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# Study Abroad Fair spotlights study options

MADDIE HARNAD  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri – St. Louis Study Abroad Fair was held in Century Room C in the Millennium Student Center on August 30. Information about study abroad programs held in countries from Chile to China was made

available for UMSL students, faculty and staff to look over. Additionally, UMSL Study Abroad Office team members were available to answer questions concerning the university's study abroad programs.

Mia Michael, senior, history, is a Study Abroad assistant who worked on planning and preparing the fair.

"We hope to reach out to UMSL students and inform them of the many opportunities and benefits of studying abroad," Michael said. "It truly is one of the most exciting opportunities available to UMSL students. No matter what your major, study abroad will enhance your studies and expand your viewpoint."

A similar enthusiasm for studying abroad was found in the booths advertising programs available to students.

Eamonn Wall, Jefferson Smurfit Professor of Irish Studies, founded and coordinates UMSL's Irish Studies summer

program in Galway, Ireland. At the Study Abroad Fair, Wall manned a booth promoting the program.

"There's a lot of people coming and going through the fair, picking up brochures and asking questions about which are good," Wall said.

One of the main goals of the Study Abroad Fair was to create a forum for students interested in studying abroad to ask questions about logistics, financial aid and what the various programs have to offer.

"In general, I believe students responded with

*"We hope to reach out to UMSL students and inform them of the many opportunities and benefits of studying abroad... It truly is one of the most exciting opportunities available to UMSL students."* - Mia Michael

(continued on page 3)



UMSL Study Abroad fair at Century Room C. Photo by Yeseul Park/The Current

# Ferguson Farmers Market delivers local produce

ANYA GLUSHKO  
Assistant News Editor

This summer, Ferguson Farmers Market, located near the University of Missouri – St. Louis campus, is celebrating its 10th anniversary season.

Ferguson Farmers Market has been a Saturday morning tradition since 2002. The market is open from April to October and delivers fresh grown goods straight from the local farms into customers' hands. It brings a rural American feel to the city's suburbs.

be sold by wholesalers. Much of the produce is grown by organic methods, although little of it is certified organic.

Going to the market is a good way to spend a morning with friends or family. The market's comfortable atmosphere and soothing live music will leave visitors in a relaxed mood for the rest of the day.

There is a wide variety of goods — honey, eggs, nuts, spices, meats, jellies and many other foods — that you can often sample for free from the farmer's tent. There is also a big selection of homemade crafts and gifts ranging from

*The market's comfortable atmosphere and soothing live music will leave visitors in a relaxed mood for the rest of the day.*

Farmers sell fresh-picked fruits and vegetables in a traditional manner (credit cards are not accepted by many of the vendors). The produce is sold by the farmers who grew it, unlike many so-called farmers markets where the food may

clothing to sewn toys. This year's extreme heat record has affected many large-scale farmers.

"It was probably the most difficult year," said John Wilkerson of Mueller Farm. Ants that

(continued on page 4)



Ferguson Farmers Market has lots of local produce. Photo by Ahmad Aljurryed/The Current

# Sushi and sumo at Japanese Festival

LIZ MILLER  
Staff Writer

Ignoring the rain, thousands of visitors flocked to the metropolitan St. Louis area to participate in the Missouri Botanical Garden's Japanese Festival, an annual celebration of Japanese culture dating back to 1977.

This year's festival was held over a particularly soggy Labor Day weekend. Due to inclement weather, many events and activities were moved indoors, but the spirit of the event was not diminished.

"Isn't the rain delightful?" Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, president of the Missouri Botanical

colorfully extravagant outfits inspired by popular anime characters. One man amusingly appeared dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow, though the reason for the costume remains unknown.

One event featuring minuscule Japanese attire attracted a large crowd: sumo wrestling. The national sport of Japan since 1909, sumo wrestling is an integral component of the culture. The three retired sumo wrestlers present spoke of their years in the sport, cracked jokes and playfully teased the crowd. Overall, it was a pleasant atmosphere.

The cooking demonstration was also met with popular attendance. The informative and mouth



Japanese Festival at the Botanical Garden. Photo by Ahmad Aljurryed/The Current

Garden, asked, setting an upbeat tone for the entire festival as the ceremonies began.

Among the distinguished guests were Mayor Francis Slay, County Executive Charlie Dooley and Japanese ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki.

The festival officially commenced as these three dignitaries collectively broke the sake barrel, a tradition designed to bring about good fortune and friendship.

With an exciting and rousing Taiko drum presentation, the ceremony ended and guests were invited to partake in the drinking of the sake.

Taiko drumming is a traditional style of Japanese music-making in which colorfully dressed performers use drums, sticks and their own voices as musical instruments. It was impossible to avoid being drawn into such an emotional display of art and culture.

Several visitors to the Garden took a similar approach and arrived in full Japanese regalia. Some wore geisha-like kimonos and face paint, while many of the younger patrons wore

watering lesson not only taught guests how to prepare authentic Japanese cuisine, but also emphasized the diversity of the St. Louis region. Although the chefs were all Japanese natives, they were graciously welcomed to the St. Louis community. They volunteered for the festival as a way to give thanks to the people of the city.

The volunteers were not the only ones praising and celebrating the melting pot environment of this unique city. A promise of culture, cooking, entertainment, and generosity was met with thousands of faces eager for an authentic taste of Japanese life. Vendors selling everything from foodstuffs to tiny bonsai trees to jewelry to kimonos delighted many, and the entertainment they provided both informed and amused the massive audience.

The pervading mood of the festival was one of gratitude, giving back to the community and showcasing the cultural diversity of St. Louis. Fujisaki called Missouri a "good friend of Japan" and asserted that although Missouri was the last of the 50 states he visited, he had saved the best for last.

**Mon**  
High: 88  
Low: 72

**Tue**  
High: 89  
Low: 73

**Wed**  
High: 94  
Low: 69

**Thu**  
High: 85  
Low: 71

**Fri**  
High: 79  
Low: 64

**Sat**  
High: 78  
Low: 58

**Sun**  
High: 74  
Low: 59

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"Man, I wish the Current published stuff I care about."

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# What's Current

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

### Free wellness classes this week

Campus Recreation's aerobics and spinning classes are free this week, September 4 to 10, in the Mark Twain Recreation Center. Certified fitness instructors teach classes such as spinning, body challenge, pilates, turbo sculpt, yoga, water exercise training and more. When you experience the fun and benefits, you'll want to register for our Fall classes, which run through December 7. Register for classes at the Campus Recreation Office, 203 Mark Twain Recreation Center. For class descriptions, schedules and fees, visit our website <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport>. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office at (314) 516-5326.

### SisterScholars-In-Training

This event takes place from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in MSC room 313. As part of the Access to Success (A2S) Initiative, the purpose of this group is to provide a space for African American female students to enhance their intellectual and personal identities as they work toward degree attainment. For information, contact Dr. Angela Coker at (314) 516-6088.

### Study skills that make a difference

Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal-setting for studying, concentration, reading a textbook and basic test preparation. Event takes place from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Center for Student Success, MSC room 225. For information, contact Antonette Sterling at (314) 516-7994.

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

### Ferguson Lunch Trolley

The Ferguson Lunch Trolley will provide free round-trip shuttle service to Ferguson Citywalk restaurants for lunch. The trolley will make four continuous loops between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. from three pickup locations on campus. Sandwich board signs will be placed at trolley pickup sites at Woods Hall (west side) and MSC (east side) on North Campus and Marillac Hall (main entrance) on South Campus. Ferguson restaurants are Celebrity Southern Soul Food, Corner Coffee House, El Palenque, Faraci Pizza, Ferguson Brewing Co., Imo's Pizza, KFC, Little Caesars Pizza, Marley's Bar & Grill, Mimi's Subway Bar & Grill, New Chinese Gourmet, Popeye's Chicken, Queen's Chinese Restaurant, Quizno's, The Red Apple, Smokemasters BBQ & Fish, Subway, Vincenzo's Italian Ristorante and Whistle Stop. For information, contact Mary Haux at (314) 332-5546.

