking tape. Guests scattered, gossiped, and helped themselves to free root beer and snacks. Their next task would be to solve the murder.

According to Ellermann, an event like this is not new to CNC, who have been hosting murder mysteries for the past two years with themes that have included pirates and the Hollywood highlife. Kay Dieckmann, director of development at CNC, and Simon are in charge of theme while CNC members decide on character. All participants in the murder mystery are unaware of their innocence.

"It is a great event because not only do people get to meet each other but they have a fun time dressing up and being in character," Ellermann said. "There is adventure and there is mystery."

After a short intermission and the presentation of five different sets of evidence, including a finger-printed Colt single action Army revolver that could have only been used by a left-handed individual, it was declared that Montgomery Money was the cold-blooded killer. After being hustled out of his money by Maverick on various occasions, he decided the he had had enough.

Trish Detwiler, graduate student, accounting, played "Elizabeth Money" the wife of recently convicted murderer

Montgomery Money. Elizabeth was devastated by her husband's dishonesty and his depletion of their funds, and made threats to hurt him in the near future.

Out of character, Detwiler appreciated the event because she saw it has an outlet for the stressed out students, even students who are not naturally born to act.

"I think that this night went really well. It was a great chance for everybody to get together on a Friday night and have a good time. being able to sort of act out a murder mystery is always a lot of fun," Simon said. She plans to host yet another murder mystery at the Catholic Newman Center next year, but is currently undecided on a theme, leaving her open to any suggestions.

Sports

Troy Long finds his groove on the court as an UMSL Triton in 2011 - 2012

ELI DAINS
Staff Writer

Over the course of the outstanding 2011 to 2012 University of Missouri - St. Louis men's basketball campaign, the name Troy Long has become very well-known among Tritons fans and opponents alike. To fans, this is, naturally, a blessing and a reason for celebration. However, Long's opponents find more reason for chagrin than joy when hearing his name on the roster. Through the first 20 games of the season his 16.3 points and 2.8 assists per game were the best on the team. Troy is also top five on the Tritons team in rebounds per game (2.4), three-point percentage (.422) and free throw percentage (.828). Troy has proven himself a reliable shooter and defender, and has developed into a well rounded playmaker who can carry his team when necessary.

"This year I have let the game come to me more instead of forcing shots and trying to get things done by myself," Troy said regarding the career year he is having on the court. Like many collegiate athletes, he looks to the professionals in search of inspiration and has managed to find a model he cites as absolutely worthy of such admiration. He models his game after Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics, his favorite pro athlete. "I describe my game on the court as

smooth. I never get rattled, am always humble and ready for any given situation. My strengths are my shooting, defense, leadership and ability to make my teammates better."

Troy has developed his game over the course of his college career, which has seen him wearing three different uniforms after prepping at Withrow High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. During his time at Withrow, he was named an All-Region 24 and All-Conference player in his senior year. Troy then went on to play his first two seasons of college basketball at Southeastern Illinois State Community College. In his second year at SIC, Troy averaged 11.8 points and 2.3 assists per game and led his team to the National Junior College Athletic Association's national tournament. As an individual, Troy received All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference and All-Region XXIV honors that year.

