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Illustration by Nathan Zoschke, original photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

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Photo by Matt Cook

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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A name change would mean new signage throughout campus, a substantial cost of rebranding the University. Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

# The University of Kansas City?

## UMKC considers dropping UM designation from its name

Michelle Heiman Copy Editor

Chartered in 1929, the University of Kansas City switched to UMKC when it joined the UM System in July 1963.

Now the word is spreading that the University may change its name again – back to the original UKC.

“It’s not really clear who first may have proposed the idea,” said John Martellaro, director of media relations.

The first major mention to the public came May 8, when *The Kansas City Star* ran an article about the name change.

The article quoted Chancellor Leo Morton, who said it is time to act on the “long-percolating idea” of the name change, which he hopes could end UMKC’s stigma as an offshoot of the Columbia campus.

In order for a name change to happen, the University must submit a proposal to the UM Board of Curators. The Curators would take a vote, and, if the proposal were to pass, establish an effective date for the change.

Martellaro said the name change would not affect the University’s affiliations within the UM System.

“Our commitment to the UM System and to the state of Missouri has never been stronger,” he said. “Our only goal would be to create an even stronger System component in Kansas City. The stronger our university becomes, the more we can contribute to the System and to the state.”

As of yet, no proposal has been submitted to the Curators.

“We are still in the research stage,” Martellaro said. “Much research must be done before we can have confidence that a name change will have the intended impact: identifying this university more clearly and closely as ‘Kansas City’s university.’”

The monetary cost of a name change would be covered by private donations, not taxpayer funds or tuition, according to Martellaro. In 2007, when the former University of Missouri – Rolla proposed a switch to the current Missouri University of Science and Technology, the cost

estimate was about \$500,000.

“The most important reason to explore a name change at any time is to enhance an entity’s ability to execute its vision, mission and strategy,” Martellaro said.

Martellaro is hopeful about what the results of the switch back to UKC could bring the University.

“When a great city and a great university share a name, it can generate powerful benefits and synergies for both,” he said. “We would be in the good company of other accomplished urban universities in major U.S. cities, such as the University of Cincinnati, University of Pittsburgh, University of Houston and the University of Memphis.”

### SGA conducts name change poll

On May 25, the Student Government Association (SGA) posted a poll through RooGroups to survey student opinions about the name change.

The first page of the poll says, “So what are your thoughts on changing the name of the University of Missouri – Kansas City? Let your voice be heard!”

The first and only poll question gives students a preference option for a name change – Kansas City University, University of Kansas City, undecided, other or no change.

Students can vote by visiting roogroups.collegiatelink.net. Voting closes at 11:15 a.m. July 31. Counseling psychology Ph.D. student Jon Grant disagrees with what he views is an “unnecessary change.”

“I’m all about necessary changes or beneficial changes,” he said. “Is the name change going to make my degree have more clout? Is the name change going to reduce the amount I must pay in tuition and fees every year? Probably not, on both

## word on campus



**Q: What do you think about UMKC changing its name to the “University of Kansas City”?**

“In interviews, people already assume our school is in Kansas, so changing the name will just make it worse.”

**Tyler Frasch**  
Recent pharmacy graduate

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	UMKC Fiscal Year Ending June 30					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Fall semester enrollment	14,462	14,499	14,818	15,277	15,492	-
Spring semester enrollment	14,369	13,626	15,143	15,064	14,385	-
Total state appropriations (% of total unrestricted income)	\$80.6 million (33 percent)	\$84 million (33 percent)	\$95.4 million (35 percent)	\$79.6 million (29 percent)	\$75.4 million (27 percent)	\$69.6 million* -
Net tuition & fees revenue (% of total unrestricted income)	\$106.1 million (44 percent)	\$110.9 million (43.4 percent)	\$112.4 million (42 percent)	\$119 million (44 percent)	\$125.2 million (45 percent)	- -
Total student borrowing (Undergraduate//graduate)	\$86.5 million (27.8//58.7)	\$94.1 million (35.2//58.9)	\$101.9 million (40.2//61.7)	\$106.5 million (43.1//63.4)	Unavailable Unavailable	- -

Sources: UMKC Operating Budget reports, Missouri Department of Higher Education, UMKC Institutional Research and Planning

# Part II Sticking it to the students

## As state funding shrivels, subsidized Stafford Loan interest rates and UMKC tuition set to increase July 1

Nathan Zoschke & Eric Carrell Editor-in-Chief & Senior Staff Writer

Student loans are a college reality that won't go away anytime soon.

Of the more than 1,800 spring 2012 graduates at UMKC, 74 percent of undergrads took out loans. Graduating seniors with loans average \$28,000 in debt, according to Financial Aid director Nancy Merz.

Graduate and professional students, who are enrolled in costlier studies and ineligible for the Pell Grant, accumulate even more debt.

The \$106 million in loans borrowed by UMKC students in 2011, the more current year, is a small chunk of the nearly \$1 trillion accumulated by students nationwide, according to data released May 31 by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

For student borrowers, the Fed's other findings aren't cheery:

- Since 2003, student loan debt has climbed \$633 billion.
- Student loan debt has increased by \$293 billion since 2008, whereas other forms of debt have dropped by \$1.5 trillion.
- Student loan debt is the second-highest

form of consumer debt after mortgages, surpassing credit card debt in late 2010.

“There have been a lot of changes in the past 4-5 years,” Merz said.

In 2007, fearing a spike in interest rates, then 6 percent, Congress passed legislation to reduce the interest rate on subsidized Stafford Loans each year until July 1, 2012, when the current rate of 3.4 percent will double if no action is taken by Congress.

Interest rates for Perkins Loans and PLUS Loans, the other major Direct Loans, are fixed at 5 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively.

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 ended federal subsidies for private banks to grant student loans, making the Direct Loan program the sole source of federal student loans. This, and other bills passed by Congress in recent years, have raised the borrowing limit and made it easier for students to take out loans.

### Cuts, cuts and more cuts

Many schools, including UMKC, have faced dwindling state allocations in recent years while enrollment has grown, displacing the cost of attending college on student tuition and fee revenues.

The \$74.4 million UMKC received in state allocations for Fiscal Year 2012, ending June

30, is \$6 million less than its state allocation in FY 2008.

Over the same four-year period, fall semester enrollment increased by 1,000 students.

Budget director Karen Wilkerson said Missouri law prohibits tuition and fee increases from exceeding the Consumer Price Index, a weighted average measure of consumer inflation, currently at 3 percent.

Wilkerson said UMKC anticipates a 7.8 percent cut, or \$5.8 million reduction, in its state allocations for FY 2013. This amount will be finalized when the governor approves the FY 2013 budget, which will take effect July 1.

Earlier projections anticipated 10-12.5 percent cuts, Wilkerson said. That amount was reduced in February when Gov. Jay Nixon allocated \$40 million from a national settlement, between state attorneys general and the nation's top mortgage lenders, to higher education.

“Our practice throughout the UM System is to be somewhat conservative in our budgeting practices, especially because funds can still be withheld even after legislation is signed,” Wilkerson said.

The anticipated 3 percent increase in

tuition and across-the-board student fees, expected to generate \$3.2 million, won't cover the entire \$5.8 million shortfall.

An increase in enrollment will add a projected \$1.5-2 million to the school's coffers.

The remaining difference, Wilkerson said, “will be addressed through a variety of expense reductions, including salary savings from vacant positions, layoffs and service reductions.”

An official hiring freeze, however, is not in the works.

Mel Tyler, vice chancellor of student affairs and enrollment management, said UMKC has worked to keep ancillary fees low compared to other urban public research universities.

“I think our ancillary fees are very reasonable,” Tyler said. “We're in the lower quartile of those institutions.”

Wilkerson stressed that UMKC has pursued less aggressive tuition increases than other regional schools, making it an attractive option for tuition-conscious students.

She also said that precautions have been taken to cushion students from the effects of the cuts.

Continued on Page 9

# New SGA president brings experience and hope for a smooth transition to next year

**Roze Brooks** Senior Staff Writer

With the spring semester over, many campus organizations have held elections to transition from one Executive Board to the next.

The Student Government Association (SGA), which acts as a liaison between students, faculty and administrators, closed its polls on April 13, electing Danny Riffel as the 2012 president.

The other Executive Board members are: Executive Vice President Linnaia McKenzie, Administrative Vice President Joshua Krueger and Comptroller Katie Carlino.

Senior Riffel has become familiar with the inner workings of SGA throughout his academic career. He served as scribe for SGA Senate meetings under the direction of prior Administrative Vice President Luke Whitworth.

This gave Riffel ample time to become comfortable with the organization and prepare for greater tasks.

"That year was definitely a step up for me in levels of responsibility I had to shoulder," he said. "But I enjoyed the challenge."

During that time, he interacted with many students, which became one of many motivations to run for president.

A Kansas City native, Riffel grew up loving everything the city has to offer, including UMKC.

"I want to give back to the university in any way I can in order to repay it for everything that it has provided me," he said.

Riffel is determined for this experience to mold his professional future while enhancing his leadership ability on campus.

"There will always be situations where you can only please one side of the table, and the losing side lets you know how they feel," he said. "I believe that SGA can help me learn to handle these situations with as much poise and leadership as possible."

With many tasks already emerging for the new SGA board, one of the things Riffel is most excited about is the debate surrounding UMKC's potential name change to the University of Kansas City (UKC).

"It will be very interesting to see the opinions of all the different facets of university life," Riffel said.

There are many goals Riffel hopes to accomplish in the upcoming academic year, some of which the SGA board has already addressed. The SGA board's initial concern is the Senate Quorum.

Quorum is the required number of voting

Continued on Page 8

# Q&A

## Provost discusses University College, downtown arts campus

**Elizabeth Golden** Managing Editor

**Q. What goals do you have in mind for the University College? Is there a timeline associated with these goals?**

**A.** University College will enroll its first students in the fall semester of 2012.

It is designed to help incoming undeclared/exploratory students, and continuing students in transition between majors, make purposeful decisions regarding their academic plans.

Its physical location in the Student Success Center will facilitate student interaction with key support services. Cross-college advising and participation of faculty from across the university will facilitate students' exploration and ultimate connection to the academic unit of their major.

The University College mission is to offer every exploratory student the opportunity for success through engagement with faculty and staff, the development of educational plans and the clarification of career and life goals. The University College will facilitate a UMKC connection with faculty and staff in a purposeful way, which has been proven to positively affect student persistence and degree completion.

The University College program will include UNIV 101, the cornerstone course required of all incoming students. The course is based on guidelines established by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience. Students will pick from UNIV 101 seminars with variable content based on their interests. Through the study of this topic of interest, students will develop key academic skills, connect with a potential faculty mentor and move toward declaration of an academic program.

This University College model aligns with a national trend toward providing more intervention and assistance to first-year students, particularly those who have not yet declared their major. The concept has been successful at numerous campuses including Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Arizona State.

**Q. How will this impact current and future students?**

**A.** Exploratory students will receive a higher level of support to help them identify their skills and interests, explore a variety of opportunities and develop an appropriate educational plan. The end result is expected to be a higher level of overall student success.

**Q. Would general education requirements be different for students in the University College? How so?**

**A.** Students in University College will receive advising according to their developing interests and plans. Every effort will be made to help students plan coursework to keep their options open until they have chosen a major.

**Q. How was the University College envisioned?**

**A.** University College was envisioned as a program that would emulate existing programs at other universities that have produced positive results for undeclared or exploratory students. As the Founding Dean of University College at Arizona State, I was able to review the research and develop a best practices model focused on "high touch" counseling



Provost Gail Hackett Photo Courtesy of UMKC

that leads students through purposeful exploratory activities leading to an informed and considered decision on a course of study. However, there are many universities that have established a University College or a unit that may have a different name but that is essentially an academic unit designed to serve exploratory students.

**Q. What is the expected outcome of the feasibility study of the proposed downtown arts campus?**

**A.** We are anxiously awaiting the results of three key studies that will help us decide whether this is the right move for us to make. We can't know what specific details the studies will reveal, but in very broad terms we expect they will show that the proposal will require a substantial investment, but also yield substantial rewards for students, and for the community.

**Q. How is UMKC financing existing and proposed capital projects in light of the current budget situation? Will gifts and grants fund the development of a downtown arts campus?**

**A.** UMKC utilizes a variety of funding sources for the various capital projects on campus. Since the state has not funded capital construction since fiscal year 2008 when MOHEALA funds were used to complete the Health Sciences Building, UMKC has been resourceful in combining revenue-funded bonding and private gifts to complete projects key to the UMKC strategic plan.

As examples, the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the ongoing Miller Nichols Library Renovations will utilize private gifts. The Miller Nichols Learning Center and the Student Success Center are using revenue-funded bonds, with the revenue coming from enrollment growth that is forecast for UMKC over the next five years. The projects provide the capacity to increase enrollment by providing a single stop for student recruitment and retention and providing new state-of-the-art large lecture hall spaces for the campus. The new Cherry Street Parking Structure is also using revenue-funded bonds, with the revenue coming from the parking fees paid by faculty, staff and students.

It is anticipated that a Downtown Arts Campus, if implemented, would rely almost exclusively on private gifts and partnerships with other public or private entities. The potential funding for the Downtown Arts Campus is one of the issues being pursued as a part of the feasibility study process.

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## faculty profile

# Dr. Robert Evanson

## Political science professor's three decades at UMKC will be fondly remembered

**Eric Carrell** Senior Staff Writer

After 32 years at UMKC, political science professor Robert Evanson retired at the end of the spring semester.

Evanson, whose emphasis is International relations and comparative politics, began his academic career at the University of Florida before transferring to the University of Illinois.

Majoring in political science with a minor in history, Evanson decided to continue his academic career by attending the University of Wisconsin's political science graduate program. It was during his graduate work there that he discovered an acute interest that would capture his attention for the rest of his academic career: the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"I took two classes on Soviet politics and Soviet foreign policy. After I took those two classes I was hooked," Evanson said. "I have always been fascinated with power politics."

Since discovering his acute interest, Evanson has written countless essay publications regarding Soviet economics, Soviet-Latin American relations and other dealings with the former Eastern Bloc.

After receiving his master's, Evanson taught at Clarke University for five years,



Dr. Robert Evanson Photo Courtesy of UMKC

after which he completed his Ph.D. in 1979. He began teaching at UMKC in 1980 and quickly became cherished colleagues with current political science professors Harris Mirkin and Max Skidmore, among others.

Evanson became a tenure track teacher in 1986. In 1989 he began seven years of what was at least part time administration which included: three years at department chair, one year as vice chancellor of academic affairs, and as an associate Arts & Sciences dean from 1989-1992, where he made friends with faculty from other schools and departments.

“He is a good lecturer. He doesn't talk at you but more like he is having a conversation, and he was always keen to have a conversation with you about stuff that interests you. He also went out of his way to help people with letters of recommendation or research.”

**-Evan Helmuth**

"I will miss the people most," Evanson said. "I love it here. Of all my years here, I can count on one hand the amount of people I didn't like. It's a really nice place to work, and I will miss it a lot."

Evanson has also made an impression on numerous students over the years while teaching and working with them on independent studies.