### Mindfulness Meditation

Mindfulness Meditation is a proven—and increasingly popular—method for reducing stress, anxiety, depression, insomnia and a variety of medical conditions. Incorporating Mindfulness into your schedule can enhance your overall well-being and allow you to live your life more fully. These weekly guided Mindfulness activities are free and open to beginning as well as experienced meditators. The event takes place from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Center for Student Success conference room in MSC room 225. For information, contact Jamie Linsin at (314) 516-5711.

### Resumes for the job fair

Need answers regarding writing a resume for the job fair? This workshop will help you determine the best approach for writing your resume. The workshop takes place from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Career Services, MSC room 278. Please register at [careers.umsl.edu](http://careers.umsl.edu). For information, contact Rachel Boehlow at (314) 516-5317.

### Fall Meet the Greeks presented by the Office of Greek Life

Interested in learning more about UMSL's fraternities and sororities? Join the Office of Greek Life for the Fall Meet the Greeks and learn more about the Greek-letter organizations that call UMSL home. Have all of your questions answered by current, active members and Office of Greek Life staff. The event takes place at 2 p.m. in the SGA Chambers in the MSC. For information, contact Brandon Nelson at (314) 516-4031.

### Getting the most from note-taking

Learn how to format and organize your notes to be the most beneficial for you. Session takes place from 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Center for Student Success, MSC room 225. For information, contact Antonette Sterling at (314) 516-7994.

### Comedy night with Justin Berkman

Enjoy a night of laughs with Justin Berkman, stand-up comedian, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Pilot House, on the lower level of the MSC. For information, contact Erin Potts or other UPB members at (314) 516-5531.

Thursday, September 6, 2012

### Entry deadline for Campus Rec activities

Sign-up deadline for the following Campus Recreation Leagues: coed volleyball (Monday nights, begins September 10), Flag Football (Men's 7-on-7, Tuesday afternoons, begins Sept. 11) and Indoor Soccer (Men's 6-on-6, Wednesday nights, begins Sept. 12). Team and individual entries accepted. Online registration is required by Sept. 6 at [www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/assets/pdfs/TeamSportSignup.pdf](http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/assets/pdfs/TeamSportSignup.pdf). For information, contact Campus Recreation Office at (314) 516-5326.

### Breakfast and Business

Breakfast and Business is sponsored by the College of Business Administration and takes place from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the SGA Chambers on the third floor of the MSC. The discussion topic for the event is "Lawyer as Entrepreneur: One Man's Experience." Discussion leader is Thomas F. Schlatky, Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP and President, The Saint Louis Brewery. For information, contact Jane Ferrell at (314) 516-5883.

**Starting and governing a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation**  
Come to this class to learn how to start a Missouri nonprofit corporation that will seek to obtain 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS. In addition, this class will also cover good governance policies, strategies and requirements that will allow your organization to maintain its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status on an ongoing basis. Cost to attend: \$89 (includes lunch). Takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. For information, contact Dan Sise at (314) 516-6378.

### Make the most of your learning style

Find out how you learn and process information best. Do you learn easily by listening, watching or doing? Maybe a combination of all three is best. Hemispheric dominance (right or left brain) will be explained. Understanding more about how our brains work helps us become more engaged, more confident and higher achievers. Specific studying, note-taking and learning strategies for each learning style are provided, from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Center for Student Success, MSC 225. For information, contact Antonette Sterling at (314) 516-7994.

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](mailto:thecurrenttips@umsl.edu), with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

### Winning the procrastination battle

How many times have you become sidetracked from doing an assignment? College students can easily fall into a cycle of procrastination. Understanding why you procrastinate is the key. This workshop will illustrate steps and techniques for avoiding procrastination from 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Center for Student Success, MSC 225. For information, contact Antonette Sterling at (314) 516-7994.

### Accountants' networking night

Please join us for a formal night of networking. Recruiters from several firms will be in attendance, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the MSC. For information, contact Stephanie Parrish at (314) 306-6236.

Friday, September 7, 2012

### ISS Short Course — Microsoft PowerPoint 2010 basics

This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of Microsoft 2010 PowerPoint. Learn how to use this application to give presentations or develop slideshows that may be required for classes, work or fun. Topics include: inserting images, what a ribbon is and how it is used, how to use clip art, how to design a presentation, custom animation, special effects, ideas for better presentation skills, how to print your slides, etc. UMSL only. Course takes place 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in SSB 102. For information, contact Tejas/Instructional Support Services Staff at <https://apps.umsl.edu/webapps/ITS/mygateway/training/login.cfm>.

### ISS Short Course — File management

This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of how to organize, save and access your files on a Windows-based PC that may be required for your classes, your job or your own computing purposes. Topics included organizing Windows Live email, backing up data, properly organizing files and folders, etc. UMSL only. Course takes place 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 102 of the Social Science Building. For information, contact Tejas/Instructional Support Services Staff at <https://apps.umsl.edu/webapps/ITS/mygateway/training/login.cfm>.

### Winning research awards

This faculty-only seminar takes place 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the CTL Conference Room, 589 Lucas Hall. Learn about support available from the Office of Research Administration, the Office of International Studies and the University of Missouri Research Board (proposals are due October 2). Recent recipients and faculty who have served on the University of Missouri Research Board answer questions and offer insights into successful proposals. Co-sponsored by the Office of Research Administration. For information, contact Margaret W. Cohen at (314) 516-7133.

### Great Getaway

This is a Friday to Saturday overnight trip sponsored by the UMSL Catholic Newman Center. We will travel to Babler State Park for a short weekend away from the stresses of orientations and new classes and new schedules. The outing includes a bonfire, brain-teaser and team-builder games. Cabins feature functional plumbing and showers. We leave on Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll return on Saturday around 3 p.m. Cost is only \$10. Register online at <http://www.umsl.edu/~newman/cnc/greatgetaway.html> by September 5. For information, contact Rachele Simon at (314) 385-3455.

### Arianna String Quartet concert "Celebration!"

Aptly titled, the evening marks Yulia Sakharova's first concert as the new second violinist of the Arianna String Quartet and kicks off the start of the classical music season in St. Louis. Composer and violinist Kenji Bunch will join the ASQ on stage to perform his string quintet "String Circle," a piece he composed for ASQ's own Joanna Mendoza. She describes "String Circle" as the "sounds of old friends coming together," integrating jazz, rock and bluegrass in a joyous combination of sounds. Music includes Haydn's String Quartet, Op. 33 No. 2 "The Joke," Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 3 in F Major and Bunch's "String Circle" String Quintet, featuring special guest Kenji Bunch, composer and violinist. Discount student and faculty/staff tickets available. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at (314) 516-4949.

Saturday, September 8, 2012

### Union Leadership and Administration

This course, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in J.C. Penney room 62, will focus on the roles and challenges of union leadership in a changing environment. Topics will include the union leader's roles as representative, organizer and educator as well as administrative responsibilities within the union and the relationship with enterprise management in both adversarial and participatory situations. Options for leadership style and organizational models will be discussed and explored in both theory and practice. Leaders will develop their skills of motivation, speaking, strategic planning and managing complex campaigns and diverse organizations. For information, contact Jennifer Clemente at (314) 516-5994.

### Tennis Tournament

Campus Recreation tennis tournament for all skill levels. Divisions include men's and women's singles (advanced, intermediate and beginner). Open to students, faculty and staff. To enter, or for information call the Recreation Office at (314) 516-5326 by 2 p.m. Friday, September 7.