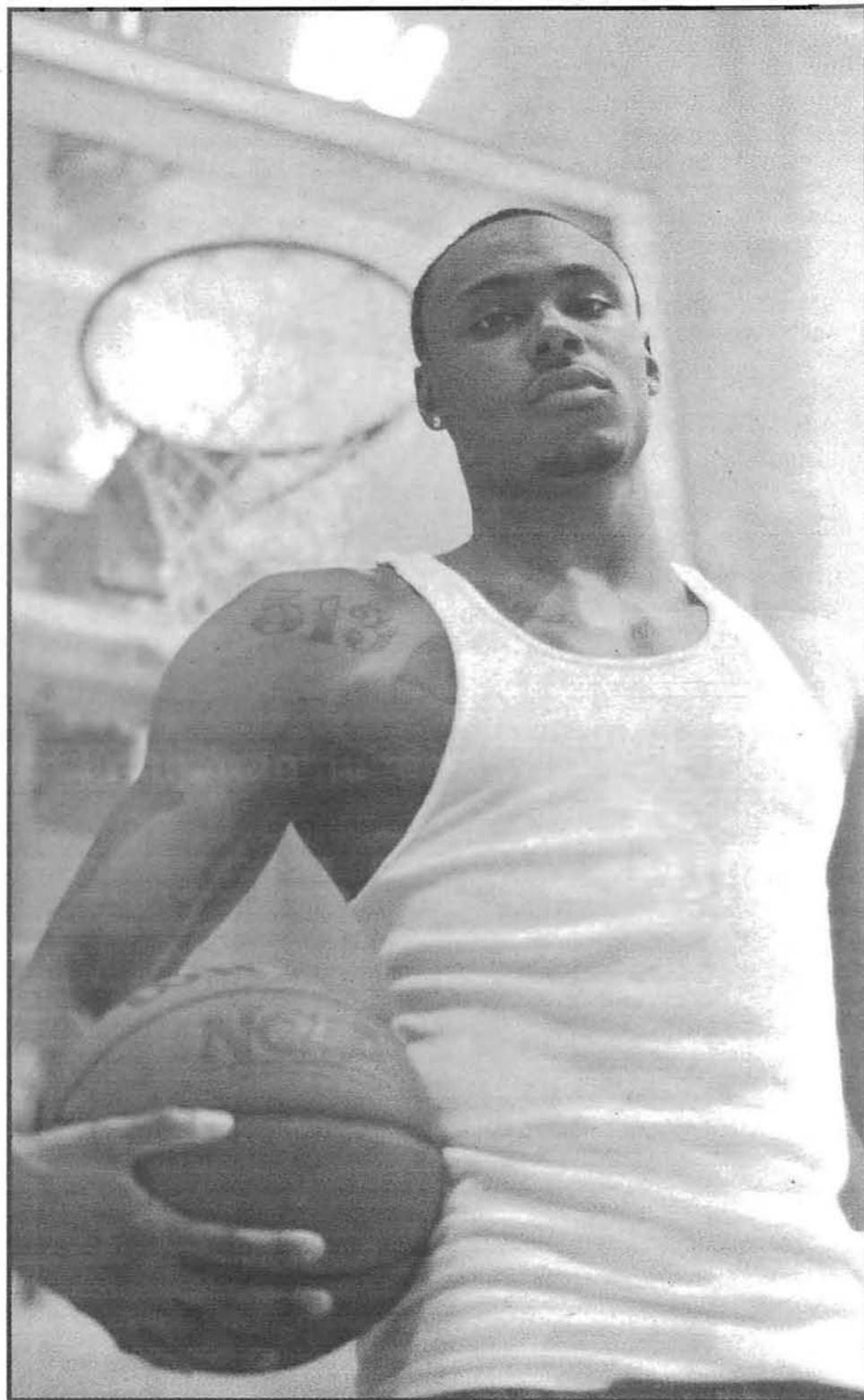
Long's obvious talent on the court drew the attention of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale coach Chris Lowery, and Troy went to play the 2010-11 season for the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Salukis. In that campaign, Troy saw action in 19 games, averaging 3.3 points and 1.1 rebounds in just less than 14 minutes per game. Al-

though his numbers across the board were down from his junior college days, the staff at UMSL saw something in Long that told them he would be a good fit in Tritons colors.

"We knew we were getting a good player on the court, but he has really impressed us with his leadership abilities," said Tritons head coach Steve Tappmeyer in regards to the recruitment of Long. Troy recognizes that his teammates and their ability to work together are a great boost to his game. "I felt being patient and being a team player helped me get my numbers," Troy said.

Unfortunately for Tritons fans, Troy will be done with college ball after this year. "After college, I want to be an athletic director at the high school level maybe work my way up to the NCAA and I also want to continue my basketball career and hopefully play overseas," said Troy in regards to his future plans.

As far as this season goes, Troy has one bold prediction that UMSL basketball fans are going to love. "My predictions for the rest of the season are that we will bring a banner into the Mark Twain building for being conference champs and make it to the national tournament," Troy said. Troy's leadership and ability has the Tritons on the right path.



Troy Long, senior, liberal studies, at the Mark Twain Gym.

JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT



Shayelle Dominguez, senior, business marketing, runs the ball down the court on Saturday against Illinois-Springfield. JENNY MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

Tritons aim to make up ground - place well in GLVC

LEON DEVANCE
Staff Writer

As injuries mount for the University of Missouri - St. Louis Tritons women's basketball team in the 2011 to 2012 season, the Tritons struggle in the Great Lakes Valley Conference while their offense has become stagnant.

Evidence of the struggle was found in a tough loss to the Quincy Hawks, 75-57, in which the Tritons were forced into 22 turnovers and shot only a 37.7 field-goal percentage in the loss. Devonna Smith, junior, sociology, was the lone Triton to score in the double-digits finishing with 18 points and collecting seven rebounds. The Hawks held a 43-37 edge in rebounds. What did the Tritons in, besides the 22 turnovers, was that they were out-scored 28-7 from turnovers by the Hawks.

Coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor contended that in the loss to the Hawks, the Tritons did not resemble a team that plays relentlessly for the 40 minutes of hell style of pressure defense that forces opponents into turnovers and easy baskets.

"Against Quincy I was not pleased because we did not play like we normally do. The shots did not fall and we were not confident enough," Curliss-Taylor said.

So with one day to practice before tipping off against the Illinois-Springfield Prairie Stars, the Tritons tweaked their offense to get better movement of the ball and easier baskets.