"I really liked his class partly because of the subject matter but also because of his teaching style," said Evan Helmuth, a senior political science major. "He is a good lecturer. He doesn't talk at you but more like he is having a conversation, and he was always keen to have a conversation with you about stuff that interests you. He also went out of his way to help people with letters of recommendation or research."

On March 4, the Political Science Department held a retirement party for Evanson. Associate professor and Department Chair Dr. Mona Lyne gave a

farewell speech in his honor.

"A specialist in Soviet, post-Soviet and Eastern European politics, Dr. Evanson was a highly valued member of the department," Lyne said. "He was a favorite of students who filled his classes and frequented his office regularly. He will be greatly missed by the department for his dedication, his collegiality and his great sense of humor."

Upon retirement, Evanson has moved to Seattle, Wash., and will also spend five months out of the year at his cottage in Wisconsin. In Seattle, he will teach an online course at a local college, work on one of his four ongoing research papers and co-edit a book.

"I am really looking forward to writing in retirement," he said. "I figured with all the writing I have planned, it will be enough to keep me busy for the next several years."

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## other news

# Facebook's investors don't 'like' its status on Wall Street

## Social networking giant to more aggressively pursue new revenue

**Kate Baxendale** Senior Staff Writer

On Friday, May 18, Facebook debuted with its IPO (Initial Public Offering) on the New York stock exchange.

The most visited social networking website in the world traded stocks at \$38 per share, totaling a whopping \$104 billion.

The rest of the story may not be as great for the social networking giant:

At the end of its first day, Facebook's stock rose a mere 0.6 percent to \$38.23. High expectations for the world's biggest social network may have been one reason why it did not do so well.

When the first day "pop" did not happen, this started a sellout with Facebook underwriters like Morgan Stanley.

As lead underwriter, Morgan Stanley's job was to ensure that the stock was being sold at or above the IPO. As the price of shares was

nearing the IPO, Stanley was forced to buy shares in order to prevent the numbers from heading into negative territory.

Another reason Facebook did not do well on its premiere day on the market was because of a glitch in the Nasdaq. Trading did not begin until two hours after the market had opened on Friday. Soon the confusion set in; traders were unsure if their orders were going through, and some found that they were getting shares at a higher price than expected.

The confusion continued through the weekend. As late as the following Tuesday, traders were still uncertain as to whether or not their orders were made and at what price.

Stock prices continued to fall the following week, surprising some people familiar with the stock exchange. Other technological companies like Yelp and LinkedIn "popped" on their first day on the stock market. Many

market analysts repeatedly warned the social network that its IPO was unreasonably high considering the company's financial fundamentals.

Facebook has turned to more aggressive advertising on its website.

One option is to establish an advertisement inventory across the Internet. This raises the issue of privacy for users. Facebook already takes its users' personal information (interests, hobbies, location) and creates ads that coincide with each user. If an ad inventory is created, users could be bombarded with potentially irrelevant ads for soccer cleats at every site that is visited.

Other ideas have been circulating among investors about how Facebook could generate revenue aside from advertisements. Currently, the social network site offers Facebook Credits, which users can buy for games like FarmVille.

So far, these credits accounts for about 18 percent (or \$200 million) of Facebook's total revenue. Facebook could begin using these credits for other popular applications like Spotify.

It has also been suggested that Facebook could generate revenue through photos, since the site holds 60 billion images to date. The social networking site could begin charging for high-resolution photos or for storage space.

Although Facebook did not have a successful first run on the stock market, it appears to have immense potential. With nearly 1 billion profiles worldwide, this company is an internet force. The world will have to wait and see how far Facebook is willing to push its limits in order to make a dollar.

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# Campus Construction Update

## Four projects that will transform the Volker campus

**Meredith Shea**

Production Assistant/Staff Writer

### Cherry Street Parking Structure

The new \$26 million Cherry Street Parking Structure, which replaced the former Oak Street garage, will debut in August, Parking Operations manager Michelle Cone said.

The garage, in addition to the Miller Nichols Library expansion and Student Success Center renovations, is part of a \$45 million bond package approved by the UM Board of Curators in December 2010.

Cone said the garage will be paid for through parking permits, meters and tickets.

Cone recognized the need for a new parking structure last year.

“When the top structure [of the Oak Street garage] was full, we knew we were out of parking,” she said.

The Cherry Street structure will have 1,500 parking spaces and will house the UMKC Police and Mail Services on the west side facing Oak Street.

Amenities will include electric charging stations for four cars, skywalks to the Student Union and James C. Olson Performing Arts Center, three elevators, bicycle storage, secure shower facilities for commuters and 90 pay-and-display parking spaces.

“It has any bells and whistles you can think of,” Cone said.

More permits will be sold next year, and prices will increase 4 percent from last year. Commuter permits will sell at \$115 per semester. Prices will continue to increase 2-4

percent each of the next several years to help pay for the garage, Cone said.

Shuttle service will continue to run between the Hospital Hill and Volker campuses. However, students will no longer be allowed to park at Hospital Hill and ride the shuttle for a discounted rate.

### Student Success Center

The \$7 million Student Success Center, a renovation of the University Center that will include new services focused specifically on student needs, is also set to open in August.

The Student Success Center is a key part of UMKC’s strategic ongoing efforts to boost enrollment and increase retention (re-enrollment) and graduation rates, according to Mel Tyler, vice chancellor of student affairs and enrollment management.

It includes the relocation of the Welcome Center, Career Center, Writing Center, Student Academic Support Services, Center for Academic Development, International Studies and the International Student Affairs Office.

In addition, a new program known as UMKC Central will serve as a one-stop shop for students to consult with representatives cross-trained in different administrative departments, including Financial Aid and Cashiers and Collections.

It will also house the University College, “a collegiate home with special advising and programs for students deciding what their major will be,” said Bob Simmons, vice chancellor of administration.

Unlike the other programs, however, the University College is still in its developing

stages.

The renovations will not affect the existing cafeteria, Starbucks, barbershop or Pierson Auditorium.

“The Student Success Center pulls together key components of UMKC to one location. It’s a proven model that has shown positive results on many campuses,” he said.

### Miller Nichols Library expansion

The \$18 million Miller Nichols Library and Learning Center expansion is scheduled to open in fall 2013.

The expansion, located west of the current MNL structure, will feature a Learning Center that will add 950 seats in lecture halls.

Simmons said there will be either four or five spaces, depending on how many seats each will have.

Although the new facility is designed to address the lack of large lecture hall facilities, the Learning Center expansion should not greatly alter the current 1:12 faculty/student ratio, Simmons said.

“The project restores a south entrance to the library that everyone has missed sorely,” he said. “There will also be a big lobby facing south. I think it will restore a prominence to the University Playhouse.”

### Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Construction of the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation began in March.

The \$32 million project is paid for by a gift

from alumnus and H&R Block co-founder Henry W. Bloch, and is scheduled for completion in fall 2013.

The expansion, located between the Bloch School and Student Union on Cherry Street, will allow Bloch to double its enrollment from 1,500 to 3,000 students.

Simmons said the Executive Hall will have state-of-the-art technology, which is a key factor driving enrollment increases, in addition to the Bloch School national rankings and internationally acclaimed faculty.

The building will include a large auditorium, a 200-seat lecture hall, tiered classrooms with 80 seats in a “U” shape, and five active-learning classrooms with 60 seats each in a flexible configuration that allows for multi-purpose use.

Simmons said it will also include technology that will enable better connections to other institutions and students throughout the world.

The design is modern, much like other developments on the west side of the Volker campus. It includes exterior terra-cotta tiles that allow for a dark-to-light gradation shift for a better color blend between the Bloch School and Student Union.

“It’s a very economical and fast way to construct the building while still using a clay material to pull in the color of brick,” Simmons said.

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The Cherry Street parking garage, facing southwest on Oak Street, is set to open in Aug. 2012.

Photos by Meredith Shea



Skywalk from the Cherry Street garage to the Student Union.



JE Dunn workers begin construction on the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.



Artist’s rendering for the Miller Nichols Library and Learning Center.

Courtesy of University Communications



Construction begins on the Miller Nichols Library expansion behind the University Playhouse.



An architect’s rendering of the Bloch School expansion, facing Cherry Street.

Courtesy of University Communications

briefly mentioned

# Criminal Justice Department receives \$30,000 through newly-created KC No Violence Alliance

**Kharissa Forte**

Staff Writer

Mayor Sly James, Police Chief Darryl Forte and Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker announced KC NoVA to the public on Tuesday, May 15. As part of the program, UMKC’s Criminal Justice Department will receive a \$30,000 grant.

An abbreviation for the KC No Violence Alliance, the new initiative is modeled after programs in other cities, including Minneapolis and Boston.

It focuses on removing repeat offenders

form the streets and preventing recidivism by giving them a chance to opt out of the dangerous lifestyle through services that focus on education, job training, and health care.

“It’s kind of like cutting a tumor,” James said.

A high violent crime rate has plagued the city for years. Forte noted that since 1970, there have only been nine years with fewer than 100 homicides.

Funding for the project, including the UMKC grant, came in the form of a \$74,000

grant provided by LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

Program officer Micah Kubic, is responsible for putting the grant together. According to Peters Baker, the grant will get the project up and running earlier than expected. A portion of the grant will be used to hire a project manager.

Concerning how the KCPD will aid in KC NoVA, Forte stated, “They’ll play a key role in not only evaluating KC NoVA projects, but also helping us collect data in order to create the right computer profiles of

criminals. That way we know we’re targeting the right people for the right reasons.”

Ken Novak, associate professor and Chair of the Criminal Justice Department will spearhead UMKC’s part of the project and will oversee its evaluation.

*Disclaimer: Police Chief Darryl Forte is a relative of staff writer Kharissa Forte.*

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briefly mentioned

# Organic food for thought

## Grocery store, other ideas discussed for 51st and Oak site

**Roze Brooks**

Senior Staff Writer

A new possibility that has been part of a multi-year discussion may join the ranks of the other recent Oak Street developments.

Rumors of an organic grocery store, specifically Whole Foods, have been abuzz, potentially replacing a metered parking lot and two buildings on the southwest corner of 51st and Oak streets.

Whole Foods was mentioned specifically in a 2009 post on Blog KC, stating that Whole Foods is considering expanding its smaller Midtown Wild Oats location, which reopened as a locally-owned organic grocery in 2010. It was also said that associations in surrounding neighborhoods were being consulted.

The rumors circulated more recently on [www.kcrag.com](http://www.kcrag.com), a local development forum.

At the moment, there are no official plans set for this location, but many options have been proposed and considered over the past few years.

“We have had intermittent discussions over the past several years with developers exploring a variety of different proposals for that parcel,” said Bob Simmons, associate vice chancellor of administration. “A proposal which includes a grocery store, market rate

housing and some medical office space for UMKC is currently in discussion and study, but no final agreement has been reached as of this date.” These current ideas are still being fleshed out, and the relocation of the 51st Street Annex Building and Kansas City Young Matrons Clubhouse “are still a fluid situation.”

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# Continued from Page 4: SGA

members that must be present at each SGA board meeting for the vote to be valid. According to Riffel, there have been struggles in the past with reaching quorum. In order to eliminate this issue, SGA is looking to lower the quorum.

"We have an issue getting quorum at meetings due to conflicting schedules from Hospital Hill students, who often are unable to come to meetings simply because of difficult class scheduling, along with additional commute back to the Volker campus," Riffel said. "Not to say they are the only ones to blame."

Riffel hopes the SGA board will still make sufficient progress even with fewer voting members in attendance.

In an effort to create a stronger relationship between SGA and individual students and

organizations, the board has addressed another potential goal.

"The second main goal for us as an Exec. Board is to host monthly lunches in the SGA chambers that will be an open forum for students to come and discuss issues with us," Riffel said. "They can come with complaints about our performance, what they expect us to be doing or not doing, how they can help, anything."

Riffel also wants SGA to hold numerous events throughout the year, especially during homecoming week, that would highlight and promote finished constructions on campus, such as the Student Success Center and the Cherry Street parking garage.

Technology is another focus for this new group. Hoping to make online contact easier, SGA has considered eliminating their current

website and switching to Roo Groups.

"Last year, we debated switching over from having our own private website to Roo Groups, but we decided against it because the system was fairly new and we didn't want people being unable to access our information because they couldn't work the system," he said.

SGA is responsible for several campus-related tasks which, according to Riffel, fall under the jurisdiction of two main councils, the Senate and Student Activity Funding Committee (SAFC). The SGA holds meetings throughout the year with these two councils.

"During these meetings we discuss pertinent issues regarding students as well as possible resolutions that could encourage the solution process for these issues," he said.

Creating a strong relationship with students is one of the primary goals for not only Riffel, but the rest of the executive board. Meetings also consist of discussing important campus issues, allowing students and administration who are not directly involved in SGA to present concerns and inquiries for the organization to consider.

This transition to a new Executive Board has resulted in a new agenda with important goals and ideas that will positively affect the entire university. Riffel has high hopes in his ability to influence UMKC and the rewards he will receive in return.

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# SIFE team wins regional competition fifth year in a row

## Free enterprising students find business-oriented solutions to community problems

Kharissa Forte

Staff Writer

For the fifth year in a row, UMKC's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) have won their regional competition.

Students unfamiliar with SIFE may be surprised to learn it is one of the largest student organizations around the globe. It is recognized at more than 1,600 colleges in the U.S., with teams in more than 40 countries worldwide.

UMKC SIFE's motto, "A head for business; A heart for the world," reflects its engagement in developing projects geared toward the advancement of community in seven essential areas: market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, team sustainability, environmental sustainability and business ethics.

In April of each year, SIFE teams create a portfolio of these projects with an emphasis on quantifiable results and present them at regional competitions.

The regional winners advance to nationals, and those winners go forward to compete internationally.

Last week, *U-News* sat down with UMKC's SIFE Sam Walton Fellow, Cary Clark, and 2011-12 SIFE President, Beth Larson, to discuss the past school year, their projects and awards.

Larson, who graduated in May with a degree in business management, elaborated on some of the projects our school's team completed.

Projects serviced communities as close as right here in Kansas City and as far away as the impoverished areas of Uganda.

One project, You Can be Anything You Want to be, targeted local fifth grade students with poor attendance. It recognized a correlation between poor fifth grade attendance and high school dropouts and



Left: Sam Walton Fellow Cary Clark, SIFE's adviser, and 2011-2012 president Beth Larson. Right: SIFE's 2012 regional trophy is its fifth in a row. Photos by Kharissa Forte

drug use.

The 10 SIFE members who worked on this project executed interactive sessions with 80 fifth graders that zoomed in on mentoring and motivating students.

As a result, the group of kids reduced its total absences by 157 hours.

Another project, A Thread of Hope, focused on the women of Namagunga, Uganda and their need for job skills. The SIFE team raised funding to send 10 sewing machines to Uganda for a job skills class of 15 women. The class is expected to continue for at least three years.

In addition to its success at Chicago regionals, UMKC SIFE received other honors this past year, including the All-Star Award and a proclamation from Mayor Sly

James.

Clark emphasized job opportunities through membership, such as the SIFE-members-only job fair held at regionals.

"Some companies have positions held specifically for SIFE members," Clark said. "One business actually has UMKC SIFE team on their preferred hiring list, and many of our team members are offered jobs on the spot at these fairs."