### Nine keys to effective business writing

Business writing has changed dramatically over the past 20 years or so due to the advances in technology and the changing roles of secretaries. "Nine keys to effective business writing" will explain the basics of business writing, including which grammar and punctuation rules you must follow and which rules are now considered "personal preference," as well as give you techniques for getting started when you're having trouble putting "fingers to keyboard." Fee: \$65. Takes place 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 403 J.C. Penney Conference Center. For information, contact Mary Gough at (314) 516-5974.

Sunday, September 9, 2012

### Panhellenic recruitment orientation

Orientation/Informational Day, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. September 9 and 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sept. 10. Located in the Century Rooms of the MSC. This event will allow potential members of UMSL sororities to learn more about Panhellenic recruitment process and our member sororities, including Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha. Registration for Panhellenic recruitment will be open at this event. If you still need to register please bring four photos of yourself, your high school or college transcripts and the \$25 registration fee. More details are available on our website <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/osl/Greek%20Life/Recruitment.html>. For information, contact Panhellenic@umsl.edu or Kelly Forsythe at (314) 516-5291.

# Crimeline and Reports

### Delayed Theft Report at Thomas Jefferson Library

August 27, 2012 – 4:18 p.m. – Report # 12-348  
An UMSL student reported that on August 21, 2012 around 5:30 p.m., someone stole a parking permit and prescription glasses from a folder that was mistakenly left in a restroom. Disposition: Report taken.

### Theft at Oak Hall

August 27, 2012 – 6:15 p.m. – Report # 12-350  
An UMSL student reported that between 7 p.m. on August 26 and 8 a.m. August 27, someone stole their locked Trek bicycle from outside Oak Hall. Disposition: Report taken.

### Peace disturbance at University Meadows

August 27, 2012 – 10:35 p.m. – Report # 12-351  
Two UMSL students reported another student yelling and cursing at them. Disposition: Report taken.

### Theft at Millennium North parking garage

August 28, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. – Report # 12-352  
An UMSL student reported that someone stole a parking permit off their car while parked on August 23 between noon and 3:30 p.m. Disposition: Report taken.

### Auto accident and leaving the scene at University Meadows parking lot

August 28, 2012 – 5:00 p.m. – Report # 12-355  
An UMSL student reported an auto accident and leaving the scene that occurred between 7 p.m. August 27 and 2 p.m.

on August 28.  
**Theft at Benton Hall**  
August 28, 2012 – 5:30 p.m. – Report # 12-356  
A laptop was reported stolen from Benton Hall.

### Theft at Thomas Jefferson Library

August 29, 2012 – 1:00 p.m. – Report # 12-357  
An unattended wallet containing cash and credit cards was stolen from a study carrel. Disposition: Report taken.

### Threatening email at Bellerive Hall

August 29, 2012 – 1:47 p.m. – Report # 12-358  
An UMSL student received threatening emails regarding posts on social media networks. Disposition: Report taken.

### Auto accident at South Campus parking garage

August 29, 2012 – 6:35 p.m. – Report # 12-359  
Minor accident, two vehicles involved.

### Theft at Mansion Hill Apartments

August 30, 2012 – 2:10 p.m. – Report # 12-360  
An UMSL student reported that their UMSL parking decal was stolen from their parked car. Disposition: Report taken.

### Auto accident at Express Scripts parking lot

August 30, 2012 – 4:26 p.m. – Report # 12-362  
Minor accident, two vehicles involved (Express Scripts Employees). Disposition: Information only.

# News

## Monday Noon Series returns with wide variety of events

SHARON PRUITT  
News Editor

The Monday Noon Cultural Series will return this fall with a new lineup of events for the public to enjoy, featuring performances and lectures centered around the arts and humanities field. The Series takes place at University of Missouri – St. Louis throughout the academic year. Each event is held on select Mondays from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

"The intended audience is broad, diverse and wide-ranging in terms of interests, age, educational background and ethnicity," Karen Lucas, associate director of the Center for the Humanities, said. "At any given program you can find audience members from on campus — faculty, staff and students — and from off campus, including many retirees and workers on their lunch hour. They all come to learn something new or unique and to enjoy talks and performances by artists, musicians, historians, fiction writers, poets, political analysts, philosophers and film experts."

The list of planned events for Fall 2012 will kick off on September 10 with Paula Hanssen, coordinator of German studies at Webster University, introducing audience members to Germany's "Cowboy and Indian" culture.

This semester the Series will also include a visit from the Arianna String Quartet, a reading and discussion with St. Louis-based novelist John Dalton and a film screening and discussion of work by Los Angeles-based director Julian Higgins.

Cary Lee Thornton, Jr. — an UMSL graduate, retired FBI agent and author — will discuss and read from his book "Oath of Office." Terry Jones, political consultant and UMSL professor of political science, will host a discussion on the importance of the upcoming election. Tullia Hamilton, St. Louis nonprofit consultant, writer

and researcher, will read from and discuss her new book "Up from Canaan: The African American Journey from Mound Bayou to St. Louis."

Local up-and-coming artist Gina Alvarez, whose work is included in the "Exposure 15: Re-Domestic" exhibit in Gallery 210 this Sept., will be speaking on her work and artistic process. Charlene Clark and Deborah Bloom of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will perform on violin and piano.

Alex Vergilesov and Matt Barrett, scholastic coordinators at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, will present "Learning to learn through chess: an in-depth look at the educational contributions of chess to St. Louis."

A Q&A session will follow each event, furthering the opportunity for audience members to learn more about the day's topic.

"That is our goal—to have something for everyone and give the audience an opportunity to develop new interests," Lucas said. "So we try to make sure we cover many different forms of the Arts and Humanities and what they contribute to the quality of life in our region."

The Monday Noon Series has been in existence for over 20 years. It is sponsored in part by the Missouri Arts Council, the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission and UMSL's Gallery 210.

The series is free and requires no registration to attend. Coffee and light refreshments are served and audience members are welcome to bring their lunch to the event.

The Series meets in J.C. Penney Conference Center 402, unless otherwise noted on their website. For a full list of events and event descriptions, visit the Monday Noon Series and Center for the Humanities online at <http://umslce.org/index.php/monday-noon-series>.

## UPB's 'Minute To Win It' created fun and games

KATHRYN BEWIG  
Staff Writer

The University Program Board hosted "Minute to Win It" in the Quarters arcade near the Nosh in the Millennium Student Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on August 27. Students in attendance were given the opportunity to win prizes and compete against their friends.

There were a wide variety of games available for students to enjoy. All of the game ideas came from NBC's Minute to Win It website. The event included everything from puzzles to ping-pong ball challenges. One game even involved a toothbrush. Most of the games were challenging to students, but many stuck around until they won at least one prize.

Scott Morrissey, administrative chair of the University Program Board, was in charge of creating the games.

According to Morrissey, most of the games from the website that were part of the event were altered in order to use what resources were available. Morrissey had to get creative in putting a few of them together in order to fit the NBC description.

The first 45 minutes of the event were very busy for the hosts. Because the event took place right next to the Nosh, students passing by often became curious and

Many students brought their friends along to cheer them on, creating an atmosphere of excitement. The sense of enthusiasm made the event a lot more fun for the students that participated.

Perhaps the most exciting feature of this event was the list of prizes available to any games winners.

Students were encouraged to play as many games as they liked. Upon winning, they were presented with a choice of items from the prize table. Prizes included t-shirts, headphones and even a portable fold-up chair. Winners were also automatically entered into a raffle for an iTunes gift card. The majority of the prizes were gone by noon.

In addition, like at any UPB event, students who attended were entered into a raffle to win an iPad. The winner will be announced at the end of the semester.

The UPB aims to encourage students to be active participants in their school environment. To further this goal, they try to plan as many fun events as possible for students to enjoy. The first two weeks of the semester have been packed full of fun and free events planned by the UPB.

"The events help students relax," Morrissey said. "The first few weeks are stressful." These events have provided students with the

*Students were encouraged to play as many games as they liked. Upon winning, they were presented with a choice of items from the prize table.*



Visitors enter UMSL's Study Abroad Fair.

