

The Current faces closure next year due to lack of funding

HUNG NGUYEN
MANAGING EDITOR



JENNY LIN/THE CURRENT

The Current's office at 388 MSC accommodates its staff of students.

The Current, student newspaper of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, was notified on April 14 that the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) had denied its appeal for a printing budget for the 2014–2015 academic year. The 15-minute appeal on April 4 had focused on a debt of nearly \$40,000 and how the independent student newspaper had addressed the issue.

The Current requested a budget of \$29,000 for next year and had received a letter on March 19 with a committee recommendation of a total allocation of \$0. The form letter did not give specific reasons for the rejection of the funding request, but further inquiry revealed that it was related to the debt, revenue, and officer payments.

The publication incurred the debt between 2009 and 2011 due to mismanagement by previous organization leaders and economic downturn. Since then, however, the debt has been reduced by almost half, based on advertising

space already sold as of April 1, from \$39,305.73 to \$18,479.79, with the most drastic reduction happening during this 2013–2014 academic year. This progress also occurred during a period of continued cuts in funding from SABC due to overall student budget reductions. The Current had established a payment plan with the Office of Student Life and according to editor-in-chief Sharon Pruitt, "We haven't missed a single payment."

The revenue generated by The Current towards this debt is primarily from selling advertising in its print edition. By denying a printing budget, SABC is effectively removing the mechanism for solving the very problem they are using to base their decision, Pruitt explained. Ad sales for The Current's website auxiliary is nearly nonexistent, so switching entirely to an online-only edition would mean that there would be limited revenue coming in to pay off the remainder of the debt.

Cutting officer payments to

reduce costs was another issue raised in the appeal. The payment agreement between The Current and Student Life prioritizes the debt before officer payments. The Current's staff must bring in enough revenue per month, \$1500, before officer payments are disbursed. Only a few students are paid and the fixed pay rates range from \$200 to \$800 monthly. Payments are lessened during months when enough revenue isn't collected to cover the full amount. Any surplus goes toward the next month's debt and officer payments, while any revenue left over at the end of the year is used to further decrease the debt.

Officer payment rates have also been reduced from previous years, with positions and payments cut considerably since 2009. As an entirely student-run operation, Pruitt commented that students commit too many hours to not be paid for their efforts and that they have remained on the staff to fight for its survival because it is "our legacy."

On April 14, The Current received notice that SABC had denied its appeal for future funding, citing the reasons already provided.

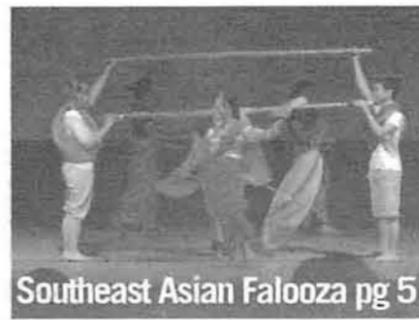
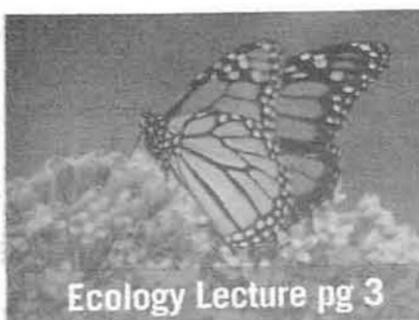
Founded in 1966, The Current is almost as old as the university (founded in 1963) and though it lacks a formal journalism program, has won multiple awards, including "Best in State" against other flagship programs. Without SABC funding and no printing budget, the nearly 50-year-old paper may be forced to close its doors starting next year.

Frank LoMonte, director of the Student Press Law Center, pointed to the unique niche independent student media groups occupy on college campuses. "There's this important watchdog function that student media performs," LoMonte said. "You really have to have an independent editorial voice where the students don't feel fearful that their funding will be taken away if they question the policies of their institution. Everybody benefits from having

that independent watchdog voice even when the watchdogs partially pay the bills using government money. I would compare the relationship to an auditor that the college hires."

The SABC recommendation will go to Vice Provost Curt Coonrod, who will present it to Chancellor Tom George for a final decision.

"We're working on this and we are having a meeting Monday with the editor-in-chief and whoever else she is going to bring with her," Chancellor Tom George said. "But we're looking at it and we are going to do whatever we can to keep The Current viable. We have some different ideas and proposals we want to start bouncing off of people but our intention is that The Current will continue next fall semester. We're committed to doing that. We haven't all settled and agreed to specifics yet. I have, right on my desk here, lots of ideas and we will have to sort through that. We're going to make some good progress in the next week or two."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a former member of the staff of The Current, the student newspaper of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, I am dismayed to learn that the Student Activities Budget Committee has denied funding for the paper for the 2014-2015 school year. An appeal has been made by The Current and denied by the SABC. If the SABC has the final word and if The Current is left without a budget allocation, this could very well be the end of a great, long tradition of student journalism at UM-St. Louis. I would urge student and faculty leaders to overturn this decision.