Students who are entering fields outside of business are encouraged to inquire about SIFE membership.

"Just like any well ran business, SIFE needs PR people, writers, accountants, engineers, and so forth. This definitely isn't an organization just for business majors," Clark said.

Chancellor Leo Morton said of the UMKC SIFE team, "I couldn't be more proud of the team. I brag about them everywhere and their success at regional came at a great time for some projects we are working on. SIFE is an important part of our future at UMKC and the region as well."

Next school year, SIFE looks forward to embarking on several new projects, which include targeting FAFSA assistance for inner-city high school seniors and conducting fundraisers to provide an education for children in rural areas of China.

For more information on UMKC SIFE, visit <http://StuO.UMKC.edu/SIFE>.

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# Continued from Page 2: UMKC discusses a name change

Joseph Froeschl, counseling and guidance graduate student, disagrees with a name change.

"It has taken a long time to develop the identity [the university] has," he said, "and to change the name, it might lose that identity."

Junior Kathryn Schanzmeyer said she likes the name the way it is.

"I think the name that it has now emphasizes it as part of the UM System, and I have always liked that," she said. "I like the ring 'UMKC' has to it."

SGA President Danny Riffel had no comment on the issue.

Junior Kira Cooper said it is "sketchy" that the name change is being researched during the summer, a time when the majority of students are not in school and "are trying not to think about school." She also noted the effects of a name change for alumni of the University.

"Everything they own will say UMKC," she said, "everything in scrapbooks or memory books, their old T-shirts - everything will no longer support the school they graduated from because the name changed."

SGA Comptroller Katherine Carlino is currently undecided.

"I think that if the majority of the students, staff, alumni and community members are in support of the name change that it should be seriously considered," she said. "Without the support of the students, however, I feel like the name should remain the same."

Sophomore Linnaia McKenzie, SGA executive vice president, is also somewhat undecided.

"A new name for the University could be a step into the future or a step on the past," she said. "What will solidify my opinion will be to see the opinions of other students at UMKC. This decision could

bring the much needed unity to our campus."

Eric Grospitch, assistant dean of students, supports becoming UKC.

"Specifically, I like how it ties us so directly to the community we serve and the areas we want to make our greatest impacts," he said. "All in all, I think it would be a good idea."

Grospitch said there has been an initial outreach to the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and multiple community and alumni groups.

"There will be additional opportunities for input from all stakeholders, but we are so early in the process that the form those opportunities will take has not yet been determined," he said.

Angela Cottrell, director of student life, is also in favor of the name change.

"What better way to show how our institution is fully engaged by reflecting that in our name

and our branding?" she said. "Through a name change, as an institution there would be a greater opportunity to define our niche and our strengths while decreasing the stigma of being a branch campus of the UM-Columbia campus."

Cottrell also acknowledges a possible downside.

"A drawback to the change is that some alumni (and current students) might feel a connection and relationship to UMKC," she said. "Thus, it will be really important to seek out their feedback."

For information about why the University became UMKC in 1963, see the April 4, 2011 *U-News* article by Jacquelyn Hoermann, "Campus History: How UKC became UMKC."

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# Continued from Page 3: Tuition, loan interest rate set to increase

"We have aggressively pursued alternatives to close the gap in order to maintain high academic standards and support systems for student success," she said.

## No relief from Congress

The Congressional Budget Office projects a \$6 billion shortfall from a one-year freeze on subsidized Stafford Loans at their current rate.

If no action is taken, 7 million students will accumulate an additional average of \$1,000 each in debt.

The debate is not revolving around whether or not they should keep them from rising but how the \$6 billion bill would be paid for. Proposals from both parties have met partisan opposition.

In May, Senate Republicans rejected Democratic proposals to close tax loopholes for S corporations, backed by President Obama, in a 51-43 split vote in which several Democrats sided

with the GOP.

"For the second time this month, they voted to ask millions of students to pay an average of \$1,000 each rather than close a loophole that allows the very wealthy to avoid paying their fair share," said White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.

Republicans would like the money to come out of a public health prevention fund created under the Affordable Care Act of 2010.

"The Republican proposal is paid for by stripping Americans of life-saving preventive health care," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said. "The Democratic proposal is paid for by closing a loophole that allows wealthy Americans to dodge their taxes. It's easy to see the two proposals were not created equal."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell was quick to rebuttal, arguing that Senate Democrats are more interested in producing a

scapegoat than reaching across the aisle with a viable plan.

"We already know how this story ends," McConnell said. "So why are Democrats forcing us to vote on their failed proposal yet again? Because, as I've said, they're more interested in drawing our opposition - of creating a bad guy - than in actually solving the problem."

The Obama administration has repeatedly called for student loan debt relief, making it a priority issue this past spring.

In 2008, students overwhelmingly supported Obama, who was favored 66-32 percent over opponent John McCain by voters ages 18-29, according to CNN's 2008 exit polls.

## Feeling the pinch

For many students, taking out loans is necessary to cover the cost of tuition. Needless to say, student borrowers are not excited by what

could happen July 1.

"Loan interest rates are high as it is," senior psychology student Ashlee Waugh said. "I am stressed with the amount I will be paying back without the additional interest tacked on. I only have a year of school left, so I would have to accept the higher interest rates and stick it out until I graduate."

Merz believes that taking out loans is a worthwhile investment for many students, citing studies that show higher earnings for college graduates than those without a post-secondary degree.

"A lot of kids have to borrow," Merz said. "If you have a degree, no one can take that away from you. I'm thankful we have a system where students can borrow to go to school."

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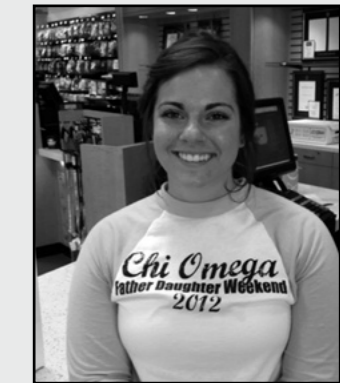
# word on campus

Continued from Page 2

**Q:** What do you think about UMKC changing its name to the "University of Kansas City"?

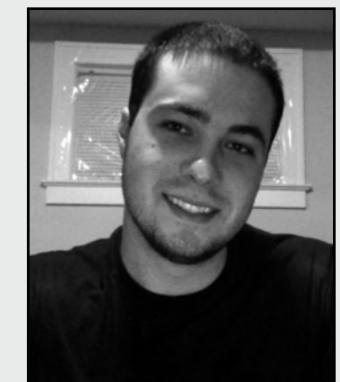
**A:** It is a good idea because people think UMKC is just a satellite campus, but UMKC has Graduate school programs and other things Mizzou doesn't have.

Jessica Skelton, Senior, Nursing



**Q:** Do you want to tell people you go to UKC? That just kind of sounds weird. Also pretty much all of the other schools use the state name in their school name. So I see no need to change it.

David Scott, Senior, Psychology



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# It runs in the family

## Basketball and faith unite the Korvers

Damion Alexander Staff Writer

Some families are known for a family trade. The Rockefellers were known for wealth and business, the Ming Dynasty for its rule in China and the Jacksons for their music. UMKC red shirt junior Kirk Korver and his family have basketball.

"My parents played Division III basketball," 6-foot-7-inch, 225-pound UMKC men's basketball team captain Kirk recalls.

His dad Kevin and his mother Laine played at Central College in Pella, Iowa, as shooting guard and small forward, respectively.

Kirk's older brothers Kyle and Kaleb played forward and guard at Creighton, and his brother Klayton was a forward at Drake. Kirk, the youngest, plays forward and center for UMKC.

Some of his uncles and cousins also played basketball.

"We used to play against our uncles," Kirk said. "Most of my cousins played in high school and some in college at some level, too."

The family is native to Pella, but moved to California so Kirk's father could attend seminary. There, Kyle became enamored with basketball by watching his uncle play.

"Kyle used to watch my brother Kris play while we lived in California," Kevin said. "He loved the Lakers and played against players like Andre Miller."

Kirk and his brothers shared a love for basketball, even when the family moved back to Pella when Kirk was two. He said the Korver household was very competitive during those years.

### Competition vs. Criticism

With a family full of athletes, it was only natural that competition would occur.

"It was great," Kirk said. "I always had someone to play with; it was four of us - very competitive. We had a lot of space at the house for basketball and football."

However, reigning bragging rights belong to mother, who once scored 73 points in a single high school game, according to Kirk.

"I think Kyle," Kevin said, trying to remember who is second in the family. "I

think he once scored 32."

It was Kyle who brought fame to the family when he was the 51st overall pick by the New Jersey Nets in the 2003 NBA draft. He has been traded several times during his career to the Philadelphia 76ers, the Utah Jazz and to his present team, the Chicago Bulls.

This is where the competition stops, and the criticism and comparison begin for Kirk. He often hears comments about how he does not play like his brother.

"I don't know," he said. "I have heard it a lot. I like it if it is good, like when they compare our shooting. But when it is bad, I have heard it all before. It really doesn't bother me anymore."

Kirk isn't pressured to fit his brother's mood, but instead focuses on his own identity.

"His parents understand they are all different people," UMKC men's basketball head coach Matt Brown said. "Kirk is his own person. He puts pressure on himself, not his siblings."

Kirk's indifference to the criticism and his love for Kyle shows in his NBA team preference.

"I don't really have a team," Kirk said playfully. "I guess any team Kyle plays for."

His admiration and respect for his brother allows him to receive shooting tips from sharp-shooting Kyle.

"There is a lot more to it than people think," Kirk explained. "It is not about shooting a thousand shots in every practice. It is more about the mechanics and putting up good shots. It is more technique."

For Kirk, simply spending time with his brothers is more important than basketball.

"We usually don't talk basketball," Kirk admitted. "We usually just hang out. Just watch movies. It is our time to forget about basketball."

This humility comes from another aspect which defines the Korvers - faith.

### Faith vs. Fame

Basketball may run in the Korver family, but their faith in Jesus Christ runs deeper. Kirk's dad, two uncles and a grandfather are all pastors.

Continued on Page 11



The Korver brothers (left to right): Klayton, Kirk, Kyle, Kaleb. All four brothers have played college basketball.

Photo courtesy of the Korver family

Kevin is senior pastor of a Presbyterian congregation, the Third Reformed Church in Pella. Laine assists with the church's prayer ministry.

While the Korvers are not reticent to share their faith, they prefer to lead by example.

"We just don't go out of our way to talk about it, just show it through actions," Kirk said.

His teammate and roommate, UMKC center Fred Chatman, concurred.

"With Kirk, he is very spiritual," Chatman said. "But he doesn't try to force anyone to do anything they don't want to do. He fits in with everybody - black, white. He treats everybody the same."

Faith is what is most important to the Korvers, even more than fame.

Kevin shared how he had developed a set of questions to ask coaches who sought to recruit Kyle. The questions became the norm for recruiting the other siblings.

The questions addressed concerns about the campus's racial diversity, academic success and the state of the coach's marriage. Kevin said the latter is because he wants his "boys around men that they can respect."

More importantly, he asked if his sons' "Christian faith could be practiced." He said some big name colleges were either eliminated by their responses or walked away on their own.

Kevin had no problem with their decisions. "Who they [my sons] are as men is more important than winning a game," he said.

"They are a strong Christian family," Brown said. "Kirk lives by his actions. You can definitely see it."

Kirk takes his faith on the court, too. It has carried him through some injuries which had him red-shirt the 2010-11 season.

"I think it really just helps me look at things differently and just trust that God will take care of everything," he shared. "Just gives me a sense of calm when things start getting rough. And in basketball, I think it is a reminder of what an opportunity He has given me and how much of a blessing it is."

### An 'all-around great person'

Kevin said he wanted his sons to know two things before leaving home: that he loved them, and that he was "launching them to make a difference in culture, to be light."

Kirk epitomizes this mandate, according to teammates. "He is not like other celebrity kids," teammate and

Continued from Page 10

roommate Trinity Hall says on the outside track of Swinney Recreation Center. "He is normal. He goes out of his way to help people."

Chatman agreed, but went a little further in describing Kirk.

"He is an all-around great person," Chatman said. "He is one of my best friends. I'm glad I met him. He is a pretty good leader. Very understanding and gives good advice. He is real easy to talk to."

His teammates agree that Kirk is just as wonderful in the game, despite his lack of athleticism.

"Kirk is very good player. He is not athletic, but is a smart basketball player. He knows the game," Chatman said. "I would pick him up. He plays D, takes charges, hits the floor- all the little stuff that doesn't show up in the stats."

"What he lacks in athleticism, he makes up for in heart," Hall added.

Kirk humbly admitted that his weakness is athleticism, but said he compensates for it in his shooting and other areas, which gives him the opportunity to contribute to his team.

Kirk is taking every advantage of his opportunity. In addition to serving as team captain this year, he has a 3.4 GPA, is in good health and has added some depth to his game by becoming more mobile and playing the wing.

His expectations are high for what he hopes to accomplish by the time he graduates.

"Win the Summit League and go to the NCAA tournament," he said without hesitation.

Ultimately, he would like to play in the NBA or professionally overseas. For now, he is focused on the upcoming season.

"We are going to be good," Kirk said with confidence of the 2012-13 season. "We have a tough non-conference schedule. A lot of athletic guys have been added to the team."

Spoken like a true basketball player of faith.

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The Korver brothers share their passion for faith and basketball with parents Kevin and Laine Korver.

Photo courtesy of the Korver family

OPINION

## What's the difference?

### Sports in movies gloss over a less exciting reality

Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

Everyone's seen it: the ending scene in a sports movie with five seconds left on the clock. The protagonist's team is only down by two points. This crucial five seconds gives the main character the opportunity to win the game, but suspiciously, the time on the clock seems to last nearly five minutes.

The differences between sports movies and reality are vast. Most notably:

- 1) The protagonist's team almost always wins.
- 2) The game almost always lasts longer than the time left on the clock.
- 3) The sport often represents or incorporates a character's personal conflicts.

So how do sports movies get away with these unrealistic scenes? When viewers are invested in the movie's characters, it seems easier to set aside any disbelief. However, some diehard sports fans may still be skeptical.

Several Disney movies are especially guilty of this. "Double Teamed," a Disney Channel Original Movie released in 2002, gained popularity and frequently aired on television. Two tall twin sisters go out for their high school's basketball team and develop into very skilled players.

At the end during a championship game with six seconds left on the clock, one of the twins has the ball by the three-point line. The shouting coach and audience are shown, along with teammates encouraging her to shoot. She proceeds to do several odd pump fakes and then passes the ball to her sister, who makes the winning shot.

All of this takes much longer than six seconds, and the win is predictable. However, viewers are likely rooting for the twins because they are invested in the characters. The win also represents the twins' larger personal conflict of proving themselves at a new school.

In "Susie Q," a '90s movie starring Amy Jo Johnson (the original pink Power Ranger), the main character Zach refuses to play basketball at his new high school because it reminds him of his father's death since his dad died while traveling to one of his previous games.

During the movie's conclusion, he shows up at the end of the school's final basketball game and decides to play, making a massive comeback and winning the game. This stunt would not have been allowed in reality, since he was not on the roster and did not have a jersey. For the movie's sake, however, it shows the character overcoming a personal conflict.

