Beggars, jesters, and gypsies

MACC drama and music departments joined to produce an evening of Renaissance festivities.

By Caitlin J. Jeffries
Express Staff

“The word Madrigal describes a genre of music that was popular in the late Middle Ages and Renaissance periods,” said Karen Werner, associate professor of music.

Werner explained that Madrigal music developed in Italy but spread throughout Europe and became especially popular in England. Madrigal music is in the SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) format or as it is called today, choral music.

Men and women of the court were educated in reading music, and Madrigal music was a fun way for them to learn music. In the 1960s Madrigal dinners became popular once again when universities and college campuses started re-creating them.

MACC traveled back to Renaissance times in November. It was MACC’s fourth Madrigal dinner and performance. The dinner was organized by the MACC drama and music departments. The director and head of the drama department, Joyce Pauley, said, “I always like working with the actors the best.”

Guests gathered in the MACC Art Gallery to socialize, snack on different cheeses and crackers, and to drink sparkling grape juice. As the guests enjoyed endless appetizers MACC actors, dressed in Renaissance attire, and singers entertained and interacted with guests.

Later in the evening, guests were escorted through the darkened halls of MACC, lit only by strings of floor lights. Along the way, beggars pleaded for coins.

At the entrance of the auditorium, each guest was announced. They were ordered to bow to the king (Jeffrey Griffin) and queen (Shannon Grenke) or run the risk of losing their heads.

The dinner room, decorated with grey “brick” walls, wall flags, Christmas trees, tapestries, and candles, was the setting of a 3-course meal. Guests feasted and laughed at the antics of the jester (Dakota McWhorter), who was usually accompanied by the Mertonsire (Josh Admire).

Throughout the dinner, actors performed skits and songs, and a few guests were occasionally chosen to join the fun. The gypsy (Brittany Vecchio) prodded her “children” to dance, sing, and beg for money.

By Caitlin J. Jeffries
Express Staff

The Madrigal included dinner and performances. Cast members included Geoffrey Griffin (King), Jobea Branstetter (Hector), Dakota McWhorter (Jester), Josh Admire (Mertonsire), and Kelson RosBach (Tyrone) join hands for one last hymn of the past.
Adair County CASA Program in need of volunteers

By Jamie Bunch
Express staff-KV

A child walks into school with bruises on his arms and a red palm print on his cheek. His small voice is barely heard over the roaring laughter of all the other children. If only there was someone who could speak up for him. This is where the volunteers of the Adair County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) come in.

"Thousands of children a year are placed in foster care or group homes. These children are in need of someone to represent what is in their best interests in the court system and who advocate permanency for the child."

“We need community volunteers of all ages,” Slocum said.

If you are eligible and qualify as a CASA volunteer, you must then complete a 30-hour training course and be sworn into the court systems by Judge Russell Steele. You are then assigned a child or a sibling group. Volunteers are required to see their assigned child at least one time a month and can expect to spend eight to 10 hours a month on work related to their assigned child.

“Children are very vulnerable... They need somewhere stable to grow up and know that that’s their home,” Sweet said.

MACC Receives FEMA Grant for New Campus

By Brad Williams
Express Staff

MACC applied for and received a grant from FEMA for additional funding of the new Hannibal campus. The grant was in the amount of $877,346. MACC will supply an additional $292,449 that will be used with FEMA’s grant to make a portion of the building a certified tornado shelter.

Although the entire building will not serve as a tornado shelter, a core portion of the building will be constructed to withstand the force of the winds from a tornado. The portion that is to be used as the tornado shelter will be available to anyone who would like to seek refuge in the event of a tornado.

“Anyone who comes to the door will be let in,” says Gary Steffes, vice-president of Finance at MACC. Although no one has currently been hired to begin construction, architects are finalizing the design for the 18,000 square foot campus. No groundbreaking date has been set, but Steffes expects that classes could be held at the new campus as soon as fall 2013.
COLUMBIA—With wanted photos and arrest warrants in hand, Columbia’s police department cracks down on criminal behavior using social networking sites like Facebook.

“Social media sites like Facebook have really changed the landscape of crime fighting throughout the city,” Daniel Knight, Boone County Prosecuting Attorney, said.