Against Illinois-Springfield, the Triton offense flowed smoothly, passing and hitting the open shots, leading to an 80-65

victory that boosted the Tritons to an 8-11 overall record and 3-8 conference record in the GLVC standing. The first-place Drury Panthers are 9-2 in the conference followed by the Quincy University Hawks and Missouri S&T Athletics at 8-3.

Caitlyn Moody, senior, physical education, scored a game-high 26 points connecting on three out of six three-pointers and nine out of ten free-throws. Kiki Robinson, senior, criminal justice, finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, Shayelle Dominguez, senior, business marketing, collected 14 points in the paint with seven out of nine shots, six rebounds, two assists and one steal while Kelly Carter, senior, elementary education, added seven assists.

Curliss-Taylor felt that the players reacted well to the offensive changes in the win.

"I was pleased with the effort. We caught Illinois-Springfield off-guard with the movement. If the main shooter was not open, we passed the ball around [until someone become open.] We had only 20 minutes in practice [on Friday] but the players knew it and studied it and the offense ran smoothly," Curliss-Taylor said.

That practice resulted in good numbers in the second half as they connected on 15 of 22 shots for 68.2 percent of their attempts. The Tritons hit every three-pointer and after connecting on four of four from the free-throw line, slightly cooled down as they made 14 free throws on 17 attempts for 82.4

percent marksmanship.

Dominguez said she had a good position on the block.

"[Kelly] Carter gave me the ball [when I had the opportunity to shoot] close shots to the basket. Hitting some shots gave me the confidence to pick up the team. It was either pass the ball to me or someone was open in the corner," Dominguez said.

Moody hit consecutive three-pointers that doubled six points to 12 to break open a tight game.

"They [Illinois-Springfield] doubled down [when the ball went inside to Shayelle.] That gave me a good look. It was a close game when I hit the three-pointers," Moody said.

Moody said that besides the points scored, she was proud of her defensive effort with eight rebounds on the boards.

"It has been a goal of mine all season to crash the boards. The practice has paid off because it limits second-chance opportunities to one shot. I need to get rebounds and become more of a two-way player," Moody said.

The Tritons look to continue their momentum and gather further victories on the road this coming week as they travel to Kansas City to play William Jewell on Thursday and subsequently visit Rockhurst on Saturday. With enough spirit and determination, in addition to their willingness to look over their mistakes and learn how to conquer their own weaknesses, these ladies may just be able to pull a powerful standing when the GLVC comes to an end this year.

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Point/Counterpoint



Was Laura Dekker's voyage around the world heroic or a foolish risk?

Global journey a remarkable feat, regardless of sailor's age

At an age when most worry about an impending driving exam or what they'll wear to junior prom, Laura Dekker has successfully and single-handedly circumnavigated the entire planet, an extraordinary feat for which she will, undoubtedly and deservedly, be remembered. Her age, however, has become a point of contention for many critics, particularly those who criticize her parents, arguing that she's far too young for such a monumental undertaking and undeserving of support.

While these critics raise a valid concern and probably have the best intentions, their apprehension is ultimately unfounded. As Dekker's parents have vehemently maintained, their daughter has been sailing solo since the age of six, an impressive feat by anyone's measure. When a person who possesses such remarkable experience and dedication to their craft, when she so confidently expresses interest in attempting such a feat as sailing around the entire world on their own, the only appropriate response is unwavering support, regardless of her age. Any efforts to quell such a noble desire only result in hardening resolve, particularly in one as ambitious as

Laura Dekker, who marked this goal at the age of ten.

Critics should cease their constant examination and dismissal of Dekker's youth and look solely at the objective facts. Born on a boat, she has over a decade of experience sailing solo. She has the backing and support of her loving parents. At the age of 12 she completed a journey from the Netherlands to Britain and back. Dekker has clearly already demonstrated a maturity and devotion indicative of someone many years her senior.

The open ocean is perilous and unending. At times, it can be seemingly limitless in its potential for hazard. Any mariner can tell you that, particularly one as experienced in the water as Dekker. Neither she nor her parents would allow such an enterprise if they weren't completely aware of and prepared for all possibilities and probabilities. This isn't a solo trek across the Sahara; this is a chartable journey with predictable hazards and avoidable dangers. In this age of incessant information and constant connection, there is no way Laura or the Dekkers would allow her to be completely incommunicado.

Sixteen is not that young, either. The previous title-

holder, Jessica Watson, was barely seventeen upon completing her global voyage. The precedent has been set, and to deny someone less than a year younger a chance to compete is an exercise in arbitrary nitpicking. When examining a feat of strength, age shouldn't be the primary deciding factor; it should be maturity and experience level.

Laura Dekker has said it time and time again: she's not interested in fame, notoriety or money. This is evident in her denial of all major, lucrative interviews. She just wanted to sail and to accomplish something great.

Dekker should not be vilified for following her dream but celebrated. She traversed 27,000 miles in a 38-foot boat, battling crippling solitude and an ever-present possibility of inclement weather and hostile pirates. One can only hope this girl's tale of unyielding perseverance in the face of adversity - not just from a vast and unforgiving ocean, but also from a frightened populace of fault-finders and detractors - inspires scores of other equally talented adolescents to chase their own dreams and their parents to support those dreams, no matter how seemingly inconceivable.

