

UNIVERSITY NEWS

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UMKC not so dry after all

...But campus alcohol consumption trails Missouri average

Luke Harman Sports Editor

UMKC has been a dry campus since it joined the University of Missouri System in 1963.

"Dry campus" is a term used for the banning of alcohol at colleges and universities, regardless of a student's age or intention to consume elsewhere.

Counseling Center clinical social worker Dale Voigt-Catlin said UMKC is just below the state average in alcohol consumption of the 20 Missouri colleges and universities who are members of the Partners in Prevention (PIP) coalition, which includes both wet and dry campuses.

The percentage of students who have consumed alcohol in the past year tallies at 75.85 percent, while PIP schools averaged 77.85 percent.

Additionally, among students who drink, the percentage who binge drink at UMKC is well below the PIP average of 41.8 percent.

However, UMKC's binge drinking incidence rate of 33.4 is still a cause for concern for the center as they work to "considerably lower the figure through prevention efforts," Voigt-Catlin said.

Alcohol consultations are free to students on campus. The Counseling Center works with approximately 70 students per academic year within a broad-ranging social scope.

The range of issues related to alcohol can include alcohol abuse, dependency and addiction as well as cultural and family issues. Referrals for alcohol abuse can be made by faculty, fraternity and sorority members, Athletics, for conduct violations, by residential life and even self-referrals.

UMKC Housing alcohol policies are outlined throughout rental contracts with students and other members residing in university-run housing on the UMKC campus.

Housing policies on "Alcohol and Other Drugs" are enforced to promote individual responsibility and substance-free living.

All students who possess alcohol in the building, are in the same room as alcohol, enter the complex intoxicated or create a disturbance are subject to judicial sanctions.

Residential Life staff members are encouraged to contact campus police in case any intoxicated parties are unable to conduct themselves in a healthy and safe manner. Precautionary measures even cover online forums such as Facebook and MySpace in the event that pictures are posted displaying prohibited behavior taking place in any of the complexes, as outlined on the UMKC website.

While the foundations for a "zero tolerance" system are in place within UMKC Housing, the majority of the alcohol consultation referrals come from the residential life program, Voigt-Catlin said.

"We get referrals from all three residential programs at Oak Street, Johnson Hall and Oak Place Apartments."

Most referrals to the Counseling Center are first-year and second-year students for policy violations, but Voigt-Catlin warns that students who struggle with alcohol problems come from all age groups.

With an estimated 1,380 students living on-campus in fall 2011, alcohol-related activity on campus is an issue for the Counseling Center, with the average number of drinks per week that students consume totaling 4.62 (PIP 6.97).

Almost 25 percent of UMKC students do not drink alcohol and many others drink in a "light manner," said Counseling, Health and Testing Center Director, Marita Barkis, Ph.D.

Counseling Center activities like the "Safe Spring Break" week provide information on safe alcohol consumption, poisoning and fun events without alcohol to "help students make more informed choices of their own," Barkis said.

Although many students disregard the dry campus policy, UMKC is a shade drier than some of the other 20 state colleges and universities that make up the Partners in Prevention coalition.

Perhaps UMKC is not a dry campus, but an unofficial "Dry Campus Light."

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President Angela Fittle leans on treasurer Laura Schanzer's shoulder. The two girls dress in Venetian-style masks and sequins to celebrate the season of Carnival.

Photo by Johanna Poppel

Le Cercle Français celebrates Carnival at UMKC

Johanna Poppel Production Assistant

Last Thursday afternoon, a room on the fourth floor of the student union held an international celebration. "Mardi Gras" is what Americans are familiar with, but it is an event celebrated in many other countries known as "Carnival." The room was filled with Brazilian music, glamorous costumes, glittery masks, golden coins and colorful beads.

Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday. In Catholicism, Fat Tuesday is known as the last day of feasting before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The idea of costumes came about because before beginning the religious season, you have a day to cover up and celebrate without revealing your identity.

"In Switzerland they have unique masks symbolic for their own town," said Treasurer of Le Cercle Français, Lara Schanzer, who studied abroad in Annecy, France two years ago. Annecy is 30 minutes west of Geneva, Switzerland.

She discussed her experience of how Carnival is celebrated in Central Europe. "In France, it was about

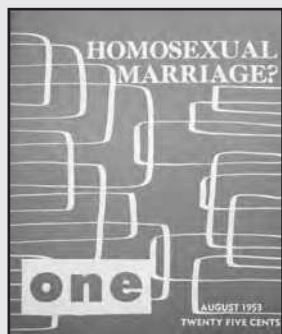
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A portal into Kansas City's Gay History

The Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America explores history of local gay culture

— timeline —

1953 'One' magazine



"ONE, Inc." was an early gay rights organization, and produced a nationally distributed magazine from California geared toward gay men. It was one of the first pro-gay publications.

In 1954, U.S. Post Office Department made declared the magazine as obscene. "ONE Inc." sued, winning in 1958. The magazine continued publication until 1967.

The August 1953 issue pictured poses the question of "Homosexual Marriage?" which is still a pressing issue today.

1953 'The Ladder'



Considered the lesbian equivalent of "One" magazine, "The Ladder" was the first nationally distributed lesbian publication in the United States. Issues ran monthly until 1970.

After 1970, "The Ladder" switched to distribution every other month until 1972. The magazine served as a method of communication between the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian organization in the country.

It also had a calendar of events involving the lesbian community in the remote area. "The Ladder" was also supported by "ONE, Inc."

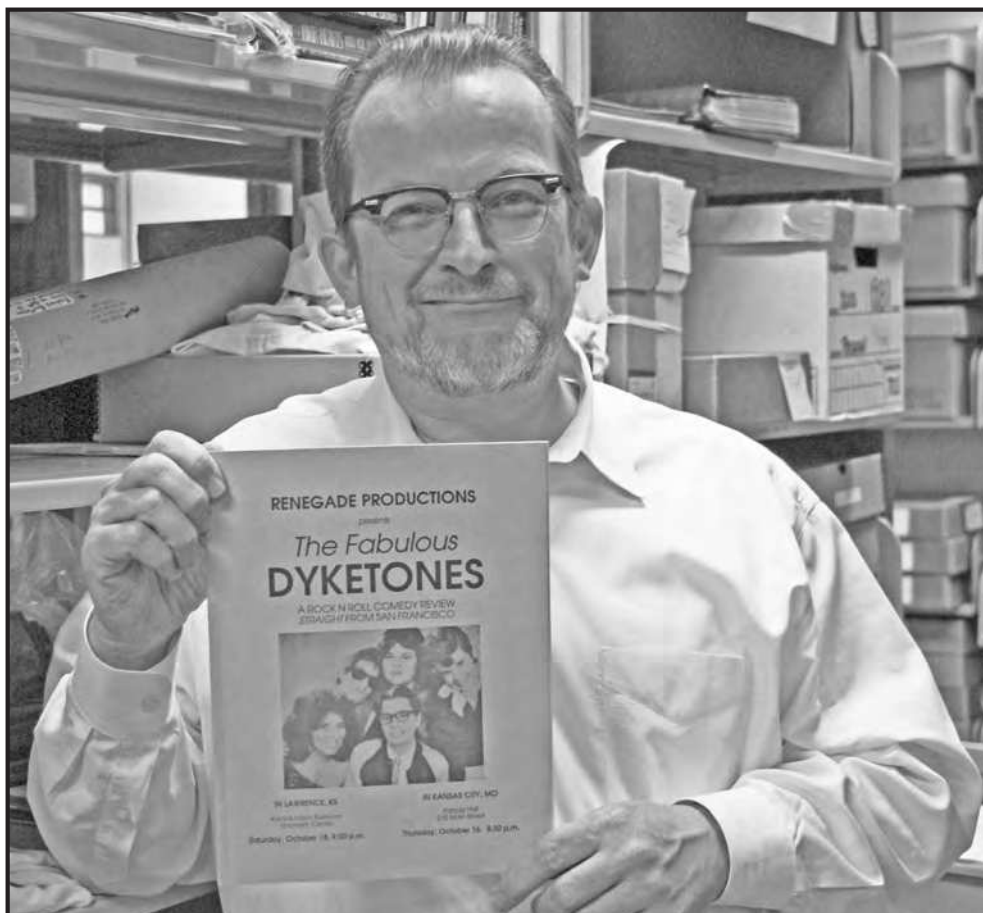
1975 Military photo



Long before the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy was revoked, two women serving in the military in 1975 were discharged because of their sexuality.

A member of the army reported that the two women were lesbians, and to avoid harassment, these women voluntarily discussed their homosexuality.

The women planned to seek aid from several organizations to get their discharges repealed.



Director of Special Collections Stuart Hinds continues to receive donations that document local LGBT history. Photo by Mal Hartigan

Mal Hartigan

A&E Editor

Pursuing a collection of Kansas City's gay history proved difficult for Director of Special Collections Stuart Hinds, who recently began a special project called The Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA).

GLAMA documents Kansas City's LGBT history through an extensive collection of artifacts and publications, but the archive took years to get off the ground.

Hinds first conceived of the idea in the early '90s soon after graduating library school.

"As an archives professional I have had a long interest in documenting the history of under-represented populations," Hinds said, "but, for various reasons, the circumstances to make it happen didn't coalesce until 2009 when enough support was garnered at both partner organizations to move forward in a meaningful way."

Since then, Hinds has received an overwhelming and helpful response through the LaBudde Special Collection's partnership with the Kansas City Museum, Jackson County Historical Society, and others, making Hinds' vision of preserving Kansas City's gay history a tangible reality.

GLAMA's main goal is to collect, preserve and provide accessibility for documents that provide a look into Kansas City's gay history over the past

“This institutional commitment is critical to the success of the initiative and says to donors that their history is important and worth preserving.”

—Stuart Hinds

half-century. Part of this is through a collection of oral histories from Kansas Citizens.

Hinds gives GLAMA presentations to organizations and presents various documents from the collection so audience members can have

Continued on Page 5

Police Blotter

Feb. 3

8:35 a.m.

Burglary

A student returned to his office at the School of Medicine to find his laptop missing.

11:07 p.m.

Assist other University Department

Officers contacted a group of individuals that were not cooperating with Oak Street Residential Staff.

Feb. 6

5:24 p.m.

Suspicious Activity

A staff member reported a student with marijuana in Johnson Hall.

Feb. 7

1:09 a.m. *Accidental building damage*

Officers were called to the Oak Street Residence Hall when the sprinkler system was activated.

10:45 a.m.

Burglary

A desk drawer was reported open and contents were found on the floor in a staff member's locked office at Miller Nichols Library.

3:51 p.m.

