

Lower the drinking age?

18 OPINION

Two different views on the college drinking age conversation

Photo Illustration by Nathan Zoschke

3 NEWS

Group meets opposition from UM System with request to obtain School of Education syllabi

10 FEATURE

Journalism professor's book explores 1933 Union Station Massacre

12 A&E

Stand-up economist Yoram Bauman visits UMKC



Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

www.unews.com

5327 Holmes St. Kansas City, MO 64110

Editor's desk: 816-235-5402
Advertising: 816-235-1386
Fax: 816-235-6514

U-News Senior Staff

- Editor-in-Chief: **Nathan Zoschke**
- Advertising Manager: **Luis Ruiz**
- Business Manager: **Xuan Cai**
- Production Manager: **Johanna Poppel**
- Managing Editor: **Elizabeth Golden**, **Mal Hartigan**
- Copy Editor: **Roze Brooks**, **Kharissa Forte**, **Michelle Heiman**
- Online Editor: **Sai Srikar Kadiyam**
- Senior Staff Writer: **Kate Baxendale**, **Roze Brooks**, **Kharissa Forte**, **Riley Mortensen**, **Kynslie Otte**
- Staff Photographer: **Sai Srikar Kadiyam**
- Production Assistant: **Aaron Cecil**, **Riley Mortensen**, **Kynslie Otte**, **Meredith Shea**, **LaShonda Washington**
- Distribution Manager: **Johanna Poppel**
- Faculty Adviser: **Jon Rand**

Board of Publishers

- Stephen Dilks (chair)**, **Chad King**
- Robin Hamilton**, **Andrew Kraft**
- Wayne Lucas**, **Jordan Brooks**
- Allen Rostron**, **Joseph Salazar**
- Jon Rand**, **Shannon Jackson**
- Nathan Zoschke**, **Catherine Saylor**
- Patrick Hilburn**, **Michael McDonald**
- Patty Wolverton**

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.

About us: The *U-News* is the official independent student newspaper of UMKC, produced each week by a staff consisting entirely of students.

We publish 4,000 copies each week, and distribute to the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses and surrounding neighborhood businesses.

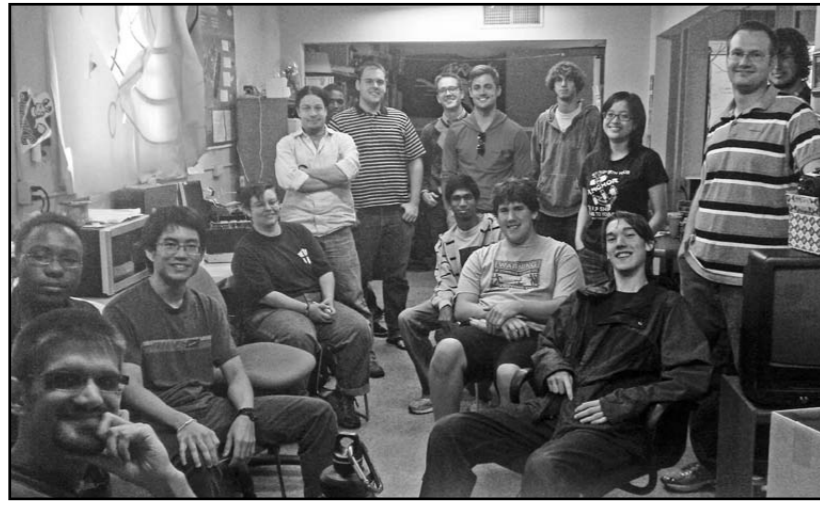
Letters to the Editor can be submitted by mail or to info@unews.com. Letters should be 350 words or less and are subject to edits for clarity.

U-News is printed by *The Kansas City Star*. *U-News* is an equal opportunity employer.