With the majority of young people sharing their lives via social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace, it’s almost inevitable that some overexposure will occur. “I’ve had friends who were under the age of 21 post pictures of themselves blatantly abusing alcohol,” Nick Zappa, a sophomore at Moberly Area Community College, said.

Many people may think that their user privacy settings protect them from prying eyes. This is true, but only to a certain extent. According to one Columbia police officer, who wishes not to be identified, the undercover beat has gone cyber.

When asked if creating faux user accounts to track potential criminals was unethical, the officer had this to say: “I don’t think it’s unethical; our mission is to serve and protect. In this day and age, we aren’t just bound to the streets. We have to be on the web.”

When asked about the number of virtual informants currently actively fighting crime in Columbia, Knight declined to answer. But if recent trends across the nation show anything, it is that many police departments are utilizing these tactics.

“I feel safer knowing that potentially harmful people are being caught this way. I just hope people aren’t being tricked into saying things to people they think are their friends when in reality it’s an undercover officer,” Zappa said.

Zappa isn’t alone in voicing his concerns of entrapment, but prosecuting attorney Knight said no one was being coerced.

“We aren’t out there trying to get people to commit crimes over the Internet. We’re merely trying to solve them,” Knight said.

Knight offered this advice to the public, “Personally, I think you shouldn’t post anything you would be embarrassed to share with your grandmother.”

**Politicians Take To Facebook**

By Haydn Campnier
Express Staff - Col

In the 2010 midterms, it was shown that politicians, both Republican and Democrat, used social networking to inform the public of what was going on in their campaign about the same amount.

“I have been using Facebook quite a bit personally, so I imagine I will use that more for this next election. I think it is helpful to use various media to get information out and to answer questions,” City Council Member Of Columbia, Barbara Hoppe, said.

Of everyone who either followed a politician on Twitter or “likes” a politician on Facebook, students make up 74% of those users who either follow or like a politician.

“I did have a team that managed my webpage and my Facebook...I actually had to have a team to moderate it and update it during the campaign...and it really was a full time job,” City Council Member Of Columbia, Helen Anthony, said.

Social media has proven to be something that college students use on a daily basis. So the amount of technology, plus social media, plus political campaigns, equals more votes for the candidates from the student demographic.

“In the 5th Ward I do have students, but I don’t have a ton of students...the problem is the students haven’t voted...so the question is are you (politicians) going to do the Twitter, Facebook if historically they are not voters?” Anthony said.
On October 19, MACC and Columbia College celebrated their 15th anniversary of partnership with a reception that drew people of all ages from the community.

"By having this partnership, we can have events like this," said Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, president of MACC.

Both Dr. Gerald Brouder, president of Columbia College, and MACC President Jorgenson spoke about the benefits of communication between the four-year and two-year colleges. Dr. Bruce Jackson, director of Columbia College at MACC, added that the 2+2 program has benefitted the students seeking to transfer to a four-year college from MACC.

According to Dr. Jorgenson, one of the benefits is that students can "complete a four-year degree locally."

It allows local students the opportunity to complete their secondary education without having to pack up and move across the state.

The program also transfers up to 80 credit hours. The courses at MACC and Columbia College have been carefully reviewed to ensure that there are no courses repeated when a student transfers. This is very helpful for students who start their major at MACC and then plan to finish the sequence at Columbia College.

The office for the 2+2 program is located on the Moberly campus, Suite 231. According to Bruce Jackson, director, he and academic advisor, Andrea Benn, can help students who plan to transfer.

Starting in January, Columbia College will take a closer look at student transcripts in order to identify students who meet, or are close to meeting the Associate degree requirements. Students who have enough credits to graduate will be able to have a degree when they transfer.

Dr. Jackson explained, "We are finding that the need for students to have a degree in hand is becoming more and more important."

Another benefit to this partnership is the sharing of tools and ideas. Both schools have some of the same programs, such as nursing. The colleges collaborate to share expensive equipment.

The first 15 years has proved to be beneficial to many Moberly area students; the 2+2 will continue to help area students achieve degrees locally.

"We will see more collaborative arrangements between two-year and four-year schools," said Dr. Jorgenson.

MACC student, Stephanie Birdsong, is transferring to Columbia College's nursing program. The transfer agreement is one of the deciding factors to go to Columbia College through MACC.