Dekker's voyage around the world an unacceptable risk

16-year-old Laura Dekker should not have sailed around the world alone. She was barely old enough to drive a car or get a part-time job, and she wasn't yet old enough to vote, but her parents believed she was ready to sail the world by herself.

Dekker, who celebrated her 16th birthday during her trip, returned to St. Maarten Harbor, which marked the end of her around-the-world sail on January 21, 2012. However, her long-awaited success was due only to luck and what some may call the grace of God; her parents were lucky she made it home in one piece.

Her parents were irresponsible for letting her travel alone. They let her leave their sights for a year to face tropical storms, pirates and weeks of solitude simply because she said it was her dream. Every child has a dream. That doesn't mean all parents should allow their children to attempt their dreams when the dangers are life-threatening. There was no reason a parent or adult could not have traveled with her in case an extreme emergency occurred. At the very least, they could have had someone there to meet her at the foreign ports.

Dekker, who stopped at

numerous ports to maintain her boat, had no family members or people she knew and could trust at those ports. She could have disappeared like other young women, such as Natalie Holloway, who disappeared in Aruba in 2005. Her boat could have been captured by pirates (and not the Johnny Depp kind, either) and her body tossed into the sea. A tropical storm or a hurricane could have destroyed her and her boat. While staying in a port, an earthquake could have taken place (like the Haitian Earthquake in 2010) and she could have been buried in rubble with her closest assistance thousands of miles away. In an extreme case, she could even have experienced a tsunami similar to the recent Japanese tsunami in 2011 and been killed or stranded out at sea. Or she simply could have become so isolated for such a long period of time that she couldn't handle the emotional and psychological strain, and the outcome could have been detrimental.

This is a teenage girl who is still growing and experiencing changes in her body and mind. The possibilities for disaster are endless, and the reward for succeeding is merely bragging rights. The

only thing Dekker gained was the knowledge that she could accomplish such a feat and that not much could scare her parents into saying no.

Some might be asking, "What difference does a year or two make, since Dekker has proven that 16-year-olds are capable of amazing things?" But if a year or two doesn't make any difference, why couldn't Dekker have waited? If her dream was simply to sail the world, she could have accomplished that at age 18 or 20. But Dekker and her parents let their pride get in the way of their common sense, and they are extremely lucky that the outcome was so favorable.

Dekker also may have hurt her future; she was truant from school for a year, and even admits that she got behind in her studies. Her parents gambled her future, safety, and her very life for pride.

The authorities are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief at her safe return, but one hopes that they will never allow this to happen again. But who knows? The Netherlands may soon become the next Disney World, where everyone's dreams, even if they're dangerous and life-threatening, can come true.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Girl Scout controversy showcases parental immaturity at its worst

In Colorado, a Girl Scout troop has angered many by permitting a seven-year-old transgender girl named Bobby Montoya to join the troop. A group that calls itself The Honest Girl Scouts even posted a Youtube video that calls for a mass boycott of Girl Scout cookies.

To clarify, transgender individuals self-identify as the gender opposite the one they were assigned at birth based on their sexual anatomy. For instance, Montoya, though physically born with male reproductive organs, identifies as a female and her parents raise her as such. For many, that isn't nearly good enough.

One has to wonder—what are the naysayers so afraid of? What real harm is there in allowing her to join? God forbid that parents should have to “expose” their children to people who are different from themselves.

What could have been a learning experience for the Louisiana troop and many others has instead become a flagrant display of intolerance under the guise of moral superiority.

After hearing of the decision, mothers in Covington, Louisiana went so far as to disband their Girl Scout troop. Though that particular troop has never been asked to permit transgender children, they found the open, welcoming response of the Girl Scouts of Colorado to transgender children problematic, to say the

least. At the time, the Louisiana scouting director had already set a local policy that transgender children would not be allowed to join, but that apparently was not enough.

What do these parents think they're teaching their children by behaving this way? Now more than ever, parents should be teaching their children kindness, tolerance and how to live in this world with an open mind. Children need to learn how to interact with people from all walks of life, many of whom will be drastically different from them. The only things protests like these are teaching are immaturity, close-mindedness and an unwillingness to accept others who are different from them.

America as a country will not be utterly destroyed if transgender children are allowed to join the Girl Scouts. If anything, we may all find ourselves living in a kinder, more comfortable society than before if more institutions were more understanding and accepting of the differences in all of us. What better place to start a trend of kindness and inclusiveness than with children who are in a program specifically designed to teach them valuable life skills?