Campus profile

Robotic Roos

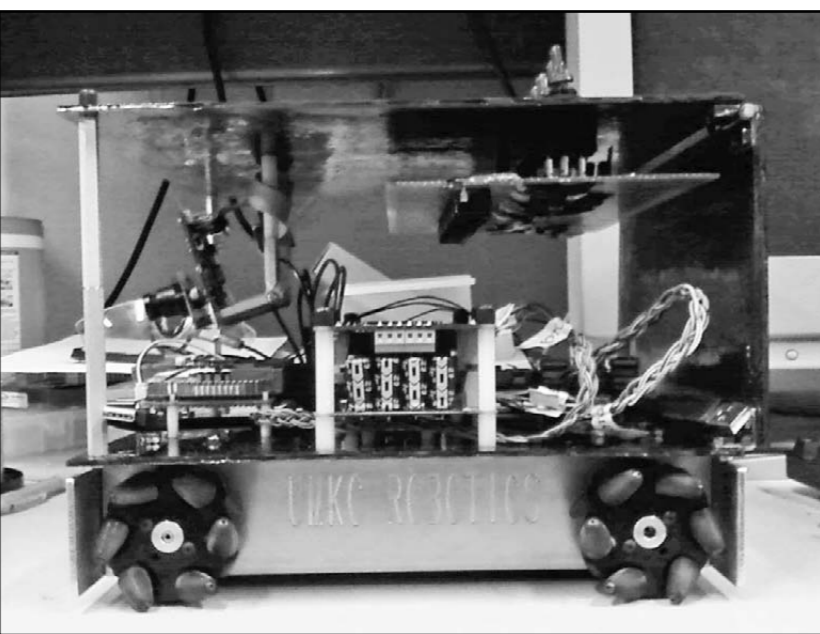
Engineering whiz kids build soil sampling robot from start to finish



Above: Members of the UMKC Robotics Team are already hard at work building a soil sampling robot for their competition in April 2013.

Below: The Robotics Team builds from start to finish using parts they muster together. This robot is an energy harvesting robot, with the smart capacity to choose between collecting solar, wind and hydroelectric power and using that energy to lift a flag.

Photos used with permission of the UMKC Robotics Team



Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

“Robotics are the driving force of mankind,” said Eddie Pogosov, senior electrical and computer engineering major and robotics team Project Lead at UMKC.

Each year, the robotics team constructs an entire robot from start to finish over the span of four to six months using spare parts purchased online. This year, the team’s seven officers and 20 additional members will build the robot for an annual national competition, which will be held in April.

Although the faculty adviser is not directly involved in the creation of the robots, Debby Dilks, manager of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, has been involved in the field for 29 years and is one of the founding members of the robotics team.

Not long after Dilks began advising undergraduate electrical and computer engineering, she sent three students to the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers conference.

“They came home excited about a robot competition they saw while there and they wanted to start a team,” Dilks said. “With their help and Dr. Cory Beard, who was the IEEE faculty adviser, we formed a robot team and went to the competition in 2005.”

Unlike many other robotics competitions, the UMKC team creates “compact autonomous robots” rather than fighting robots.

“We have a different theme each year. This year we’re creating a robot capable of soil sampling,” Pogosov said. “Whoever creates the robot that is able to soil sample the quickest wins.”

Pogosov explained how soil sampling is used in the case of severe fires. In situations such as the Colorado forest fires that occurred earlier this summer, humans are unable to intervene directly.

“This is the perfect opportunity for a robot,” he said.

The Members

Although Pogosov has dedicated a large portion of his life to engineering, he makes

Continued on page 7

An intellectual property issue?

Policy group’s request to obtain School of Education syllabi meets opposition from UM System

Jack Wendland Staff Writer

A self-described nonprofit, nonpartisan research and policy group dedicated to ensuring “every child has an effective teacher,” the Washington, D.C.-based National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has been at odds with the University of Missouri system’s schools of education, UMKC’s included.

The NCTQ, which will publish a contentious report on the nation’s schools of education in early 2013, has been locked in a struggle with the UM system for nearly a year.

At the core of the dispute is the question of whether course syllabi should be treated as intellectual property or public records.

In November 2011, the NCTQ filed an open-records request with UM system Custodian of Records, Robert Schwartz. Both parties indicate all documents requested of the UM system were provided to the NCTQ, with syllabi the one notable exception.

Signs suggest legal action is forthcoming. “If we find that the UM system is not going to turn [syllabi] over, then we might have to, we don’t want to, but we might have to go to court to solve the issue,” said Arthur McKee, NCTQ managing director.

The UM system Intercampus Faculty Council held a last-minute teleconference meeting to discuss

the matter on Sept. 7. Under legal guidance, members declined to comment.