Property Damage

A student reported damage to the rear bumper of his vehicle at 52nd Street and Rockhill Road.

Feb. 8

10:28 a.m.

Noise Disturbance

Officers responded to a verbal argument at Student Academic Support Services between a staff member and a student.

12:44 p.m.

Parking Violation

Parking Operations reported a counterfeit parking pass on a vehicle in the Performing Arts Center parking lot.

4:10 p.m.

Harassment

A student in Johnson Hall reported being harassed by telephone and on campus.

4:50 p.m.

Parking Violation

Parking Operations reported a counterfeit parking pass on a vehicle in the Hospital Hill parking garage.

Feb. 9

12:27 p.m.

Harassment

A staff member at Student Academic Support Services reported receiving texts and visits from a person who was harassing her.

9:09 p.m.

Drug Possession

Officers contacted a party smoking marijuana in Johnson Hall.

Feb. 15

3:35 p.m.

Property Damage

A student returned to his vehicle parked in the Rockhill Parking Garage to discover damage.

Despite decline in spring enrollment, UMKC looks ahead to fall increase

Nathan Zoschke

Production Manager/Copy Editor

Down more than 1,100 students from fall 2011, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Mel Tyler has attributed the drop in spring semester enrollment to a decrease in the number of dual enrollment high school students.

"That population has decreased over the past few years," Tyler said. "They're really not part of our strategic plan. When you look at our on campus enrollment, we're just about even."

The 14,385 students attending UMKC is the lowest since spring 2009, when there were 13,626 students enrolled.

However, when this semesters' 983 dual enrollment high school students are factored out, undergraduate enrollment has actually increased from a year ago.

This year's enrollment pattern echoes the trend in four of the five most recent academic years, in which student enrollment decreased between the fall and spring semesters.

Fall semester enrollment has consistently trended upward, and fall 2012 enrollment is expected to be up 3 percent over fall 2011, according to Tyler.

Tyler said the enrollment data from the spring 2012 Institutional Research and Planning Report (IRAP) is in line with goals set by the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, which emphasizes increasing undergraduate enrollment, retention and graduation rates.

To boost undergraduate enrollment, the plan focuses on boosting UMKC's market share in its primary recruiting areas, which

include the bi-state Kansas City region, Springfield and St. Louis.

More aggressive marketing efforts will incorporate social media, student testimonials and television ads on local affiliates of popular channels like MTV, Tyler said.

"Some of it's new, some of it isn't," Tyler said, "but with our new vice chancellor for University Communications, we're going to be more strategic."

The campus average retention rate is 74 percent. The strategic plan sets a 2015 target of 85 percent, which Tyler noted is in the top quartile of peer urban research universities.

"Retention starts with orientation and our new student welcome day," he said. "Getting the campus focused on those particular events and on interaction with our faculty. Our research shows that prospective students and parents like to have as much interaction with faculty as they can."

In addition, each academic unit has its own retention strategy, which Tyler said focus on academic advising and interaction between students and faculty.

Tutoring resources and supplemental instruction will be provided for classes with a high percentage of fails and withdrawals.

The renovation of the University Center will bring together a number of campus resources under a new concept known as the Student Success Center. These will include academic advising for undeclared majors, the Center for Academic Development, Writing Center, Career Services, Disability Services and the MindBody Connection, among others.

In addition, the center will include an area known as a "one-stop shop" where students can work with representatives cross-trained

in different administrative departments, such as Cashiers and Collections and Financial Aid.

"That will be the one place where students will walk into that building and feel that they have all the professional support services that they need to support them," Tyler said. "This building will be a model facility."

The strategic plan also sets a 55 percent graduation target. The graduation rate is currently 44 percent.

Tyler said efforts to increase the graduation rate will focus on engaging students with a diverse set of needs.

The Access to Success Initiative adopted by the UM system targets a minority cohort consisting of African-American, Latino and economically disadvantaged students of any race or ethnicity, many of whom are the first generation in their family to attend college.

A part of the National Association of System Heads (NASH), the initiative seeks to cut the college-going gap and graduation gap between minority cohort groups and other students in half by 2015.

"It's really clear when students in this population do not pass math and English their first year, there is a huge success gap compared to those who do," Tyler said.

A UMKC Advantage Grant for eligible transfer and freshman students offers will cover the difference between scholarships, Pell Grants and tuition costs.

"If you get a Pell grant, no matter what your ethnicity is, we will leverage your Pell grant and university scholarship and leverage that gap to cover your tuition," Tyler said.

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News about

YOU-News

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

Can you find all the mistakes in this add? (HINT: There are 7 total.)

Do you have an eye for catching our errors? This newspaper could be you're opportunity of a lifetime.

Do you enjoy writing about other students and events happening around campus? Are you interest in journalism.

Do you enjoy taking pictures of keynote speakers and other events on campus?

If interested, please email info@unews.com.

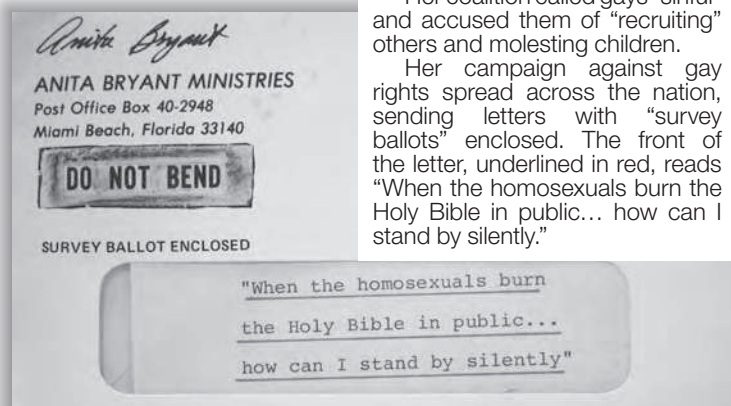
timeline (continued)

1976-77 Hate mail

Anita Bryant, former beauty pageant winner and American singer, was also best known for her anti-gay Save Our Children coalition in 1976-77. Bryant campaigned and supported ordinances that discriminated against the gay community.

Her coalition called gays "sinful" and accused them of "recruiting" others and molesting children.

Her campaign against gay rights spread across the nation, sending letters with "survey ballots" enclosed. The front of the letter, underlined in red, reads "When the homosexuals burn the Holy Bible in public... how can I stand by silently."



1977 'Coming Out'



During the '70s, many independent magazines emerged as a method of communication in the gay community.

This issue of an independent news magazine in 1977 celebrates gay culture and the liberation of "Coming Out!"

1980s The AIDS crisis



During the mid-80s, the Condom Crusaders distributed information to the gay community regarding the importance of condoms due to the AIDS scare.

They also distributed free condoms at bars to promote safe sex.

The Condom Crusaders provided AIDS education and awareness groups, offering sex education seminars.

1992 'Current News'



The January 1992 edition of "Current News" promotes the opening of Tootsie's, a women's dance bar.

Tootsie's remained in Kansas City for more than a decade until its recent closing.

This publication was considered a "bar rag," handed out at gay clubs to keep the community informed.

Photos by Mal Hartigan

GLAMA: Continued from Page 3

a hands-on experience.

GLAMA's collection includes textiles, clothing and costumes from past drag kings and queens, and audio recordings of performers, events and local artists.

The archive also includes photographs of people, activities, businesses and historic locations for the historic gay community, as well as letters and diaries detailing personal stories of LGBT Kansas Citians throughout history.

Memorabilia from businesses and organizations are also included, as well as publications connected to Kansas City's gay history. Various donors around the area have submitted several artifacts to the collection; Hinds has pursued several himself.

Collecting an account of Kansas City's gay history during a time of national oppression against the community has proven to be rewarding for Hinds, who has a vested interest in collecting the history from around the area. However, he wasn't able to pursue GLAMA as a solo project.

"While I have an intense personal interest in GLAMA, it is far from a personal project," Hinds said.

He reached out to other institutions for help in order to increase the project's pace.

"One of the reasons the effort resonates so strongly with our donors is that two prominent historical institutions are willing and eager to

“These local, regional and national publications served as the only channels for information related to the LGBT community. Because there were so few of them and they were so widely read, they really served to formulate a strong sense of shared community for their disparate readership.”

—Stuart Hinds

collect materials from these long-ignored groups and provide a long-term home for them, well after I am out of the picture," Hinds said. "This institutional commitment is critical to the success of the initiative and says to donors that their history is important and worth preserving."

LaBudde's partnership with the Kansas City Museum and Jackson County Historical Society has enabled the archive to collect various artifacts.

"This enables us to accept a wider variety of gifts than either partner could separately," Hinds said.

Hinds emphasized the importance of donations to GLAMA.

"I get a true rush with every donation, large or small, but as a historian I am personally drawn to the periodicals in the collection," Hinds said.

He also recognized how old publications helped the gay community keep in touch and organize events through newsletters and magazines at a time when the media would not publicize gay events.

"These local, regional and national publications served as the only channels for information related to the LGBT community," Hinds said. "Because

there were so few of them and they were so widely read, they really served to formulate a strong sense of shared community for their disparate readership. And, in many instances, the periodicals were the only place to access information that was ignored by mainstream media."

Hinds recalls his experiences from this time period.

"The only place to receive reliable, up-to-date information in the early days of the AIDS crisis in Kansas City was through a free 'bar rag' that was distributed weekly at local gay and lesbian nightclubs," Hinds said.

Though progress seems steady, some desired artifacts are not easy to obtain. A former organization called the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom published a newsletter called "The Phoenix" through a local advocacy group during the mid-1960s.

GLAMA only has two issues of "The Phoenix," but Hinds hopes to obtain more.

"In addition, we have identified several early male and female activists as well as some long-time female impersonators whose materials should be preserved, and those conversations will be initiated in the days to come," Hinds said.

Hinds has also been able to share GLAMA with interested students on campus and also gains exposure by setting up a booth during Kansas City's annual Pride Festival.

"I have had the good fortune to be invited by a number of faculty to classes where I have presented materials from the Archive, and each of these visits has resulted in intense student interest in the collections," Hinds said.

Hinds acknowledged the contributions of donors.

"Our donors are our biggest and most obvious supporters," Hinds said. "It is only through their generosity that the [GLAMA] exists. And sometimes these donors go beyond their initial gift to assist with the development of the collection."

For instance, Bruce Winter and Kirk Nelson donated Winter's garment collection worn during more than 30 years of his career performing as drag queen Melinda Ryder. Donors have also sponsored GLAMA fundraisers.

David Jackson, County Historical Society Director of Archives and Education, has donated proceeds from the sale of his book "Changing Times: an Almanac and Digest of Kansas City's Gay and Lesbian History" to GLAMA.