"The availability of information and help from people like Dr. Bruce Jackson makes the transfer easier," said Birdsong.

More information about the program is accessible on MACC's website under the community tab or by visiting Columbia College's office on the Moberly campus.

The next collaborative event will be an advisor luncheon in March. Staff from both schools will continue to communicate and fine-tune this great partnership.
Off to the Races

By Kalen Barton
Express Staff

Moberly Area Community College is home to many students whose lives are filled with extraordinary experiences. One such student is Josh Garner whose experiences are what many dream of doing. Josh Garner has worked his way to becoming a professional motocross racer.

Garner insisted that he will continue to race for a very long time. “It’s my life, and it keeps me going,” he said.

Working his way into the motocross life was a long and grueling struggle, and he still has far to go, but Garner has achieved more than what a lot of people from this area have.

Josh is originally from Palmyra, Missouri. He was first compelled to start racing by his father and grandfather. They got him into the sport when he was merely three years old.

After a year, Garner had enough practice riding and started to race. Garner is not only a motocross racer but also a full-time student at MACC and is majoring in journalism.

According to Michael Powers, a friend of Garner’s, “Josh works very hard on his racing and it’s quite obvious that he revolves his life around this sport.”

Powers added, “His passion for this life shows on and off the track.”

Garner has won numerous individual races and tournaments. He has raced in 12 Missouri State National races. His next endeavor will happen at the end of this school year. Garner will travel to Australia to compete in the Australian National Pit race Series in hopes of an Australian championship.

Garner will have an abundance of support from people in his hometown and surrounding areas. We may one day see him on TV racing for a national championship.

Fast ways to fast cash

By Jamie Bunch
Express Staff - KV

Most of us are surrounded by outdated electronics. Some are still of good use while most end up in the trash. But there are ways that you can turn that trash into some quick cash!

Many people are now earning quick cash in this way by using websites such as eBay and gazelle.com. Many people are not aware of websites like gazelle.com, where cash is offered to you for electronics in over 20 different categories.

“I have never heard of that site [gazelle.com] before, but I would consider using them to recycle my old cell phones. They are just sitting around collecting dust, so why not try to get some money out of them? I think I will actually look into that site now,” Tara Sutterfield, a second-year MACC-KV student, said.

Gazelle.com has been around since 2006 and has an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. The most common item that they accept, as well as advertise, is cell phones. They also take items like calculators, digital cameras, movies, mp3 players, and even projectors. Their website is free to use, unlike eBay, who charges fees to advertise something for sale. They also accept phones that have something wrong with them or are broken, but offer you a lower price.

“I would be more than willing to sell them my old phone if it is no longer of any use to me. Especially if it has something wrong with it and they will still offer me a more than fair price,” Sutterfield said.

Gazelle.com even provides a box for shipping and handling for you to ship the product back to them. You can include up to five items at a time in the box. As a seller, do not worry about the items in the mail. Gazelle.com insures your items for the value that they offered to you.

“I’m not going to be using it if it is broken, and it would probably be of more use to them than it is to me,” Tenea Kaschube, a first-year MACC-KV student, said.

Another way to make cash fast is to utilize websites like eBay. Many have turned to websites like this to reach a wider range of prospective clients on any item that someone would want to buy. Sites like eBay rate their sellers, some as top-rated, letting you know that the person you are buying an item from is trustworthy. eBay also has a free service called Buyer Protection. If you are having problems with receiving a purchased item, you are to first contact the seller. If that does not work or the problem is not resolved, you can then contact customer service, and they will work with customer service to resolve the issue.

“On eBay, they have a percentage rate to show how reliable and trustworthy they [the sellers] are. eBay was one of the main sites that we went to when looking for a laptop… so I would probably go to eBay rather than somewhere else since they give you a bit of a background on the seller,” Kaschube said.
The jester not only acts, but also sings

By Caitlin J. Jeffries
Express Staff

“My mom always believed that I was going to be a drama kid. She started pushing me to do plays and stuff in middle school,” McWhorter said.

McWhorter has been acting since he was 12-years-old. His most recent performance was the jester in MACC’s Madrigal in November.

McWhorter has performed in many other plays.