Known to retain an attorney in the state of Missouri, the NCTQ sued the University of Wisconsin system, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system on nearly identical grounds in January and May of 2012. The NCTQ also sued Jefferson City’s Lincoln University in June 2012.

Like the UW and Minnesota systems, UM contended course syllabi are the joint intellectual property of professors and universities.

“Intellectual property is generally taken to be anything that requires a faculty member to use his or her expertise to create,” said Dean Wanda Blanchett of the UMKC School of Education.

The NCTQ counters that course syllabi of public universities are instead public records.

“It meets all the criteria for a public document,” McKee said. “You’re fulfilling a public purpose, you’re working for a public university.”

Though evaluating course syllabi represents only one step in the NCTQ’s broader study, McKee insists it is a vital one. Because the NCTQ has conducted no on-site investigations for its upcoming report, it is largely by collecting syllabi that the group is able to gather information on courses’ lecture topics and reading

assignments.

“We see, are you planning to talk about something or not,” McKee said. “We look at the reading texts that are assigned. We look directly at textbooks to see if they are good textbooks.”

In instances where schools refuse to provide requested syllabi, the NCTQ will sometimes pay students to provide them.

“We are willing to pay for syllabi. All we’re doing is asking and hoping folks will help us out,” McKee said.

Not all opposition to the NCTQ report centers on course syllabi.

Concerns have also been raised about research methods employed by the NCTQ.

“They don’t engage in what would be considered standard ethical research,” Blanchett said. “I can’t get subjects in my research study by threatening to sue them.”

Specifically, Blanchett objects to the NCTQ’s bypassing of typical research conventions, such as peer review and institutional review boards.

Similarly, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), of which UMKC is a member, detected “a clear bias against colleges of education” in an ongoing NCTQ national survey of schools of education faculty.

Monika Shealey, associate dean for teacher education in the UMKC School of Education,



The School of Education at 52nd and Holmes Street. Photo by Nathan Zoschke

echoes sentiments of the AACTE and casts doubt on the supposed neutrality of the NCTQ.

“Their research is highly politicized,” Williams Shealey said.

Blanchett and Shealey also note that the UMKC School of Education already adheres to academic standards of both the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The latter group evaluates the UMKC School’s of Education performance every six years, most recently accrediting the School in March 2012. Unlike the NCTQ, NCATE carries out on-location investigations.

But the NCTQ questions the effectiveness of these accreditors.

“There’s no evidence that accreditation from NCATE or from any other body is a guarantee

of quality,” McKee said. “NCATE is actually accrediting weak institutions, ones that aren’t doing so [well].”

According to McKee, the NCTQ report will be published by the *U.S. News* and *World Report* in the first quarter of 2013. Unlike previous *U.S. News* and *World Report* rankings, the NCTQ-led survey will assign schools letter grades, not numerical places.

“[Schools of education] is a sector of higher education that we think has not gotten a lot of scrutiny from independent nonpartisan institutions like ourselves,” McKee said. “Ratings in the *U.S. News* and *World Report* motivate change, which is really what we want.”

The NCTQ previously reported 1,400 schools of education will be graded. Currently, 1,140 schools of education are featured on the NCTQ website.

jwendland@unews.com

Corrections

Issue 2, Aug. 27
Pg. 5: ‘Innovating Solutions keeps an eye on the Cloud’
Although correctly identified as ‘Innovating Solutions’ in the headline and opening paragraph, the company was referred to as ‘Innovative Solutions’ several times in the article.
Pg. 13: ‘Chai Shai’
Chai Shai is located at 59th and Holmes Streets, not 59th and Oak Streets, as mentioned in the article.

Issue 4, Sept. 10
Pg. 5: ‘Rent it to the Greek’
The captions identifying the former ISAO and Writing Center houses on the 5200 block of Rockhill Road were switched.

Spot any mistakes? Email Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, nzoschke@unews.com.

More name change discussions planned

Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

When Chancellor Leo Morton suggested a potential name change for UMKC earlier this year, the idea met both support and opposition.

Morton’s suggestion supported the change from “University of Missouri-Kansas City” back to the university’s original identity, “University of Kansas City.”

Morton and other supporters believe the name change could uniquely

distinguish UMKC as “Kansas City’s university.” The change to UKC, however, would not signal a departure from the University of Missouri system.