Photo by Yeseul Park/The Current

## Study Abroad Fair

(continued from page 1)

curiosity and motivation about the possibilities for study abroad," Amy Fillo, Study Abroad and Faculty Led Programs coordinator, said. "UMSL offers so many different types of programs, and for the students exploring their options, the wealth of programs presented was inspiring to them."

Additionally, the fair featured a unique opportunity for prospective study abroad students to speak with students who had previously studied abroad. Overall, the students who had studied abroad attested to gaining personal insight and valuable knowledge from their experiences.

One such student was Margaret Gambaro, senior, art

"We welcomed a steady crowd of students throughout the event, many of whom were coming to learn about study abroad for the first time," Fillo said. "It is especially important for our office to increase that general awareness of study abroad on campus, and the Study Abroad Fair is an exciting opportunity to do just that."

The Study Abroad Fair aimed to give individual attention to students interested in studying abroad. Study Abroad Office staff answered questions one-on-one with students.

"I especially enjoyed talking with students about their dreams and goals for international study," Fillo said.

*"My experience studying abroad was almost indescribable... It was truly amazing and opened my mind to so many different cultures." - Gambaro*

history, who spent time studying in London.

"My experience studying abroad was almost indescribable," Gambaro said. "It was truly amazing and opened my mind to so many different cultures. I'm happy to share my experience with others who are interested in maybe studying abroad."

With a steady stream of interested students flowing in and out of Century Room C, the Study Abroad Office staff found the fair to be an overall success.

"So many students are determined to make study abroad a part of their academic experience at UMSL and it was great to speak with them individually about what they want to accomplish."

Students who are interested in studying abroad are encouraged to stop by the Study Abroad Office located at MSC 261 or e-mail the office at [studyabroad@umsl.edu](mailto:studyabroad@umsl.edu).



The upside-down map shows the perspective from the Southern Hemisphere. Photo by Yeseul Park/The Current

## News Briefs

### UMSL Night at the Ballpark

Join UMSL students and alumni for a night of baseball at Busch Stadium on Friday, September 7. The St. Louis Cardinals will face the Milwaukee Brewers. First pitch is at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Office of Student Life.

### Panhellenic recruitment begins

UMSL Panhellenic sorority recruitment will begin on September 9 with an Orientation/Informational Day from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Those interested in joining one of the three Panhellenic sororities at UMSL—Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha—must register to participate in the fall recruitment process. A completed application, four photos of yourself, academic transcripts and a \$25 registration fee are required for registration to be completed. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, Sept. 11.

### The Center for Student Success helps students tackle procrastination

# Features

## Advice Column Ask The Blair

BLAIR CONNER  
Features Editor



Dear The Blair,

I've got a problem. See, I started dating a girl I work with. We fell in love, and it was great. It was probably the best 10 months of my life. We had some ups and downs like every couple, but for the most part, it was good. Then she broke up with me. Now she's back with her ex, and I have to see her at work all the time. How can I get over her if I have to see her constantly? What do I do? Please help!

Thank you,  
No More Whistling While I Work

Dear Whistle,

This is a mistake many people make. You can't get into a relationship with a co-worker unless it is a purely sexual one. If you two can do the friends-with-benefits thing and never get attached, it's an acceptable scenario, but any other type of relationship will just cause problems.

Even if things go great all the time, you'll still be "that couple" at work. You'll still make people jealous, mad, sad or just irritated. I've been there. People resent seeing all that.

Now, it's too late for that in your case, but just keep it in mind in the future. Don't date co-workers.

In your case, it sounds like one of you needs to find a new job. You are right; you'll have a much harder time getting over her with her there. You need distance from

this girl to get your head on straight. You'll always miss her and think about her if she's right there.

I would suggest that you try talking to her and deciding together which one of you needs to leave, but if she's back with her ex and making the fact obvious, she doesn't care that much about your well-being anyway.

You really only have a few options: you can try to arrange your schedule so you don't see her, you can get a new job or you can suffer. I really don't see another solution for you.

Sorry the advice is so grim, but it's just a nasty situation.

Everyone has been there, so don't think you made a huge mistake. It's just that burner on the stove we have to touch before we realize that we shouldn't do it again.

The Blair



Ferguson Farmers Market sells local produce from small farmers.

Photo by Ahmad Aljurryed/The Current

## Ferguson Farmers Market

(continued from page 1)

remained active because of the warm winter destroyed a large part of his crops. Wilkerson had to cut the price of his potatoes in half.

Elen Schieffer of the Sugar Creek Piedmontese beef farm in Elsberry, Missouri was concerned about how the heat would affect her cows. "People are liquidating their herds for lack of pasture," she said. According to her, beef prices will go up next spring. When stores need to refill stocks, there will not be enough produce.

There has also been a major drop in corn production. "Because of the drought, only 10 to 15 bushels per acre remained, compared to the normal average of 80 to 100," said Schieffer.

Yet for most local farmers it has been a good year, despite the drought.

"There was not a decrease in community farmers," Paul Rabold, one of the market's technicians, said. "It was an overall good season."

Heat did not seem to affect the variety of produce from Hahns Farm in Campbell, Missouri. Their table was full of ripe fruits and vegetables like peaches, watermelons, tomatoes and many other delicious snacks.

"Sales are pretty good," Maria Hahn said. "We had to grow a lot of crops to make a profit."

For another farmer, Nicklaus Gaut of Mustache Academy Farms in Bel-Ridge, Missouri, variety stayed diverse and unique despite the heat.

Gaut sells thematically named goods, such as "Stache-

Aid," which is a natural strawberry and regular lemonade with a mustache-decorated straw. His farm's slogan is "Where we grow great food... and mustaches."

There have been many farmers in Gaut's family, so he decided to continue the tradition.

"Chemicals are not included with purchase," reads Gaut's sign.

"You know where the food comes from... most of it is grown five to 10 miles away," Gaut said in reference to the produce at the market.

The Ferguson Farmers Market hosts dozens of farmers, bringing people out of their homes on Saturday mornings. "It is a good variety. It is nice to see that people come out to support the local community," second-time market visitor David French said.

"This is just a part of my Saturdays," Norma Schwenk, a regular visitor to the market, said. "There is always good produce from local farmers. It is healthy and economical."

The Ferguson Farmers Market is open on Saturdays from April to October and runs from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

The market's website, <http://fergmarket.com>, has a list of seasonal produce as well as the names of local farmers. The website also has information concerning the musicians and bands that provide live music at the market.

The market is located at 20 South Florissant Road just north of UMSL in the Ferguson Citywalk district.



## You never know.

Condoms break, pills are missed  
...things happen.

Emergency Contraception Plan B (also known as the morning-after-pill) prevents unintended pregnancy when taken within 5 days after unprotected sex.

So, plan ahead.

Back up your birth control with Plan B.

# A&E

## Murder by Death fills The Plush with indie rock anthems

DAVID VON NORDHEIM  
A&E editor

A Monday night is, admittedly, not the ideal time for an evening of southern-fried indie rock. However, the modest crowd gathered at The Plush on August 20 more than made up for the unfortunate scheduling. The audience received headliner Murder by Death and the equally outstanding openers with rabid enthusiasm.

The alt country hijinks began with 4 on the Floor, a boozy, bluesy southern rock outfit of Minnesota natives whose set was propelled by the very same rhythmic pulse that earned them their name. Each member of the band was given a personal bass drum to plod on during the performance, thereby creating their stomping sound. Although it was, in effect, little more than a novelty, the band's talent for stone-cold postmodern blues rock aptly demonstrated that they were more than a four-drum pony.

Sandwiched between 4 on the Floor and Murder by Death was alt country outfit Ha Ha Tonka. The group's members, who hail from the Ozark swamplands that provide their namesake, were welcomed like local heroes by the surprisingly fervent audience. Although they are still relatively unknown outside of a dedicated cult following, Ha Ha Tonka has headlined plenty of tours of their own. They certainly played with the well-earned confidence and charisma of a headliner.