“A few of my favorites were High School Musical, where I played Ryan Evans, and Mulan, where I played Mushu the dragon.” He performed in the two plays while in high school. McWhorter was especially interested in musical theater.

The audience saw McWhorter’s acting abilities and his singing talent during the madrigal in November.

McWhorter is majoring in music and said, “I know I want to do something with either theater or music, but I am not sure what yet.”

He plays the saxophone and piano. In high school, he participated in choir, band, and drama club and is currently in MACC Singers.

“Dakota is one of those students who thinks outside the box and who works on his talent. He is the kind of student we love to see at MACC. I know he is going to spread his wings both here at MACC and beyond,” said Karen Werner.
"Bloody 66" One of many highway memorials along Route 66.

"Memento of Americana" is on display Nov. 10 - Dec. 7.

"Wig Wam Motel" Look closely at the souvenir to see the 'made in China' sticker.

"Roadrunner" While sketching this picture, Steven Bleicher, was approached by a man with a shotgun.

Capturing Americana...

By Donna M. Monnig
Express Staff

...is what artist Steven Bleicher is doing with his latest theme. Memento of Americana depicts maps, sketches, and photographs coupled with artifacts and souvenirs, all held captive in shadowbox picture frames.

Currently a professor of visual art at Coastal Carolina University, this New York City native has been working on this art theme for over ten years. What started out as sightseeing while visiting family in Albuquerque has turned into quite a collection that is currently on display at MACC’s Graphic Arts Gallery.

In his Artist Statement Bleicher explains, “My body of work has an underlying theme of Americana. Currently, I’m using the subject matter of great old highways such as Route 66 and the Dixie Highway as a point of departure.”

Bleicher has done other themes on other highways, but Route 66 has a special appeal, partly because 66 was one of the first national highways to open up the west extending from Chicago to L.A., and partly because Bleicher’s father hitchhiked on Route 66 when he was on leave from the military.

Bleicher spoke via Skype to students, faculty, and art enthusiasts who attended the reception on Nov 15. His art came to be at MACC after he responded to a national call for art sent out by Professor Felicia Leach. The artists who responded were put through a lengthy selection process; Steven Bleicher was one of the few chosen.

Each piece of his art has a story. For instance, when he was sketching his picture of Joe and Aggie’s, restaurant patrons began bringing him items from inside that he could use to put in the frame, but it was the cook (who didn’t speak a word of English) who brought out a dried chili pepper. That chili pepper now happily resides in a shadowbox picture frame for all to see.

One of Bleicher’s favorite stories is about his picture entitled Roadrunner. While standing in the weeds at the side of a road and sketching, a man with a shotgun approached him. Bleicher apologized for being on the man’s property and explained that he was an artist. The man simply asked if he remembered how he had got there. The man followed Bleicher as he walked back to his car asking every couple of steps, “Did you step there?” By the time they reached the road, Steven Bleicher was beginning to get aggravated with the man and finally asked him what his problem was. With his shotgun, the man brushed through the weeds revealing rattlesnakes. His constant harassment about whether Bleicher had retraced his exact steps had been to ensure he avoided the many poisonous reptiles.

Bleicher continually expands his collection as they visit new places. They head out two weeks at a time and stop whenever something captures their eye. Bleicher recommends that everyone get out on the road at least once and just "go with the flow."

Bleicher continually expands his collection as they visit new places. He hopes one day to do a picture of Car-kabob in Chicago. Car-kabob is a giant shish-kabob made of cars.

Steven Bleicher enjoys his work. His advice to students: “If you’re going to go to work, you better really enjoy it because you’re going to spend the majority of your time there.”

Memento of Americana is full of America’s changing culture. Bleicher explains it best: “My work is about remembrance and recollection. It’s about our human need to capture a space in time, a fleeting moment and preserve it.”
Could have been at the beach by now

By Kalen Barton
Express staff

The holiday season is upon us. Many students will be flying to be with their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The one thing that people hate about flying is dealing with the airport regulations and guidelines. These put a bit of a damper on students’ happy holiday season. It is useful to know what to expect when trying to battle the overcrowded airports.

When packing for a flight, know what is permitted for a carry-on bag or a checked bag. There have been several modifications to the carry-on list as of Nov. 14, 2006.