Hinds' work has not gone unnoticed. Other LGBT archives across the country have expressed interest in GLAMA.

"There are a number of similar archives across the country, and several of them have provided us with copies of selected resources," Hinds said.

To view GLAMA's online collection and learn more, visit www.glama.us.

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campus fast fact:

NCLEX:

UMKC surpasses state and national passing rates for sixth year in a row

Michelle Heiman

Feature Editor/Chief Copy Editor

Since 2006, the first-attempt passing rate for UMKC nursing students has surpassed state and national rates for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

In 2011, UMKC's passing rate of 90.32 percent exceeded the Missouri passing rate of 90.16 percent, and the national passing rate of 87.90 percent.

"I think that the extra clinical hours, the focus at the end of the senior year on review, how to answer questions, explaining the whole test taking process to students has helped them to pass," said program director Jolene Lynn, RN, MSN, MA BSN and BSN-AT.

The NCLEX is a computerized exam designed to measure competencies for entry-level nursing students. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) requires the passing of a different version of the NCLEX for Registered Nurses and for Practical Nurses.

According to the NCSBN website, "Passing the exam demonstrates your competence so that you can launch your nursing career."

The UMKC Testing Center does not offer the NCLEX, so students wishing to take the exam must visit the NCSBN website to find a testing center. The closest two to the Volker campus are at 9200 Ward Parkway and 4240 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Taking the NCLEX involves applying to a board of nursing, registering with Pearson VUE, locating a test site and paying the \$200 exam fee.

Once a candidate receives an eligibility letter from his/her board of nursing, an acknowledgement of receipt of registration and an authorization to test from Pearson VUE, then he/she can schedule an exam.

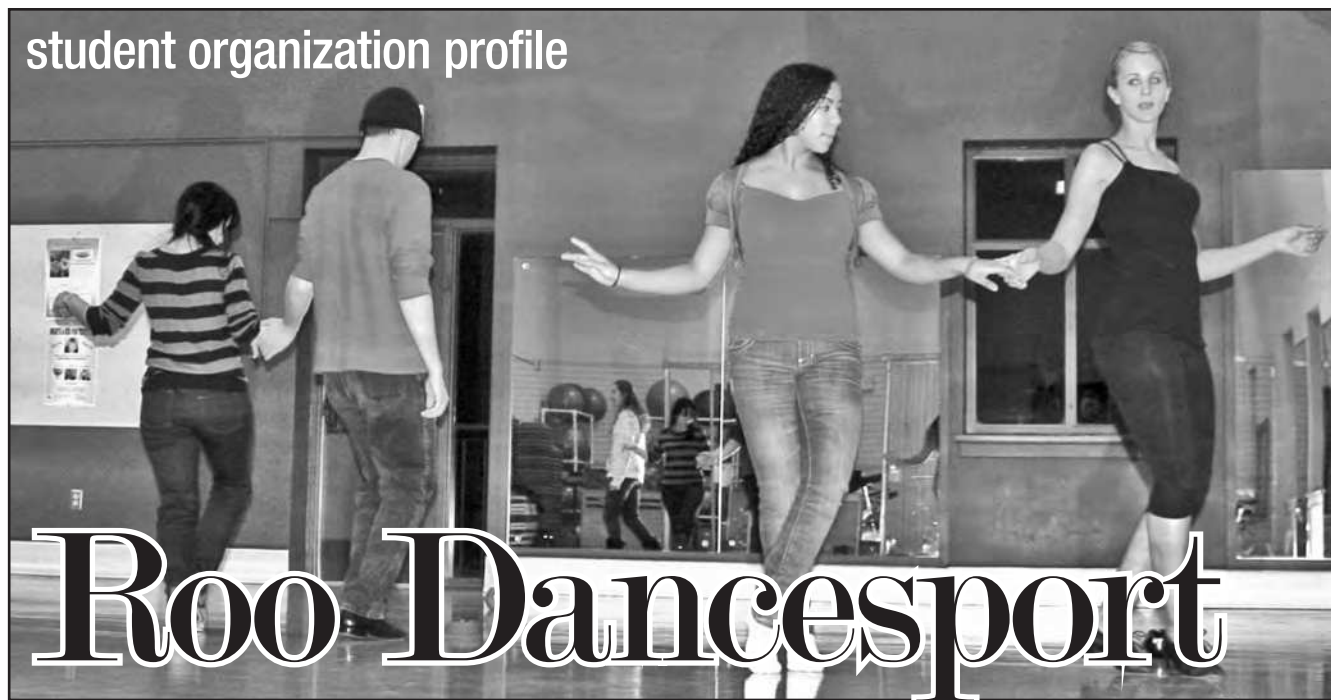
According to the NCSBN statistics, there were 154,302 first-time testers for the RN exam in 2011, of which 84.5 percent passed. The website also indicated that to safely enter the nursing profession, candidates should graduate from a recognized nursing program, meet the specific requirements of the state board of nursing and pass the NCLEX.

"Because passing the NCLEX is usually the final step in the nurse licensure process, the number of people passing the NCLEX ('pass rate') is a good indicator of how many new nurses are entering the profession in the U.S.," the website said.

There are multiple ways for candidates to prepare for the NCLEX. Kaplan provides multiple resources. www.NCLEXinfo.com has study guides, flashcard reviews and practice questions. www.NCLEXrnprep.com offers 20 full-length practice tests – \$12.95 each, \$49.75 for five, \$74.50 for 10 or \$129 for all 20 tests.

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student organization profile



Roo Dancesport

From left to right, Nihan Yesil, Eli Atwell, Idaima Calderon and Lindsay Bohonik practice the steps for their formation dance, which will be performed at a fundraiser planned for the end of March.

Photo by Johanna Poppel

Johanna Poppel Production Assistant

Roo Dancesport President Lindsay Bohonik noticed her Colombian boyfriend's parents joyfully salsa dancing.

"It looked like so much fun, but I was so afraid," Bohonik said. "I wasn't always a dancer."

Bohonik, a graduate student studying public administration, started the club in fall 2010.

"Roo Dancesport was created to promote ballroom and Latin dancing," Bohonik said. "The club offers classes in American Smooth and Rhythm, International Standard and Latin and social dancing."

The group meets twice a week in room 501 at Swinney Recreation Center and dances to music and learns various dance techniques from professional instructors. "Since it is in an isolated place, it does not give us a lot of exposure," Bohonik said.

The club consists of about 10 core dancers. Bohonik is encouraged by the camaraderie of the close-knit group.



Dr. Xiang-Ping Chu's research encompasses ion channels, which play a role in drug addiction.

Photo courtesy of UMKC School of Medicine

"The people that come here and stick with it are brave," Bohonik said. "It takes confidence to do it."

Students are encouraged to join for the opportunity to grow in confidence and skill while bringing UMKC to the top of the university ballroom community.

"I didn't start the club to teach. The point of the club is for students to learn from well-qualified people," Bohonik said.

The group has two formation teams of four couples each, one working on a cha-cha routine and the other on a Viennese waltz.

The formation dances are for a fundraising event to be held at Walters Dance Center at the end of March.

"It is a really great studio and they are very welcoming of collegiate dancing," Bohonik said.

At the end of the formation dances, there will be a silent auction where people can bid to dance with one of the dancers.

The event will collaborate with the University of Kansas Dancesport to raise

funds for the student organization to pay for the coaches who visit twice a week.

Roo Dancesport has two professional coaches, Michael and Lila Shultz.

"Lila is a World Professional American Smooth rising star finalist and has a background in ballet, jazz, tap and figure skating," Bohonik said. "Michael is a World Professional American Smooth rising star finalist and has received numerous Top Teacher awards throughout his career."

Roo Dancesport meets from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays with lessons, followed by an additional practice from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

In addition to open practice and review on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., all practices are in the aerobics room at Swinney.

"I want as many people as possible to enjoy this club," Bohonik said. "I won't turn my back on people even if they want to join the last day of the semester."

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briefly mentioned

School of Medicine researcher awarded \$188,000 grant

Michelle Heiman

Feature Editor/Head Copy Editor

Dr. Xiang-Ping Chu, assistant professor of Basic Medical Science, has received a \$188,000 grant for his research project titled "Targeting acid-sensing ion channel 1a (ASIC1a) to prevent drug addiction."

After earning his M.D. from Jiangsu University School of Medicine, Zhenjiang, China in 1989, his M.S. from Fudan University Shanghai Medical College,

Shanghai, China in 1996 and his Ph.D. from Fudan University Shanghai Medical College in 1999, Chu worked in Portland, Oregon until joining the UMKC School of Medicine in 2008. He is part of the neuroscience research team. Chu holds a second appointment in the Department of Anesthesiology.

"One of my research interests is to understand the functional role of ion channels in ischemic brain injury," Chu said. "We want to determine whether ASICs play any roles in the pathogenesis of

Continued on Page 7

UMKC looks for its, 'Biggest Loser'

Inspired by TV show, UMKC event promotes healthy living

Kynslie Otte

Staff Writer

UMKC kicked off its own Biggest Loser competition on Feb. 14, sponsored by Swinney Recreational Center and the Johnson and Oak Street Hall councils.

Kate Sanders, a Johnson Hall Residential Assistant, is the coordinator for the challenge.

"Basically the event is just my attempt at getting the campus involved in healthy decisions and reaching a new fitness level," she said.

The competition is based around the popular NBC television show "The Biggest Loser." The show features overweight contestants who travel to "The Ranch" to begin living healthier lifestyles through both diet and exercise. The UMKC version of the competition works similarly to the show.

"The purpose of the event is to get

UMKC involved in a healthier lifestyle by partaking in the popular television show process," Sanders said. "[The competitors] will have six weeks of participation with a Bod Pod assessment completed at the start and finish of the competition."

Alison Kramer, Swinney Recreational Center Wellness Coordinator, is in charge of the Bod Pod assessments.

The competition was scheduled at this time of year in order to give students a chance to get in shape for Spring Break.

The event will run through March 22. Until then, participating students will be responsible for exercising at least twice a week to benefit their health.

"The opportunity to weigh-in each week and track progress is also an aspect of the program," Sanders said.

Weekly weigh-ins will occur from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Mondays and from 11 a.m.-noon on Tuesdays.

Those involved in the event will be placed on teams, and participants will be individually responsible for exercising and making progress.

Participants who complete certain tasks over the course of the program will receive prizes.

The grand prize winner will be the student who loses the highest percentage of body fat.

As of last week, at least 25 participants had officially signed up to compete, and about 80 students had shown interest in the event.

Coordinators expect to see a good turnout for the competition.