Much like Alabama's Drive-By Truckers, Ha Ha Tonka offers a surprisingly earnest take on their region's musical traditions. An electric mandolin, a twist on the traditional country music instrument, factored heavily into their set and often circumvented the guitar as the lead instrument.

The set was punctuated with an a cappella rendition of the traditional folk ballad "Gallows Pole," which could

have easily come across as a stunt in the hands of a lesser group but was done with impressive sincerity and ability by Ha Ha Tonka. Their irrepressible energy and charm made it clear that they had no intent of playing second fiddle (or mandolin, rather) even if they were not billed as an opening act.

In contrast to the galloping joy of Ha Ha Tonka, headliner Murder by Death inhabited a far more somber side of the emotional spectrum. Influenced equally by the cathartic emo of post-rock and the hyper-literate murder balladry of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, the group offered a typically intense performance that struck a chord with both college trendsters and greasy blue collars.

The band's latest tour celebrates the 10th anniversary of their debut, a milestone that they commemorated with a set list spanning all six of their albums. Highlights included "You Don't Miss Twice (When You're Shavin' With a Knife)," which clanged about with junkyard percussion that sounded like the stuff of a Tom Waits B-side.

Even more engaging were the performances of the members themselves. Spirited vocalist Adam Turla, whose head flapped about like a deranged Muppet, delighted the audience with his animated commentary and tour stories. Multi-instrumentalist Vincent Edwards stunned the audience with his equal prowess on keyboard, accordion, trumpet, hand percussion and, most incredible of all, a Theremin that he rigged to spout fireworks.

Featuring three groups offering very different takes on Midwestern musical tradition, the concert was total alt country Nirvana. With expert raconteurs and revelators at the fore, it was a riotous evening that was only slightly spoiled by the looming specter of Tuesday morning.

Grade: B+



Headline act Murder by Death

Photo by Greg Whitaker/Bloodshot Records

## LouFest starts and ends strong, but the middle needs work

DAVID VON NORDHEIM  
A&E editor

Center Field in Forest Park was reduced to little more than a confetti-strewn sinkhole after the third annual LouFest, a two-day extravaganza which brings local talent and indie illuminati to the park for a weekend of live music and overpriced beer. Past lineups have boasted such luminaries as The Roots, TV on the Radio and Cat Power. This year was no exception, the highlights being a typically incendiary set by distortion freaks Dinosaur Jr. and the psychedelic pyrotechnics of The Flaming Lips.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the first evening was Dinosaur Jr. The band, fronted by the iconic duo J. Mascis and Lou Barlow, was backed by eight Marshall amplifiers, bringing their trademark sludge to a glorious, eardrum shattering apex. Mascis silently unleashed the blistering guitar solos that provide the backbone of every Dinosaur Jr. classic, looking every bit the part of the elder statesman of indie rock which his reputation maintains. Barlow, the more animated of the pair, was just as fearsome a performer, playing his bass with bowel churning fury while tossing off corny one-liners to the audience.

The band's set list focused primarily on their most renowned and beloved material, including the bulk of their classic debut "You're Living All Over Me" and the fluke 90s alt rock radio hit "Feel the Pain." There were some interesting detours, however, the best of which was an impossibly heavy cover of The Cure's "Just Like Heaven" and a hardcore punk anthem decrying secondary education.

Though it would have been ideal to end the first night's festivities on the high note of Dinosaur Jr.'s blistering set, these rock legends were forced instead to open for the gratingly obnoxious Girl Talk. Girl Talk, the alias of DJ Greg Gillis, has sustained an entire career with a single gimmick: the ironic mash-up. It is the very definition of a novelty act, and though it might make for an amusing viral video, it simply cannot sustain a two-hour live performance.

Gillis's set pieces were, admittedly, pretty spectacular. The stage crew mummified the audience with a toilet paper firing gun as flying pizza slices and zebra hand puppets zoomed by on an enormous LED display.

Still, these distractions cannot prevent mash-ups such as Missy Elliot's "Get Ur Freak On" over The Ramones' "Blitzkrieg Bop" from growing tiresome. As Gillis tossed

out half-hearted hype-ups and the VIP pass carriers ground on stage to the Frankenmusic, it was hard not to feel like the audience was simply making the best of being locked outside a nightclub.

If there was one other point of contention with this year's LouFest, it was the heavy emphasis on alt country acts. Cotton Mather, Son Volt, the Pernikoff Brothers and Dawes all offered solid, if incongruent, performances, but they sounded more akin to something one might hear at a county fair than at an indie rock festival.

Fortunately, Sunday's excellent lineup alleviated the bad aftertaste of Girl Talk's pop culture puke.

Shoegazers Wild Nothing played their jangly, synth driven rock without energy, but the audience reacted enthusiastically to the music, even spawning a gang line.

Wild Nothing was followed by indie pop phenomenon Cults, whose internet smash "Go Outside" was transformed into a sort of theme song for the festival.

Of course, it was difficult to heed Cults' advice during the massive downpour which followed. The festival was temporarily reduced to polite anarchy as concertgoers jostled for the few bits of shelter from the torrent. Fortunately, the rain was not enough to dampen their spirits for the Flaming Lips. By 7 p.m., a crowd had already swarmed the stage, largely forsaking co-headliner Dr. Dog to watch the stage crew calibrate the Lips' fog machine.

As for the Lips themselves, their performance was not so much a musical experience as religious one. Wayne Coyne made good on his promise that the audience would leave having experienced "group cosmic orgasm."

A tempest of confetti and streamers assailed the crowd during "Race for the Prize;" Wayne Coyne rolled on top of the audience in a giant plastic bubble set to Pink Floyd's "On the Run;" gigantic laser-shooting hands ignited a disco ball during "See the Leaves" and a giant inflatable catfish and man-sized balloons bombed the audience for "The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song."

The obligatory closer "Do You Realize?" was transformed into a paean for universal love as the entire audience sang the chorus in unison before a final, climactic explosion of steam and lasers marked the band's exit.

Wayne Coyne summarized the proceedings perfectly with his admittedly self-superior assertion that LouFest was truly a Flaming Lips concert with 12 opening bands. It is difficult to disagree.

LouFest: B  
The Lips: A+

## Movies opening Friday, September 7

subject to change

### THE WORDS

A romantic drama about a successful writer (Bradley Cooper) who must face the consequences of stealing another writer's work. Also stars Zoe Saldana, Dennis Quaid and Olivia Wilde. Directed by Brian Klugman.

### COSMOPOLIS

A rather surreal story from writer/director David Cronenberg, based on a Don DeLillo novel, in which a 28 year-old billionaire (Robert Pattinson) in a high tech limo rides through the streets of New York, discussing economic matters with various acolytes he picks up along the way. Also stars Juliette Binoche, Sarah Gadon, Samantha Morton, Mathieu Almalric and Jay Baruchel.

### SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN

Documentary about two South Africans searching for what became of their favorite musician, 1970s rocker Rodriguez.

### SAMSARA (Plaza Frontenac only)

An absolutely gorgeous and meditative cinemagraphic world tour set to an irresistible musical score with time lapse photography and editing creativity offering visits to world archeological sites, glimpses of folk culture and modern cities, all with music and pictures only. A must-see big screen experience.

# Sports

## League coaches expect Tritons volleyball team to contend for West Crown this season

LEON DEVANCE  
Sports Editor

It is clear that the University of Missouri - St. Louis volleyball team has talent. Earlier this year, the Great Valley Lakes Conference coaches pegged UMSL as second in the conference.

While the UMSL team has the talent to fulfill expectations for the 2012 season, they have not yet achieved the desired results. UMSL is off to a 0-4 start.