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website, items permitted for carry-on include:

- Liquid and gel toiletries in 3-ounce containers or smaller only if they are in clear plastic, quart sized or smaller zip lock bag. (Larger containers that may be half filled along with half rolled toothpaste are not allowed. They are, however, permitted in checked bags.)
- Drinks, liquids, and gels bought in airport.
- Baby formula is if a child is traveling.
- Laptops, cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.
- Any amount of eye drops, saline solutions, prescription and non-prescription medicines, and personal lubricants.

Items that are not allowed for carry-on are:

- sharp objects such as a knife, corkscrew, or nail file. (That one doesn’t take a lot of thinking to understand.)
- Lighters (not allowed onto any plane either carry-on or check bag. However, they may be allowed if they are empty and are approved by the Transportation Department.)

Some strange permission items, such as jams and jellies, are preferred to be in checked bags, and pies should be stored as carry-on. Good news for any nationwide bakers out there; they will all allow both the cherry and the apple pies on the plane.

After everything has been packed into luggage, the airport will be an easy beast to overcome. On the contrary, the worst part is getting through security and bag check-in. The first and most frustrating line that must be endured is the check in line. After all the waiting and everyone has successfully checked in their bags, the real fun starts.

There are a few basic rules for getting through security fast and stress free. First, find the shortest line. It is always a great idea to show up to the airport at least two hours before the flight. During the holiday season, it may be a good idea to show up three hours before due to the massive number of people flying at this time of year. Once a line has been picked for security, the long grueling work of picking up your bags, walking four feet and setting them back down until you reach the security check point.

It is good to be ready for what’s about to happen next. The security personnel will push everyone through as fast as possible so be prepared. First, you will take off the shoes you are wearing. Second, you will place shoes and all items from pockets into a bucket, along with any belt that is being worn. Third, you will place all carry-on bags either into a bucket or onto the conveyor belt. Any laptop going onto the airplane must be removed it from its case and sent through the machine separately (a new airport rule). After all belongings have been sent through the x-ray machine, you will walk through the metal detector past the watchful eye of security; if no problems arise from the metal detector, you will grab all personal belongings and stroll away to await for the flight.

After security, passengers wait for the flight at the designated gate. From here, it’s smooth sailing; travelers wait for the flights to arrive and then stand in line to board the plane.

Being on the plane is by far the easiest part of the flight; passengers are asked to turn off any electronic devices. Once the flight has ascended above ten thousand feet, passengers are allowed to use devices such as I-pods or MP3 players, pagers, electronic books, and laptops. After landing, it is best to have a ride planned such as a friend or family member, a shuttle, a taxi, or a rental car.
A Cultural Experience within Reach

By Sarah Smith
Express Staff

Turn-of-the-century clothing, fresh-baked sweets, piping hot stews, hand-crafted jewelry, furs and music. These were the sights, sounds, and tastes at the 35th Annual Folk Life Festival in Hannibal, Mo., in October. Those who attended this event, put on by the Hannibal Arts Council, had the opportunity to see a glimpse of what life was like in the past, a simpler time when people took pride in their crafts.

“We try to keep the theme at the turn of the century,” said program coordinator, Brenda Beck Fisher.

An event like this doesn’t just come together by itself. Preparation for the next Folk Life Festival begins as soon as the current one ends. According to Fisher, the arts council begins sending applications to vendors and letters to the city requesting permission for certain activities. Judges also begin processing requests from vendors. The arts council also needs the approval of the health dept. for food vendors and from the fire dept. for vendors who plan to use open fires. Advertisement is key to boosting attendance at the festival, so the Hannibal Arts Council enlists the help of Hannibal Magazine, the Hannibal Courier-Post, and the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

This year, in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the event, the festival featured a children’s parade, a pie-eating contest and a pie-baking contest. For these new events, the Hannibal Arts Council made a special events committee.

The Folk Life Festival is a great place for people, college students in particular, to lose themselves in culture and to learn about the way things used to be before the age of instant gratification.

“Our generation has a bad habit of not having any culture,” said local food vendor, Logan Bowser. His group, who has attended the festival since 1990, sells “cowboy stew,” a mixture of chili and cornbread.