Watching sports on television is a different story. Professional athletes are paid to play for America's entertainment, and many fans do not have emotional attachments to the players.

The major difference is that a movie tells a fictional athlete's story, using dramatic scenes to promote viewer interest, while a real sporting event proves entertaining because of the competition.

Real sporting events are not scripted or directed. Rarely in the NBA does a shot at the buzzer roll around the rim 10 times before finally dropping through the basket.

Even so, sports films entertain just as much as an actual sporting event, but do so by appealing more to viewers' emotions. Sometimes an accurate representation is not necessary to provide entertainment.

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## With 43 years as a coach, Rick Benben shows optimism for upcoming season

Tevin Devon Moore Staff Writer

Rick Benben has coached the men's soccer team each of the past 13 seasons, and has led the team to the Summit League tournament each season since he's been here.

Even after the graduation of several valuable senior players, Benben is still confident in his team for the upcoming season.

"We expect to have a good team that will play well and challenge for the conference championship," Benben said. "It's a free flowing game, so you have to turn the responsibility over to the players and you always have to remind yourself of that as a coach."

Benben wasn't always aware of Kansas City's soccer talent; it's something he noticed after he started coaching at UMKC.

Benben grew up in St. Louis and came to KC in 1981, when he began his Kansas City soccer career began as coach of the KC Comets, an indoor professional team.

His coaching career, however, stretches back to his freshman year of college, 43 years ago.

"I've coached at all levels from youth, to collegiate to the pros," he said. "I love watching good teams and players perform, and particularly the beauty of intricate passing and goal scoring. I really don't hate anything about it."

Before arriving in KC, Benben played professionally in the North American Soccer League for the Dallas Tornado until 1976.

He stopped playing in order to concentrate on coaching. His first coaching position, however, came before his Dallas career as an assistant at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) where he had played.

In 1972, Benben and the SIUE soccer team won the NCAA Championship.

Now, as he prepares for the next season at UMKC, Benben is optimistic about the team's performance on the field and in the classroom.

"I always try to be a good leader and role model for them," he said. "We want them to be the best players that they can be while also meeting their academic goals and developing as good individuals as they move forward in their lives."

The players on this year's men's soccer team are studying a variety of subjects, ranging from business to medicine.

Benben is optimistic they will play to their best, maybe even take home a new title. Perhaps this year's Roos will earn a spot in Benben's champion team history. Only time will tell.

"I have been part of quite a few Championship teams at many different levels," Benben said.

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## What's the Big Idea?

Feasibility Study considers logistics of new Downtown Arts Campus



The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, pictured above, is a key factor in the push for a downtown arts campus. Three of the four sites selected as finalists in the Programming and Planning Study border the PAC. **Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**

**Roze Brooks** Senior Staff Writer

A separate campus for various arts programs at UMKC could be Kansas City's next step to urban core revitalization.

The idea of a downtown campus for the Conservatory of Music and Dance became news one year ago, and the University began a feasibility study process last fall that will culminate at the end of this month.

In an interview with *U-News* last August, Conservatory dean Peter Witte said facilities on the Volker campus are inadequate for the school's programs, citing a lack of practice rooms, recital venues and adequate soundproofing and handicap accessibility features.

Several other programs, including the Theatre Department, Art and Art History Department, Kansas City Repertoire Theatre, KCUR and Film Studies program, have also expressed interest in a downtown location.

The push for a downtown arts campus is also supported by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, which selected the downtown arts campus as one of its "Big 5" ideas for the Kansas City region.

The feasibility study, which will determine if and how the campus is built, includes four studies evaluating the Conservatory's needs for a new facility, impact on the Volker campus and surrounding community, impact on the regional economy, and fundraising.

If built, the process will rely almost exclusively on local fundraising, according

to Bob Simmons, vice chancellor of facilities, and other sources in administration.

The intent is to create the new UMKC Downtown Arts Campus in close proximity to the multitude of arts and entertainment focused venues," as stated in the objectives of the Programming and Planning Study.

In Dec. 2011, Helix Architecture + Design, Integra Realty Resources and HGA Architects and Engineers were commissioned to perform the feasibility study.

The firms must consider real estate options as part of the feasibility criteria. Walkability to public transit, and to venues such as the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Crossroads Arts District and Power & Light District, is a must.

Simmons said some students, especially in the arts, want an urban location with amenities not offered on the Volker campus.

The four criteria considered were transit, cost, neighborhood and visibility.

Of the 12 initial locations considered, proximity to the Kauffman Center for the Arts and other performance venues used by Conservatory programs played a decisive role in selecting the four finalist locations: Barney Allis Plaza, Kauffman PAC East and Kauffman PAC South and Kauffman PAC West.

The Programming and Planning Study includes building layouts and site plans of possible arts campus designs.

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# Downtown redevelopment continues momentum

Questions about costs, benefits persist



A ghost town as recently as the early 2000s, Fourteenth Street has seen a resurgence. The Sprint Center, AMC Mainstreet, Hilton President Hotel and Power & Light district, pictured in this photo, have turned in a deserted streetscape into a popular destination. **Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**

**Mal Hartigan** & **Nathan Zoschke** Managing Editor & Editor-in-Chief

Downtown Kansas City looks vastly different than it did a decade ago.

From the dozens of vacant buildings converted into housing, to the brand new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, to the burgeoning Crossroads Arts District, to the advent of the Power and Light District and Crown Center renovations, the area has received an extreme makeover.

The Power & Light District is an attractive nightlife scene for young adults. With entertainment venues such as The Midland Theatre and The Sprint Center, Kansas City's downtown has expanded to become an ideal destination for Kansas-Citians and visitors alike.

For many, the redevelopment shows promise, but for other residents, it comes at a price. Since 2003, \$5.5 billion has been invested to renovate downtown, according to the Downtown Council.

Many projects have benefited from Tax Increment Financing (TIF), property tax abatements granted by the city to redevelop blighted properties. In addition, Kansas City residents pay a \$10.9 million/year subsidy to cover Power & Light's debt obligations.

Some, including former mayor Mark Funkhouser, have voiced skepticism over the use of public subsidies.

Others argue the long-term benefits exceed the costs, citing downtown's improved image and potential for spin-off development.

**Crown Center and Union Station move forward**

Once on the brink of financial collapse, Union Station, which benefited from a makeover funded by a special bi-state tax in 1999, is now fully leased.

The historic train station finished its second year in the black in 2011, thanks to new office tenants and popular exhibits.

Nearby Crown Center also has good news. The new SeaLife Aquarium and Legoland bring popular family destinations to the aging mall.

At the price tag of \$30 million, funded privately, the aquarium alone will bring an estimated 800,000 visitors to Crown Center a year, adding family-oriented destinations to the downtown mix.

**A streetcar in the works**

After numerous light rail proposals have failed at the polls or proven unfeasible, a new proposal for a more modest downtown streetcar line has emerged.

If built, streetcars would run a 2.2 mile route

on Main Street between the River Market and Crown Center, ideally improving public transit.

However, the \$100 million price tag may be too much for some downtown residents, who will foot the bill for the streetcar with a newly-created tax district, if approved.

Less than 10 percent of eligible voters applied to participate in the ballot by the May deadline. According to *The Kansas City Business Journal*, there are 5,900 estimated registered voters within the specified boundaries. Only about 600 of those have applied.

The special property and sales taxes in the area would potentially increase to raise \$75 million for building and operating the streetcar line. For the remaining expenses, the city applied for a \$25 million federal grant.

Ballots to determine whether a special tax district should be created will be mailed to voters on June 19, and must be returned by July 31.

If approved, a second vote will determine whether or not special taxes will be implemented. **Spinoff development- A justification for P&L's price tag?**

The \$46 million renovation of the formerly-vacant President Hotel under the Hilton flag, on the west side of Power and Light, occurred exclusively with private funds.

Its developer, Ron Jury, would like to convert

the mostly vacant Power & Light Building nearby into a convention hotel. The \$350 million redevelopment, however, would likely receive deep financial assistance from the city.

To the north of Power and Light and the Sprint Center, another hotel is in the making. The Gate City National Bank, at 1111 Grand Blvd., has undergone renovations to become a 43-room luxury boutique hotel.

According to *The Kansas City Star*, developer Paul Coury chose to renovate the bank into a new hotel largely because of Power and Light's success and popularity.

The hotel, which Coury has named the Ambassador, will provide a lavish option for overnight guests and travelers.

Some believe that P&L's cost will ultimately benefit the area despite its cost.

"Will it be an immediate success? No. It opened in a bad economy. But I see good things for the Power and Light District," Coury told *The Star*.

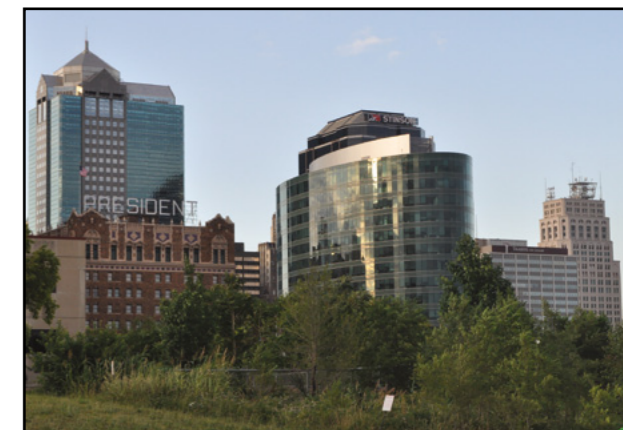
He expects the daily rate for a room to average at \$160, and plans to market special loft-style rooms to performers at the Kauffman Center or Sprint Center.

Coury plans for the hotel to open in July.

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Renovations of the President Hotel, and recently-constructed H&R Block headquarters, have helped transform the downtown skyline. **Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**



This vacant site at Truman Road and Walnut, near the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is being considered for a new, 1,000-room convention hotel. **Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**



The new SeaLife Aquarium and LEGOLAND Discovery Center are a \$30 million facelift to the aging Crown Center Shops. **Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**



Photos by Matt Cook

## Popular artists cause a 'buzz' at Livestrong Sporting Park

Kimbra, The Shins, Foster the People make an impressive summer splash on June 2



Breakthrough artist Kimbra wore an eccentric skirt and bright red lipstick to deliver an energetic and vocally-astounding set.



Lead singer for The Shins, James Mercer, performed many old favorites despite the band's success from new album "Port of Morrow."



Foster The People performs at nighttime, using elaborate lighting to add visual during the hour-long performance.

### Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

Buzz Beach Ball's 2012 concert lineup attracted thousands of fans to the Livestrong Sporting Park on Saturday, featuring The Shins, Foster the People and Sublime With Rome.

The day-long concert, hosted annually by popular Kansas City alternative radio station 96.5 The Buzz, utilized two stages to keep each artist's performance time on schedule.

While one band performed, the upcoming band set up on the opposite stage, causing sweaty fans to shove from one end of the stadium to the other. The main stage featured

The Kooks, Metric and Flogging Molly during the day while The Antlers, Kimbra, The Dirty Heads and The Joy Formidable performed on the second stage.

The Shins, Foster the People and Sublime With Rome all performed hour-long sets on the main stage during the evening.

Despite a whopping \$9.50 for a bottle of Boulevard Wheat beer, there were plenty of attendees vomiting into trashcans during Flogging Molly's performance, while others crowd surfed and danced enthusiastically, thrusting fists into the air. Flogging Molly's upbeat tunes even prompted fans in the stadium seats to jump to their feet.

Kimbra, who recently released a new album, soulfully belted her tracks and delivered a live performance that sounded identical, if not better, than her studio recordings.

The Shins' new album, "Port of Morrow," helped the band to build an even larger fan base with the popular single "Simple Song." Despite the new album's success, The Shins pleased long-time fans by performing old favorites from previous years.

Metric's stage energy was only mediocre as Emily Haines moved across the stage in a trance-like state. She compensated with an energetic guitar outro before performing an acoustic version of "Gimme Sympathy,"

encouraging the crowd to sing along. Her live vocals were flawless.

Foster the People's set was the most visually appealing. Performing after dark, the band utilized intricate lighting, appearing mysterious while veiled in clouds of cigarette smoke from the crowd.

Despite body aches from standing, potential sunburns and dehydration, 96.5 The Buzz's 2012 Buzz Beach Ball concert was more than worth it.

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## KC boasts "the best barbecue in the world"

Kynslie Otte Production Assistant  
Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Kansas City is famous for its barbecue restaurants, but choosing the best of the best can prove a difficult task. With restaurants like Arthur Bryant's, Gates', Fiorella's Jackstack and Oklahoma Joe's, residents and visitors have plenty of options when indulging in summer barbeque.

### Gates Barbeque, a local favorite:

Gates' is a Kansas City original, established in 1946 by George and Arzelia Gates, and has remained local since. The atmosphere is very casual, featuring dim but attractive lighting and historic pictures on the walls. Customers are greeted by employees upon entry with a "Hi, may I help you?" Though the welcome is pleasant, Gates' layout can be confusing to newcomers.

The restaurant is divided into separate lines for customers dining-in and those ordering takeout, which is confusing upon first entry. The ordering process is the same for both – the menu is overhead and customers can watch the cooks prepare meals from where their order is placed. The process is reminiscent of a fast food restaurant, but guests dining-in are offered assistance from the lobby attendant.

Gates' has three signature barbecue sauces: the original, extra hot and sweet and mild. Customers can sample each, and all three

sauces are available for purchase at the restaurant and in stores around the Kansas City area.

Gates' is best known for its sauces and homemade side dishes, but the ribs are also a favorite. However, the food is affordable, the atmosphere is comfortable, and the locally established restaurant experience is worth having.

### Oklahoma Joe's, 'a place to eat before you die.'

In a 2008 trip to Kansas City, Travel Channel chef Anthony Bourdain said Oklahoma Joe's is "the best barbecue in the world." Bourdain included Oklahoma Joe's on his list of "13 places to eat before you die."

The restaurant has been featured on numerous local television segments, and nationally on CBS 'Sunday Morning' and Bourdain's program, "A Cook's Tour."

Oklahoma Joe's was established in Kansas City in 1996 by Joe Don Davidson and his partner Jeff Stehney. There are two locations, one inside a gas station at County Line and Mission road in KC, Kansas. The other is located off of Strangline and 119th in Olathe, Kansas.

Oklahoma Joe's is known for having some of the best fall-off-the-bone ribs in the world, and incredibly long waiting times to dine. The ribs have been described by visitors as "tender, but not greasy with

perfect seasoning." On any given day, the line to enter the restaurant may wrap all the way around the building and continue once guests are inside, but veteran visitors say it is worth the wait.

The food is moderately priced, and for what Bourdain called "the best barbecue in the world," dinner at Oklahoma Joe's is worth waiting for.

### Jack Stack

A Kansas City favorite by many, this local franchise has been around since the late 50's. With their award winning sauces and mouthwatering side dishes such as the Hickory Smoked Baked Beans, this KC staple is sure to fulfill your BBQ needs.

The restaurant features many dining options including one location where customers have the choice to eat in the kitchen. Other dine-in as well as carry-out options are available.