UMSL opened the weekend in the Days Inn Bulldog Invitational against Winona State and dropped a three-set match, losing 25-17, 25-22 and 25-15. UMSL then lost the nightcap against Ashland, 25-18, 25-17

and 25-23. Minnesota-Duluth, ranked seventh, swept UMSL 25-22, 25-17 and 25-19. UMSL lost the match against host Truman State 3-1.

Now UMSL is preparing to travel to Rolla for the Middle of Everywhere tournament next Friday and then for the 2012 home opener against Illinois-Springfield

is not to make unforced errors that beat our shelves and shoot us in the foot or make mistakes. We have to make smart plays and play together on the court," Young said.

UMSL finished 19-10 overall and 13-5 in the conference and made it to the first round of the GLVC play-offs. The 2012 schedule includes three tournaments and 18 contests in GLVC play. UMSL will play against four teams who ranked in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II coaches' Top 25 pre-season list, including Truman State, Missouri S&T

and Emporia State.

Young said that UMSL has a more versatile team than last year.

"We have more flexibility this year. And there is more competition for positions and playing time. We have five new kids that will mesh with the returning players

*Coach Ryan Young predicts that UMSL can have a successful season and the team's defense will be the key.*

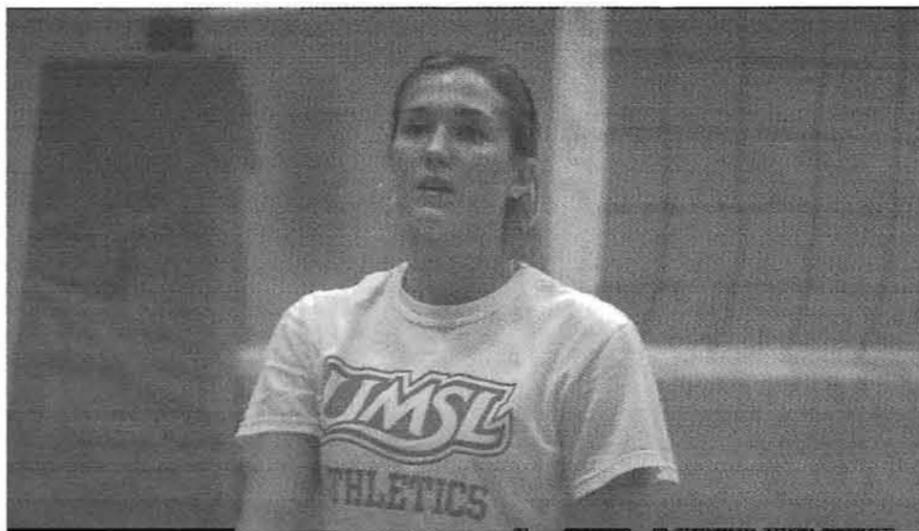
*"We have more flexibility this year. And there is more competition for positions and playing time. We have five new kids that will mesh with the returning players and whose motors never stop." Ryan Young*

on September 14 and Quincy on September 15. Coach Ryan Young predicts that UMSL can have a successful season and the team's defense will be the key.

"Our strength this year will be our defense. So we need to be consistent on the court. The biggest thing for us

and whose motors never stop," Young said.

"Freshman Shelby Bishop [biology], junior Halley Brightwell [business], senior setter Lindsey Meyer [political science], freshman middle blocker Hannah Miller [graphic design] and freshman middle blocker



Defensive specialist/libero Shelby Bishop court

Photo by Leon Devance/The Current

Jessica Ploss [criminal justice] work pretty well together and are eager to learn our system," Young said.

Last year UMSL ran a 5-1 offensive set. The addition of Meyer, who had 644 assists and 267 digs as prep player, allows UMSL to run a 6-2 set.

Another positive the newcomers bring to UMSL is a fresh attitude.

"The position junior and senior players have stepped up and mentored the newcomers, welcomed them to the team and explained things to them," he said. Seniors Jennie Manis [business management], Liz Jaeger [nursing] and Haley Woods [nursing] and juniors Chelsea Burkle [nursing] and Corrine Hoekestar [social work], have been positive. "They just need to have good chemistry, communicate better, stick together and make plays," Young said.

Anna McNulty, senior, communications, is a two-year veteran and led UMSL 1,152 assists to rank fourth in the GLVC last year. McNulty had 10.77 assists per set and added 26 service aces and 1.68 digs per set last year.

UMSL also expects to have Kelsie Rankin, senior,

physical education, a three-year starter who was "red-shirted" last season because of a knee injury. Rankin is not expected to play until mid-October.

The GLVC coaches have picked UMSL to finish second in the conference behind defending champion Indianapolis, who received 119 points and 14 first-place votes to lead the Eastern Division.

Rockhurst received 80 points for third place, edging Quincy, who had 76 points. Drury landed in fifth with 70 points. William Jewell collected 56 points. Maryville received 39 points, and Illinois Springfield rounded out the field with 28 points.

Young expects a competitive race for the Western Division crown.

"Southern Indiana is a tough team to beat and work well as a team together and they return some decent players. Rockhurst has good size, good defense and has consistency in their play. Missouri S&T has returning players, chemistry and communicates well on the court. If we do not make unforced errors and mistakes, then we have a good chance to win," Young said.

## Health Column Fit and Fierce

STACY BECKENHOLDT

Staff Writer

Many people believe that adding regular exercise to their schedules is enough to reach their weight loss goals. While many would argue for the something-is-better-than-nothing theory, hours of sweaty effort will be mostly in vain without the support of a healthy diet.

Upon deciding to change one's diet to something healthier, there can be confusion about selecting a food plan to follow. One can follow an established diet plan or build an individual plan from the ground up. Whichever way you choose, some education on the benefits and downfalls of specific diets will help you make an informed decision.

Darin Hulslander, Certified Nutrition Specialist, National Academy of Sports Medicine, first warns against gimmicky weight loss tricks such as Sensa. This product is sprinkled on food to enhance sweet and salty flavors, causing the user to eat less.

"The number one major flaw with the sprinkle diet is that the majority of people who are overweight and/or obese eat when they are not hungry and do not stop when they are full," Hulslander said.

In addition to lacking long-term sustainability, fad diets lack nutritional education, personal growth and long-term results.

On the positive side, there are many types of healthy diets to choose from, all of which incorporate limitations to daily calories and fat intake. Low carb diets have seen huge improvements since Atkins was all the rage 15 years ago.

No longer focusing on simple elimination of all carbohydrates, both the Atkins diet and the South Beach diet now encourage users to incorporate healthy proteins and healthy carbohydrates, most of which come in the form of fruits and vegetables.

Hulslander points to another benefit of low carb diets: reduced appetite. "The major benefit to low carb diets is that there is a spike in fat that goes into your body which, at rest, is in a 'fat burning mode' or zone," Hulslander said. "Because your body is in that zone, the hormones that trigger appetite are more focused on burning that fat since it has spiked, thus suppressing the appetite."

Calorie counting diets are those in which users focus on a calorie limit or a range of calories to consume each day. Focusing on a healthy range—generally between 1600 and 1800 calories a day—prevents dieters from under eating. In order to be healthy, it is necessary to eat



a certain amount of food each day to support the functions of the body.

Low fat diets focus on eating fewer fat grams per day or only eating foods that contain less than a certain percentage of fat. As with any diet, there are variations in what specifically is being tracked—total fat content or just certain types of fats.