Another artisan, in her sixth year of attendance, represents Mackenzie’s Jewelry. Her work involves using precious metal clay to make her jewelry pieces. She pointed out the importance and the responsibility that students have to learn about their culture on their own.

“The more you know, the more you know about your culture,” said Nancy Koehler.

The festival not only provides people with the opportunity to experience turn-of-the-century heritage, it also allows students to volunteer. MACC students, who are interested in volunteer work at the event next year, may call the Hannibal Arts Council at 573-221-6545, to work the drink booth, to set up for the event, or to tear down when the event ends.

Fisher also said that, due to community turnout, this year was a successful year for the Folk Life Festival. The cultural learning opportunities presented each year are endless, so if you have the opportunity, join in the fun!
A Viable Solution to a Simple Problem

By Haydn Campmier - Col
Express Staff

After being caught in 2002, Jerry Sandusky, Penn State Football’s former defensive coach, had been freed of sexual assault charges.

Then about a month ago, there were allegations from another young boy and an eye witness that Jerry Sandusky had raped an eleven year old boy in a shower about three and a half weeks prior.

Now students are upset Joe Paterno was fired? You are? You mean because firing him violently disrupts your senseless traditionalism? Don’t you care about the kid who was raped? And the fact that the “man” who was all about morals reported to his “higher-up’s” rather than to authorities?

Penn State needs to cope with the fact that it happened. It’s over. Now, what is the solution, not only for next time but for colleges all around the United States?

First off, when someone who is in this kind of position commits child rape on 15 occasions (that the university covered up), then fire him! What about the university? I believe now would be a good time to throw some restrictions on them (cough, cough NCAA!). And from now on keep a quarterly update on the actions going on in the athletic department. So when a old man, that has an organization that works with little children, keeps touching them, see that something is done about it.

On a personal level, Mike McQueary (junior), next time you see a little boy being raped, do something! Pick up the child from being raped or if not just bring to the rapers attention you’re in the room!

NCAA, keep a closer watch on your schools. There have been many cases like this, covered up, because schools (like Penn State), have so much money that they can slip it under the table.

So, when this happens to the University of Missouri, what will happen? Will there be reporting to superiors like Paterno and the rest of the athletic department? Or are we sensible human beings that can figure out a rational solution, so that this doesn’t happen? Even if that means we don’t idolize our coaches.

Lower Energy Bills = College Money

By Nik Schroff - Col
Express Staff

Winter is nearly here and we all know that the heating bills are going to go through the roof. Whether your heat is gas or electric doesn’t matter because you’ll be using more of it. But what if I told you that making just a few changes around the house could help to lower your bills significantly? Would you be interested?

There are a large number of simple things you can do to make your home more energy efficient that are so simple but constantly overlooked. There are also a few long-term items that will pay for themselves over time and I’m going to let you in on a few of these things.

The easiest thing you can do is to open the blinds on any south facing windows and let the sun do its thing by helping to heat up part of your house naturally. Another window treatment you can use is to cover any old or drafty windows with a clear plastic sheet so as not to let any warm air escape or let any cold air in while still letting the light and heat from the sun in. Turning the heat down on your water heater will also save you a decent sum of money. If you turn the temperature down to 120 degrees you can still have pretty hot water, but you won’t scald yourself.

According to dsireusa.org, which is a US Department of Energy database, if you happen to be an Ameren customer in Missouri, there are a few rebate programs that they have that aren’t too well publicized, but should be taken full advantage of. For Ameren gas customers, if you wanted to buy a new furnace, boiler, water heater (tank or tankless), a programmable thermostat, or to weatherize your home, Ameren will pay up to 50% of the cost to you just for making the effort to become more energy efficient.

For those of you who might want to take a stab at some serious long run savings, consider investing in a photovoltaic system for your house. This is more commonly known as solar panels. Again, if you are an Ameren customer, here is a good deal. Ameren will pay you two dollars for every DC watt your system produces with a maximum payout of $50,000. Even though the initial cost of solar panels are not cheap, depending on the size of your house, over several years the system would have paid for itself and the rest would be pure profit.