While it is true that in today's society, a greater number of individuals are getting their news from online news outlets, print journalism still has a place in our world and should still have a place at UM-St. Louis as it has for many years. The Current has been the only campus watchdog, serving as the voice of the UM-St. Louis student body. Nearly every major university, and many other two year colleges, have a paper of record and that is as it should be. Campus life at the university should, and to an extent does, model real life. There are jobs on campus for students, choices of housing, places to eat and shop and a governing body run by students. Surely there would be a newspaper run by a group of student journalists as the record. At some universities, campus boundaries and surrounding community boundaries have blurred as the student publications there have become the record for the community. While this hasn't quite happened here, The Current serves a vital purpose.

Like any newspaper, The Current gets information relevant to the student body distributed en masse weekly. The Current is there to ask the questions the student, and for that matter the parent or taxpayer, wants and needs to know. Looking into the archives of The Current, which can be accessed digitally or in print at the campus library, one can find instances where The Current has been the watchdog that broke many major stories on campus. This, in many instances, has led to major news outlets covering stories on campus and it has even effected some change over the years.

Though it has struggled over the past few years, The Current has worked hard to fund itself. It's a business that needs advertising subscribers and that will always be a major part of the survival of the paper. However, it needs a budget. All businesses have one. Unfortunately, the way things are set up at UM-St. Louis, The Current is at the mercy of the Student Government Association and the SABC. The SGA represents the student body at UM-St. Louis and The Current is, and always has been there, to tell the student body exactly what the SGA has done and what it means for the student and all parties involved. Both are vital to campus life. Any student, any administrator, any taxpayer and any alumni member can see the importance of both. And while it is true that many news outlets are failing, money is being lost and voices are being silenced, The Current can be saved and is an important voice of the student body.

While a preventative action plan may be needed and comprehensive training given to its staff to avoid future budget problems, The Current needs a lifeline now. As a former staff member of The Current, I strongly urge all students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers to voice your concern and support for a budget allocation for the paper. Once again, I urge the SGA, the SABC, the Chancellor, the UM system President and the Board of Curators to reconsider this decision and find a way to fund The Current, a vital voice and an award winning institution for decades at the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

Sincerely,
 Hank Burns
 Former Sports Editor, The Current (2002-04)
 Former Vice-President (2002-03) and Secretary (2001-02), Missouri College Media Association

I find it distressing to say the least that The Current is faced with a funding crisis that threatens the very existence of such an important institution to my alma mater.

As a former editor in chief of The Current, I can attest to the vast importance of this newspaper. With no journalism program on campus, The Current provides real world training for a wide array of career paths. Graphic design, journalism, photography, business, ad sales, marketing, and public relations are all aspects of the education The Current provides. The staff of The Current has gone on to a great number of different arenas of influence throughout the country. Current alums are represented at Purina, Teach for America, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, KSDK Channel 5, and even in the halls of power in Jefferson City.

As an alum of UM-St. Louis, it is my hope that Chancellor Tom George would step in to rectify this travesty before it goes too far. Having dealt with a similar situation when I was in charge of the paper, I can attest to the fact that at a time when present editor Sharon Pruitt should be worried about finals and term papers, she will now have to deal with the added stresses of fighting for the very survival of a 50+ year old institution.

The Student Activities Budget Committee, which I have long felt has entirely too much power, should take a look in the mirror and see if they like the reflection. Their blatant attempt at punishing the newspaper smacks of censorship, and should be roundly condemned.

As an alum of the university, I get fairly regular letters begging me to donate money to my alma mater. I can say, I will never donate another penny to that institution if it silently lets such a vital piece of the student experience fade away into the night. It is the responsibility of the leaders of the university to step in and do the right thing. By this I mean, do not simply find a way to fund the paper, but find a way to make sure this never happens again.

Sincerely,
 Jason W. Granger, Current Editor-in-Chief 2003-2004

GET INVOLVED

Do you have a tip regarding a story? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Contact us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Current values feedback from the campus community. What do you think of our campus coverage? Let us know your thoughts at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

Lincoln Brower, top scientist on monarch butterflies, speaks at World Ecology Lecture

CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Monarch butterflies are among the most recognizable and beloved butterflies seen in Missouri. Monarchs are also unique in that they migrate, from the upper Midwest to wintering grounds in a mountainous area of Mexico. Once common, monarch numbers have fallen sharply in recent years, as the world's leading expert on the species told a nearly full auditorium at the Missouri Botanical Garden for the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center's annual Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture on April 17.