For students interested in tracking the progress of the event, Sanders created a Facebook page called "Biggest Loser."

kotte@unews.com

other news Clay Chastain returns (again)

Nathan Zoschke

Production Manager/Copy Editor

Clay Chastain may be one of the most civically-invested ex-Kansas Citians; he now resides deep in the Virginia foothills.

In Kansas City, where voting on light rail proposals has become something of a biannual municipal rite, eight light rail plans have been either rejected or determined completely unfeasible since 1998, including six Chastain-led proposals.

Given the outcome of previous efforts, Chastain would likely be on his way to No. 7, except that City Hall rejected his most recent petition even though it had enough signatures and met the requirements to be on the ballot.

Chastain is currently suing to override the objection and put his initiative on the November ballot.

The rationale of the city's objection was the outcome of a 2006 Chastain proposal, the one light rail plan that actually won voter support at the polls.

The problem: it was completely unworkable according to city officials. The city rejected the plan due to its logistical impracticality and use of funds from an



"Back at it again, I see."

"Why yes, ma'am. Care to sign my petition?"

"Does this one have flying gondolas over Memorial Park?!"*

By Nathan Zoschke
*Chastain's 2006 proposal included a gondola tram over Memorial Park.

existing bus tax, which is prohibited by federal law.

Chastain took the city to court, and the ruling upheld Kansas City's decision.

The most recent petition, circulated last year, was rejected by the city on the grounds that it's unconstitutional because it lacks a proper funding mechanism.

The 1/4 -cent, 25 year sales tax in the proposal is not expected to generate sufficient revenue.

The \$2.5 billion proposal would build 22 miles of light rail between the Kansas City International Airport and Waldo.

The current state of the city's budget has also been a factor for some light rail opponents. If it were built, the Chastain

light rail would likely require a multi-million dollar per year subsidy from the city's general fund, which has suffered five years of little-to-no revenue growth in what has been described as one of the "most prolonged and impactful recessions in city history" by City Manager Troy Schulte.

Faced with limited funds to invest in infrastructure improvements, Mayor Sly James has asked voters to approve \$1 billion in bonds to fund needed repairs.

The city has offered contract buyouts to 105 firefighters as a way to reduce personnel expenditures, drawing heavy opposition.

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Mardi Gras: Continued from Page 2

who could make the most elaborate Venetian style costumes."

"I feel like Mardi Gras is a bigger deal in America, all the necklaces and days of partying is totally an American thing," said French exchange student Heddy Aouad. In France, it is more simple and traditional. "Kids will dress up one afternoon in school. There will be an annual parade in each French city, there will be a geographical theme and people will dress accordingly and the parade is rehearsed and choreographed," Aouad said.

The French club sold carnations earlier that week to be able to fund the Carnival celebration. "We made the maximum amount of money we could of made from the flower sale," Schanzer said. The funds helped get a band to play festive music for the event because carnival is not only celebrated in France, it is as well in Brazil.

A Brazilian band, Mistura Fina played traditional music such as "The Girl from Ipanema." "Ipanema is a beach in Rio," said Shay Estes, the singer of Mistura Fina, who also sings in other local jazz bands.

Along with Europe and Brazil, Canada is also on the list for the partaking in the carnival celebrations. "In Canada they have a winter carnival in the first two weeks of February," said President Angela Fitle. "We wanted to have a campus wide event because this is celebrated by the whole world and UMKC is so diverse and it brings people together. Hopefully we can get more funding so this event can be a UMKC tradition."

The French club does an array of activities throughout the year, such as a tour of the Kansas City Ballet and French guided tours of the Nelson Atkins Art museum. For more information, come to a French club meeting held 10 a.m. every Tuesday in the Scofield Hall language lab.

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Chu: Continued from Page 6

drug abuse or interact with other receptors in the brain in response to psychostimulants."

An ischemic brain injury is an injury that results in insufficient blood flow or oxygen supply to the brain. An ASIC is an acid-sensing ion channel.

The research funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant will focus on newly discovered molecular activity in the brain that happens while using cocaine to cause addiction. The findings of this research could lead to improved treatment and prevention of cocaine addiction. The grant was awarded through NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse, which states its mission as "to lead the nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction."

Chu's research programs have also been supported by the American Heart Association and by the University of Missouri Research Board.

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basketball



The Roos experience foul trouble early in the defeat to Wright State.

Photo by Lindsey Davis

Wright State too much for Roos

Men's team endures third consecutive loss

Tevin Devon Moore

Staff Writer

The men's basketball team suffered a third straight loss and fell to a 10-19 record after losing 76-62 against the Wright State Raiders (13-16) in a Bracket Buster game on Saturday evening.

Early in the game, sophomore Trinity Hall drove the lane and created a spark over a Raider defender.

Guard Reggie Chamberlain was again a significant factor, keeping the Roos in the game as the Raiders struck back and stretched their lead to 42-30 before the half.

The Roos returned in the second half firing on all cylinders, trimming the Raiders' lead to seven points several times, but never took the lead. Raiders' star Julius Mays proved too much for the Roos to defend with 25 points, 15 of them coming from beyond the arc.

The contest eventually died down when the Roos got into foul trouble early in the second half, making it easier for the Raiders to score.

Head Coach Matt Brown spoke briefly after the game.

"We only really had one senior play for us tonight," he said. "Everybody else is a freshman, sophomore or junior. The biggest difference right

now is rebounding. We have to rebound a lot better."

Brown also commended the overall toughness of his opponents. "The Raiders' toughness on defense was the difference in the game, not only on the guards, but also the forwards as well. They were really physical with us, and all of their cuts were there too. They're a good basketball team," he said.

Looking forward to closing the Summit League season on a positive note, Brown said, "We've got two games coming up to finish off the season: one against Oakland on Thursday, and Fort Wayne (IPFW) on Saturday. So the biggest thing is that we have to protect our home court, especially in league play."

With tight playoff places near the end of the Summit League, Brown has a simple message for the Roos. "We have to win some of these home games," he said.

The Blue & Gold will face the Oakland Grizzlies on Feb. 23 before combatting IPFW on Feb. 25 in two home contests, which will make or break the season.

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Dayon Hall-Jones scores 33 points against a helpless Leatherneck defense.

Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

basketball

Lady Roos punish Leathernecks as Hall-Jones dominates

Lindsey Davis

Staff Writer

The women's basketball team solidified its 4th place standing in the Summit League after a punishing 84-69 victory over Western Illinois on Saturday evening in Macomb, Ill.

Senior Dayon Hall-Jones was magnificent in the contest, contributing 33 points as the Roos improved to 17-10, 8-7 in Summit League play for the season.

Junior Kim Neziyanya netted 11 points, as did senior LeAndrea Thomas. Sophomore Eilise O'Connor added nine points, six assists and five rebounds. With shared offensive scoring, the Roos were dominant throughout the contest as they proved too hot for the hosting Leathernecks (11-15, 7-8 in Summit League play).

The Roos started strong, silencing the Western Hall crowd, opening up a seven-point lead with some swift scoring. Senior Brianna Eldridge was powerful in the opening stages and Hall-Jones was accurate from the free-throw line.

Despite a brief Leatherneck response, Hall-Jones hit eight points to push the Roo lead to 11. However, the home side

responded with great pace and reduced the lead to two before a buzzer-beating three from O'Connor gave the Roos a 39-34 halftime lead.

After encouraging words from Coach Candace Whitaker, the Roos came out strong at the beginning of the second half, scoring the first five points and extending their lead by 10 to 44-34 early on.

A 13-5 run by the Leathernecks cut the score to 58-54, but the Roos answered with a quick-fire 14-0 run that all but put the game to bed at 72-54 with just 7:08 on the clock. The Roos gained a game-high 22-point advantage before their 84-69 victory, causing the Leathernecks playoff trouble.

Offensively, Hall-Jones was unstoppable, producing five three-point scores and tallying a team-high seven assists. Defensively, the Roos were impressive as they forced 21 Leatherneck turnovers, which included 13 steals.

The Lady Roos will travel to face IUPUI in Indianapolis for their final road game of the season before returning on Feb. 25 to face IPFW in Swinney Rec. Center.

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Upcoming events

Women's Basketball

IUPUI	Indianapolis, Ind.		
	Feb. 20	6 p.m.	
IPFW	Swinney Recreation Center		
	Feb. 25	4 p.m.	

Men's Basketball

Oakland	Swinney Recreation Center		
	Feb. 23	7 p.m.	
IPFW	Swinney Recreation Center		
	Feb. 25	7 p.m.	

Women's Tennis

UTPB	El Paso, Texas		
	Feb. 25	9 a.m.	
UTEP	El Paso, Texas		
	Feb. 26	9 a.m.	

Softball

Butler*	Feb. 25	12:30
		p.m.
Evansville*	Feb. 25	4:30 p.m.
Detroit	Feb. 26	12:30
		p.m.

Butler* Feb. 26 4:30 p.m.
*all games will take place in Evansville, Ind. as part of the Evansville Tournament

Track & Field

Summit League Championships
Fort Wayne, Ind. Feb. 24-25

For more Sports, News, Feature and A&E coverage and unique student opinions, visit www.unews.com.



Madeline Schulte makes a return that helped her win her singles and doubles matches.
Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

tennis Lady Roos can't stay with Bulldogs

Luke Harman Sports Editor

The women's tennis team fell 6-1 to Drake on Saturday morning at the Roger Knapp Tennis Center against the Bulldogs.

The Roos fall to (1-4) for the season, while the Bulldogs (8-1) remain unbeaten in all five of their home contests so far this year.

In doubles play, No. 3 Roo pairing of sophomore Gabriella Pintos and freshman Madeline Schulte recorded the only Roo win in an 8-3 victory. At No. 1, the French pairing of Laura Bouet and Eva Dalvai lost 3-8 to Bulldogs senior Gabriela Demos and Slovenian junior Manca Krizman.

In the singles, Drake was a class above the Lady Roos, achieving victory in five of the six contests.

At the No. 6 line, Schulte took her doubles form onto the singles field, defeating Bulldog Ali Patterson in straight sets 6-0, 6-3 for the sole Roo victory of the day. At No. 1, Dalvai was the only defeated Roo to win a set as she was beaten 0-6, 6-2, 2-6 by a highly-rated Klavdija Rebol.

The Lady Roos will travel to El Paso, Texas on Feb. 25-26 for contests against UTPB and UTEP.

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Ramon Nelson achieves a personal best throw at the UCM Classic.

Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

track Nelson throws his weight around

Lindsey Davis Staff Writer

Weight-throwing junior Ramon Nelson stole the headlines at the University of Central Missouri Classic, recording a personal best throw of 58-10.25 (17.94 meters) on Friday evening in Warrensburg, Mo.