Jack Stack, voted Most Popular Restaurant in Kansas City by the 2011 prestigious Zagats Survey of Americas Best Restaurants, features certified Angus beef and pork as well as a full list of desert and drink options.

With four Kansas City locations, Martin City, Downtown, Overland Park, and the Plaza, Jack Stack is able to ship nationwide.

Recently, Jack Stack has received media coverage especially on the Food Network and Travel Channel. Modern Marvels on the History Channel introduced Jack Stack

to the rest of the world in 2006 with their feature episode on famous BBQ cook-offs.

Crispy yet delicate fries, tender meats, and freshly toasted buns are what make this Kansas City favorite worthy of all the rave reviews. A visit to KC would not be complete without a delectable Jumbo (choice of two meats and tangy sauce held together in a sesame seed bun) from Jack Stack.

### Arthur Bryant's

Probably the most well-known BBQ restaurant by out of towners, this down town Kansas City restaurant has been thriving since the 1930's.

Arthur Bryant's is so well-known that its regulars include not only people from the community, but also movie stars, musicians and U.S. Presidents, who come to Kansas City to try what's considered the "Best BBQ in the United States."

With the ability to choose between beef, chicken, lamb, and ribs, Bryant's has an option for everyone. The cafeteria method also helps with quick dining and makes the meal more cost effective. Although the staff may not walk around with smiles on their faces, the BBQ makes up for this below par service.

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## Glacé: A little scoop of heaven

Lindsay Adams  
Copy Editor/Online Editor

Brokenhearted after the closing of marvelous gelato shop Balsano's, which was close to school on the Plaza, the search was on to find a new frosty fix. Glacé quickly more than took Balsano's place. Glacé, an ice cream shop started by Christopher Elbow, is located in the South Plaza area and close enough to campus to walk there and back. Glacé makes all the ice cream cones tasted in the past seem merely mediocre, and most other ice cream shops seem like mere mimicry of greatness. Glacé far exceeds any other ice cream shop in Kansas City.

With a friendly and knowledgeable staff, one suggested a combination of tequila and pineapple cilantro sorbet, for those over 21.

While this mixture of flavors is unusual, the pineapple cilantro sorbet does not disappoint. The ice cream was tangy and zesty. It was unexpectedly refreshing and

enjoyable.

Also delicious, the mango-passion fruit sorbet, tasted as if one is biting into a piece of fruit. Especially on a hot summer day, this would be the perfect treat to chill out with.

The ambience of the small building was bright, simple and clean, with both indoor and outdoor seating.

While one may be initially unsure of the flavor combinations such as the goat cheese and wildflower honey, Glacé offers free taste, so every customer can be sure to find a flavor that appeals to them, even if it is the traditional vanilla or chocolate. Even these staple flavors of given a exciting twist of their own, to put the Glacé trademark on the ice cream. Glacé offers Madagascar Vanilla, as well as both Christopher Elbow Chocolate and Christopher Elbow Spiced Chocolate, which offers the rich and velvety chocolate experience with a kick.

The salted pretzel ice cream was salty and sweet, melding the

two flavors perfectly, without one overpowering the other.

Peanut Butter & Jelly was one of the most unexpected and exciting of the flavors. Glacé is the only place in town to offer this flavor, and the ice cream really does taste just like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The ice cream even captures the flavor of the sandwich when the jelly soaks into the bread. It is the once of a lifetime ice cream experience. The flavor is both nostalgic and tasty.

The blackberry chocolate flake flavor was unusual, with a complex mixture of flavor. The chocolate shavings were the perfect companion to the sweet blackberry. The lingering taste of carefully blended flavor is not quickly forgettable.

All of the flavors are so good it is difficult to narrow it down to just one. The hundreds of different flavor combination can meld together in any array of mouthwatering collaboration.

The French Lavender was,

without a doubt, the most impressive offering. It tasted just like the delicate aroma of lavender smells, and while that sounds strange it is absolutely lovely. The French Lavender ice cream was light, yet intense.

Eating Glacé ice cream on a nice summer afternoon out on its patio was a lovely experience and one that will hopefully be repeated many times.

Glacé is truly a gastronomical delight. Their serving sizes are on the small side, and the prices are slightly more expensive than many other shops, but are very rich and filling. And remember, it is not just a small scoop of ice cream, but a small scoop of heaven waiting behind that counter.

Glacé is located on 4960 Main St. just south of the plaza library. They are open 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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Friendly and helpful staff is always available to offer free samples.

Photo by Lindsay Adams



## movie reviews

## Men in Black III

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

"Men in Black" jumped back into theatres May 25 with its high-flying third installment. Complete with barely-entertaining action, unnecessarily plot twists, and comedy only laughable by 10-year-old standards, this film fails to meet expectations. The emotionless foundation makes one crave some deeper meaning in life while wishing the world would come to an end in the most Hollywoodized way.

This franchise begins the third and final chapter with the same top-ranking agents, J (Will Smith) and K (Tommy Lee Jones), except this time agent K may be non-existent if J doesn't go back in time to save the planet. This is no "kidding" matter.

Beginning in a dark and dingy prison, the key plot element quickly reveals, in a grotesque manor, to be Boris the Animal (Jemaine Clement) who is more laughable than scary. This villain continues his gag-worthy quest to murder aliens while being unable to have any semblance of likeability.

As the film continues, several plot twists were introduced but never touched on again, causing confusion among viewers. The overall cliché plot had nothing setting it apart from

joining the ranks of all the other mediocre films released on a daily basis.

Going into a "Men in Black" film, the typical Smith-level comedy was expected, but failed in the attempt. The jokes were overused and the best parts were wasted on previews, leaving the audience with barely a chuckle.

The best part of the film was the acting. Smith and Jones delivered their lines flawlessly, but the true star was Josh Brolin, who played a young K. The uncanny resemblance and impeccable acting set Brolin apart from the otherwise average film, and the on-screen chemistry between Smith and Brolin added entertainment where the plot did not.

Although the script is obviously not academy award-winning, the final sequence in Cape Canaveral, Fla. suddenly took an unexpected turn toward the direction toward a tearjerker while putting a new spin on the relationship between J and K. The ending definitely added meaning to the otherwise humdrum film.

The special effects were another key element in making the film watchable, but if unsure whether or not to spend the extra \$4-6 to see the 3-D version, save your money.



Released a decade after the second movie, Men In Black III may only satisfy diehard fans of the franchise.

Nothing jumps off the screen nor does anything shoot out at the audience. This big Hollywood blockbuster wasn't even filmed in 3-D, and instead converted during post-production, making the up-charge a waste of money better spent on popcorn.

Overall, "Men in Black III" wasn't bad, but it couldn't really be considered good either. Going into the film, I had fairly high expectations since they waited an entire decade after the second film, but leaving the

theatre, I was speechless. I honestly had no idea what to think of the film. Nothing was mind-blowing, but then nothing gave me the inclination to walk out. With the exception of the acting, the film was completely average in every possible way. If you are a die-hard "Men in Black" fan, this film is worth seeing, but if you couldn't care less, might as well wait for the Redbox.

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## Snow White and the Huntsman

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

"Snow White and the Huntsman" takes the fairy tale to a new level with this dark rendition of the much-loved story. Impeccable directing complete with beautiful imagery, perfect shot selection, and flawless CGI transform this childhood tale into a stunning piece of art.

The Huntsman (Chris Hemsworth) becomes subject to the Queen's (Charlize Theron) reign of terror by going against her thrown and protecting the princess (Kristen Stewart) he swore to kill. In his quest, he becomes her mentor and provider while on the path to discover what his drunken self had been missing in life.

Director Rupert Sanders did a brilliant job of making the world of the evil Queen come to life. Every single shot added depth and perspective to the characters while creating a beautiful image, which would penetrate even the toughest of gazes. He knew which shots could convey the most

emotion and he succeeded in this difficult challenge. Creatively and stylistically, Sanders transformed this average Hollywood blockbuster into an outstanding film.

The acting surprisingly worked for the film. Stewart's emotionless style and overall awkwardness gave her an advantage while playing the character of Snow White. Although it was difficult to not assume Edward would come out of the dark and save her from the evil Queen, the casting choice fit the part. The same problem arose with Hemsworth. He brilliantly played the Huntsman, but whipping out his iron hammer seemed inevitable. Hemsworth will most likely never be able to escape from the character Thor just like Stewart will find it difficult to no longer be the love interest of a vampire.

As the film progressed, the beautiful directorial style started to become over-the-top and continuity issues were prevalent. A good 30 minutes could probably have been cut out or replaced by explanations. Several



Viewers may be impressed with Kristen Stewart's acting in the film, but her performance may make some viewers struggle to emotionally connect with her character.

Photo courtesy of Google

scenes seemed to be missing parts required to spare confusion while also failing to provide the necessary emotional connection. The script began to take a turn toward cheesiness, especially when Stewart attempted to break out of her shy persona and become a leader.

This transition showed her usual forceful way of acting and broke the audience's connection with the character.

Overall, this is definitely a film worth

seeing. This beautifully done film deserves recognition among the film buff circles and critics alike.

If you are watching for purely entertainment value, you may find this story slightly boring and confusing. If you enjoy a well-made film with well-known stereotypes of actors, this is definitely the summer blockbuster for you.

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## album review

## A soulful debut, Alabama Shakes shakes things up

Meredith Shea Production Assistant

Alabama Shakes, a raw southern rock band, makes its much-awaited debut with "Boys & Girls," a solid first attempt. The Shakes, comprised of Zac Cockrell (bass, backing vocals and guitar), Heath Fogg (guitar, backing vocals and percussion), Brittany Howard (vocals and guitar) and Steve Johnson (drums, percussion and backing vocals), met in high school in Athens, Ala. and have since worked their way to national popularity.

"Hold On," the first and most well-known track, catches the listener's attention from the initial beat Johnson lays out on the drums. When Fogg and Cockrell come in on the electric guitar and bass, the song receives its power. Then with "Bless my heart/ Bless my soul," Howard's riveting vocals flow through the ears with ease. She sings lyrics of struggle belting, "You've got to hold on." The simple, yet meaningful words mixed with Howard's matchless voice shape the song into a soulful blend of southern blues and rock with oomph.

In "You Ain't Alone," the Shakes tackle an old sound and are evidently inspired by the music of the mid to late 1960s, particularly Janis Joplin with Big Brother & The Holding Company. Howard seamlessly blends her vocals with a short guitar riff in the first three seconds of the song, much like Joplin did with her songs "Maybe" and "Ball and

Chain." With a few cigarettes and drinks, Howard may be able to match the grittiness of Joplin's voice, but that's not necessary for her current success. She defines herself through her individual sound.

Like many debuts, the album holds several golden treasures, like "Hold On" and "You Ain't Alone," two tracks which were on the EP release. Other songs barely missed the mark of greatness, but the Shakes will surely prove themselves as their sound develops. The other songs may not be as tightly knit, but they are still something of their own and deserve a listen.

The title track, "Boys and Girls," respects the tenderness and struggle of a failing relationship. "Boys and Girls" shines a light on the sensitive side of Howard's vocals and the Shakes' ability to take the aggressiveness down a notch without losing their bluesy rock core.

Perhaps the only downfall of the debut is the collection of eclectic songs the Shakes give. Each song has the same blues core, but the band has failed to make an entirely cohesive album. They move from a tight-knit feel in the first track, "Hold On," and then weave their way through a maze of 60s-inspired, soulful songs, and finally end with a song that has a Fleet Foxes feel in the first 25 seconds but turns into something much harder. However, this is nothing out of the ordinary for a band's debut album. It just gives listeners a clue to the Shakes'

inspirations over the years.

In "On Your Way," the last song of the album, there is a glimpse of what Alabama Shakes might sound like in the future. It is as if all of the songs before it were little victories throughout the songwriting phase

of the album and they morphed into one mega sound in the end. "On Your Way" embraces all aspects of what make the Shakes who they are: blues, rock and soul. It sounds like a mix of The Avett Brothers and Mumford & Sons, with the garage-band feel of The Black Keys.

Howard is clearly a one-of-a-kind talent, but the musicians behind her turn this good band into a great one. Boys and girls, Alabama Shakes is the band to

watch. They'll be in Kansas City Aug. 8 as a part of the Buzz Under the Stars concert series, and it should be nothing short of fantastic.

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Brittany Howard surprises with her soulful southern talent.

Photo Courtesy of Google

## cult classic review

## '80s gem isn't 'Better off Dead'

## Director Savage Steve Holland revitalizes the teenage comedy

Lindsay Adams

Copy Editor/Online Editor

Watching "Better off Dead" is a little like watching an unpleasant neighbor drink lighter fluid then light up a cigarette—the experience is explosive, shocking and entertaining.

The experience is only one of many growing pains that befall hapless teenager Lane Myers, who watches passively before condoling the neighbor's son saying, "Gee I'm real sorry your mom blew up, Ricky."

John Cusack gives a charming, early career performance as the bewildered teenage protagonist, Lane Myers. Girlfriend Beth, played by Amanda Wyss, breaks up with him by saying, "Lane, I think it'd be in my best interest if I dated somebody more popular. Better looking. Drives a nicer car."

Lane then decides life is not worth living and attempts suicide multiple times, but each

attempt is foiled by his family. His mother is clueless. His father is convinced he does drugs, and his younger brother is a genius interested in trashy older women.

Once Beth starts dating the popular, obnoxious captain of the high school ski team, Roy Stalin, things get worse. Lane challenges Roy to a ski competition on the terrifying slope called the K-12.

His only friend, Charles de Mar (Curtis Armstrong), snorts an odd variety of substances like Jell-O, whipped cream and snow, because he "can't even get real drugs."

He also drinks "eggnog my brother makes with lighter fluid."

He has been in high school for more than seven years, offering Lane deep words of wisdom like, "Dying when you're not really sick is really sick, you know."

learned English from iconic sports journalist Howard Cosell, and offers off-color narration of Lane's street racing misfortunes.

His life slowly turns around after he meets Monique, played by Diane Franklin, a cute and spunky French exchange student living across the street with Lane's neighbors, Mrs. Smith and her son Ricky (Laura Waterbury and Daniel Schneider). The Smiths are the worst host family imaginable, and Monique pretends that she cannot speak English to avoid communicating with them.

Monique and Lane slowly form a friendship. She turns out to be a whiz at car repair, helping him repair his broken-down '67 Chevy Camaro.

Monique tells him, "I think all you need is a small taste of success, and you will find it suits you."

"Better off Dead" is kitschy and bizarre. The dialogue is witty beyond the usual teenage comedy fare and the soundtrack is

filled with classic '80s pop and rock.

The film is amusingly dated, but still hip and easily relatable to anyone who has ever experienced tortured teenage angst. Every event is exaggerated, which is how life seems to a melodramatic teenager.

Lane is also harassed everywhere he goes by an angry paperboy whom he shorted a tip in the past. The paperboy is always bicycling after him shouting, "I want my two dollars."

"Better off Dead" is off-kilter and funny with its look at suburban life and the model family. It is crazy and imaginative. There is so much freedom because the film is unconfined by reality. The audience never knows what may happen next. "Better off Dead" may be funny and strange, but above all else, it is an original take on the usually cliché teenage comedy.