"The Grand Saga of the Monarch Butterfly" was the title of the talk by Dr. Lincoln P. Brower, Research Professor of Biology at Sweet Briar College. Brower has devoted his career to the study of monarch butterflies and their conservation, and is considered the top expert on this unique species.

The talk was co-sponsored by the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Saint Louis Zoo, and the St. Louis Academy of Science. The World Ecology Center is a research and educational partnership among University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo. The annual Harris Lecture is given every spring.

"The lecture was envisioned to bring experts in ecology, evolution and conservation, and sometimes all three, to St. Louis," Robert Marquis, PhD, Director of the World Ecology Center and professor of biology at UMSL, said. "Tonight Lincoln P. Brower will bring to us all three of these."

Brower was also presented with the World Ecology Center's

Conservation Action Prize, given "to recognize individuals who are particularly active in the frontline of biological conservation," in recognition for his efforts to save the monarch butterfly.

Monarch butterflies were a good choice for a talk just before Earth Day on April 22. Brower's accessible lecture featured slides with photos of the butterflies in their habitats, their life cycle and migration, as well as graphs, maps and data about the species and their challenges for survival.

As beloved as monarchs are, Brower told the audience that the butterflies are in trouble.

"The monarch butterfly has, unfortunately, become an endangered biological phenomenon. What we mean by that is a spectacular aspect of the life history of an animal or plant species involving a large number of individuals that is threatened with impoverishment or demise. The species itself is not threatened but the spectacular phenomenon is at risk. To give a historical example, the passenger pigeon was an endangered phenomenon, which became extinct about 100 years ago," Brower said. Another example he gave was the migration of the bison herds of the North American plains. Although bison are not extinct, the mass migration phenomenon is.

"What is sort of scary is the distributional range of passenger pigeon is pretty similar to that of the eastern population of the monarch butterfly," Brower said.

Monarchs have a multi-generational migration pattern. "(Monarchs) have probably the most complex migration of any

insect in the world," Brower said.

In fall, butterflies migrate from the upper Midwest to a specific mountain range in Mexico where they over-winter in the fir tree forest. In spring, those butterflies begin a two-stage migration north, first breeding in the lower U.S. That next generation then migrates north to the Midwest. In fall, the last summer generation flies south to Mexico and the cycle starts again.

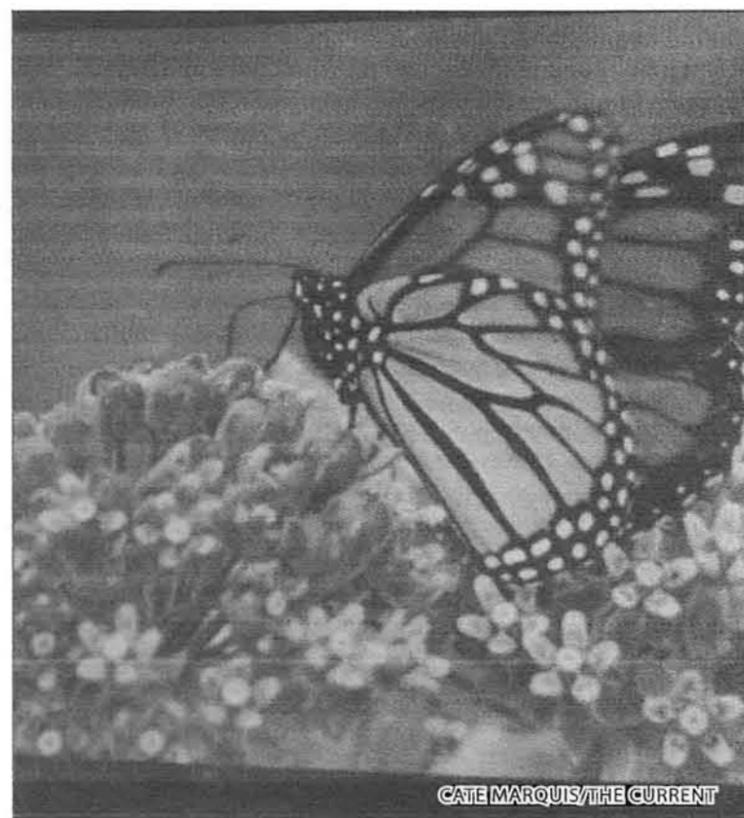
Monarchs face twin threats, from habitat destruction in their wintering grounds in Mexico and the eradication of milkweed plants by herbicide application in corn and soybean fields in the U.S., particularly the Midwest.

Milkweed is essential to monarchs, since these butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed leaves.

Brower has already helped find a solution to one of these twin threats, in Mexico where logging of the mountainsides reduced the areas where the butterflies cluster to survive winter.

"When it became clear intervention was needed to prevent the exploitation of the forest harboring the butterflies, he worked with the Mexican government, the World Wildlife Foundation and local communities to establish a plan for the long-term protection" Marquis said.