Others believe the UM designation in the school’s name gives it more national credibility, distinguishing it from for-profit colleges named after cities.

Because many students come from the Kansas City area, Morton is hopeful the university’s proposed name change will garner increased community support.

Morton intends to pursue further

research and discussion to determine if a name change would ultimately benefit the university before proceeding.

UMKC will hold multiple forums and discussions during September for students, faculty and staff, who are encouraged to attend.

Students, faculty, staff, prospective students and alumni can also voice their opinion with an online survey, which will be offered in late September.

mbhartigan@unews.com

Save the date

Student Government Association forums:

- Monday, Sept. 17** 6 p.m.
Chancellor Morton will speak to the Student Senate in room 301 of the Student Union.
- Wednesday, Sept. 19** 3-5 p.m.
Student Union 301, Student Government Chambers
- Thursday, Sept. 20** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Hospital Hill, Health Sciences Building, Room 3301
- Thursday, Sept. 20** 6-8 p.m.
Student Union 301, Student Government Chambers

Faculty Senate:

- Wednesday, Sept. 26** 3-5 p.m.
Hospital Hill, Health Sciences Building, Room 4308

Police Blotter

Sept. 7

10:36 p.m. *Noise Disturbance*
Officers were called in regards to a large party at Oak Place Apartments.

11:30 p.m. *Noise Disturbance*
Officers were called to break up a party at 53rd and Harrison streets.

Sept. 8

12:56 a.m. *Noise Disturbance*
Officers were called to break up a party at 54th and Harrison streets.

1:01 a.m. *Noise Disturbance*
Officers were called to break up a party at 53rd and Charlotte streets.

10:05 p.m. *University Violation*
Officers responded to reports of a party smoking marijuana in a room in Johnson Hall.

11:18 p.m. *Possession*
Officers arrested several parties smoking marijuana in Oak Place Apartments.

Sept. 9

1:57 p.m. *Burglary*
The victim left her wallet in her purse at 53rd and Harrison streets, and a party looking for her roommate may have taken it sometime before noon.

Sept. 10

2:32 a.m. *Suspicious Party*
Officers were called to Oak Street Residence Hall to check a party matching the description of a reported stalker.

10:39 a.m. *Fraud*
The Diastole Scholars Center received fraudulent checks via Federal Express over a two week period between Aug. 31 and Sept. 10.

9:42 p.m. *Larceny*
The victim noticed items, including a \$100 bill, missing from her purse in Johnson Hall.

Sept. 11

9:24 a.m. *Bad Checks*
Officers took a report of a party passing bad checks in the Administrative Center between 2 and 5 p.m. on Sept. 10.

1:03 p.m. *Larceny*
The victim's wife left his laptop computer unattended between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Student Union and returned to find it missing.

5:56 p.m. *Property Damage*
The glass on the vending machine in the School of Education was damaged between 3:15 and 5:56 p.m.

Sept. 12

5:49 p.m. *Property Damage*
The victim returned to her vehicle in Oak Place Parking Structure to find a large scratch on it.

Sept. 13

11:42 a.m. *University Violation*
Officers were contacted because a party was smoking marijuana in her room in Oak Place Apartments.



Left: First place national tournament trophies and a framed photo of the 1936 debate squad, the first at UMKC.



Right, above: Members of the debate squad conduct research on their laptops. Right, below: Andrew Allsup prepares evidence at the Debate House at 5311 Holmes St. Photos by Meredith Shea



Debate squad is 'out to win'

Roos hope to live up to strong tradition

Meredith Shea Staff Writer

The UMKC debate squad is one of the oldest student organizations on campus, dating back to 1936.

In the early days of Kansas City University, the predecessor to UMKC, writers for the student newspaper wanted to give the debate squad an identity. They proposed a mascot: the kangaroo.

Though the kangaroo was not popular and was almost held from the yearbook, Walt Disney drew an image of Kasey the Kangaroo in 1937 for the CO-OP Party, a local political party. Kasey seemed to be the perfect mascot for KCU.

Although the rules have changed since the '30s, the squad remains a formidable opponent.

"We want to be extremely competitive at each tournament we attend," said Director of Debate Matt Vega.

Often overlooked, the squad has been successful for many years.