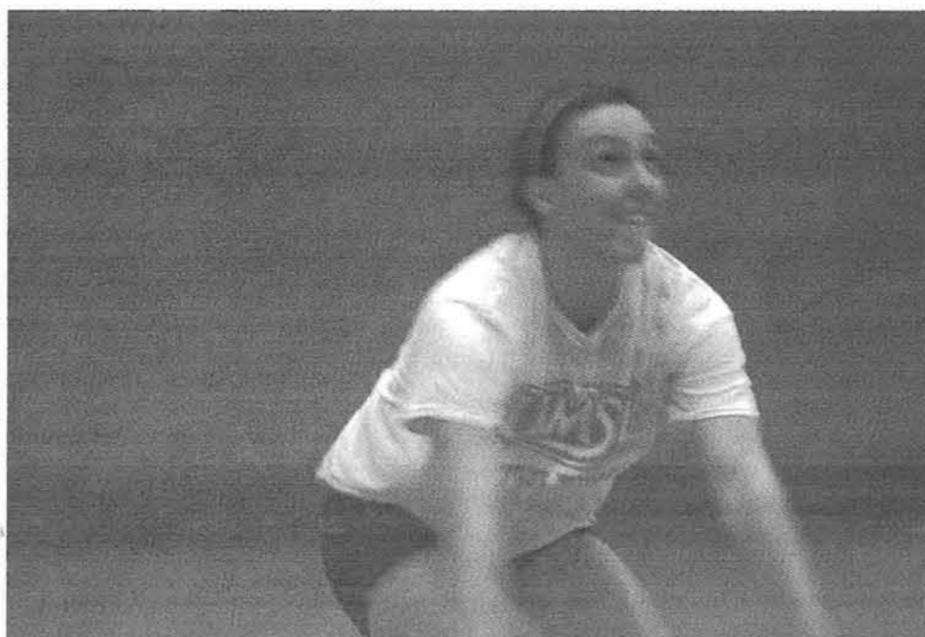
Clean eating and juicing may conjure thoughts of tree huggers and forest-dwellers, but even Crossfitters have adopted this super-healthy vegan or vegetarian diet. The Reboot Diet was born from an experiment by Australian Joe Cross and documented in the film "Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead." With his doctor's blessing, Cross spent 90 days on an all-juice diet.

For most people, Cross recommends short periods of juicing followed by daily juicing combined with plant based meals. People rave about the benefits of the diet, which include long-term increased energy and the disappearance of certain ailments. The two downsides are temporary sluggishness and mood swings as well as the cost of purchasing the amount of produce necessary to make 10 days' worth of juices.

As different as all of these diets are, they have one important thing in common: there is no sugar. Sugar has absolutely no nutritional value and therefore should be consumed as infrequently as possible.

Having tried juicing, calorie counting, low carb, low fat and plant-based diets, I can attest to the merits of each one. I have melded aspects of each into my daily diet. Most of my meals are based on nutritional value, cost of ingredients, prep time and effectiveness toward a weight loss goal.

Ultimately, the choice is yours and will be based on personal factors of convenience, affordability and taste.



Outside/opposite side hitter Chelsea Burkle anticipating the ball

photo by Leon Devance/The Current

# Opinions

## OUR OPINION: ARE STUDENT LOAN DEBT LAWS FAIR?

THE CURRENT EDITORIAL STAFF

Students take out student loans expecting to graduate, get a good job and pay off their debts. But what if things do not go according to plan? What if the economy stinks

*It actually seems like the irresponsible attitude that bankrupt students are accused of having toward their loans may be more applicable to credit card debts.*

and you cannot find a job? Worse, what if you have a catastrophic life event such as an accident or serious health threat that leaves you disabled and unable to work?

Once, if the economy turned sour and all a graduate could find was a low-paying job, that graduate could still pay off student loans rather easily because payments, interest and loan amounts were fairly low. Now students often graduate with enormous student loan debt, even after getting a bachelor's degree at a lower-cost public university. Many students struggle for years to pay off these huge debts, but what if something awful happens and there is no way to pay off student loans?

Most bankruptcies take place following catastrophic life events—job loss, extended unemployment, divorce and family illness or death—causing a disability and/or huge medical bills. The awful decision to file for bankruptcy is made only slightly easier by the knowledge that the entirety of one's debt will vanish. Despite the accompanying shame and loss of financial credit, the law exists to allow individuals in fiscally untenable situations to get a fresh start. Unless that person has an unpaid student loan.

Unlike debt from mortgages, car loans, credit cards, utilities payments or other forms of debt, student loans are not eliminated under bankruptcy. After filing for bankruptcy, the filer is still obligated to pay off student loan debt, no matter what their circumstances. In fact, the government will deduct money from your paycheck and even your social security, not just for government loans but also for those from private lenders. You are far safer paying for college with your credit cards than taking out a student loan, should the unthinkable happen.

Bankruptcy did not always function this way. Only relatively recently, in 1989, did Bill Clinton sign a law preventing student loan debt from being automatically included in filings of chapter seven bankruptcy. This law was the result of an impression that chapter seven bankruptcy was being manipulated by young people who filed unnecessarily, knowing that they had plenty of time to rebuild their credit with the increased income available to them after their student loans were forgiven.

Like many things worth passing big legislation for, this kind of abuse of the bankruptcy laws did not actually

happen frequently and was not a real, large-scale threat to the nation.

If abuse of bankruptcy had really been a widespread source of concern for legislators, means other than

drastically changing the bankruptcy law to exclude student loan debt altogether could have been used to address the issue. A less sweeping change, such as barring healthy medical or law school graduates for filing immediate bankruptcy, would have solved the problem.

Since bankruptcy procedures are still handled by the courts, it would be possible for judges to evaluate them on a case-by-case basis. The bankruptcy cases where student loans are involved could be automatically examined for signs of abuse. If these signs are not found, student loan debt should be waived like the rest of the filer's debt. This way, people who legitimately have an inability to repay school loans would not be treated unfairly, and the court would have the option to have student loan debt treated like the other types of debt that bankruptcy includes.

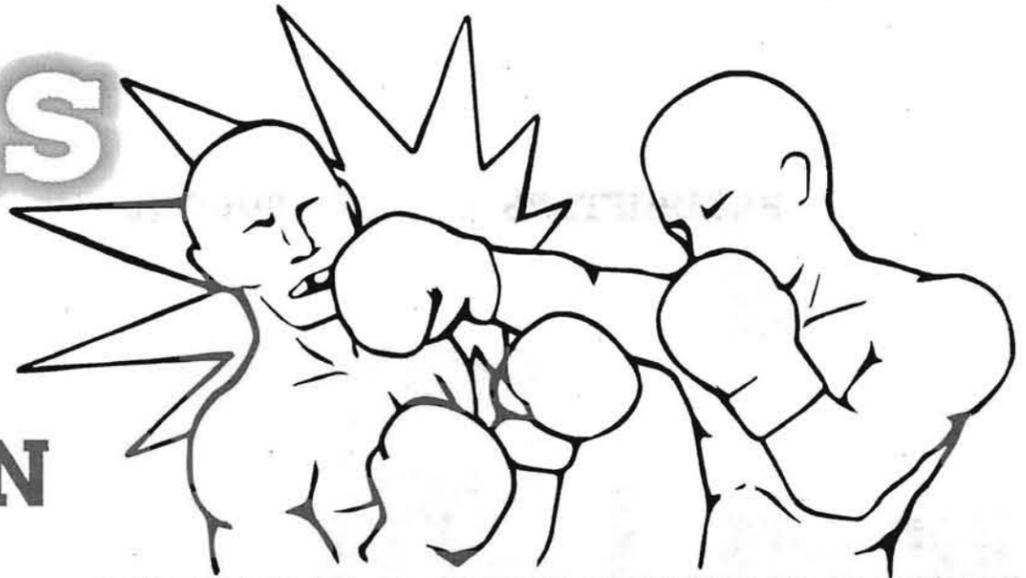
It actually seems like the irresponsible attitude that bankrupt students are accused of having toward their loans may be more applicable to credit card debts. One can charge unnecessary items to credit cards and then escape the consequences by filing for bankruptcy. This is just as problematic as irresponsibly borrowing for tuition. Like the education for which student loans pay, the items purchased with credit cards are not returned or repossessed upon filing for bankruptcy, even though the debt is forgiven.

Ultimately, education is important, and it is the only chance most people have to achieve lifelong success in this economy. Expensive four-year degrees and graduate degrees are hard to come by without resorting to borrowing money. And in this economy, securing a job immediately after graduation is far from guaranteed.