There are really easy ways to save and some others that are a little more in depth, but at the end of the day you should ask yourself ‘Am I throwing money away?’ And even though you might think that it’s normal to spend what you spend on energy every month, but why not save your money by utilizing these tips and using all the money you will have saved on that one thing you really want but just don’t have the money for. For more tips and tricks, energysavers.gov is a truly useful tool.
Canines in Camouflage

Book Review: Dogs of War by Lisa Rogak

By Donna M. Monnig
Express Staff

To say that America has a new breed of soldier would be inaccurate. Though military working dogs are a relatively new concept for many people, they have been used by the United States as far back as the Civil War.


Rogak details the ideal qualities that the military looks for in a dog, as well as the hard work and dedication required to be their handlers. Military working dogs (MWD) are full fledged soldiers given everything from body armor to the privilege of rank. A MWD is always given a rank above that of their handler ensuring that they are not abused or mistreated.

MWD’s have many jobs. Their roles include patrol, drug and/or explosives detection, tracking, and search and rescue. Rogak says, “Whether military working dogs are parachuting out of an airplane or patrolling the coastal United States, their ultimate aim is the same: to protect the people around them.”

It is said that the ability of a MWD is worth about ten soldiers. Their acute senses have saved countless lives throughout many wars.

The book states, “…in the fall of 2010, the Pentagon announced that after six years and $19 billion spent in the attempt to build the ultimate bomb detector technology, dogs were still the best sniffers around.”

Lisa Rogak’s book is filled with heartwarming and tear jerking true stories about the intriguing bond between man and beast. It is of comfort to know that, not only do these dogs save lives, but that their lives are also valued. They are well cared for even after retirement and are often adopted into the family of their most recent handler. And when tragedy inevitably strikes claiming the life of a dog on the frontlines, they are treated with the same dignity and respect as their two legged comrades.

The Dogs of War reminds us of why these canines in camouflage truly are man’s best friend.

Should anyone like to pay their respects, Moberly’s Rothwell Park is home to a War Dog Memorial that was added in 2009 at the bequest of Vietnam veteran Dave Harris.

The Big Year...
not having such a big year

By Nik Schroff
Express Staff

It all starts with a dream, a dream of breaking the record for most species of birds seen in one year, called a big year. The Big Year stars Jack Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson as Brad Harris, Kenny Bostick and Stu Preissler respectively.

These men, all from different walks of life, try to break a record. Stu Preissler is a powerful businessman trying to retire and pursue his dream of doing a big year, but with his company up for sale and the deals almost falling through, he has a tough time keeping up with the birds. Brad Harris is a working class nuclear facility technician working full time and still trying to break a record and make a name for himself in the world of birding. Kenny Bostick is a contractor and a vicious competitor who holds the record and is trying to keep Brad and Stu from breaking his record.

When Brad’s lack of funds and Stu’s ever intruding business meetings make it hard for them to get out there and see some birds, they team up using Stu’s funds and Brad’s time to send Brad out to set the record. All the while Kenny, knowing the routes and all the secret spots of the famous bird watching areas, gets other people to do the work for him so that he can swoop in and see the birds without much effort. He also uses his powers of deception to fool Brad and Stu a few times to throw them off or slow them down. Kenny will let no one stand in his way of retaining his record.

The acting was heartfelt and genuine. The story made sense and was entertaining, but it all seemed rather bland because the film doesn’t pick a side. It can’t choose between comedy, drama or adventure. And you are never quite sure if it’s a David and Goliath story, a buddy story or something else all together.

The songs from the film mesh well and would make a great album if it weren’t for the fact that the only soundtrack that will be released for the movie is the score.

It’s nice to see Steve Martin in a more serious role where he’s not playing the same person he is in most of his films. When I say “serious” I mean his character is more serious, not that it’s a serious film. The film is worth watching, but you should probably wait until it hits Netflix because most people won’t feel that it was worth seeing in theatres. If it were not a total genre mixture of a film with not much of a point, I would probably see it again, only for the excellent acting and the entertainment value.
Lady Hounds test the water.

The Lady Greyhounds have started the season with battles against tough contenders.

The Lady Hounds battled two highly competitive teams in the Midwest Bone and Joint Classic at Johns-Fitzsimmons Arena during the Thanksgiving Break.