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## Travel Corner:

# Gilleleje, Denmark

Riley Mortensen Senior Staff Writer

As I stood in the sand with the sun shining down and the colossal waves rolling in one after another, I couldn't have dreamt of a better way to start my summer. Never mind the fact that I was bundled up from head to toe in a hat, gloves and all.

Watching the wind surfers gracefully command the ocean (these people think it's summer when it's 50 degrees out), there was no spot in the world I would have rather been. I felt a tingle in my fingers and I snapped the shot with my camera and captured a stunning and clear image of what I had always imagined a perfect day to look like. I was in Denmark with my family and I had been anticipating this 13-day trip for months, knowing my adventure in the land of the Vikings would be one of a kind.

Denmark might seem like an odd vacation spot, but this trip centered on family. My grandparents Tage and Else Mortensen came to the U.S. from Denmark in 1947 after my grandpa had been offered an engineering job in Kansas City. After the war was over, there weren't many openings for engineers in Denmark, so when offered a position in the U.S., he decided to give it a shot.

It was a difficult move and my grandparents had to leave behind nearly everything including their families, but they had decided together that it was what had to be done at the time.

Coming back to Denmark was like revisiting the past and living the life my grandparents had growing up, which is why I saved up all of my money and left behind the daily grind of being a working college student. This trip would mark the first visit to Denmark my grandma had been on in nearly

four years, and also the first trip she would take without my grandpa, who passed away last October.

Farfar and Farmor, which in Danish means father's father and father's mother, had been married for over 60 years, and I wanted to be there for Farmor since I knew the trip might be a little rough. It's rare that you find a couple that has the privilege and power to share a life together for more than six decades. My grandparents lived with nothing but appreciation and love for each other and the life they had created and built from the ground up.

When I came home, most of my friends asked me if I had done all the touristy things like seen the castles. Although I have, that's not what this trip was about. This trip was about family and sitting with Farmor listening to her speak Danish to her sisters and cousins of mine. It was about the war stories I was finally old enough to ask about and the long evenings spent discussing family history around the dining room table of our little summer house.

It was the look in my Farmor's eyes when she told me about the two times Farfar had been captured by the Germans. First, he was taken along with all the other members of the Danish army. No one knew why, but later it was clear they had been moved out so as not to put up a fight when the Germans raided the city.

The second time was much worse. Farfar had joined the Resistance and had been caught and taken to the prison in Copenhagen, which the Germans were using as their POW camp. Once he escaped he quickly made his way to the country to lay low and returned when the war was ending. I've walked on the trails along the coast that



Walking along the beach in Gilleleje, Denmark, the sun sets behind the collection of boats and ships in the harbor.  
Photo by Riley Mortensen

were used to smuggle Jews to Sweden. My cousins and I grew up on those trails. It's part of our family history.

The history of Denmark is part of what makes it such a fascinating and unique country. In Denmark, beer is a lifestyle and two out of three Danes have a last name that ends in -sen. Diesel is cheaper than gas, the royal family is celebrated in high regards, and castles and palaces are scattered along the rolling hills and coastlines like raindrops in a thunderstorm. Life there consisted of an infinite amount of picture taking, tea with every meal, and fresh pastries every morning. While walking along the ocean, the cool breeze blew and you could taste the salty ocean on your lips. As I gazed upon the stunning hues of the water, it was clear we weren't in Kansas anymore.

This was my fifth trip, so I'd been a frequent visitor wandering through dungeons, mixing

in with the sea of people in the bustling city of Copenhagen. I've had my picture taken with the little mermaid who sits in the harbor, ridden all the rides worthy of attention in Tivoli, Denmark's most famous amusement park, and earned my first unofficial driver's license in Legoland's prestigious driving school at age 12.

This trip was one of a kind because as a child you may not know all the intimate details of your family, but as a young adult, you learn just exactly how things came to be. The real treat was in imagining all the characters in my family growing up in this beautiful country and having the courage to ask about it all. Enjoying the sun set on the ocean every night and watching the pink skies fade away was simply an added bonus. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

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# Is the MPAA bullying filmmakers?

Read more about this on Page 23

Kate Baxendale Senior Staff Writer

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) has been the topic of recent controversy after the release of a 2012 documentary entitled "Bully," which received the rating "R" due to foul language.

Director Harvey Weinstein began an adamant media campaign along with the support of celebrities, educator groups and politicians to appeal the film's rating. After much debate, the film was released as "not rated."

In many theatres across America, "Bully" was treated as an "R" film, which allows minors to view the film only if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Alex Libby, a student who was bullied in this documentary, spoke

at the rating's appeal hearing. "Once my reality is filtered through a camera lens, I'm not allowed to view it?"

Amanda Kehrberg of the Phoenix NewTimes raised a valid point: Isn't real life filled with violence, language and sexual content? Why does turning this reality into art or entertainment suddenly render it unsafe for underaged eyes?

"Bully" is not the only film that pushed for an appeal this year; crime drama "Killer Joe" fought for an "R" rating as opposed to the adult-only "NC-17." "Sea Level," an action adventure movie, hoped for a "G" rating but the appeal was unsuccessful. The MPAA has heard eight appeals for movies to be released this year. That is double the number of appeals in 2011.

The way in which movies in America are

rated has experienced waves of change. Since the 1930s, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (later named the MPAA) abided by the "Hays Code," named after the famous censor Will H. Hays. This code stated that "no picture shall be produced which will lower the standards of those who view it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin."

The Hays Code was abolished in 1968 when then-chief of MPAA Jack Valenti introduced the current ratings system.

Recent efforts by film producers and distributors to appeal ratings given by the MPAA indicate a strong disconnect between what the two parties want to be shown in films. Language has been at the center of some appeal cases this year. Violence,

drug use and sexual content have also been subjects of conflict. Filmmakers often fight to lower a film's rating because the potential audience for PG-13 movies is much larger than that of R-rated movies.

Although appeals have hit a record high this year, the MPAA has shown no sign of revising its current ratings system. All except one of the appeals was denied a lower rating. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" was the only film that was changed from an "R" rating to "PG-13." If the number of appeals continues to rise in the following years, perhaps the MPAA will be forced to change its rating system. Weinstein may be the catalyst for this change.

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# Time to get 'fringey'

## Local Fringe Festival highlights UMKC talent

Meredith Shea

Production Assistant

Preparations for the 2012 KC Fringe Festival, a fun local avante-garde arts festival that debuted in 2004, are well underway.

This year's fest runs July 19-29 at a variety of venues throughout KC and will display UMKC playwright Pete Bakely's play, "Skillet Tag."

"Skillet Tag" revolves around a group of corporate employees who are summoned to their boss's remote house for a team building exercise. An accidental murder causes a downward spiral.

"It's another delicious dark comedy from Pete Bakely and it will offer up everything a night at the theatre should offer," director Sam Slosburg said. "It's timely and relevant, it's absolutely mortifying and you may just pee your pants laughing."

Over the last eight years, FringeFest has become a local spectacular.

From burlesque and theatre, to clowning and art and everything in between, this festival is sure to entertain and challenge audience members of all backgrounds and ages.

"KC Fringe has rapidly become the best local showcase for actors, directors and playwrights. Because of the nature of the program, this is where locals show off their best and most personal works," Bakely said.

Bakely premiered his play, "Jet Propulsion," as a part of the 2011 Fringe Festival.

"Bakely is an eccentric satirist who fearlessly tackles the taboo while

providing opportunities for up and coming KC actors," said actor Chelsey Tighe.

"Skillet Tag," directed by Sam Slosburg and produced by Kelsey Kallenberger, will include UMKC acting talents Laura Jacobs, J. Will Fritz, Matt Leonard and Chelsey Tighe. Other local talent includes Kenna Hall, Kyle Wallen and Aurélie Roque. Jay Aiken is set to be the fight choreographer and Tess Roam has been hired as makeup artist.

Performance dates are July 21 and 22 at 6:30 p.m., July 23 at 9:30 p.m., July 25 at 8 p.m., and July 27 at 9 p.m.

All performances will take place on Unicorn Theatre's main stage.

"Everyone should come and see 'Skillet Tag' because it's a fresh, quirky show that pushes boundaries," Tighe said.

Bakely never ceases to invent new ways of pushing the boundaries. However, be forewarned because a play from Bakely may throw something at you that you didn't ever intend to see or hear, which is what makes his plays forever memorable. Skillet Tag will represent Bakely well.

## How to 'Fringe'

Fringe Festival buttons, required for admission, can be purchased at theatre venues throughout the city or online.

This button must be presented for admittance into a show, along with a ticket. Proceeds from button sales go directly to the festival to help fund the event. Tickets benefit the artists in each show.

In 2011, there were 115 artist entries and 367 individual performances.

Going to a Fringe event is a casual, yet exhilarating, experience. The colorful events have the ability to make the audience laugh, cry and 'pee their pants.'

There will be several opportunities to see a show this year July 19-29, including Bakely's "Skillet Tag."

"Fringe is superb because pretty much everyone jumps on board, professionals and amateurs, and it gives everyone a chance to work together purely for the love of it in a common ground scenario, and then some real bangin' work is created," Slosburg said.

Over the last several years, KC has made huge strides in its theatre scene with new professional theatres and companies opening each year. The Fringe helps spur excitement each summer for the upcoming theatre season.

"Keeping the theatre alive isn't just vital for the arts community; it's vital for the city. It's become an organ that helps the soul of this city survive," Tighe said.

While theatre is the largest category of events offered through Fringe Festival, other forms of art are also available to witness. For those in the artsy crowd who prefer visual art, last year's venue, The Wine Gallery, featured many artists' work for the public to enjoy.

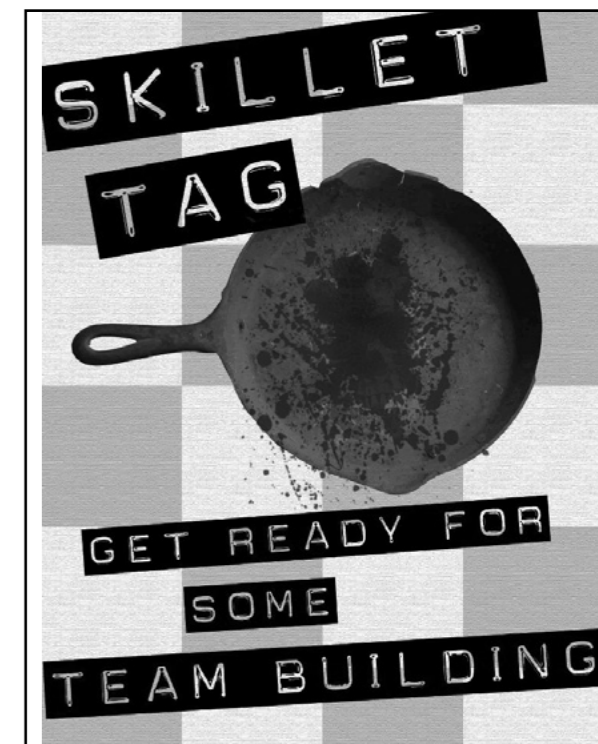
Dancers might enjoy one of the burlesque troupes tantalizing performances, and children might enjoy a nice red nosed clown show. The festival offers a wide array of artistic creations.

There is something for every age and every form of artistic appreciation. Stay tuned at [www.kcfringe.org](http://www.kcfringe.org) for information about this year's lineup.

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# WTF

What's The Fringe?  
[kcfringe.org](http://kcfringe.org)



Photos courtesy of Kyle Wallen

## Book Review

# Koningsburg impresses with 'The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place'

Lindsay Adams

Copy Editor/Online Editor

"The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place" is a wonderful and charming tale of oddballs and art, crafted by children's author E.L. Koningsburg.

Margaret Rose Kane, a 12-year-old who is mature beyond her years, goes to a camp in the Adirondack Mountains, which turned out to be less than perfect. She is the only girl in her cabin who hasn't been to Camp Talequa before. The six "Meadowlarks," as they are called, have been going to the camp for years and are all friends who form a vicious clique that is constantly trying to humiliate Margaret with hazing.

Margaret's beloved uncles Alex and Morris decide to rescue her from the camp. Margaret, uncle Alex and his dog, Tartuffe,

get a chauffeured ride to their home at 19 Schuyler Place by the camp handyman. He leads a secret life. While acting like a mentally deficient handyman by day, he is really an intelligent and subversive artist by night.

Unbeknownst to Margaret, her uncles are fighting a battle waged in city hall meetings and home owner associations. For the last 45 years, the uncles have been constantly working on three towers in their backyard, art installations of sorts that are made out of scrap substances like glass metal and even clock parts.

They have invested in the towers, working on them as a hobby.

The section of town to which the uncles immigrated when they arrived in America deteriorated. With recent restorations, the new homeowners in the area do not approve of the towers and are attempting to tear them

down. They have won a petition to remove them through the city.

Jake and Margaret form an unlikely bond by plotting to save the towers. They even bring in lawyers and confuse the girls from Camp Talequa by creating a media circus.

While "The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place" is about a young protagonist, the story deals with much deeper issues and themes. The novel has an important message about preserving art and the narrow-mindedness of many about what art should be. The novel takes an interesting view of the movements toward certain parts of a town, but homogenizing it. The Old Town area is improved at the expense of those who had kept the area alive and at the expense of certain historical areas.

The story's narration is amusing and sharp. The character dialogue is interesting and witty, due to the unusual cast of characters.

Margaret is a charming albeit unorthodox heroine. Her parents are professors who taught her to think analytically and logically, and when she discovers authority figures are narrow-minded (or in her opinion, wrong), she feels no need to obey them.

Jake is snarky and enjoys painting cubist-like nudes at the horror of his prim and repressed mother. Jake is good at handling Margaret and her slight egocentrism. Alex and Morris have strong Hungarian accents and sayings which they use often. They are eccentric and off-the-wall and encourage Margaret to express herself and foster her individuality.

"The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place" is a quick read and a highly enjoyable experience for readers of all ages.

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# Historic mansions retain beauty and significance

Kynslie Otte Production Assistant

Kansas City's rich history is preserved and embodied through the many famous, remarkable buildings and residences that still stand to tell the city's story. The Alexander Majors House and Museum and Loose Mansion, two beautiful landmarks, are still open to the public.

## Majors' House: 8201 State Line Rd.

Alexander Majors ran one of the country's largest freighting companies in the 1850's. He created the Pony Express with his two business partners, Russel and Waddell, and gave "Buffalo Bill" Cody his first job. The prominence of Majors' company attracted private and governmental shippers to the Westport Landing area, and was responsible for giving Kansas City a jumpstart for economic success.

The Russel, Waddell, Majors freighting firm also established the Kansas City Stock Yards. Majors built a home in Kansas City in 1856 to serve as his headquarters, located at 8201 State Line Rd., which still stands as a symbol of Majors' success.

The house sits on a five acre park, facing westward over what was once a prairie. The 3,400 sq. ft. antebellum home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was restored in 1984, but still features the original white pine floors and millwork, as well as furniture from the era. Wagons and carriages from the 1800's, blacksmithing demonstrations, gardens and tool displays are displayed in the large park for interested tourists or passersby.