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this story is the thoughtlessness involved. At what point did the protesters pause to consider the effect their actions would have on the child in question? A

7-year-old who just wanted to do something she enjoyed has now found herself at the center of a nationwide controversy. Considering that kids are likely to blame themselves for any confrontation or conflict their parents face on their behalf, imagine how it must feel for Montoya to be the cause of her family's position smack in the center of a media frenzy. Kudos must be given to this child's parents for sticking by her, however, and one can only hope that all parents would support their children in the face of such public adversity.

It's one thing to disagree with a policy—if someone disagrees that strongly, then by all means, they should feel free to disassociate themselves from that group. But to drag young kid into the national spotlight, all in order to bring attention to how much you disagree with who they are, is wrong. There comes a point where personal and political beliefs need to take a backseat when the wellbeing of others (emotional and otherwise) is compromised—especially if that someone is a child. Why not exercise a little sensitivity?

They're just cookies. Have one, and learn to live and let live.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Jeremy Zschau, Janaca Scherer, Ashley Atkins, Hali Flintrop, Cate Marquis, Sharon Pruitt, Owen Shroyer, and Nikki Vahle.

BE PREPARED

Water, food, fire and lockpicks: the St. Louisan survival kit

In the event of a global catastrophe of which you are among the few survivors, what would you do? Type “what to do at the end of the world” into your Google search bar? The internet is like a single mouse in a house full of cats; the first thing to go. Good thing you already watched all those YouTube videos on how to play “Wonderwall” on the acoustic guitar or paint your nails to look like cupcakes.

Fear not. You can prepare yourself to be the Tallahassee of your own “Zombieland”. Don't kid yourself into thinking you'll be the nerdy kid; in real life he's emergency bait, like a fainting goat in a herd of sheep whose panic reflex makes it go stiff, fall over and become an instant buffet for the wolf.

What you need to do first depends on the order of events. If you are preparing for the end times now (which isn't recommended, honestly; enjoy Tumblr, hipster glasses and test anxiety while you can), then you want to focus on your survival kit. If it's the day of, the first thing you want to do is fill up everything that will hold water: bathtub, sink, I Can't Believe It's Not Butter tubs.

Beyond that, one of the paramount necessities is a survival kit, and here is how to decide what should be in yours. The four things essential to humans are not Facebook, Ramen, lattes and Pabst. You need water, food, fire and shelter. Once

you've gathered the pieces, they'll need to fit into something useful, like a tin can, and the whole thing should be light enough to be carried on your person at all times. It is important for every item in it to pull double duty if possible.

Most of the ready-made kits have a water purification tablet of some sort, but again, most people would be stuck in the city, not camping next to a lake. Consider adding a personal note reminding yourself that you'll need to drink water now, and a lot of it. Many of us have ruined our taste buds with caffeine and sugar to the point where it might be tempting to continue drinking garbage in lieu of water, but try hydrating with Dr. Pepper and then running for your life from aliens/zombies/robots.

In your kit, you will need something that helps you procure food. When people try to sell you ready-made kits—the ones full of camping gear—they won't tell you that if you're in a city, the best thing you can pack for yourself is a can opener. Food will be all around. You need only a means by which to get it.

For fire, the easy route is a lighter. We're city folks and if it is a pandemic that does us in, lighters will be easy to come by when you run out of fluid. The generally-suggested fire starters are flints and kindling; of course, knowing how to use them is pretty important, but once you learn, you can impress your friends with



Aladeen Klonowski

your “Man vs. Wild” skills.

Now, with all of the buildings, it might be easy to take shelter for granted, but until it's clear what kind of catastrophe you're dealing with, make sure you carry some sort of shelter with you on your back. Whether it's in the form of a lockpick set to get into said buildings, or a sleeping bag, space blanket and/or poncho, find something that will keep you out of the elements.

Finally, think about your environment and what water, food, fire and shelter mean to you. Obviously, living in St. Louis, there are things that aren't necessary in a kit, such as dehydrated astronaut food, but there may be things that a city dweller needs that aren't considered by the makers of pre-made survival packs.

The most important thing to remember in your survival kit, though, is your mind. If you live through hell, take some Omega-3 and B12 vitamins (to try and stave off the PTSD) and survive.

Aladeen Klonowski is a columnist candidate for The Current.

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

SCIENCE MATTERS

Students can benefit from campus science events this spring

University of Missouri - St. Louis is sometimes described as a commuter campus where students come in for classes and leave right after, but as students who live on campus know, the university has much to entice students to stick around. Part of the college experience is sampling something new, exploring fields and ideas never considered and sometimes discovering a hidden ability or interest that might change your life. Our campus offers an array of opportunities to sample things related to your major or wholly different from it, from art exhibits to history presentations to science-related talks.

Spring always brings to campus an assortment of science talks in a wide range of fields, ranging from practical applications to "what-if" speculation. Many of these talks are multi-media and accessible for a broad college audience, meaning one does not have to major in that field to find it intriguing. Almost all of these events are free, often include light refreshments and usually take place on campus.