In 1997, the squad won the first place sweepstakes at the Cross Examination Debate Association national tournament. When Malcolm Gordon, assistant director of debate, was a student in 2007, he placed second at the National Debate Tournament with his partner, Amy Foster.

Last season, seniors Andrew Allsup, political science and philosophy, and Juan Garcia, economics, also competed in the national tournament and were double-octafinalists.

"Our goals this year are to hopefully finish in the top 16 or 8 at the NDT and get a second team qualified," Gordon said.

Vega reiterated Gordon's desire to qualify multiple teams for nationals.

"We've been extremely close the last two years to getting a second team qualified for the NDT," Vega said.

How Debate Works

An individual team is comprised of two people, known as speakers. The team will argue for or against a pre-determined topic, their solution.

This year's resolution deals with domestic energy production. The affirmative team argues for its increase while the negative team argues the affirmative's plan of action is flawed.

Each speaker gives two speeches. The first speech is either for or against the resolution, and the second speech is a rebuttal or closing argument. Each speaker is cross-examined by a speaker from the other team after his or her first speech for points of clarification.

Once the round is over, a qualified judge scores the speakers and a winner is determined.

After the first round, the top 32 speakers are placed in a bracket and single elimination takes place from then on. A typical tournament lasts three days.

The Squad

This year's debate squad has 12 returning members and approximately eight new members, but numbers fluctuate with new students testing their skills.

"We welcome new members, but it's also nice to have older debaters," Vega said.

Allsup, now in his fifth year of debate at UMKC, has been preparing for this season since July when the resolution was

announced.

"The first tournament is a little more difficult to prepare for since you don't know what [arguments] other teams will be running," sophomore accounting and finance major Alex Chang said. "But for regular tournaments you can prepare for more specific arguments."

The squad has a team meeting on Wednesdays at the debate house on Holmes Street, where members receive assignments and prepare evidence for upcoming tournaments.

"Right now we're trying to do as many practice debates and gather as much negative evidence as possible," Chang said.

Vega looks to Allsup, Alex Bonnett, Garcia and Peter Sadowski, all fourth or fifth year debaters, to motivate and lead this year's squad.

"As long as each debater progresses and exceeds their achievement from last year, we'll be happy," Vega said.

Sophomore chemistry major Shannon Miskell has set personal goals for this



Event brings distinguished speakers to Student Union Theater

John New Staff Writer

Some 100 UMKC students heard from five distinguished speakers in their fields in the inaugural TEDxUMKC event held last Saturday at the Student Union Theater.

TED, short for "Technology, Entertainment and Design," is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1984 that aims to spread ideas through events in which expert guest speakers share critical insights in their fields.

The UMKC event was independently organized by 15 of the school's students from multiple disciplines to foster what they refer to as an InterconnectTED community of college students in the Kansas City area.

The UMKC event was limited to 100 attendees because TED regulations state a licensed TEDx curator must have had previously attended a TED event before the limit can be lifted. To allow more students to view the event, a live stream was held in the Miller Nichols Library.

Dr. Margaret Buckler, a professor of Anthropology at Missouri State University, spoke about: "Witchcraft: In Search of Meaning, Healing and Blame." She shared her research into the Zande

tribe in Africa.

Dr. James O'Keefe, director of preventative cardiology at Cardiovascular Consultants at the Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute, shared his recent research on runners and heart conditions.

Devin Henderson, a magician who has received multiple awards, demonstrated his idea that anything is possible in a presentation, "Put Your Mind To It."

Dr. Randall Fuller, a professor of English at the University of Tulsa, challenged the audience to consider that the power of literature still has the power to change the world.

Craig Webb, a pioneer of lucid dream research at Stanford University, encouraged the audience to recollect their dreams.

Harika Nalluri, a third-year medical student, organized the event and led the TEDxUMKC team under the guidance of Mike Lundgren, curator of previous TED events in the Kansas City area.

"I was one of those people that knew about TED since high school," Nalluri said. "I had the TED application on my phone -- I absolutely love TED and I listen to their talks all the time."

"I remember the first TED talk I ever heard was about 'happiness' and it was something that I had



TEDxUMKC's debut draws a capacity crowd

Photos courtesy of TEDxUMKC

never considered before and completely changed my view. I was so grateful there was a medium through which I could challenge myself and broaden my thinking."