Brower is now working on a solution to the other threat. Milkweed is being severely reduced by the use of glyphosate herbicide, sold by Monsanto as Round-Up, which farmers can apply heavily to corn and soybean fields planted with genetically-engineered Round-Up-resistance crops. A map of the



A monarch butterfly rests atop a flower

range and greatest concentration of monarch butterflies in the Midwest matched very closely with a map of corn and soybean growing areas. A graph showing the sharply rising use of the herbicide and the sharply declining populations of monarchs starkly illustrates the correlation.

"We just had a fantastic lecture by Lincoln Brower on the monarch butterflies," UMSL Chancellor Thomas George said. Before the talk, George had asked Brower what was the connection between Monsanto and butterflies. "And he said 'Listen to my lecture.' And we certainly found out at the end, there is a definite connection between the loss of butterflies and the level of chemicals that are being used in agriculture," George said.

Brower said that he hoped to be able to persuade Monsanto to find a solution that would allow populations of milkweed, and therefore monarch butterflies, to survive. Brower said that it is key to work with Monsanto. "[Fighting with them] is counterproductive. You've got to work with them because they're in a position to do something. All I can do is yak."

"It was a terrific talk. I'm really in awe of Dr. Brower. Many scientists have opportunities to do conservation work when they come along and some of them chose to do what he's done and others don't do that. He's devoted his career to the conservation of this species. I'm so impressed by him," Marquis said.

NEWS BRIEFS

SGA elections begin this week

SGA elections will take place on April 21 through April 25.

Executive candidates are Cameron Roark (President), Deja Patrick (Vice President), Dominic Margherio (Comptroller) and Geddy Trebus (Comptroller).

Senate Candidates are Muhidin Abdimalik, Garrett Adams, Varun Bhan, Zeth Fritz, Jaidev Jyotis, Matthew Krahl, Aaron Kravish, Patrick Nittler, Cameron Nunn, David Serati and Michael Weaver

Students will be able to vote online using TritonSync.

Art at South Metrolink Station

A piece of public art, titled "Changing Identities," by Catherine Magel was dedicated to the University of Missouri-St. Louis South Metrolink Station on April 17, 2014. The event was concurrent with the kick-off for the University Square project.

The installation is a part of the Metro's Arts in Transit Program, "designed to enhance public transit environments."



SGA meeting at UMSL

Students take a break from studying for Mirthday

KARLYNE KILLEBREW
STAFF WRITER

University Program Board hosted their annual Mirthday event on April 16 from 12 pm to 4 p.m. For four hours, the north entrance parking lot of the Millennium Student Center was filled with music, food, and games.

Keeping with Mirthday tradition, the event offered small scale carnival rides like a tilt-o-whirl that lifted students into the air, spinning them around, rotating swings that appealed to one's inner child, and a ride most like the rotating tea cup attraction at Walt Disney World.

Many fears were conquered and curiosities sated at this year's Mirthday as well. For thrill seekers who were more inclined to stay on the ground, there was an exotic animal handler who brought snakes, tarantulas, and a caiman that photogenic daredevils could snap pictures with for free.

Not to be outdone, the food and music stations kept the party going as well. The delicious funnel cake trailer made its annual return, along with other carnival favorites

such as the cotton candy vendor and the hot dog station. Next door to the funnel cakes and the carnival rides were two food trucks, Sarah's Cake Stop and Vincent Van Doughnuts, prepared to offer the solution for any student's sweet tooth.

The DJ booth played all the popular slides and shuffles to keep the crowds engaged and dancing while visitors waited on friends to get serviced and lines to shrink. There were many booths and games to choose from as student organizations took the opportunity to set up a station where they could easily introduce themselves to the UMSL community and give students a chance to learn more about them.

According to University Program Board Chair, Marissa Steimel, a senior Communications major, "The University Program Board sees Mirthday as a community building event. We host it each year in an effort to bring both the UMSL community and the St. Louis community

together. The carnival provides an opportunity for the various campus departments and student organizations to showcase their group at a booth and engage with students from across the campus, as well as members of the surrounding community and prospective students who are touring UMSL."

Per usual, even a few minutes at Mirthday served as an excellent de-stressor for the students.

"I didn't get to enjoy Mirthday long but I did have fun. Great way to start off the day. I was able to ride all the rides, get a funnel cake and a delicious doughnut, didn't really go to any tables or play games, didn't have time. It was really funny hearing people scream on the spinning ride that went up in the air. I was like 'Really? It's not that scary,' but when I got on, I realized rides are so much more fun when you scream," Kenyatta Tatum, junior, theater and dance, said.

The celebration concluded with a B.O.B. concert in the Touhill that evening.