On March 15, the Math/Neurodynamics colloquium takes place. Berit Brogaard, associate professor of philosophy at UMSL, talks about "Seeing Mathematics: Brain Activity in acquired synesthesia." Her talk takes place from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 302 of the CCB.

On March 19, Professor Valentino Stella, university distinguished professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Kansas, will present the Robert W. Murray Lecture. This annual Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry lecture connects the field with real-world matters and other fields of study.

An April 3 event will appeal to those interested in the environment. Dr. Peter Ka-

reiva, chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy, gives a free, multi-media presentation at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Ridgeway Center. The event is the Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture, sponsored by the Whitney Harris World Ecology Center, a collaborative effort by the Department of Biology, the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Kareiva is the author of the textbook "Conservation Science: Balancing the Needs of People and Nature" and a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. His talk, titled "Towards a New Conservation: Strange Bedfellows, Broadening the Constituency, and Rejecting False Metaphors," takes place at 7:30 p.m.

Math fans get their chance April 12 to 14, when the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will host the spring meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America at the JC Penney Conference Center. The Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will also take place during the event.

April 26 to 28, the campus hosts the Consilience Conference, where leading researchers come together to explore evolution in biology, the human sciences and the humanities at the JC Penney Conference Center. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward O. Wilson, whose work has spanned world-class biology into the synthesis of ideas across a broad intellectual spectrum, will give the keynote speech. The conference offers morning and afternoon sessions, with 18 scientists speaking over three days. This event is not free, but while the cost is \$155 for most, UMSL students pay only \$75. There is more information on the conference at the website <http://consilienceconference.com>.



Cate Marquis

On April 30, Dr. Stephen A. Kolodziej will present the 25th Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture. Another chemistry department event, it offers a look at the work of an UMSL alum and major figure in the field, often modeling a path to success. Kolodziej is an Associate Research Fellow at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer. After just over one year at Monsanto, he became Senior Research Investigator, Group Leader and Associate Fellow, holding that position as the company transformed into Pfizer. The lecture is followed by a reception and follows the presentation of the Annual Departmental Awards.

The Department of Physics and Astronomy hosts a monthly Observatory Open House, giving the public access to the stars through their 14-inch telescope. The viewing schedule is on the website www.umsl.edu/~physics/astro.

This is not a complete list of campus science events coming up this spring. The date of the annual Spencer and Spencer Lecture on computer science and math, one of the more interesting and accessible events, has yet to be set, although it usually takes place in April. All the science departments have more information on their events, and interested students should check online for details.

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

MAD WORLD

Nothing is more pointless than designer clothing for children

Designer clothing has always been a way to show your worth. In grade school there were certain items that indicated your acceptable social status: shoes that were the "right" brand and recognizable names on your jeans or polo shirt. In the past it was less about what was most expensive and more about what was "in" at the time. This is still the case, but the number of kids pushing for designer wear is growing at an alarming rate. Burberry, Versace, and Lanvin already have children's wear lines. Gucci recently released a line, Gucci Kids, aimed at little ones. What do these lines even include? Sized 3T Burberry trench coats and "blinged"-out bookbags?

However, children's designer wear does make some sense from a business perspective. Children have disposable income in that the amount they have to spend on themselves can be whatever they convince their parents to shell out, and apparently that is a lot. What kind of society are we living in where plenty of people would jump at the chance to purchase Ralph Lauren burp cloths and Chanel diapers, yet these same people could not care less about the conditions in which these items are made?

"Kiddie couture," as it's been called, highlights the amount of excess wealth in parts of society. Children tend to grow like weeds. People who are willing to pay half a grand for a Versace romper that their kid is just going to grow out of by their next meal obviously aren't worried

about the value of a dollar. Not to mention the fact that kids aren't known for their ability to take good care of their possessions. Buying overpriced designer wear for grubby-handed five-year-olds is the equivalent of giving those same kids \$50 bills to wipe their noses with.

Moreover, when parents push the importance of high-end designer wear as a status symbol, children learn to value such material things as easy estimates of self-worth without realizing it. Too young to fully understand the concept of money, children develop personal taste in two ways: by enjoying whatever appeals to them on a purely aesthetic level (bright colors, recognizable characters and cool things like cartoon dinosaurs) and by growing to like what they're taught is likeable by the people around them. There is not a five-year-old in the world with such naturally sophisticated taste as to truly appreciate couture fabric or the quality of well-made clothing without being taught to do so by someone else.

Encouraging children to express themselves is one thing. Experimenting with color and clothing can be a fun, harmless way for children to learn to express their creativity and personality through what they wear. However, teaching kids that designer wear is a shortcut to things like exclusivity, self-esteem and feeling good about how they look does them a disservice. Style does not have to mean spending a lot of money on high-priced cloth-



Sharon Pruitt

ing. Expressing oneself through fashion doesn't have to be expensive. An obsession with designer clothing is just a shortcut to feeling "stylish" and "fashionable" for those who lack the creativity and bravery to develop a personal style independent of trends and high resale value.