The TEDxUMKC team hopes to continue organizing this event annually to foster a campus

community that spreads ideas.

"The next step will be to post the recorded talks from today, onto our Facebook page and website [www.tedxumkc.com] in the hopes that attendees who were inspired by the talks will be able to share them with their friends and encourage

the conversations to continue," Nalluri said.

Sponsors included GlobeMed-UMKC, Truman Medical Centers, Seen Merch, UMKC Libraries, and UMKC Friends of the Library.

jnew@unews.com

financial corner

\$IFE

Know your Numbers:
Credit Cards and APR

Saroj Lamichhane
Contributor

Student lender Sallie Mae conducted a study revealing 84 percent of undergraduates carry credit cards, with an average of 4.6 cards per student in 2009. The average balance increased to a record high of \$3,174 per student.

By 2008 only 15 percent of freshmen had a \$0 credit card balance, and that number has been declining quickly.

By the time one graduates, he or she carries an average balance of \$4,100 or higher, and one in five recent graduates carries a balance greater than \$7,000. These figures do not include student loans and other forms of debt. However, the rising cost of college tuition has made credit cards enticing.

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's Investor Education Foundation concluded in December 2009 more than 24 percent of the 18-29 age group has been charged a late-fee for failure to make timely payments, and 14 percent were charged fees for exceeding their credit lines.

FINRA also found that 36 percent of Americans did not know or understand the interest rates on credit cards. The Pew Safe Credit Cards Project found that 93 percent of cards allow issuers to raise interest rates, and 72 percent of the credit cards with attractive low promotional offers revoked and increased the interest rates because of one late payment.

Suppose one carries a card with 18 percent APR. The APR is the Annual Percentage Rate, thus the monthly interest rate is 18/12, or 1.5 percent. In this case we are assuming a monthly finance charge. Suppose a credit card has a \$500 average balance. You will pay \$7.50 in interest per month, and \$90 over the course of year.

If balances increase, or credit card purchases are made in a

statement period after interest calculation day, or one's bank uses daily rates, the calculation becomes complex. An easy way to understand an interest rate is to understand the simple interest rate, or SI. For an SI Rate of 18 percent, \$18 is paid annually for borrowing \$100. The \$18 consumed by interest cannot be used for other purchases.

Making timely payments and paying off large amounts of credit card debt can help establish one as a credible card holder and automatically reduce interest rates over time. Students with high GPAs can also see deductions on their APRs.

Many do not know credit card APRs can be negotiated with banks.

H. David Whalen, Associate Financial Advisor at Ameriprise Financial, said he advises credit card holders to be persistent when negotiating. Whalen said that if negotiations with customer care are declined, credit card holders should ask for a supervisor. If they deny, ask for an explanation.

Whalen further suggested to call the bank for another four or five days and persistently but politely negotiate. This increases your chance that a different analyst may give you a better offer. And there is no penalty of any kind for negotiating.

I followed a similar technique this week. After two calls, I asked for a supervisor and was directed to a credit analyst.

After negotiating, he offered to lower my credit card APR from 18.99 to 14.99 percent. I now save \$4 for every \$100 balance in my card per year, which is quite an amount for my total balance.

(Please share your APR negotiation story in our UMKC SIFE Facebook page on the comment box. One lucky person will win a gift card.)

'National Jurist' ranks School of Law among nation's 'Best Value Law Schools'

Riley Mortensen
Senior Staff Writer

UMKC's School of Law was ranked No. 20 among the "Best Value Law Schools" in the *National Jurist's* September magazine.

The *National Jurist*, which covers legal education, has published best value rankings since 2004, based on graduate debt, tuition, cost of living, bar exam pass rates and graduate employment rates.

Most schools on the list are public universities in the South and Midwest. The University of Missouri-Columbia, No. 13, was the only university in Kansas or Missouri whose law school outranked UMKC's.

In the past, employment data was non-weighted, which included law school graduates working in non-legal professions.

This year, employment data from the American Bar Association was weighted to favor full-time, long-term employment in positions which require bar exam passage. This helped

Debate: Continued from page 4

season. "I want to win at least one speaking award and get to the finals at least once," she said.

Miskell is not the only debater with goals in mind.

"I want to advance to the out rounds at the majority of tournaments we attend," said junior political science and philosophy major Harsh Desai.