While Nelson took the weight throw title with his efforts, his teammates were in close contention as they proved dominant in the event, taking three of the top four spots.

Sophomore Kris Leverette finished 2nd with a mark of 57-04.25 (17.48 meters), while freshman Cade Lambson placed 4th with a personal-best 51-07.25 (15.73 meters).

Nelson also led the Roos in the shot put event as his distance mark of 52-01.75 (15.89 meters) was enough for 4th place. Again Leverette (44-02.00) and Lambson (49-08.25) were in close contention, both finishing in the top-10, taking the 8th and 5th places respectively.

For the men's runners, senior Brett

Guemmer placed 8th in the 3,000 meters after he produced a personal-best 8:55.61 in the preliminary qualification round and clocked 9:01.04 in the final event. Freshman Charles Hinton took 13th place in the 60-meter dash with a final time of 7.31.

For the women's side, senior Denise Banda continued the Roos' weight-throwing dominance with a 2nd place personal-best throw of 55-06.25 (16.92 meters), while also finishing 8th in the shot put with a 39-09.75 mark (12.13 meters).

Senior Kimoya Harriott competed with Banda in both events, finishing 4th in the weight-throw, marking 53-09.75 (16.40 meters), and 9th in the shot put with a throw of 38-08.25 (11.79 meters). Junior Susan Brueggman also found some rhythm, finishing 6th in both events, with a personal best weight-throw mark of 51-00.75 (15.56 meters) and throw of 42-03.75 (12.87 meters) in the shot put.

In the long jump, freshman Lynette Cottingham finished 3rd with a mark

of 16-07.75 (5.07 meters), sophomore Jasmine Cooper placed 4th with 16-07.00 (5.05 meters) and sophomore Michelle Momo took 7th at 16-06.00 (5.03 meters).

In the triple jump, Cooper led the Roos with her 4th place finish (35-05.00), while Cottingham (33-10.25) and Momo (33-08.00) followed in 8th and 9th places respectively.

For the women's runners, sophomore Taylor Spencer finished 3rd in the 3,000 meters after clocking in at 10:55.28, while sophomore Meg Doss recorded a personal-best time of 11:00.66 for a well-deserved 5th place finish.

Junior Stephany Johnson rounded out the Roos' notable performances at the UCM Classic with a 3rd place finish in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.88.

The track & field Roos will travel on Feb. 24-25 to Fort Wayne, Ind. for the Summit League Championships, which will be hosted by IPFW.

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Deanna Friese, last year's Summit League Pitcher of the Year, winds up for a pitch against Hawaii.

Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

softball Roos fall 1-0 in Hawaii farewell

Kyle Martin Staff Writer

The softball team closed out its six-game stint in Hawaii with a tough 1-0 defeat to the University of Hawaii Wahine on Feb. 13 in Honolulu.

The Roos fell to 2-4, while their Wahine opponents continued their impressive 6-0 record, albeit in a one-run contest.

The Wahine won the opening encounter just three days prior in the 2012 Oceanic Time Warner Cable Paradise Classic by a 5-1 scoreline.

They found the Roos to be much

tougher opponents this time around, particularly on the defensive end as junior pitcher Deanna Friese produced an impressive display.

The 2011 Summit League Pitcher of the Year held a no-hitter while recording nine strikeouts through five innings.

However, the sixth inning proved pivotal, as the Wahine forced the only run of the game. Despite the efforts of consecutive hits in response from senior Megan Ussary and junior Emily Ott, the Roos could not register a run and ended their tour of Hawaii with a hard-fought

loss.

Head Coach Meredith Smith was impressed with her team's performance and praised her pitcher for a phenomenal display.

"I'm very proud of the girls and Deanna as she did a great job for us tonight going against a tough Hawaii lineup," Smith said.

The Softball Roos will compete in the Evansville Tournament on Feb. 25-26 in Evansville, Ind. The Blue & Gold will compete against Butler twice, Evansville and Detroit.



French Tennis Player, Eva Dalvai, says her teammates are like a second family.

Photos by Michelle Heiman

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French tennis player to become occupational therapist

Michelle Heiman

Feature Editor/Chief Copy Editor

Eva Dalvai, from Strasbourg, France, has been playing tennis for 13 years.

Last week, junior tennis player Eva Dalvai was awarded Conference Player of the Week.

"The thing I like the most is that you can change the situation until the last ball," she said.

Although her credits say she's a junior, Dalvai has changed majors multiple times and will graduate in 2014. "I didn't know how the system worked," she said. "I was pre-med, now I'm health and science." She is currently on a path to become an occupational therapist.

"I still don't know if I want to do physical therapy," she said. "I want to work with children and with people who are injured. I want to see progress." Dalvai said life is different here than in France.

"Every day, I think about how lucky I am, to do what I want and what I love," she said. "I have class in the morning and practice in the afternoon. It's tough but my schedule is definitely not as hard as in France for my schoolwork."

She misses her family and friends, but also the food in France. "It's so easy to eat healthy. You don't have all the junk food around you," she said. "I came to the U.S because I wanted to speak another language. Also staying in France, I would've had to choose between tennis and med school. Coming

here, I could do both." Dalvai said she likes that she can trust her coaches.

"I've never been welcomed as I was when I first came," she said. "It means a lot to me what [the coaches] do for us every day. They're making us better as a player, but as a person as well."

Since she's close with her family, Dalvai said it was hard to leave France.

"I feel like I have two lives. I couldn't choose between both," she said. "My teammates are like my family. We are all very close and support each other in bad and good times as well."

Of her tennis experiences so far at UMKC, Dalvai said the first win ever (and first win of the season) against Creighton University two weeks ago was very positive.

"The doubles were very tight, and we were down," she said. "But by cheering each other up, we made it through and got the double point. Dalvai said her playing can depend on her mood.

"I try to make it more fun, so not only we get better, but we can have fun all together at the same time," she said. "I need to have fun to play great."

The 5'10" brunette cited the coaches as saying, "Talents win matches but teams win championships." She likes this idea.

"It's how we are practicing every day," she said. "Getting better not only for ourselves, but for our team as well."

Senior golfer sets goal of going professional

Michelle Heiman

Feature Editor/Chief Copy Editor

Senior Will Robson, from Hexham, U.K., earned Summit League Championships All-Tournament team honors last season after taking 2nd overall.

There is more to Robson than golf. "I think I'm a pretty laid back guy who likes to have a laugh and joke around with people," he said. "I would say that I'm pretty easy to get along with."

The 5'10" golfer came to UMKC as a freshman and posted an average of 79 that first season.

"He is someone who made the most of his opportunity," said Head Golf Coach J.W. VanDenBorn. "He works his tail off and is always searching for a way to make himself better."

After playing soccer and rugby growing up, Robson started playing golf seriously at age 14.

"I plan on turning pro when I graduate," he said. "I'll give that a shot for a few years and see how it turns out."

Robson said he came to the U.S because England's college system isn't conducive to sports.

"The standard of competition is better over here," he said. "The

weather is better, the courses are better, and I wanted to experience a different culture."

Leaving England didn't come without a price, though.

"I miss my friends and hanging out with them on lazy days," he said. "I also miss my family and going to watch live sports."

Robson said his team has become a sort of extended family.

"At first, I was kind of worried if I was going to miss home," he said. "It's going to be sad when I graduate. This has been my life for four years. You've got to move on eventually, I suppose."

Of his memorable experiences, Robson said winning the KU tournament last semester was one of the best.

"We were in 3rd or 4th place going into the final round. In the final round, everything just clicked and everyone played well," he said. "I had a hole-in-one on the back nine. It was my first ever hole-in-one in my life."

Robson and two other players will graduate in May.

He chose liberal arts as a major because it is general. "I could go into a lot of different fields with it, rather than being tied down to something like history," he said.

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Senior Will Robson comes from Hexham, U.K. Will enjoys the U.S., but misses home.

Photo by Michelle Heiman

The author of inspiration

Admired literary figure Sonia Sanchez shares messages of beauty and peace



Sonia Sanchez concludes her insightful speech about African-American culture with an original poem about the importance of peace.
Photo by Mal Hartigan

Mal Hartigan

A&E Editor

Sonia Sanchez, a revered author, poet and playwright, visited the Education Building as a keynote speaker on Friday night, sponsored through the Black Studies Program. The UMKC Division of Diversity, Access and Equity co-sponsored the event, along with the College of Arts and Sciences and the English Department.

Sanchez, a scholar and activist, travels the world to share her wisdom and insight derived from growing up during a time of hardship and oppression against the African American community. Sanchez has lectured at more than 500 universities, discussing black culture and women's liberation. She also advocates issues such as racial equality and peace.

Sanchez was the first poet laureate of Philadelphia in December 2011. She advocated Black Studies courses in California, becoming the first to create and teach a course focused on black women and literature in the U.S., just one of her many accomplishments during her life-long pursuit of equality for African-Americans.

As a pivotal literary figure, Sanchez was motivated by her observations in the African-American community, publishing more than 21 books. The event drew in a diverse audience, and Sanchez was greeted by enthusiastic applause from the crowded lecture hall.

The lecture was a broadcast interview between Sanchez and Susan Wilson, Ph.D., followed by a reading of Sanchez's work.

Chancellor Leo Morton introduced and praised Sanchez, saying she "gave a voice to the struggles of the African-American community."

Sanchez discussed various sources of inspiration, recalling childhood events: "It isn't the pain that propelled me as a writer, but the beauty," she said.

Sanchez praised her mother and her childhood as examples of such beauty.

"She let me run and be what I wanted to be. I am forever indebted to her for that," Sanchez said.

She recalled memories of playing with boys, such as climbing trees. While fighting for leadership with childhood friends, she was even daring enough to jump out of a second story window, resulting in scrapes and bruises.

Sanchez recounted another inspirational memory. When one of her family members was sitting on a crowded bus, the blacks were forced to move to the back so the whites could have seats. When the bus became too crowded, the bus driver stopped the bus and demanded the Blacks to leave. Instead of complying, her family member spit in the driver's face, resulting in an arrest. Sanchez always looked up to her family's courage.

"I carried that memory with me," Sanchez said.

Sanchez also discussed her life-long passion for literature.

"I have always been that child who loves books," she said. She started writing at a young age, and kept her writing secret by hiding notebooks under the bathtub. "It's something that saved my life on so many levels," she said.

Sanchez's passion for writing never ceased. She took a creative writing course in graduate school. Not only was she the only African-American, but she was one of only three women in the course. This course prompted her to send poems to various journals. Eventually, her poems were published in the "Transatlantic Review."