Events are often held at the old Majors house. On June 24th, the Westport Center for the Arts will present a Reader's Theater version of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn. There will be performances at 2:00pm and 5:00pm. Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. The house is open regularly for tours on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm.

## Loose Mansion: Walnut and Armor Blvd.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Jacob Loose moved to Kansas City to establish his business, the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company, with his brother John and partner John H. Wiles. The company later adopted the

brand name "Sunshine Biscuits." Today, the company is a subsidiary of Keebler.

Loose was a baking mogul who made his fortune selling cookies and soda crackers. Loose and his wife Ella were a generous couple, donating shoes and money to what was once the Gillis Orphan's home.

The couple's trusts, in combination with Loose's brother and family, formed the basis for Kansas City's largest charitable organization, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Affiliated Trusts.

Loose's business experienced much success. As a result, he established one of the most attractive and historic residences in the city.

Loose Mansion was constructed in 1909 on the corner of Walnut and Armour Blvd. After Loose's death in 1923, his wife donated 80 acres of land to the city in her husband's honor, which is now known as Loose Park.

Loose Park is a perfect destination for families and individuals alike. There is a playground for children, a jogging trail, a rose garden and even a pond with wooden bridges for crossing.

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# Popular cancelled TV shows

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

## CANCELLED SHOWS:

### CSI: Miami News

After 10 seasons, CBS decided it was time to call it quits on spinoff CSI: Miami. Due to budget cuts, the network needed to cut one CSI show and since Miami had become the most expensive to produce, CBS decided it was time for an end. CSI: New York almost failed to make the cut as well but due to good number in their ninth season, the show has been renewed for at least another year.

#### Editorial

Is it really necessary to have more than one CSI? Although the not-so-occasional glimpse of a dead body or the discombobulated mess of spilled organs reeks of entertainment value, how many dead bodies are too many?

I only watched CSI a couple times, but every time it was essentially the same story line. Guy gets murdered, CSI team investigates using fake technology to miraculously discover the identity of the killer, and in a tearful final moment, the killer is arrested.

The character development is minimal and creativity (with the exception of the ways a person could die) is virtually nonexistent. CBS made a good decision to cut the show and it is only a matter of time before CSI: New York sees the same fate.

### Extreme Makeover – Home Edition News

After airing its 200th episode in January, ABC decided to cancel this once popular reality show. Due to a decline in ratings, the home makeover team is no longer able to build for those in need.

#### Editorial

Isn't it sad to live in a world where a network cuts a show based on charity because the show isn't making enough money for the network?

That seems contradictory since the point of Home Edition is to help the less fortunate as opposed to making the fortunate wealthier. I remember back in the olden days when the show first started, Ty Pennington and his team seemed legitimately devoted to helping others.

Lately, the homes seem to have been designed more for show than anything else. Home Edition has even been involved in several lawsuits due to their profit-focused business. Although this show had a wonderful concept, the network diverged from the original idea, making the ending inevitable.

### Fear Factor News

Although Fear Factor was still the most popular non-scripted series on the network, the show will not return after controversy struck when contestants were forced to drink

a concoction of bodily fluids from a donkey.

The episode never aired, but advertisers refused to fund the show and NBC took this as a sign to start rebuilding their image.

#### Editorial

I find it entertaining how dumb some people will act in order to get money. Who would even consider drinking anything coming out of a donkey in the first place and what kind of sick person would think up such a stunt?

Fear Factor has always been known for its creativity and grotesque episodes, but this definitely took the concept of gross entertainment way too far. Hopefully NBC will be able to transform its image with "upscale programming" as chairman Robert Greenblatt stated.

## ENDING SHOWS:

### Desperate Housewives News

After eight seasons, Desperate Housewives came to a dramatic close. Word of the series ending came about after creator Marc Cherry announced he was leaving the show as executive producer.

Even though ratings had been declining the last several years, the series finale attracted over eleven million viewers.

#### Editorial

When the show first premiered, Desperate Housewives became the must-watch show of Sunday nights.

This continued for a few years until this once creatively entertaining show

In 2003, Ken and Barbara Saathoff purchased the 15,000 sq. ft. Loose Mansion with its 3,500 sq. ft. carriage house and began restoring the property in 2004. Since renovations have been completed, the mansion has been turned into a venue for events such as weddings, family reunions, receptions and more.

Loose Mansion is listed on the National Historic Register, and is especially popular in the area as a wedding venue. The local media has deemed Loose Mansion "the finest new venue to open in Kansas City in 20 years."

Loose Mansion also received the annual "The Knot Best of Weddings" award from The Knot magazine. Similarly, the website Wedding Wire included Loose Mansion in their "Brides Choice Awards," recognizing the top 5 percent of wedding vendors nationwide.

Loose Mansion is not open to the public for tours, but the Loose Park is an excellent place to soak up the atmosphere.

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transformed into more of a cliché melodrama. These characters must have done something wrong in a past life in order to have such an unfortunate and dramatic fate.

I miss the days of television when one could be intrigued by characters simply living, but now a dead body must be discovered once in a while or tragedy strikes a couple dozen times a year in order to gain viewers.

This show had a really firm beginning, and unfortunately the ending failed to attract the 30 million people who viewed the season one finale.

### One Tree Hill News

After nine years, this once-popular teen drama finally came to an end. Ever since the series had a change of cast members, ratings have been in decline and creator Mark Schwahn made sure to end every season finale as if it could be the last. One Tree Hill hung on as long as possible before the network and crew decided a final season was a necessity.

#### Editorial

Being a hardcore One Tree Hill fan, I was unable to continue watching the show after the original cast left. Much like Desperate Housewives, this series became filled with unnecessary drama in order to hinder the plot and lengthen the life of the show. If the show ended with the original group, that would have been a much more satisfying ending.

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Nathan Zoschke

Editor-in-Chief

My goal as editor-in-chief can be summed up in University News' new mission: To provide relevant, timely coverage of the UMKC community by seeking truth, fairness and accuracy in reporting while preserving the integrity of *U-News* as an independent student-run publication.

I drafted this statement once my promotion became official after the last spring semester paper printed in April. The potential to produce a top-notch paper is readily apparent.

With a diverse, commuter-majority student body of 15,000, UMKC needs a reliable medium for students—many with hectic lives outside of school—to become informed about campus

news and events and have an outlet to relate their concerns.

Building a successful paper can be a challenge in today's journalism environment, where tradition has clashed with the



Mal Hartigan  
Managing Editor

Forget the Constitution. Some political figures seem to ignore one crucial rule: separation of church and state. And with upcoming elections hot in the tabloids, the Republican Party appears to be a repeat offender. Thomas Jefferson crafted the

# A toast to the reader

## Constructive engagement is our No. 1 goal

inevitable: technology, progress and innovation.

Albert Einstein is credited (perhaps incorrectly) with stating, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Einstein or not, a knack for quantum physics isn't needed to figure out this piece of advice.

Amongst journalists, their audience and their critics, an agreement can be reached that the newspaper business is full of insanity.

Many established papers are slow to adapt new technology and establish a robust online presence, but whine peevishly every time declining readership and ad revenue forces another round of layoffs. In reaching the young, tech-savvy demographic that is replacing the graying population of loyal print readers, newspapers face an uphill climb.

Most industries are quick to embrace new technology for its business potential. Print journalism has long been an exception, with the advent of the Internet age forcing its long-reigning stalwarts out of the pressroom and into the App store.

It's no wonder many papers are making cuts to the bare bones. Beyond their aversion to change, too many newspapers do a poor job building meaningful connections with readers.

The impersonalized feeling of a print newspaper with yesterday's news is unappealing when the Internet offers breaking news tailored to readers' tastes.

As editor-in-chief, I will strive to make the *U-News* more relevant and accessible to students both in print and online, and most importantly, to be responsive to what our readers want.

The independence of *U-News'* editorial content from the influence of school administration is part of a necessary system of checks and balances.

As an entirely student-run publication, we aim to provide students with a voice and an advocate. That's why participation in the *U-News* is open for all students who have an interest in journalism and an eagerness to learn.

This past year witnessed *U-News'* leadership move in a new direction. The positive

changes that were made have proven that more are possible.

My hope is that our readership base of students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and members of the surrounding community will find compelling articles in every issue and take advantage of what our publication offers.

Most importantly, I want to hear reader feedback, and make sure that any student who wishes to be constructively engaged is provided the opportunity to do so.

Because our senior staff takes extra care to thoroughly fact-check and edit every article, we have made a commitment to correct any inaccuracies and run a correction on Page 2 of the following issue and on our website, [www.unews.com](http://www.unews.com).

I strongly encourage our readers to leave comments on our website, Twitter and Facebook pages and to submit letters to the editor.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, faculty adviser Jon Rand or either of our managing editors with any ideas, questions, comments or concerns.

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**Disclaimer:** The views of individual writers expressed below in this section do not represent the official stance of *U-News*. *U-News* welcomes participation from all UMKC students. Letters to the editor may be submitted to Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, [nzoschke@unews.com](mailto:nzoschke@unews.com).

## You can take the church out of politics, but you can't take the church out of the politician

idea with hopes of creating fair public policy for all citizens: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

It isn't a new concept. While laying the foundation for a democratic country, the Founding Fathers were careful to prohibit religious influence in political decisions.

More than 220 years later, many politicians have not only blurred the line between the two, but actively defied the mandate against religion in politics. However, for the minority

practicing other religions or no religion at all, is it fair that certain political figures have been placed on a pedestal for incorporating Christian beliefs when the Constitution forbids prohibits laws that prefer or discourage one religion over the other?

Earlier this year, former presidential candidate Rick Santorum gained national attention by incorporating his religious values into his vision for America.

Santorum is quoted in "The Huffington Post" saying the separation between church and

state makes him "want to throw up." Santorum also said, "The idea that the church can have no influence or no involvement in the operation of the state is absolutely antithetical to the objectives and vision of our country."

While Santorum is entitled to Constitutionally-protected free speech, he fails to acknowledge every citizen is also entitled to Constitutionally-protected freedom of religion. Abolishing separation of church and state would affect those of non-Christian faiths, forcing them

Continued on Page 20

# Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I have never written the paper before, but I wanted to Thank Ms. Adams for her fine work on a very fair and balanced article. I don't use social media, I don't participate in school activities, and while teachers like me and I've worked for the Chemistry department, I avoid notice most of the time. I prefer to remain anonymous, too many selfish, self-absorbed individuals - especially in college tend to want to start some new 'political crusade', be it save the whales, don't eat meat, drive electric cars or Hunt Down George Zimmerman (via our wonderful new black panther party).

I read the news because its free, available and convenient, and gives me some insight as to the feelings of those on campus and news related to campus events.

Most of the time, I find the political articles 'overcharged' with a desire for political activism or to publish one's own political opinion. Between supporting the New Black Panther party and this weeks An argument for socialism, (not to mention one or two writers (I think only one now... one left I believe after 'occupy' went south.) Nathan Zoschke...you know who you are...) the minority viewpoint of conservatism or right leaning moderates is all but silent.

This is understandable, as the majority of staff and many of the more outspoken ones, both on campus and in schools nationwide, are politically left-leaning. Teachers unions, Liberal Arts education and work funding, and the tone of political activism (and many other issues - not to minimize debt or the devaluation of college), and government/public school make this 'vocal liberalism' common, and more acceptable due to majority.

However, I must again commend Ms. Adams for taking the stance, an often unpopular one - albeit one that has proven to be the most level headed after additional info and evidence, and an arrest have come. Her article was very fair, in my opinion - supporting neither political party but rather asking for cool heads to prevail and allow justice to take its course. To divide people into racial groups, ignite a racial war as some BP party members want, and to rush to judgment especially when so little information has yet surfaced would be damaging to student who wish for student unity, not division and even could promote violence, or anger among students. She supported both sides fairly, and again called for not action but inaction until we know more.

I found this viewpoint refreshing, wise and unifying - because we are all students, all people, and any unnatural death is a tragedy. Kudos to you, Lindsay for taking a stance for class, integrity and unity.

Best wishes,  
Ryan Nash



Johanna Poppel  
Production Manager

# 'Tell that to a plant' Environmental science isn't just for tree huggers

is recyclable in the city's curbside recycling program. The piles of recyclables would be cluttered with trash bags and glass bottles that couldn't be recycled on site. The ignorance of others slows down the environmental progression our society can make.

Why should people care about the environment? It affects the health and well-being of those around us, as well as those on opposite hemispheres, not to mention the sustainability of our planet.

I seem to be automatically lumped into into the category of radical, all-natural, soil worshipping tree huggers that just spend time making hemp bracelets and tie dyeing.

I am often asked what I can do with an environmental science degree or simply what environmental science

is. Our environment not only surrounds us constantly and supports our life so we are able to be here.

I feel many Americans are oblivious to care about environmental concerns. According to the book, "An Inconvenient Truth", "The United States is responsible for more greenhouse gas pollution than South America, Africa, the Middle East, Australia, Japan, and Asia all put together." For anybody that doesn't believe it, just step outside the United States and you will notice the drastic differences in consumption and transportation habits of other countries.

Being an environmentalist might seem like a lifestyle choice, when it should be everyone's responsibility to do everything in their power to keep a sustainable planet.

In Europe it is already

a norm to keep the environment in mind in every aspect of life. The water surrounding Norway is filled with wind mills that supply complete energy to the mainland. Almost every residential house in Germany has solar panels. Europe is fully connected by trains to optimize public transportation in a convenient way.

Central squares in European cities even offer pedestrian zones that strictly prohibit cars. Gas is four times as expensive in Europe than the United States and spotting an SUV is a rare occurrence. In Kansas City, I can barely walk on the sidewalk without someone in a car yelling obscenities to me.

Maybe time will tell when Americans start to realize the importance of sustainability instead of it

just being a lifestyle choice, political agenda or marketing strategy. Businesses use it to their advantage to claim they are "green."

We even have the Student Union and other "green" buildings on campus doing the minimum to pass LEED certification.

The Bookstore in the Student Union doesn't even have a single recycle bin. Packaging, paper and other materials go straight in the trash. Not just our school uses the aspect of being "green" to lure people to our school. Companies simply add green-colored packaging to make consumers believe it is organic or good for the environment.

Even political candidates use environmental awareness, or lack thereof as an arguing point.

Former Republican presidential candidate Rick

Santorum once said to a group of voters, "This isn't climate science, it is political science... Tell that to a plant, how dangerous carbon dioxide is."

Actually, that excess of carbon dioxide that plants love so much (according to 98 percent of scientists studying global warming) is contributing to global warming and has supported natural disasters and suffering.

I propose we don't leave environmental concerns to politicians, especially those who promote global warming denial and other pseudoscience.

Citizens need to take action in promoting and sustaining the environment themselves in order to keep our home a beautiful planet for eternity.

Former Republican presidential candidate Rick

# MPAA ratings: A safeguard for consumers or movie industry bully? Check out Page 18 to find out more about the MPAA ratings system



Lindsay Adams  
Copy Editor/Online Editor

## Rating or censoring?

afford to re-edit the movie in hopes of removing the right offensive material, and so instead released it with the NC-17 rating.