Even more troubling is the fact that much of this designer-wear for children is likely being hand-made by children in disadvantaged areas that spend 12 hours a day producing those bejeweled skinny jeans for pennies on the dollar. Parents need to be educating their children about global issues such as child labor, not contributing to an industry that supports it.

Children will learn soon enough that society will value them based on their physical appearances and bank accounts. How about we let them live in the innocent world of dinosaur t-shirts and Batman backpacks without valuing themselves by what's on the price tags for as long as they can? After all, weren't we granted that right?

Sharon Pruitt is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

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Horoscopes

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AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Go shorty - it's yo' birthday! But seriously, enjoy this week, even if it is not, in fact, your birthday. Never mind that huge bruise from the bite you received a few days ago - it will heal up just fine.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Brains are what's on the menu for you this week. I want you to take a week and just study, nonstop. After all, with the first month of school being over, early exams will be coming around the corner very soon.



ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

When your life's arch-nemesis absolutely refuses to leave you alone this week, keep in mind that Miss Valentine never gave up when endlessly haunted by her own through an entire city of daunting, infectious imbecility.



TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Spaniards can be exceptionally romantic according to modern standards of romance. Of course, the new girl from some vaguely hispanic European country who walks around campus with a rake may be deadly.



GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Chainsaws can be a survivor's best friend, right up until the local flesh-eaters discover how to wield these deadly machines. Keep in mind that karma always comes around, especially when using simple weaponry.



CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Do zombies gain exceptionally enhanced senses upon re-animation? If so, you may be perfectly safe when the walking dead finally begin to attack. It will be like you aren't even human.



LEO
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)

Grow your hair out. That, or else start hitting the gym. If the popular media of the day is any indication, it will be absolutely imperative that, as a man, you have either great hair or great muscles to survive.



VIRGO
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

That kid in class with the odd boils and exceptionally long tongue has looked very hungry as of late. In fact, you may want to take a few moments to re-evaluate your acquaintance following lunch this week.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Keep in mind that pump-action weaponry is essentially a death wish during a zombie apocalypse. Even the most well-boarded structure will eventually fall due to your slow firing and reload times.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

The end is nigh. This seems to be the only constant thought running through your mind as of late. Honestly, there are worse fates than yours. Consider Johnny down the street, who is being eaten as we speak.



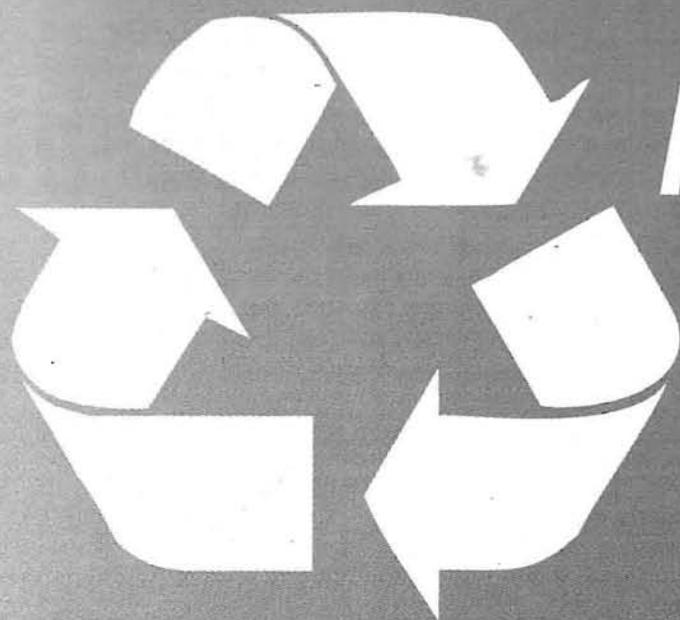
SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

When zombies prepare to attack your home, prepare a line of endless treadmills surrounding the entire house. As long as the power holds out, the zombies will endlessly fall over their own feet. Thank me later.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

The time is fast-approaching when survival of the fittest may become the name of the game. Keep in mind, however, that abandoning everybody will not aid you in the long run. Bring a cat for entertainment.