"I brought bottles of wine into NYU and celebrated with my class," Sanchez said about her accomplishment. She continued to meet for two years with the members of the class, holding workshops for poetry.

Sanchez emphasized the importance of opening up universities to diversity and exposing oneself to enriching programs such as Women's Studies, Asian Studies and Civil Rights.

Sanchez continually reminded the audience about the significance of teaching children, especially about peace. She explained it was crucial for children to have open hearts. She emphasized the importance of peace within America in order to obtain equality and justice.

She also passionately urged the audience to always fight against oppression.

"You don't let people limit you anywhere you go," she said.

She used the Occupy movement as an example of combatting oppression.

"This movement, the Occupy movement, it's very important. I want to tell them what an important thing they're doing. They need to know that," Sanchez said. "It's part of a long American tradition called resistance. Always bring up what is incorrect in America. We must work together, always, against any type of oppression."

Interviewee Wilson finally asked Sanchez what she considered to be her best accomplishment. After a moment of contemplation, Sanchez said, "I walk upright as a human being, and I have taught."

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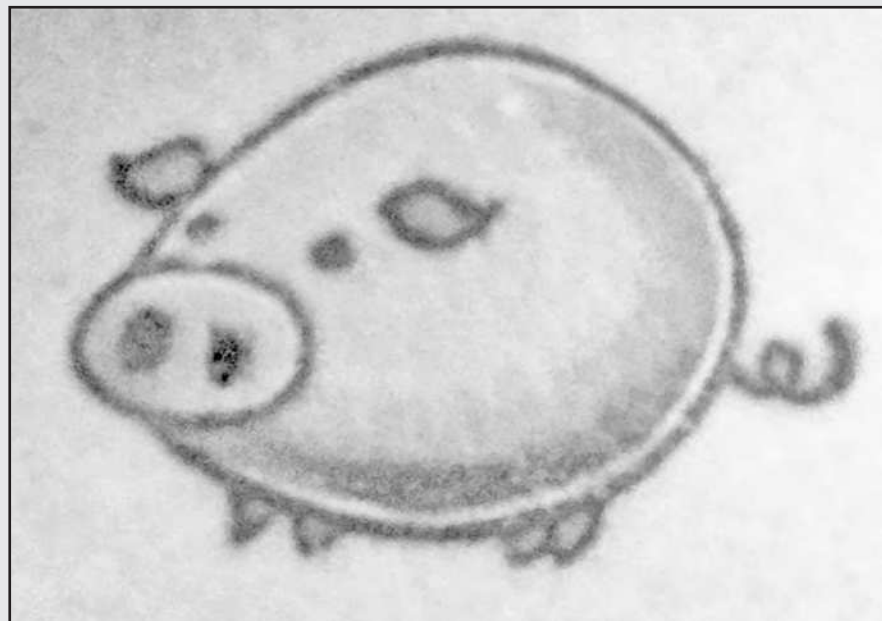
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Tattoo of the Week

Student's tattoo commemorates life of deceased friend



Kynslie Otte

Photo Editor

Sophomore Clint Carpenter went to Timeless Tattoo in Westport and got a pink pig tattooed on the back of his right shoulder to commemorate the life of a deceased friend.

"It's really hard to explain to anyone that doesn't understand the context of our friendship, but the tattoo was more or less a token of remembrance for my dear friend Frankie Abernathy who passed away in 2009," Carpenter said.

Abernathy was almost famous for a short period of time in the Kansas City area.

Abernathy was a member of the cast of MTV's popular reality television show "The Real World." She was a member of the San Diego cast, and passed away in 2009 due to cystic fibrosis.

Carpenter explained when the tattoo idea was conceived.

"Frankie and I had had an inside joke about pigs. I was transitioning into adulthood, reconnecting with my old friend Mamie (Frankie's sister), and I really wanted to do something that was completely up to me," Carpenter said. "Not a single person had a say in my decision to get inked. I also did it, of course, to remember that special person in my life."

Carpenter also explained his experience at Timeless Tattoo in Westport.

"I went with [Mamie]. She's made a tradition of getting a tattoo each year on Frankie's birthday and I decided to join her last year," Carpenter said. "Even more of a

unique twist, Frankie's old boyfriend works at the parlor we went to and he did her tattoo. An extremely friendly young man by the name of Roman Costa did mine, and did a fantastic job, I might add."

He also recalled a potential difficulty during his tattoo experience.

"They have a shop minimum of \$100," Carpenter said. "I only had \$60 cash on me, and the ATM down the block was out of order. I thought I was out of luck, but he graciously accepted only 60 bucks. He was such a nice guy."

Carpenter's experience at Timeless Tattoo was ideal since most Kansas City tattoo parlors rarely accept \$60 as a minimum payment.

Carpenter also noted how supportive his mother was of his tattoo.

"My mother thought it was a bit strange, but she understood the importance of the tattoo and ended up liking it," Carpenter said.

Carpenter also explained that most of his friends never reacted to his tattoo since it's not often visible. Some of his friends still don't know he has one. However, Carpenter isn't surprised. Because of its placement on his right shoulder, it often slips his mind.

If you have a tattoo that is special to you (or if you know someone who has a tattoo with significance), and you would like to be featured in the "Tattoo of the Week" column, contact Mal Hartigan at mbhartigan@unews.com.

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Great films come in small packages

The Tivoli Theater shows animated Oscar nominees

Lindsay Adams

News Editor

With the Oscars season quickly approaching and promotional videos with Billy Crystal on every station, the Tivoli in Westport is presenting all the nominees for the Oscars short film categories.

An extremely unrepresented and under-acknowledged medium, the short films are nominated in three separate genres: Animated, Live-Action and Documentary.

Many famous directors started out making shorts, which allowed them to break into feature filmmaking, such as "Doodlebug" by Christopher Nolan, "Vincent" by Tim Burton, "Luxo Jr." by John Lasseter and "An Exercise in Discipline" by Jane Campion. Many of these shorts are stylish and clever and show the early examples and evolution of their style.

The five films nominated for the Oscar race are "Dimanche/ Sunday," "A Morning Stroll," "La Luna," "Wild Life" and "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore."

The first film shown, "Dimanche/ Sunday" was not bad, but somewhat incomprehensible. It was charmingly drawn with simplistic and unusual lines, but it lacked a plotline.

"A Morning Stroll" tells the story of a man who passes a chicken on a street corner. The story is repeated on the

same street corner in 1959, 2009 and 2059. While the story seems simplistic, the changing times as expressed through the method of animation are imaginative. It is the slickest and most technically impressive.

"La Luna," a film from Pixar, banked on the magical and nostalgic premise to save it from a slightly weak storyline, and was not extraordinary considering what Pixar has produced in the past.

"The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore" is a 15-minute film that tells a full and nuanced story. Each moment is filled with importance and narrative. The film is both whimsical and magical. It was one of the stand-outs and would receive my vote for best animated short film. It explores the mystery and beauty of reading and manages to encapsulate the wonder the reader feels the first time they are drawn into a story.

"Wild Life" features beautiful painted animation and interesting connections between the story of a young, rich British man who moves out to the wilderness and the story of a comet. While it never quite clicks, many of its individual elements are strong. There are funny moments when there are pseudo interviews with the townspeople, and the ending achieves a melancholy strain.

The other shorts included in the screening were "Skylight,"

"Hybrid Union," "Nullarbor" and "Amazonia." Ironically, many of the stand-out films were the ones that did not make it into the Oscar running.

"Skylight" matched an offbeat and cutting sense of humor with animated penguins and a dramatic voice-over. It is a must-see that kept me in stitches.

"Hybrid Union" was a throw-away film. The story encompasses several robots racing each other, though the purpose is unclear. The animation of the robots was interesting, but the film was forgettable.

"Nullarbor" was a grimy and more adult film about two men who get into a competition of one-upmanship over a pack of cigarettes while driving down the Nullarbor, which is Australia's longest, straightest and most desolate highway. The character animation was intricate and the setting was wonderfully rendered, with a darkly comedic twist.

"Amazonia" was a slightly disturbing film about the food chain in the Amazon. It was executed in bright and childlike animation, which made its dark undertone more unnerving.

These Oscar-nominated short films are currently running at the Tivoli in Westport and are free to any UMKC students or staff with a UMKC photo ID.

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Top Left: Two men engage in terrible and hysterical behavior while driving in "Nullarbor."

Top Center: A young boy is initiated into his familie's business in an unexpected way in "La Luna."

Top Right: Penguins and other endangered species take the lead in "Skylight."

Bottom Left: Morris Lessmore is pulled in a new magical world through reading, in "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore."

Bottom Center: "A morning shell" tells a story about a chicken, a zombie, and changing time periods.

Bottom Right: An Englishman moves out to experience the "Wild Life" without any idea of what he is up against.

Book Review

An “Anthem” to the individual

Rand's novella is chilling and thought-provoking

Lindsay Adams News Editor

“Anthem” by Ayn Rand is a triumphant ode to the strength of the human spirit in surviving adversity.

“Anthem” chronicles the struggle of the individual versus the collective. In a world where a person is part of a “we” rather than an “I,” one man slowly recognizes the power of individualism and the ego.

In a dystopian world created by human development and destruction, mankind has created a technologically regressed society where prior discoveries have been forgotten.

Mankind believes the earth is flat. They treat the sick by bloodletting. They rely on gas lamps for light.

The mantra of the society is “We are one in all and all in one. There are no men but only the great WE.”

All men work together. No one is special. No one stands out. Men are worthwhile only in their usefulness to the collective as a whole. Every choice is decided by a council, including sexual partners and workplaces. Friends are not allowed, as each person within the collective should be equally appreciated and liked. Any man that shakes the equilibrium of the society is tortured and beaten for the greater good of the society.

Equality 7-2521 is a young man described as “six feet tall, 21 year old male.” He is a faceless member of the mob, relegated to work in whatever job the collective sees fit. He writes his story hidden in a tunnel.

“It is a sin to write this. It is a sin to think words no others think and to put them down upon a paper no others are to see.” His descriptive pronouns of himself are limited to the word “we.”

The unspeakable word “I” is punishable by death.

He was born with the curse of curiosity. Although he dreams of being a scholar, the Council of Vocations assigns him to be a street sweeper. One day he finds a tunnel and explores it, finding remnants left from the “Unmentionable Times.”

He begins to enter the tunnel even when he isn't working, and starts to do experiments. Equality sees a young woman working in a field one day named Liberty 5-3000. He calls her “The Golden One,” and slowly starts to fall in love with her, another forbidden act. He is soon forced to choose between the collective world and acknowledging his unique passion. He is forced to contemplate the safety of the controlled and the allure and freedom of invention and the unexplored.