Because of the research involved, debate and school consume most of squad members' time.

"It's a matter of setting priorities and realizing what matters," Desai said.

"I also work, so it's hard to balance school, work and debate," said junior political science major Brandon Wood. "You have to prioritize and manage your time wisely."

Now in his second year of debate at UMKC, Chang said it's still an ongoing struggle to balance school and debate.

Miskell, also in her second year of debate, said she focuses on

bump up UMKC's ranking.

"We're attempting to educate competent, practice-ready, entry-level lawyers," Law School Dean Ellen Suni said. "That's our primary job."

Suni praised the Law School faculty's professional and scholarly experience.

"I don't think you can have a good faculty without good lawyers and good scholars," she said. "These teachers bring both of those skills to their classes."

Suni said bar exam pass rates have also helped UMKC.

"About 10 years ago, our numbers were not where we wanted them to be, and we started to address that with a grassroots system," Suni said. "Now we have a wonderful program where 98.5 percent of students who do the work and put in the time pass."

Suni said the school has made due with a limited budget. The average 2011 tuition of \$16,730 is less than tuition at 11 of the top 20 "best value" schools, including UM-Columbia.

"We've never had very much money," Suni said. "This really forces you to become efficient. Our adjunct faculty doesn't get paid at all. Our faculty has never had that huge salary that you read about. That feeds into lower tuition."

On an unfortunate note, 2011 graduates from the UMKC School of Law averaged \$91,338 in debt, a figure \$10,000 more than any of the other top 10 schools.

rmortensen@unews.com

By the numbers

UMKC School of Law

Average debt for 2011 Grads: \$91,338

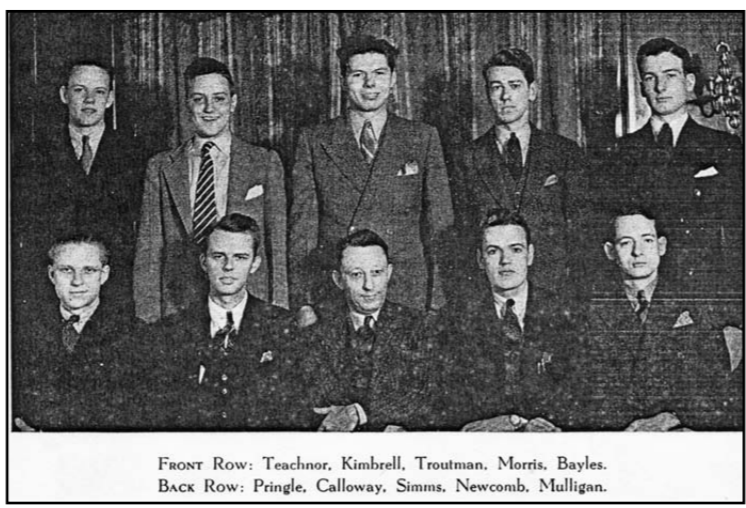
Tuition: \$16,730

Cost of living: \$18,060

Two-year Bar pass average: 91.60

Two-year Bar pass state average: 91.03

Weighted employment rate: 76%



FRONT ROW: Teachnor, Kimbrell, Troutman, Morris, Bayles.
BACK ROW: Pringle, Calloway, Simms, Newcomb, Mulligan.

The 1936 debate squad was not only the first at UMKC, but also one of the first organizations on campus. Photo used with permission of UMKC Debate

school first and debate second. She said it is difficult to manage time appropriately.

It is evident that the debate squad works hard. The hundreds of trophies and plaques displayed throughout

the debate house are proof.

For more information about the debate team, email Matt Vega at *vegam@umkc.edu*. All experience levels are welcome.

mshea@unews.com

Robotics: Continued from page 2

sure to have diversity in his life. "I sing and play guitar in a band," he said. "We don't have a name and haven't really performed on a large scale but we do write some original songs as well as perform covers."

Pogosov also mountain bikes and makes sure to spend his free time with friends and family.

Matt Mohler, a sophomore electrical and computer engineering major, jokes about his life only consisting of robotics.

"I'm the webmaster for IEEE, I mentor high school robotics and judge elementary robotics," Mohler said. "I'm also a student ambassador for the School of Computing and Engineering and I most recently started up my own creative design firm."

Mohler loves robotics for the constant challenge and the friendships he has built.