But no one can be certain that it will not happen to them; that is the nature of catastrophe. In fact, the whole insurance industry exists to address that uncertainty.

Students deserve a break. They should not be harassed about debt immediately after they cross the stage. If the unthinkable should happen, they should be treated humanely.

If our society cares about education as much as it claims to, it needs a bankruptcy law that supports those claims. We need a bankruptcy law that is more forgiving of people who tried to better themselves and achieve marketability by earning a degree.



## TRIOPO COUNTERPOINT

### TLC program only exploits conjoined twins

The new TLC show "Abby & Brittany" is exploitative at best. It is even worse than the garbage the station usually provides to the public.

"Abby & Brittany" focuses on the lives of a set of 22-year-old conjoined twins, Abby and Brittany Hensel. From the show's preview, audiences could see that they were in for a treat. The Hensel girls let cameras film them riding a bike, swimming, dancing in someone's kitchen and driving a car. Riveting.

The show insists that these girls do normal things, because they are really normal people with just one tiny difference. Really! They're normal! If they're so

*It's all just nonsense. TLC focuses on people when they are at their worst, not to help them, but to turn them into a spectacle or a punch line.*

normal, why should it be necessary to follow them with cameras? How much bike-riding, car-driving, twin-swimming and kitchen-dancing could TLC's viewers really be interested in?

The show looks boring at best and harmful to the Hensel girls at worst. Before they agreed to do the show, they should have asked themselves why strangers would want to watch us do completely normal things? And the answer is that those strangers find them odd to look at.

Though the girls' intentions were probably to show that they are normal young people, the truth is that they are not. Nobody will watch the show because they are interested in the average lives of two young women, not even smart, accomplished women like the Hensels. Nobody is interested in the normal things that Abby and Brittany do. Audiences are interested in the girls' different body, the only thing that separates the show from the mundane reality of any person's daily life.

"Abby & Brittany" is about the girls' physical characteristics and nothing more. They won't seem normal to TLC viewers despite the normalcy of their lives, and that is probably not what the twins wanted.

Of course, TLC is probably at cross purposes with the girls. TLC knows that nobody watches its shows for inspiration, because they are not inspiring. People watch TLC to fulfill a sense of morbid curiosity.

Think about it. The channel broadcasts shows like "Half-Ton Teen," which is wildly sad, quite pathetic, deeply worrisome and not at all inspiring. Then there is "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo," which is not intellectually inspiring at all. Then there are the makeover shows like "What Not to Wear" and the ones about hoarding, where experts get to say insensitive, cruel things to people in order to break them down and build them back up into what they should be. What qualifies these so-called experts?

It's all just nonsense. TLC focuses on people when they are at their worst, not to help them, but to turn them into a spectacle or a punch line.

The Hensel girls would have done better to continue with their policy of staying out of the spotlight. They deserve for their lives to be as normal as possible, and apparently they need to be reminded that normal lives do not include camera crews and a viewing public.

### Abby and Brittany inspire viewers on TLC show

Twins are often clumped together because of their fascinating similarities in looks and/or personality. But for 22-year-old conjoined twins Abby and Brittany Hensel, being a twin means being, quite literally, attached at the hip.

A new show featuring the daily lives of the Hensels has recently caught the interest of TLC viewers. The idea behind this show is to shed light on how Abby

*...the girls get to present their lives in whatever way they choose, and they choose to do so with joy and pride in their accomplishments.*

and Brittany are able to function while overcoming the challenges of sharing one body. The show also answers a lot of questions. For example, are they taxed separately?

This opportunity allows Abby and Brittany to tell the world more about themselves and display all of their impressive achievements.

We are all curious and ready to learn more about these two fascinating young women. But there are still those who remain skeptical as to the true motives behind the show.

Abby and Brittany are opening their lives to the world in an attempt to show how hard they have worked to achieve their goals—goals that all of us share. They are not being forced into a typical TLC show about women who have tried to make couponing seem like a way of life or about some guy who makes freakishly large cakes. Those shows are neither relevant to our lives nor something from which we can derive meaning.

Abby and Brittany have achieved goals that many of us aspire to, like graduating from college. Their story is relevant because their ambitions are shared by many.

People also have a problem with this show because they think its purpose is to point out how different Abby and Brittany are from everybody else. The primary concern seems to be that the show will hurt their feelings. That argument is invalid for several reasons.

First off, the girls get to present their lives in whatever way they choose, and they choose to do so with joy and pride in their accomplishments. It is not a show about how they are different from you or me in a medical capacity.

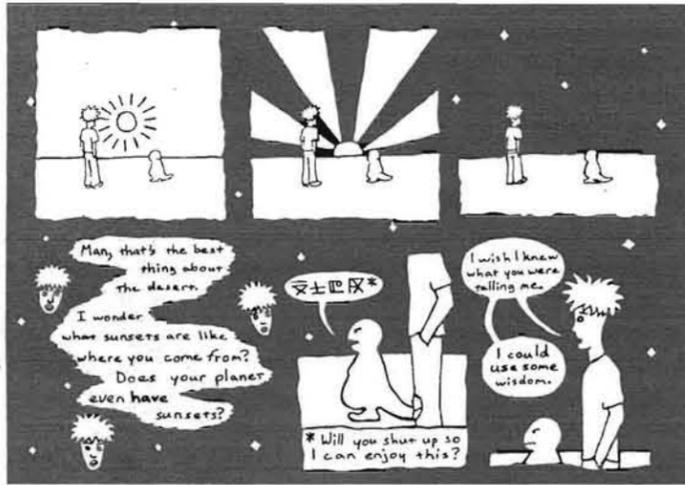
Also, Abby and Brittany have turned away hundreds of television talk shows and magazines that wanted to talk about them. They did this because they are smart enough to realize when they are being used. They have definitely managed to steer clear of being exploited, unlike many of today's television stars.

The twins are 22 years old now and are perfectly capable of turning down a show if they feel that it is a bad idea. The perception that this show is only airing to showcase their disability completely ignores the intention of the series. The show does not look at all the ways Abby and Brittany are different from us physically. You can see that with your own eyes. Instead, it provides us with the real-life perspective of two women who have overcome a disability and, more importantly, managed to be more successful than most people their age.

# Comics & Games

## JUST A COUPLE DRIFTERS

Christian Kessler



## CRYPTOGRAM

VRGYN KP JNKYN DY, RSA KSALJLSALSD YW, URJKDRV.  
 URJKDRV KP YSVB DML WNOKD YW VRGYN, RSA  
 UYOVA SLQLN MRQL LTKPDLA KW VRGYN MRA  
 SYD WKNPD LTKPDLA. VRGYN KP DML POJLNKYN  
 YW URJKDRV, RSA ALPLNQLP XOUM DML MKZMLN  
 UYSKALNRDKYS.—RGNRMRX VKSUYVS

## SUDOKU

8				3	4	7	
			8	5	3		9
3	9		4				
	4	1		5			6
			6		7	4	
6			7				8
		4					5
5				4	9		2
	6					9	3

## BRAIN DEAD

Zach McDaniel



## SIMPLY BEAGLE

Lee Sellars



## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

### CRYPTOGRAM

ONCE WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES, WE CAN RISK CURIOSITY, WONDER, SPONTANEOUS DELIGHT, OR ANY EXPERIENCE THAT REVEALS THE HUMAN SPIRIT.—E. E. CUMMINGS

### SUDOKU

8	5	2	9	6	3	4	7	1
4	1	7	2	8	5	3	6	9
3	9	6	4	1	7	8	2	5
7	4	1	3	5	8	2	9	6
2	8	5	6	9	1	7	4	3
6	3	9	7	2	4	5	1	8
9	2	4	8	3	6	1	5	7
5	7	3	1	4	9	6	8	2
1	6	8	5	7	2	9	3	4

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