Students enjoy fun and games at Mirthday

Student-led Southeast Asian Falooza draws crowd

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

The Vietnamese Student Association and Indian Student Association hosted Southeast Asian Falooza on April 19 at 6 p.m. in the JC Penny Auditorium. The evening was filled with song, fashion and dance influenced by Vietnamese, Indian and Filipino culture and tradition.

Ron Heaggans and Kimi Singh served as emcees for the evening. The comedic duo kept the audience laughing in between performances with their jokes and calls for crowd participation. Throughout the evening, the pair enlisted members of the audience in their raffle drawing, picking blue tickets from a triangle-shaped hat and announcing the winners over a microphone. Each raffle drawing was met with loud groans and a single cheer from the winner, who received a small prize and a resounding cheer from the audience. Among the raffle prizes was a coin purse, chopsticks, clothing retail gift cards, a large green parasol and a handmade box.

A wide variety of song and dance was presented throughout the evening. Hip-hop choreography by Alexis Austriaco, Yeanie Bach,

Amy Dinh, Jennifer Lam, Kathy Nguyen, Kim Nguyen and Becky Rodenberg had attendees cheering. A short video followed the dance. Titled "Welcome to Vietnam," the film offered a tourist's view of the southeastern country, complete with shots of local cuisine and street life.

After a raffle and a short intermission, Alexis Austriaco and Kiran Singh presented "Janggay," an elegant Filipino dance with elaborate headdresses and long pointy golden fingernails. Before the next act was introduced, emcees Kimi and Ron selected audience members to attempt an accurate pronunciation of two Vietnamese songs, "Tinh Ve No'i Dau" and "Nguoi Tinh O'i Mo GI." Participants received much applause before the singers Yeanie Bach, Amy Dinh, Hung Nguyen and Tim Nguyen took the stage. The four sang spirited songs in pairs as the audience screamed with adoration.

After the singing came "Bhangra", a fast-paced Indian dance by duo Kiran Singh and Sukhbir Thind. Attendees clapped along to the beat as the dancers

spun around each other and sped across the stage, smiling as they moved. After the dance, emcee Kimi took the stage with a massive drum and two wooden canes. She proceeded to bang rhythmically on either side of the instrument, picking up the pace as she went along. The audience went ballistic as she did, screaming throughout the percussion solo.

A Filipino dramatic dance titled "Singkil" came next. The choreography included women with large fans, posing at length as two dancers with long wooden poles banged their poles against the floor and against each other as two more dancers moved quickly in between them. As the dancers stepped between the poles, they quickly moved out of the way just before the poles smacked against each other.

Emcee Kimi explained the story behind the loud performance afterward, of an evil king who takes a man's wife hostage, and the noise leads him to her location within the woods. The evening ended with a fashion show, receiving much cheering from the audience.



The Southeast Asian Falooza provided culture and entertainment

INTERVIEW

Marlon Wayans discusses new movie, comedy career

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Actor and comedian Marlon Wayans is well known for his roles in parody movies, like *Scary Movie*, which debuted in 2000. His newest project, *A Haunted House 2*, is the highly anticipated sequel to last year's box-office hit. Crude, offensive and highly entertaining, *A Haunted House 2* isn't a movie you'd take your grandmother to. Wayans' high energy and hilarious knack for comedic timing makes the horror spoof a viewer success.

Wayans sat down with St. Louis journalists for a quick post-preview interview at the Four Seasons Hotel. He candidly answered questions before posing for photos with fans.

Wayans shared stories from his life, including various influences and interactions with other comedians like Richard Pryor. He compared meeting the late great comedic legend with his son meeting a top athlete recently. "My son met LeBron James four weeks ago for his birthday at the Clippers game, and my son's a really good basketball player, but the day he met LeBron, I saw his game just elevate," Wayans said.

He expressed gratitude over the encounter, explaining the value of meeting Pryor on his career. "That recollection of meeting someone great like that, remembering meeting Pryor now when I do stand-up comedy, I feel like I met a great, so I'm fearless when I hit the stage. I still suck," he joked.

Wayans spoke at length about

the difficulties of writing parody comedy, a genre notorious for writing complications. "I'm lucky that I was raised in parody and sketch," Wayans said. "It's one of the hardest mediums to take on in comedy, because literally everything that you say is a joke. Everything on the page is a joke except for the page number. For a hundred pages."

He notes the excruciating detail of parody humor, infusing each element with humor, from what is said, to the character saying it, to the responses from other actors and setting location. "You're throwing out thousands of jokes, only to keep a hundred, and maybe ten will make it."

When asked if it's difficult for him to stay funny on-call for full-length parody projects, Wayans quipped, "I'm on in my sleep, you should see me!" He shared that many scenes that made the final cut were improvised on the spot, shocking fellow actors and getting side-splitting laughter from the production crew.