However, once they were working with the big studio Paramount to make the "South Park" film, the MPAA's tune changed. The South Park film was given a NC-17 rating at first as well, but when asked what needed to be cut to merit an R rating, the MPAA was incredibly specific about the words that needed to be cut and even the length that needed to be cut off certain frames.

The MPAA is known for making bizarre demands such as forcing Martin Scorsese to de-saturate the color of blood in "Taxi Driver" to get an R rating.

The MPAA has its own viewpoint and agenda that seeps into its film ratings in insidious ways.

Some of these biases become readily apparent when looking at different ratings received by films.

When the creators of South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, made the independent film "Orgazmo," they were branded with an NC-17 rating for overall sexual content. When Parker and Stone asked the MPAA what they should cut, the MPAA told them that they couldn't tell that what needed to be cut or they would become a censorship organization.

Stone and Parker couldn't

Whether or not those are the prevalent cultural and social norms in our country, the MPAA is merely validating an unfair double-standard.

The sentence-long descriptor under each MPAA rating doesn't really encapsulate what gave the film the rating it did. With no clear information, how is the audience supposed to make an informed decision?

What about the rare NC-17 rating? It goes beyond suggesting parents, and prohibits those under the age of 17 from watching an NC-17 movie in the theaters.

Created to distinguish between explicit art house films and pornographic content, it has become the black sheep of the ratings system.

It quickly received the stigma that was previously attached to X-rated films, and NC-17 films are barely marketable.

The ratings system, especially the R and NC-17 ratings, merely create a false sense of security for parents, who think that this is somehow protecting their kinds, when pornographic material is just a click or text message away.

Instead of a false sense of security, moviegoers need a rating system with transparency that informs, rather than dictates.

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Elizabeth Golden  
Managing Editor

## Movie ratings are not censorship

and provide necessary guidelines for attendance. The only rules of the rating system involve R and NC-17 rated films. Due to violent nature/excessive language/ or extreme sexuality, the MPAA believes the film is not suitable for all ages and therefore the viewer must be seventeen or with an adult over the age of 21.

In the case of an NC-17 film (which are rarely shown at movie theatres), the viewer must be over 17, no exceptions. Once again, the MPAA does not censor films; therefore, why do people have such a problem with the rating system?

The average parent would not be okay with his or her elementary school child waltzing into the movie theatre and watching the latest teen sex comedy nor would they be fine with their child seeing a gruesome murder filmed in the most glamorized manor. In fact, it has been proven that exposure to violent images at a young age has several negative side effects.

According to The Academy of Pediatrics, "More than one thousand scientific studies and reviews conclude that significant exposure to media violence increases the risk of aggressive behavior in certain

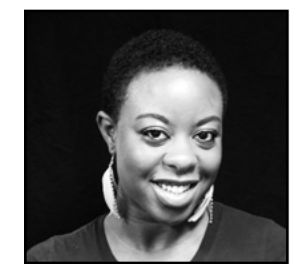
children, desensitizes them to violence and makes them believe that the world is a 'meaner and scarier' place than it is."

Fewer studies have been done on the effects of sex in the media as opposed to violence, but according to a recent survey, 53 percent of children use movies or television as a source of information about sex. Wouldn't it be wiser for parents to be mindful of the reason a film is rated R for sexuality before children gain a misconstrued image of the world through media?

Many believe the MPAA is biased toward big Hollywood blockbusters, giving them PG-13 ratings, while the majority of independent films barely get by with an R rating. They have also been accused of being harder on sexual content while giving leniency to violence.

Although the MPAA is not perfect, why does it matter? They do a pretty good job with restricting, not censoring, content children are able to see without a parent or guardian present. If the parent is fine with exposing their child to these images, they are more than welcome to accompany the child to the film or wait a couple months for it to be available on Netflix.

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Kharissa Forte  
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# Geoffrey Canada gives insight at Freedom School benefit luncheon

due to living in poverty-stricken areas. A few weeks after Time released the list, Canada spoke at the Freedom School Sixth Child Benefit Luncheon at the Westin Crown Center here in Kansas City. Several prominent Kansas Citians were in attendance, including Rev. Stan Archie, who serves as Vice President of the Missouri School Board of Education, Kansas City Public Schools superintendent Dr. Stephen Green, and Mayor Sly James. I was honored to be able to join these and other respected citizens at the luncheon.

At the luncheon, Canada

reminded his listeners that a poor education is not a "black thing" or an "inner city" thing, but an economic issue in which race and environment are only subsequent factors. Recognized for his Harlem Children's Zone, his innovations serve nearly 8,000 kids in New York and his model is the blueprint for Obama's Promise Neighborhoods Program.

As someone who has had minimum interest in the issues of children outside of my own, I found Canada's speech to be very convicting and motivating all at once.

He brought to light so many "little details" that I

overlooked that play such an intricate role in children's lives and - consequently - their education. For example, health issues are an underlining issue. Canada spoke on how expensive it is to buy healthy, nutritional food, however if we go to the movies, we can upgrade a medium fountain drink to a large for just a quarter.

I recall Canada saying, "Anything that is 44 ounces of non-nutritional empty calories should be child abuse." Wow.

Another overlooked issue is that kids no longer have older adults or role models that believe in them anymore. I remember how

my mother would always tell me to believe in myself and I could achieve anything. Today, no one is feeding our youth that same message of hope. Canada stated that if you can take away a child's belief factor, then you have destroyed that child's future. As people, we are wired to persevere knowing we have hope and faith to hold on to. Who is instilling hope and faith into the upcoming generation especially here in Kansas City? With a failing public school system, kids here are consistently used to people giving up on them. Canada believes that "giving up" is a huge part of the issue as it significantly damages

their levels of confidence. I concur.

By the time the luncheon was over, I wanted to hug and apologize on behalf of society to every child I saw. Canada inspired me to attempt to touch the little lives of the children in my world. It's not about creating some monumental program for the entire world to see. It's about offering a kind word, a friendly gesture, or an educational moment on why carrots are a better option than potato chips.

It's about putting into practice the littlest things that make the biggest differences.

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Thumbing through any academic institution's Code of Conduct handbook, certainly there is something listed pertaining to plagiarism. Usually it is defined along

the lines of: taking credit for work done by others, cheating, copying other's work verbatim without citation.

We have had these rules drilled into our brains since grade school. Evidentially, this literary expectation doesn't always carry over into

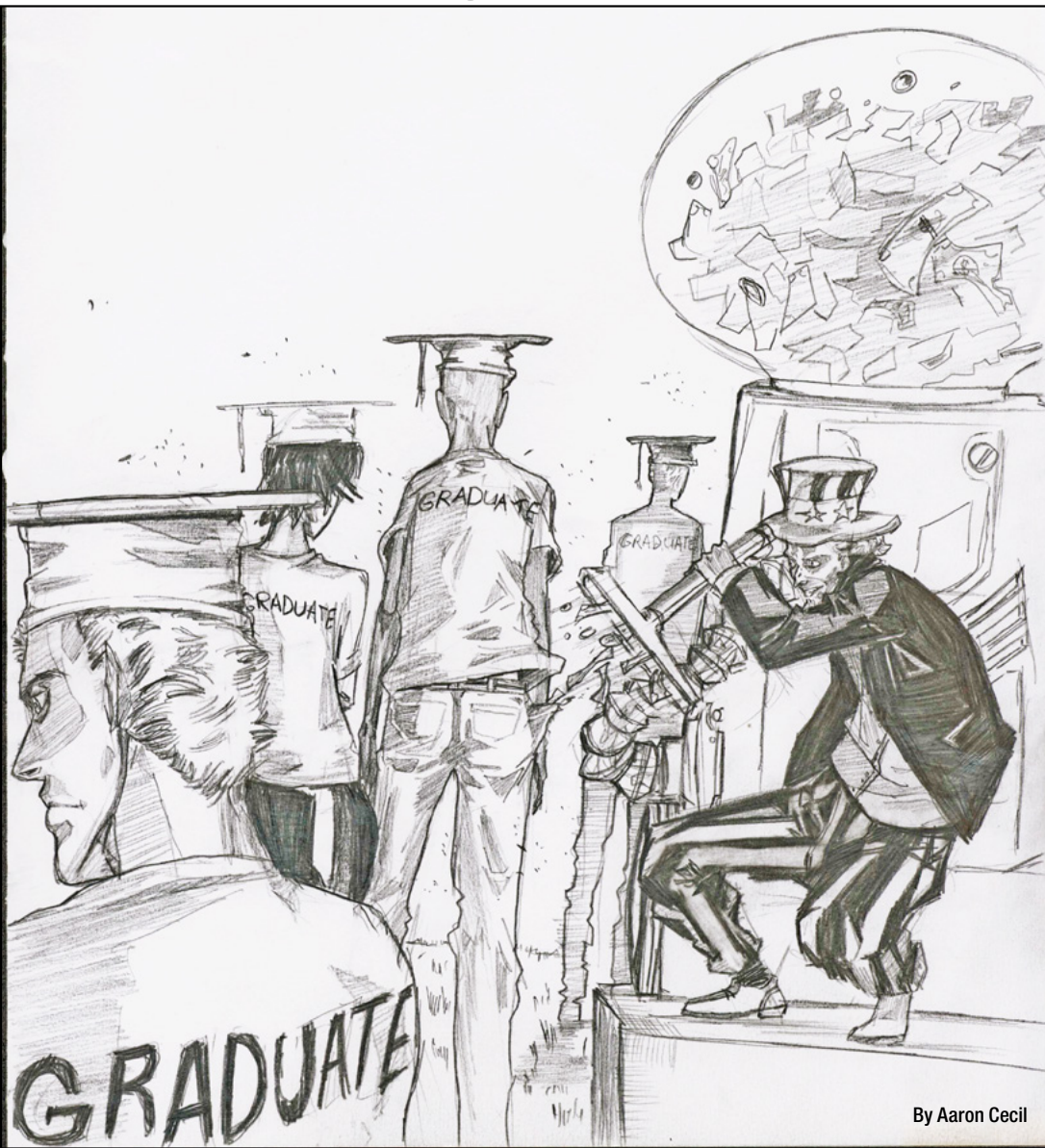
the real world of work. On May 17, singer/songwriter and guitarist Nate Cook, of Colorado rock band The Yawpers, posted a status on the band's Facebook account stating "We hate thieves, so few things piss us off worse than PLAGIARIZING AND STEALING the

work of other writers/artists/musicians."

Cook's mention of a January review by U-News Managing Editor Mal Hartigan, plagiarized on a small Colorado town's newspaper's website, www.lyonsrecorder.com, caught fans attention.

Upon further scrutiny of the piece, readers were able to notice statements taken verbatim from the original work. Not only factual statements, but quirky and whimsical additions were repeated in the later article that could not be

# Pocket change for Uncle Sam



By Aaron Cecil

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coincidental. Prompting fans to submit letters of complaint to the editor's email address, an apology was issued shortly after by author David McIntyre:

"Apology

Editor's Note: David McIntyre, the Lyons Bluesologist, used an article he found online to promote the upcoming appearance of the band, The Yawpers, at Oskar Blues without giving credit to the author, Mallory Hartigan. We at The Lyons Recorder regret this incident, as does Mr. McIntyre.

"Dear Ms. Hartigan,

I cannot apologize enough. I was behind that week and wanted to let people know about the band. I read your article and others, and used much too much of your article in my story. I thought you did a very good job of describing them, but that is no excuse for what I did, and it won't ever happen again. I had not seen the band live so I didn't have much to say, but wanted them to get some press for their upcoming show. I will note in next week's paper your contribution to that story, and again I am very sorry for using your words and not crediting you.

Sincerely,  
Dave McIntyre"

Publisher Joseph Lekarczyk assured all letters of complaint were forwarded to the author, thanking those who brought this matter to his attention. The fraudulent article has since been removed from the Lyons Recording website. This behavior wouldn't be expected of a journalist well past college years, such as Mr. McIntyre.

The same apology was issued

to Hartigan via email, offering an opportunity to write a letter to the publication. Hartigan's offer to write a letter did not receive a response.

Hartigan, a close friend and colleague at work and school, stated that she was "angry" about the situation. She felt appalled that another journalist would behave so recklessly without considering the consequences of his choices, and try to gloss over the issue with an impersonal apology. I am equally disturbed by the incidents.

Instances of plagiarism often result in lawsuits and more serious consequences. It is not known whether McIntyre still works for The Lyons Recorder, although a recent article with his byline still appears on the newspaper's website.

Hartigan has not decided whether or not to pursue further action, but is disappointed.

In a warped perspective, this could be considered a nod of approval, that a much older writer, presumably one with more journalism experience, came upon her work and deemed it eligible for copying.

Reputations are easily damaged by plagiarism not only on behalf of the author stealing other's work without due credit, but also to the parenting publication.

This is an academic lesson best learned by college students as a cautionary tale, a lesson that instructors emphasize repeatedly.

Hopefully after being called out, those who pretend they are above the rules for fair use of intellectual property will have learned their lesson.

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## Mal Hartigan: Continued from Page 21

to abide by a candidate's Christian ideals.

Religion has also become a crutch for political campaigns, mostly to secure conservative votes and donations.

Former presidential candidate Rick Perry's campaign had an appealing foundation for conservatives, such as opposing abortion despite rape and incest, structured around his religious beliefs. Perry's campaign ultimately crumbled from poor performance during televised debates, not because of conservative opposition to his values.

Perry isn't the only guilty candidate. Santorum's campaign instilled fear in religious

Americans by claiming the Obama Administration has been an "assault on all religion in America." He even publicly criticized Obama for making political decisions that were not "based on the Bible."

While he defied birth control or women's choice for abortion (regardless of circumstance), it's no surprise Santorum received 3,693 more campaign contributions from men than from women. His campaign received \$8,391,266 total, according to [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org).

In the first 6 weeks of Perry's campaign, he raised \$17 million, according to [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com). That's more than \$25 million Americans spent toward political campaigns that support defying the

Constitution. Citizens seem to have also forgotten the Constitution's basic admonishment.

Americans donate millions to these candidates who pledge to fix the economy and other urgent issues, but the money also promotes the candidate's ability to spread Christian-based opinions.

This Constitutional disregard is seen with more than presidential candidates. It hits closer to home with Republican Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, who is vocal about his Catholic faith.

While Brownback has many admirable goals that he attributes to the bible, such as decreasing child poverty, he vocally opposes abortion and gay marriage on

religious grounds.

In a YouTube clip, Brownback says he wants faith and public life to "meet in the middle" when it comes to government. He says "Faith is critical" and it "needs to be engaged and encouraged."

While the Constitution protects the rights of Americans to openly practice and encourage their faith, it still prohibits religious interference in government decisions.

Why? Because not everyone sees eye to eye. Even within Christianity, there is disagreement about how to interpret the bible and how one should practice his or her faith.

One candidate's religious beliefs may fail to represent not only the entire Christian community, but

America as a whole.

For example, if a candidate opposes gay marriage because of belief in the Old Testament's literal word, this could then affect the entire nation, even if many Christians or non-Christians do not share the same values.

Drafting laws that represent only one religious group in our diverse nation is unfair and unjust. Social issues are not in the Constitution, and with the separation between church and state, religion should not influence the political arena. If politicians want to renovate America, it would be wise to reference the very document that founded our nation.