In a thrilling overtime battle against a tough Golden Eagles Rock Valley College team, the Lady Hounds added a 64-59 victory to their win column. The score was tied 50-50 and the end of regulation time. In overtime, Mikel Boyd tossed in 6 points, Shanevian Holden tossed in 3, and the Lady Hounds sunk 5 of 6 free throws.

The Lady Hounds won the second game of the Classic 70-42 against Westminster JV, Fulton.

Tough competition defined the level of play in the recent Super 8 Classic Dec 2-3 at Johns-Fitzsimmons Arena.

In the last game of the Super 8 Classic, the Lady Greyhounds faced the Eagles of Kirkwood Community College out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Dec. 3. A top Division II school, the Eagles have won the national Division II title four consecutive years (2007-2010) and proved to be a valid foe for the Lady Greyhounds.

The Lady Greyhounds came into the tournament with a 6-1 record. The Eagles scored first, but the Lady Hounds followed with the next 4 points. The largest lead during the first half was five pts. by Kirkwood. The Lady Hound’s largest lead during the first half was two. The Lady Hound’s aggressive defense and quickness kept the Eagles from making it an inside game. The Lady Hounds also lessened the number of turnovers that had plagued them in the first game of the Super 8 Classic against Arkansas Baptist. The Eagles had more issues with turnovers against the Lady Hounds than vice versa. The battle was a stalemate by half, 28-28. Both Elliot and Boyd of the Lady Greyhounds scored 7 points each in the first half.

After half, the Eagles were more successful in penetrating the inside and in controlling the ball. The 32-30 lead at the 17:00 mark stretched into a comfortable lead with only 5:00 to go. Though the Lady Hounds had good shots on goal, the ball would not fall, and the Eagles went on a 12-point run. The game slipped away from the Lady Hounds, sinking only 16 pts. in the second half; the Lady Hounds lost the match 55-43. Their overall record fell to 6-3 after the Super 8 Classic.

Leading scorer for the Lady Hounds was Shanevian Holden with 12 pts. Mikel Boyd added 9. Also adding to the score were Cekiya Elliot, 7, Ashley Stevenson, 6, Channel Baker, 3, and Shanice Jones, 2.

Cheering on the teams

By Vince Smith
Express Staff

Angela Stewart has tumbled into her position as co-captain of the MACC cheer squad with hard work and persistence.

“Being a MACC cheerleader is a privilege. You have to earn your spot,” said Stewart.

Though she brings a great deal of experience to the squad, she says that being a cheerleader at the college level is different.

“We work harder, and I tumble a lot more.”

Stewart has been cheering since the third grade. She began competitive cheering as a member of Chariton Cheer, a young group out of Salisbury, Missouri. She worked with the group until her freshman year of high school. She attended high school in Brunswick, Missouri.

Stewart’s family supports her cheering career. Her parents, Jeff and Ann Ostermann attend most of the Greyhound and Lady Greyhound home games.

“I try to attend as many games and events as possible,” said Ann Ostermann, Angela's mother. "Her sisters attend her games, and her brother tries to make it when he is in town."

Jeff Ostermann has also volunteered to drive the squad to cheer camp in St. Louis and Iowa the last two years.

The cheering team won first place at the camp in St. Louis against competition from other 2 and 4-year colleges.

According to Ann Ostermann, the hard work and persistence has paid off: "Angela has really improved on her tumbling and backspins."

Although cheering camp is Stewart's most memorable cheerleading experience, she only commented that "What happens at cheering camp stays at cheering camp. Enough said."

Stewart wants to tumble even more. “My goal is to get a full twisting layout before my cheerleading career ends.”

Greyhounds Scoreboard Nov-Dec 2011

Arkansas Tech JV (H) W 98-56
Hannibal-LaGrange JV (H) W 85-37
Wabash Valley (H) L 77-73
NE Oklahoma A&M (H) W 82-59
Highland College, IL (H) L 71-70
Penn Valley W 66-64
Midwest Bone & Joint Classic (Home)
Quakerdale Prep W 73-60
Howard College L 79-60
Coffeyville Tournament (Coffeyville)

December Games to Watch:
12/10 Wabash Valley at Mt. Carmel, IL 3 p.m.
12/11 Southeastern IL at Meramec, St.L. TBA
12/14 Southeastern IA (Home) 7 p.m.