"I think it's good to be silly and not care, some people are going to judge you, some people aren't going to like it, but I try to make me laugh," Wayans explained. "I don't laugh a lot. Comedians are always like, 'Oh, that's funny,' and then we'll laugh, and when we laugh, we know other people are going to laugh. Or cry," he says.

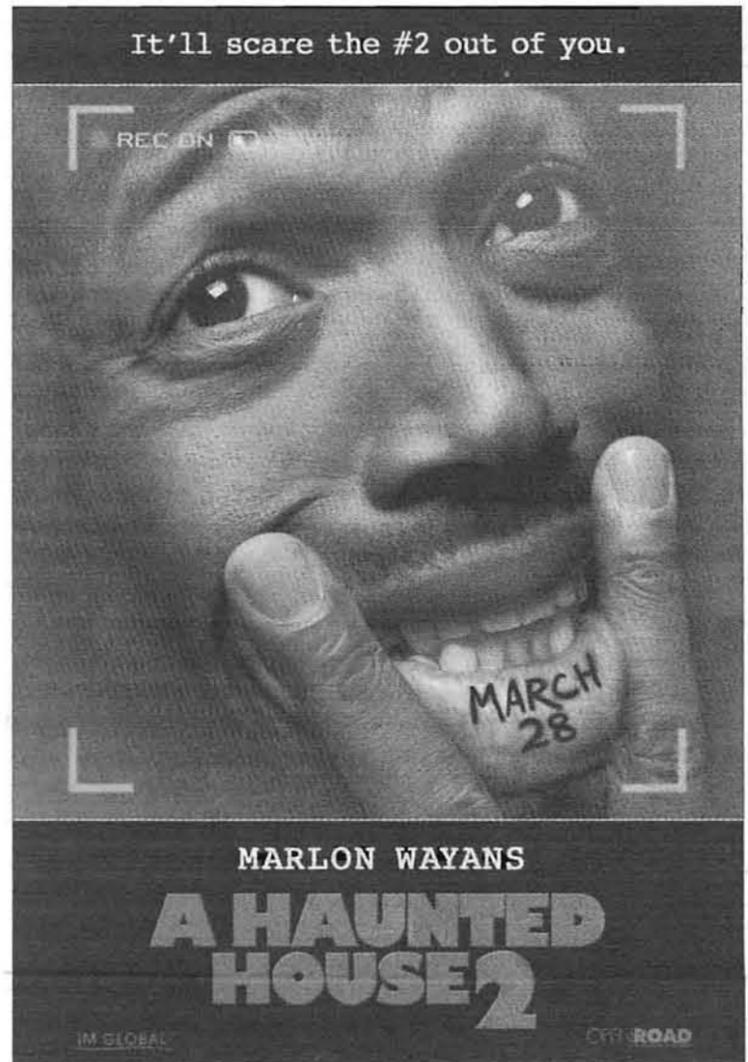
When asked if he had any paranormal experiences, Wayans joked, "I'm from the projects;

ghosts don't go there." When asked what scared him, he said, "Cops, like 'Why you chasing me?' Jail. I'm claustrophobic. Jail frightens me. Closed in a cell, not being able to get out - that really freaks me out."

He spoke briefly about potentially undertaking a Wayans brothers movie in the future, involving stand-up and sketch comedy. "Watching my brother Damon intimidated me doing standup. I was always [saying] 'He's better than me. Why try?' because Damon had a twisted life. He has a colorful life, he has a club foot, he went to jail, he smoked weed, and I was a good kid. I didn't get into much trouble."

Eventually, he decided to give stand-up a shot. "I thought you had to have a dark kind of experience to do stand-up, but you can still have your own point of view. All you have to do is be true to the individual you are and tell your story." Wayans noted that while his brother has a different style and delivery than he does, there are similarities. "We're both very physical in our comedy," he said.

Wayans shared his experiences with hostile audiences. "You used to be able to go to the comedy club and hear different points of view. Now, everyone's so judgmental," Wayans said, who is quick to check critics of his performance with some choice words of his own. "I don't believe I'm above anybody - I'm a real dude. If you



say some foul stuff, I'm going to say some foul stuff back to you."

Wayans noted that some of his closest friends were people he couldn't stand at first. "It's good to be real," he said. "It's good to let people know that you're human and there's a better way to voice it. I think social media makes people think they can say anything. They

don't even put their face up."

On how he deals with harsh criticism, Wayans said, "I'm a comedian by trade. I don't take anything seriously."

A Haunted House 2 is in theaters now.

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Women's tennis team ends season strong

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri – St. Louis women's tennis season swiftly finished, and the women should have nothing but pride looking back on their season.

The UMSL Tritons came into this past weekend boasting a 16-5 overall record and ranked #6 regionally. In the month of April they did not lose to a single opponent - that is, until this past Saturday, April 19, against the #5 regionally ranked Lewis Flyers in the GLVC semifinals.