Invention is a power that elevates humanity. It gives us the power to become something more than what we are. The simple ability to question and doubt is central to personal freedom. In a world where any thought is hindered by how it might affect and aid the collective, thought is not explored.

Rand creates this chilling fable set in a dark age of restriction and ignorance. Any technological development is either carefully planned by the authorities or completely hampered by fear of inventive and original thinking among the ordinary men. It is a world where mediocrity is the only path.

“Anthem” is a novella, which means it is substantially shorter than most novels. It is a quick read that will make the reader look at the world in a new light. “Anthem” is articulately written and thought provoking. It is a must-read.

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The Health Journal

Kharissa M. Forte

Forum Editor

Strawberry Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh spinach— great for bone strength, lowers blood pressure and is high in fiber.
- ½ cup strawberries— an anti-inflammatory and good for the eyes
- ¼ cup shredded 4-cheese mix
- 2 tablespoons fruit-flavored dressing (raspberry, strawberry, or Superfruit Berry by Wishbone)

Directions:

Lightly top the spinach with your choice of dressing, followed by the shredded cheese, then the strawberries (slice them, if you'd like).



Italian cheese and herb creme chicken thighs

Ingredients:

- Chicken thighs – Try something different from the usual wings, legs and breast pieces.
- Philadelphia Italian Cheese & Herb Cooking Crème
- Sea salt
- Pepper
- Parsley
- Onion powder

- Garlic powder

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Unroll the chicken thighs.
3. Season the inside with sea salt, pepper, onion powder and garlic powder.
4. Roll up the chicken thighs.

5. Season the outside with sea salt and parsley.
6. Place in an ungreased cooking pan.
7. Cook for 30 minutes.
8. Take the chicken thighs out of the oven and spread the top of them with one tablespoon of Philadelphia Italian Cheese & Herb Cooking Crème.

Health Tip of the Week: Losing water weight

When the weight loss journey begins, water weight is the first to go.

It can also be what stops us from continuing to shed pounds. In order to prevent water weight from holding you back, watch your sodium intake.

Consume no more than 2,300 mg of sodium each day. When the body gets more, the sodium goes into the bloodstream and retains water.

Have you ever noticed when you begin to sweat, it tastes salty? That's because sodium is literally seeping through your pores.

Once the salty taste is gone, so is the excess

sodium in your body. Drinking eight glasses of water also helps decrease water weight. The goal is to stay hydrated.

Start eating more raw vegetables, fresh fruits, lean meats and whole grains. These foods are full of fiber, which rids the body of extra fluid. Fiber also naturally makes you full faster, which is great for managing your calorie intake.

Another tip: do at least 30 minutes of cardio every day.

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Health Quiz:

1. Cutting back on _____ will prevent water weight.
2. The maximum amount of sodium one should eat every day is:
 - a. 2,300 mg
 - b. 500 mg
 - c. 1,500 mg
3. When people _____,

sodium is literally seeping through their pores.

4. True or False? Drinking water avoids water weight.

5. Fiber rids the body of extra fluid. Circle all of the foods that are fiber rich.

- fresh fruit
- McDonald's
- canned fruit

- candy
- fresh vegetables
- Taco Bell
- The Chinese buffet
- whole grains
- KFC
- lean meats
- potato chips
- processed foods

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Alumna's chemistry degree brings unique twist to Romance

Tevin Devon Moore

Staff Writer

Heather Snow, a UMKC alumna who graduated in 2002, recently published her second novel, "Sweet Enemy," through Penguin/NAL Signet Eclipse. It is the first of three romance novels in the series.

Snow came to UMKC as a chemistry major, but also intended to write novels after graduation. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Snow soon found she preferred creating chemistry on a page rather than in the lab. She explained how her chemistry degree helped to provide a foundation for her novel, and how she drew inspiration from her time at the university.

"An exhibit at the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology, which I may not have even known existed had I not attended UMKC, inspired the story," Snow said. "I don't want to say what exhibit, lest I give away part of the mystery! However, I can say that scientists were involved, which started a 'What if?' mystery in my mind. I then started to create characters that would fit the story idea."

The main character of "Sweet Enemy" is a chemist, influenced by Snow's extensive chemistry knowledge. Her chemistry background aided her in fleshing out the novel's plot.

"The heroine of my novel is a Regency Era lady chemist who goes undercover as a husband-hunter at an Earl's house party to discover what his family has to do with the murder of her father," she said.

"My decision to make Liliana a chemist really came from the 'write what you know' adage first time writers hear all of the time. Having a chemistry degree myself, I thought I could lend my voice well to her character, as well as give her a unique way of looking at the world and some specialized skills when it came to getting in and out of trouble."

Snow couldn't recall exactly how long it took to write her first novel due to the birth of her first child, but had a stricter

deadline when writing "Sweet Enemy."

"I'm guessing [it took me] a year or so, total writing time, spread over a couple of years," she said. "My second novel, however, written on deadline, took about six months—even with the addition of a second baby. Funny how those deadlines change things!"

Though Snow was always passionate about reading, she acknowledged the struggle of being new to the fiction writing process. She openly welcomed criticism to transform her writing style.

"The writing process was much more difficult than I expected," Snow said. "When I really dug in and analyzed what made stories work, I realized that writing fiction is a craft, one that has to be studied and honed. I had to accept that I knew very little about it even though I'd been an avid reader all of my life. I had to be open to tough criticism and be willing to swallow it, learn from it, and change how I wrote."

She also noted the surprising ease of the publication process for her novel, though her method of pursuit differed from most authors.

"The publication process was much easier than I expected—though my case was very rare. I entered my first manuscript in the Romance Writes of America's Golden Heart contest, the most prestigious unpublished romance contest in the world, and it became a finalist," Snow said.

Because of the main character's distinctive occupation as a chemist, "Sweet Enemy" had a unique appeal in the romance genre.

"That got me a lot of agent attention, and I quickly had several offers. Once I chose my agent and went out on submission, 'Sweet Enemy' sold in three weeks at auction to Penguin/NAL," Snow said.

Snow discussed her plans for the other two novels in the series.

"The second [novel], 'Sweet Deception,' comes out August

7, and features a Regency-Era Bones (of the Temperance Brennan variety, not the Star Trek kind though) who gets tangled up with a Regency-Era James Bond. A third will follow in 2013. After that, we'll see whether I carry on with the series or start another," Snow said.

She was also pleased with the reception following the release of "Sweet Enemy." Numerous fans expressed their support through e-mail and social networking sites.

"Sweet Enemy" is now available for purchase wherever books are sold. It is also available in e-book formats.

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Author and UMKC alumna publishes novel despite her studies in chemistry.

photo courtesy of Google Images

'Tracks on Fire' proves mediocre

Dan Tedesco's second album leaves something to be desired

Kynslie Otte

Photo Editor

Dan Tedesco, an independent musician from Chicago, Ill., serves as the lead vocalist, lead guitarist, keyboardist and harmonica player for his self-titled music project. The only other member is Rio Chavez, who serves as the drummer/percussionist/backup vocalist. "Tracks on Fire" marks Tedesco's second studio album.

Tedesco is currently touring the country, and recently performed at the recordBar in Westport.

On Tedesco's website, the genre of the music is described as "folk rock on steroids."

Also, "Tracks on Fire" is a raw, stripped-down batch of songs offering both a haunting and hopeful perspective on life in 2011 America."

The first song on the album is titled "Rock 'N Roll in the End," and starts off with a catchy guitar riff. Instrumentally, the song is solid.

The music is cohesive, but it isn't particularly original.

The guitar solo in the end of the song is notable, but again, it isn't anything that hasn't been done before.

Given there are only two members in the band, the duo does a nice job of creating a

track that isn't painfully mundane.

The second song, "Burn the Barn Down," begins with a simplistic guitar riff reminiscent of a classic blues or country song. Both lyrically and vocally, the song leaves something to be desired. The first line of the song (which is frequently repeated) is simply "Burn the barn down." This song sounds eerily similar to the first, and there isn't much to set it apart from other simple country songs.

The rest of the album seems to mirror the first two tracks, and doesn't encompass multiple genres.

Vocally, Tedesco sounds like a strange

combination of Creed's Scott Stapp and a hoarse version of Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder.

Most lyrics on the album seem repetitive, and are usually referenced in the title of the song. If the album intended to capture a "haunting and hopeful perspective on life in 2011," the listener will likely be confused about what this perspective entails.

"Tracks on Fire" is mediocre, and doesn't leave a lasting impression for the listener.

For those who enjoy simple country songs, this is a great album to pick up. For music fans that prefer less repetition, Tedesco's latest album is better left on the shelf.

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Who's afraid of the Big Black Panther?

Kharissa M. Forte Forum Editor

Black History Month is legendary for celebrating African-Americans like Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Booker T. Washington. W.E.B. DuBois – who shares a birthday with me on February 23 – and Frederick Douglass are also popular people of study.

To my amazement, one of the most famous groups in Civil Rights history is constantly (and probably intentionally) overlooked: The Black Panthers. “Why is this?” I ask myself. Year after year, I shake my head in disbelief at the lack of education taught concerning The Black Panthers. Perhaps I am a bit partial given the family ties; my

father was a member of the group's Kansas City chapter. Regardless, I feel that more information needs to be given.

I also believe that there are fears and misconceptions about The Black Panthers that prevent educators from teaching about the party.

The group was founded in 1966 by Huey P. Newton (ever seen The Boondocks?) whose initial idea was to war on police brutality in black neighborhoods. The Black Panthers practiced self-defense. In fact, their original name was The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Newton is quoted as choosing the panther because it “is a fierce animal, but he will not attack until he is backed into a corner; then he will

strike out.” The Panthers believed that sitting by idly while whites beat them over the head with their fists, guns, and assault weapons was inhumane. As human beings, we have the God-given right to defend ourselves. Embracing this common sense stance makes the Panthers violent and militant? No, it makes them human. Consequently, once realized, it made every Black person living in this country know they are human, too.

Another myth: they were a threat to the safety of the States. According to J. Edgar Hoover, The Black Panthers were “the greatest threat to the internal security of the country.” Within two years of its origination in Oakland, Calif., The Black Panthers spread

nationwide to cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Seattle, New Orleans, and right here in Kansas City. The only things this party threatened was the unfair practices of segregation, Jim Crow laws, and other forms of modern day slavery incorporated by white America. You see, Hoover knew that if blacks could stand together in unity that nothing could defeat them. This is why he developed COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program). Run by the FBI, COINTELPRO conducted illegal activities to break up political groups that would jack up their devilish agendas. The Black Panthers headed that list as public enemy number one.