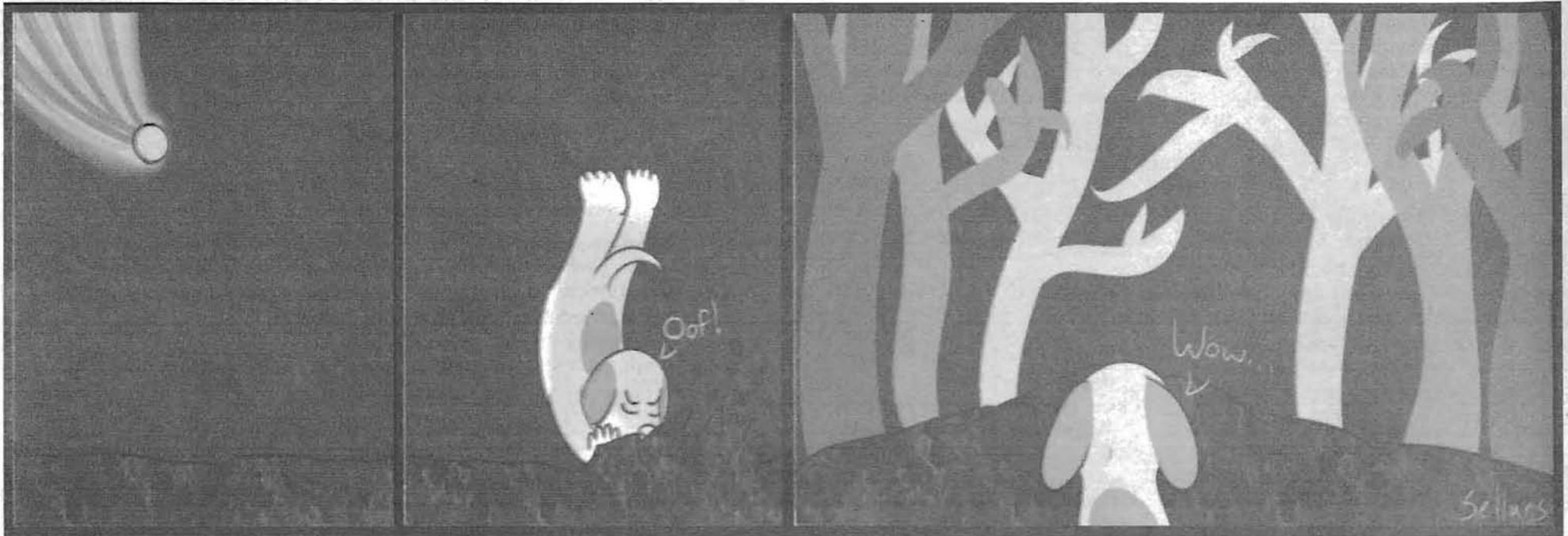


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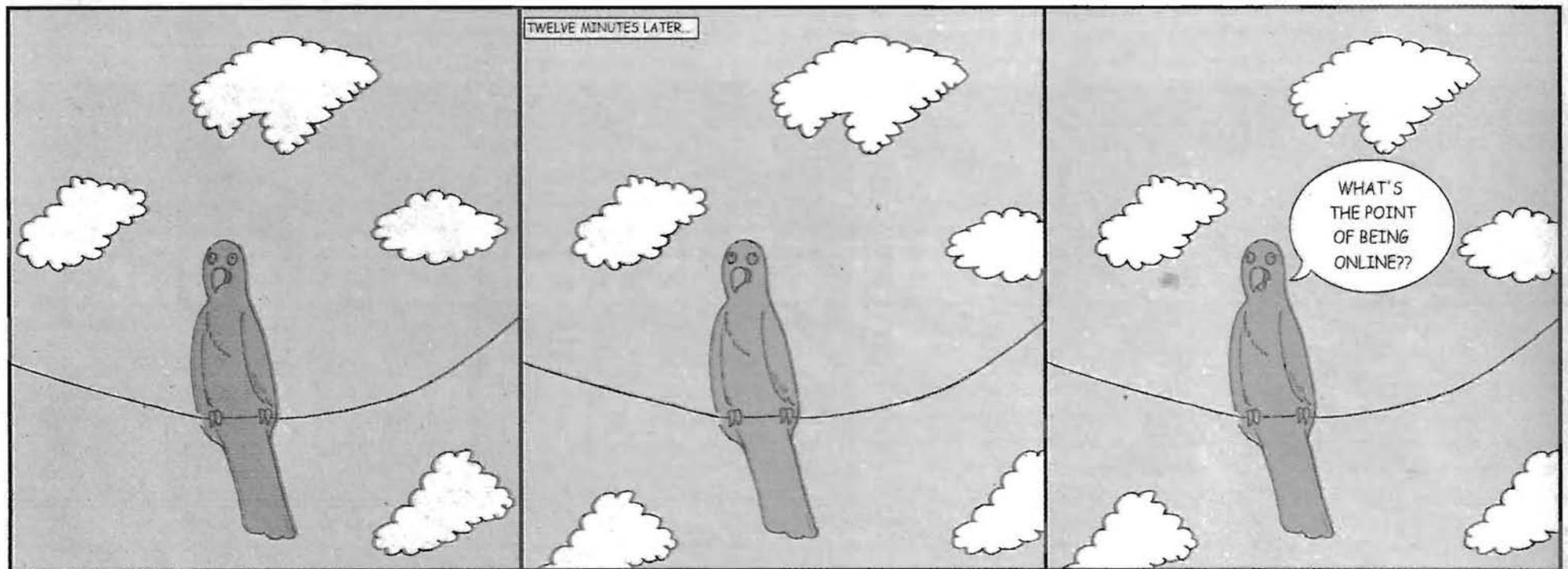
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