Lewis took the momentum and joy of the highly successful month for the Tritons away in one afternoon, defeating the Triton women in all five of the singles matches, and all three of the doubles matches. The Tritons

were dealt their first loss of the month and advanced for the third place spot to be played on April 20.

Just like that, the UMSL women's tennis team was taken out of competition for the GLVC championship, but they have much to be pleased about from their completed season. In addition to their stellar record and high regional ranking, two of the Triton women were chosen to be a part of the 2014 All-Great Lakes Valley Conference team. Louisa Werner added the honor to her growing list, having received the same acknowledgement in previous years. Before entering the weekend, Werner boasted a 14-9 overall record in singles play and

12-12 in doubles competition.

Joining Werner with all-GLVC honors this year is Lina Parra. Parra, a new addition to the Triton crew, has found her niche on the women's tennis team. Before this weekend's GLVC play, she had accrued a 13-6 record in singles and a 13-6 record in doubles play. Parra and Werner combined for a 10-1 record in GLVC singles matches.

However, the Tritons not only excelled on an individual level but improved greatly upon their last season. Last season the women went 11-7 overall and lost 0-5 in the first round of the GLVC Tournament. This season the women improved to 16-6 overall and extended their

postseason play with a 5-0 win over Bellarmine in the GLVC Tournament Quarterfinals. They made it to the semifinals where they faced their tough defeat to Lewis.

In addition to their vast improvement from last year, another thing that they have to look forward to as a team is the development of the young players. After this season, only three seniors will be leaving out of the ten women. Two of the women will become seniors next year. That leaves five of the women, who are currently sophomores, with two years left of playing for the Tritons.

Before the start of this past season, head coach Rick

Gyllenberg displayed high hopes for the team's ability with the quality of the players on the roster and the new additions to the team. When asked about how the addition of Lina Parra would benefit the Tritons, Gyllenberg responded, "We think we have just added depth to a team that was already good." Retrospectively, he was spot on, with Parra obtaining all-GLVC honors and the team as a whole improving their record significantly.

The dangerous aspect of the Triton women and their success is the youngness of the team. If they can compete at such a high level now, it only makes sense that the next two years will prove to be something special.

Triton teams enjoy triumphant week

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri – St. Louis men's golf team took third place out of thirty teams in the Purgatory Regional. The tournament lasted two days from April 13 to April 14 at the Purgatory Golf Club in Noblesville, Indiana. The Tritons shot a combined 601 (294-307), falling behind the tournament winner Wayne State, who finished with a 596 (294-302) and second place Grand Valley State who tallied a combined 598 (304-294). Senior Warren Crow claimed medalist honors. Crow shot a 144 (70-74) tying Wayne State's Jordan Andrus and Saginaw Valley State's Wyatt Drost, and subsequently beat them in a playoff to secure the

top spot. Also contributing for the Tritons was Joe Atkisson who placed 18th with a 151 (73-78) and Colby Yates who placed 24th with a 152 (76-76).

UMSL women's golf claimed a first place finish in the Triton Invitational. The tournament lasted two days from April 13 to April 14 at the Norwood Country Club. The Tritons finished the tournament with a 647 (310-337), eleven strokes ahead of second place Iowa Western CC. Third place Drury finished with a combined 660. Junior Bailey Hopper claimed medalist honors for the Tritons with a 154 (75-79). Also contributing for the Tritons was Daniela Viotti, who placed third with a 160 (76-84),

and Tayler Hoag, who tied for tenth place with a 163 (79-84).

UMSL women's tennis defeated the Washington University Bears 6-3 on April 15 at the UMSL Tennis Courts. The Tritons were able to win five of their six singles competition matches to secure the win, after claiming one victory out of three doubles competition matches. Natalia Carvalhais and Duchaine Chandler contributed for the Tritons by teaming up and defeating their Washington University doubles competition 8-2.

UMSL men's baseball won both of their games in a doubleheader against the Maryville Saints on April 16 at the Maryville Baseball Field. In the first game, the

Tritons won 1-0 in seven innings. The lone score by UMSL was in the second inning, when Joe Wiczkowski hit an RBI single which brought Cody Garlington through home plate. In the second game, the Tritons defeated the Saints 6-2 in nine innings. UMSL was able to accrue four runs through the first six innings before Maryville responded with two runs of its own in the bottom of the sixth inning. However, the Tritons responded in the top of the seventh with a RBI single by Justin Lois and a sacrifice fly by Chris Mathes, bringing in two runs which proved to be the last points of the game. Cody Garlington contributed for the Tritons in the series by going

three for six at the plate. UMSL women's baseball won both of their games in a doubleheader against the Lindenwood Lions on April 16 at the UMSL softball fields. In the first game, The Tritons won 4-2 in seven innings. Katie Rutledge hit a grand slam in the bottom of the fourth inning, the Tritons' only points of the game. In the second game, the Tritons defeated the Lions 12-4 in five innings. The Tritons scored 10 runs in the first inning alone, aided by two home runs by Brianna Butler. Katie Rutledge also contributed for the Tritons in the second game with two hits, two runs and two RBI's, all in only two appearances at bat.