In constant combat against



Kharissa Forte

the mis-education of blacks, one of the party's most influential programs was The Free Breakfast for Children. Party members would cook breakfast each morning for inner-city youth and serve it to the children before school. The

Continued on Page 19

Black History: Why just a month?

Nathan Zoschke

Production Manager/Copy Editor

Black History Month means a lot of different things to different people. For me, it is a success story of triumph amid persecution and a reminder of the unfinished legacy of the Civil Rights era.

Conceived as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson, the celebration of important African-American historical contributions grew to include the entire month of February in 1976.

The original weeklong celebration encompassed the birthdays of President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, the influential abolitionist and former slave whose memoirs helped turn public opinion in the North against the atrocity of slavery.

Noticing the intentional historical omission of important achievements of black Americans, Carter envisioned the week as a way to build self-esteem among blacks and eliminate prejudices against whites.

Sounds like a great idea, right? For most reasonable people, the

answer should be, “yes.” But history has proven that being reasonable is not a trait people always possess when it comes to issues of equality.

In a sense, Black History Month has become a rehearsed routine: High school history teachers show “Eyes on the Prize” and other documentaries while college campuses host guest lectures and keynote addresses. Furthermore, those same groups of opponents who surface every year ask why Black History Month exists. Some even laughably ask why there isn't a white history month (apparently the other 11 months aren't enough to satisfy them).

Perhaps they would be shocked to learn that Woodson himself supported getting rid of the tradition he established once the accomplishments of Black Americans received the same academic and social treatment as those of white Americans.

In a 2006 interview on “60 Minutes,” Morgan Freeman echoed Woodson's sentiments, stating, “I don't want a black history month. Black history is American history.”

I sometimes wonder what history education would look like if Black

History Month were eliminated. Would public school history teachers be more inclusive in their coverage of black history during the rest of the year or would the likes of Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, MLK Jr. and Malcolm X virtually disappear from school curricula? I'm afraid the latter is more likely.

Take the near absence of Hispanic and Asian-American History from high school history classes as a case in point; I realize this is an apples-to-oranges comparison, but bear with me.

The real problem, I believe, isn't just the secondary treatment of black history, but the longstanding influence of Eurocentric thought.

Some have equated the treatment of MLK Jr. to a form of hero worship, but why not call out King for actually making a positive impact when other not-so-great aspects of history are put on a pedestal without much ado?

The U.S. Constitution is revered by most Americans, but the same Constitution that has become a symbol of our freedom and democracy expressly allowed slavery under Article I, Section 2 until the ratification of the

Thirteenth Amendment in 1865.

The same presidents we commemorate on currency owned other human beings.

For nearly a century after the Revolutionary War, America turned a blind eye to slavery even after Great Britain and other European countries had banned the practice.

Today, no rational person supports human slavery. To our modern sensibilities, the thought of owning another human being is repulsive, but 150 years ago, people shrugged.

Contrary to popular belief, change is not inevitable. It takes movers and shakers, people who are considered “radical” in their time to challenge public opinion and force people to confront their own social prejudices.

If we continue to make progress towards equality, I suspect people in 2160 will perceive our actions the same way we perceive the actions of people in 1860.

After all, the legacy of slavery and institutionalized discrimination is alive and well.

In 2010, the Bureau of Justice found that 4 percent of all black



Nathan Zoschke

males are incarcerated, compared with rates of .7 and 1.7 for white and Hispanic males, respectively.

A recent study by M. Marit Rehavi of the University of British Columbia and Sonja B. Starr of the University of Michigan Law School found that black inmates serve sentences 60 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes, and were twice as likely to receive mandatory minimum sentencing.

In 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau unearthed the poverty rate for black Americans was 25.8 percent. The Hispanic poverty rate was a close second at 25.3 percent. Whites trailed at 12.3 percent.

If this isn't proof that there is progress to be made, then I don't know what is.

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Black Panthers: Continued from Page 18

Panthers instilled the confidence, self-worth and self-esteem the kids needed in order to survive an upbringing influenced by racial tensions. After its first year, The Free Breakfast for Children program was solely responsible for feeding more than 10,000 youths nation-wide.

Taking the mis-education of adults into consideration as well, the Black Panthers developed a successful newspaper of the same name. The paper covered various topics relating to the welfare of African-Americans. Subjects such as housing, education, justice, politics and the economy were popular headlines in the newspaper. Led by Chief Editor Eldridge Cleaver, subscriptions after the first year found similar success as The Free Breakfast for Children Program and more than 250,000 papers were in circulation.

The same newspaper headlines were a part of The Ten Point Program, a set of beliefs and rights that the Black Panthers would demand. Among this list of ten demands were petitions for full employment, decent housing, putting an end to whites robbing the black community and exempting black men from military service.

After almost a decade and a half of revolutionizing the attitudes of African-Americans across the country, Hoover's COINTELPRO succeeded in infiltrating and destroying the Black Panthers in 1982 by causing division amongst its leaders. The party split into two groups: those who followed founder Huey P. Newton and his strategy of community service and self-defense, and those who followed Eldridge Cleaver's more confrontational approach which was less community

service oriented. After the party died, The New Black Panther Party was established five years later in Texas. However, they never saw the light of day as the original party would not credit them or allow them to do work in their name.

In 2006, The Black Panther Party held a 40th Reunion in its home of Oakland, Calif.

Because of The Black Panther Party, African-Americans were given a sense of self-reliance, pride and value that other leaders in the '60s simply did not inspire. That's not to say that those leaders are less significant, yet it is to say that the Black Panthers are just as significant. They party should receive just as much accolade, respect and commemoration as those who practiced quieter methods.

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Letter to the Editor

Ms. Otte,

I first wanted to let you know that I read your February 14th article, "Gay Rights and Civil Rights: Are they the same?" and I enjoyed it very much.

I have been involved in both gay rights and African-American rights and came back to the Kansas City area about a year ago and have, as of yet, been unable to find a forum to discuss these issues.

I was wondering if there is a community of politically active lesbians that you are aware of, or even just a forum where issues such as these are discussed.

It seems the LGBT community here is something of a cloak and dagger scene and therefore difficult to locate.

I've tried to reach out to the UMKC campus groups but haven't heard anything back, so I am hoping that you may know where to find like-minded LGBT folks that think about and discuss these issues.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to more articles.

Fast food and weight loss – where we spend our money

Mal Hartigan A & E Editor

With pressure from New Year's Resolutions fading away in February, many people have likely abandoned their daily exercise routine and hopped back onto the fast food bandwagon.

It seems even when one makes the conscious effort to lose weight, the nearest fast food joint is right around the corner reeling customers in with low prices.

Even if a customer feels guilty for eating a couple of double cheeseburgers, at least it only cost \$2, right?

With the low prices of fast food, it's no wonder restaurants such as Taco Bell and Burger King see so many customers every day.

Broke college students especially frequent these cheap chain restaurants when nowhere else is open.

Cooking homemade meals is difficult on a budget, especially when cheap restaurants beckon at all hours with 99 cent deals. There is seldom time to cook a meal amidst a busy schedule.

College students aside, many busy adults frequent these high-grossing fast food franchises for a quick bite to eat between demanding activities. It seems

impossible to eat healthy while on the go and with a busy schedule. The resolution of hitting the gym quickly becomes obsolete. According to *www.bk.com*, more than 11 million guests visit a Burger King somewhere in the world per day.

As of 2008 for McDonald's, *www.neatorama.com* tallied 27 million customers per day.

These quick-eat restaurants seem to prey on America's quick lifestyle. In fact, *www.celebritynetworth.com* reported that McDonald's 2009 revenue added up to \$1.26 billion per quarter.

No matter how much effort our society applies, steering away from unhealthy restaurants and converting to a healthier lifestyle proves extremely difficult. Even when the conscious effort is made to drop a few pounds, the prices and convenience lure in apprehensive customers.

Though ousting the greasy, unhealthy food may be a potential resolution, it seems the secondhand resolution of joining a gym appeals to a smaller percentage.

Only 15 percent of Americans belong to a health club as of 2011, according to *www.lisajohnsonfitness.com*. Only half of Americans exercise up to three

times per week. Almost 90 percent of members with a health club membership stop attending after 90 days of joining.

The commitment to exercise seems to be far more daunting than giving up a quick and delicious burger. Statistics from *www.pamf.org* show that more than 25 percent of Americans eat fast food per day. But in a country that inarguably idolizes weight loss and a slim physique, why pay to consume a poor diet?

The most interesting juxtaposition in American culture is the idea that citizens will pay most of their money to eat, but also a good amount of money to lose weight. These two ideals practically cancel each other out.

Every person seems to desire a healthy weight. However, the difficulty to achieve this image increases every year. *Sharecare.com* stated that more than two-thirds of American adults are overweight. How can this be despite consistent advertisements depicting slim and sexualized models?

The answer leads back to the amount of food we consume as a country. America is notorious for food-eating contests, whether it's hot dogs or pie. Our country even airs Major League Eating on

television.

Takeru Kobayashi consumed a maximum of 69 hot dogs in 10 minutes as of 2011, achieving a world record. When our country considers eating as a sport and airs it on television, it reflects poorly on our culture.

Sure, it's impressive that the tiny Kobayashi consumed this massive amount of hot dogs in such a short time. The question here is why does our country idolize such a feat? Even while television advertisements stress the importance of exercise and gym memberships, programs such as *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition* and *Heavy* on A&E TV also condemn obesity.

Even with food's easy accessibility, weight gain and loss is mostly attributed to the amount of money citizens put into the exercise versus the food.

While some Americans have a predisposition to weight gain due to various health issues, there are also a number of Americans who consume a large quantity of unhealthy food each day.

Some Americans with health issues see their weight constantly increase and face a double, unfair stigma.

These obese Americans are



Mal Hartigan

stigmatized for having no self-control, and are also stigmatized for looking physically different from the ideal American. However, this double stigma is not always in a person's control.

It can be inferred that a majority of Americans may not necessarily suffer from a health issue, but capitulate to the convenience and taste of unhealthy fast food given the mass amount of visitors these restaurants see per day.

For most, if weight gain is a primary concern, it may be time to ditch the drive-thru and scavenge through the supermarket for healthier alternatives. Doing so may combat the need to spend an equal amount of money on a gym membership and battling it out on a treadmill seven days a week.

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Sudoku

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

Fische: "I hear the U.K. is getting its knickers in a knot over this whole assumption that Iran could start a new Cold War.

Chips: "Well, if that's the case, then we might as well pack our bags and move to Russia. I hear they're going to be the new big



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