This Week in Triton Sports						
Monday 4/21	Tuesday 4/22	Wednesday 4/23	Thursday 4/24	Friday 4/25	Saturday 4/26	Sunday 4/27
Men's Golf - GLVC Championships (All Day) Columbus, Indiana	Men's Golf - GLVC Championships (All Day) Columbus, Indiana	Baseball vs. McKendree (1:00 pm)			Women's Golf - GLVC Championships (All Day) Waterloo, Illinois	Women's Golf - GLVC Championships (All Day) Waterloo, Illinois
	Softball at Maryville (3:00 pm)	Baseball vs. McKendree (4:00 pm)			Baseball at Drury (12:00 pm)	Baseball at Drury (12:00 pm)
	Softball at Maryville (5:00 pm)				Softball at Truman State (12:00 pm)	Softball at Quincy (12:00 pm)
					Softball at Truman State (2:00 pm)	Softball at Quincy (2:00pm)
					Baseball at Drury (3:00 pm)	Baseball at Drury (3:00 pm)

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OUR OPINION

Student newspapers are an indispensable campus resource

EDITORIAL STAFF
THE CURRENT

We were shocked.

None of us expected to see a row of zeroes when we opened the letter from the Student Activities Budget Committee detailing the allocation we would be awarded.

We appealed the decision. We waited.

After a long, tense week, during which the future of a nearly 50 year-old organization hung precariously in the balance, we received the final verdict: SABC denied our appeal. The committee upheld their decision, and they would not be recommending any funding for The Current for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

This is the first time the SABC has completely eliminated The Current's funding. Without this funding, it is unlikely that The Current can survive.

College newspapers all over the country have to fight every year to receive funding, and The Current is no different. Media outlets everywhere love to announce the death of print, but is it true? The short answer, for college newspapers, is no. Student publications serve a different readership than mainstream publications. Our readers are students who leaf through the paper while waiting to take a shuttle to their next class or while eating a quick lunch on campus. Without a visible print edition readily available around campus for this specific audience, student newspapers would fade into obscurity. Student newspapers also tend to sell the majority of their advertising in the print editions; The Current is no different. Eliminating the print edition would result in the loss of the majority of our advertisers, rendering us unable to at least partially self-fund.

Having been founded only three years after the university itself, The Current has long been a source of pride for UMSL. The Current is an award-winning publication. We have won multiple "Best In State" awards from the Missouri College Media Association, even though UMSL doesn't offer a journalism program. Our alumni can be found in leadership positions everywhere: former mayor Vince Schoemehl worked at The Current during his time at UMSL, as did St. Louis Cardinal executive (the late) Marty Hendon, KSDK reporter Frank Cusumano, KTVI reporter Kim Hudson, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's St. Louis Blues beat writer Jeremy Rutherford, and Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel.

Leadership experience doesn't get

more hands-on than working at The Current. Because we are entirely student-run, students handle every aspect of maintaining a weekly newspaper. Our staff writers cover events and write stories every week, while our photographers take photos every single week. Our design and layout team work every weekend to lay out the print edition of the newspaper. Our web editor maintains thecurrent-online.com, while our social media director maintains our social networking platforms. Our advertising and business departments do the same jobs as they would at any other publication: they are responsible for selling advertising, sending invoices to clients, collecting revenue, and bookkeeping. We function like a small business, and because of that, graduates who have worked at The Current leave with the type of management training and hands-on experience that isn't available anywhere else on campus.

Because there is so much work to be done, The Current has long been a source for internship opportunities in a variety of fields, from journalism and photography to illustration and advertising. The Current is accessible because students have the opportunity to gain practical experience in the field they're interested in without having to pay for or commit to another course on their class schedule. The disappearance of the student newspaper would eliminate internship, volunteer and leadership opportunities that have long attracted students from every major and grade level.

Universities need independent student newspapers to objectively report on issues that affect the student body that may not get coverage anywhere else. The loss of the student newspaper would eliminate UMSL's only source for independent campus news.

The existence of the student newspaper should not be up for debate each year. Every year is a struggle for survival, not just for The Current, but for college newspapers across the country. Establishing permanent funding for student newspapers would prevent the recurrence of these battles. College athletic teams are not in danger of being eliminated each year, and student newspapers should have that same security. It's time for UMSL to lead the way by adopting a system that will allow independent college media to thrive, unimpeded.

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