"The hardest part of robotics is probably working with other personalities and learning how to communicate effectively, but this is also the part I love the most," Mohler said. "I've built lifelong friendships and learned how to blend together all the unique personalities for optimum results."

Former project manager and graduate electrical engineering student Victor Skulavik II also believes he has formed lifelong friends with a strong network of people.

"We're not just a team- I've formed relationships and friendships with these people and that will eventually lead to a helpful network in my future career," Skulavik said.

Although he admits to the majority of his life consisting of nothing other than robotics, Skulavik manages to find some time for other activities such as salsa dancing.

"I salsa dance for fun, but it's not like I don't find robotics enjoyable. I hang out with the team outside of school and I love the feeling when things work and don't

blow up," Skulavik said with a smile as Mohler laughed in agreement.

Freshman Robert Collins, who hopes to become a mechanical engineering major after this semester, and sophomore mechanical engineering major Chris Wolfe are both new to the team.

"I saw a flier for the robotics team and since I did robotics all four years through high school, I already knew I wanted to be in the field," Collins said. "I've always been fascinated by robotics and love to see when the physical and mechanical parts work together."

Collins spends his free time "wandering around aimlessly" and playing with Airsoft guns.

Wolfe was drawn to the team because of her interest in some day working in prosthetics.

"I was recruited by a member last year even though I was unable to join the team until now," Wolfe said. "I thought this would only help with developing my future career."

Both Collins and Wolfe were previously involved in First Lego League (FLL).

"FLL is mainly for elementary school kids. They create fully functioning autonomous robots from Lego kits," Wolfe said.

Junior computer science major Sarah Withee admitted to also being involved in the FLL as well as the Society of Women Engineers.

"I saw the robotics team at the Roo Fair and they wanted computer science people so I joined," she said. "Robotics is a lot of work but it's cool to see something you made come to life."

All members agree on the need for hands-on experience in any field, especially when the field is as technical as computing and engineering.

Pogosov believes practical application is key to his success in the industry.

"You can only learn so much from

the classroom," he said. "Robotics is like learning while creating life. These products are intelligent and capable of making their own decisions. In class, I learn the logistics but being part of this team allows me to see the purpose of robotics in the real world."

The Future

The team competes against approximately 30 other teams in the annual competition. Although the team has never placed higher than 6th, Pogosov believes there will be a change this year.

"In the past, we haven't done so well since robotics is a voluntary extracurricular. Some other schools require robotics as part of a class," Pogosov said. "This year will be different since I am doing robotics as part of my senior design project."

Dilks also thinks this year will be different.

"Every year I have high hopes, but this year I have several experienced members so yes I have high hopes this year. Plus the rules are out early, so they have a little longer to attack the problem," Dilks said.

Pogosov and Dilks are looking forward to the upcoming year and proud to be part of such an important organization.

"I am very proud of the Robot Team and what they do for the school, the university and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) awareness in general," Dilks said. "I've been told that my eyes light up when talking about them. If you had told me eight years ago that I would be as involved as I am with the team and 'robots' I would have thought you were crazy. But now it is in my blood and each year I am amazed at the new group of students and the efforts they put forth to help the team."

If interested in joining the team, weekly meetings are held 2 p.m. every Friday in the Robotics Lab behind Flarsheim Hall.

egolden@unews.com

Green Clean Part 2: Lovable Laundry

Johanna Poppel
Production Manager



College students are often faced with a mountain of laundry squished in the corner of a closet every few weeks. Make laundry a little more bearable with these cost effective and environmentally friendly methods.

Making your own powdered laundry detergent:

- 2 cups finely grated bar soap
 - 1 cup washing soda or baking soda
 - 1 cup borax (found in the laundry aisle)
- Mix and keep in an airtight container. Use two tablespoons per load.

These ingredients can be found at most local grocery or convenience stores.

Making your own fabric softener:

Fabric softener has an overpowering scent along with artificial ingredients and chemicals. Fabric softener also breaks down the strength of the fibers in clothing and can leave rashes on sensitive skin. If natural laundry detergent (above) isn't being used at home, then similar ingredients can work in conjunction with regular detergent and a washing machine.

Let water fill the washing machine, then add a half cup of baking soda before loading dirty clothes. Vinegar may also be used to soften clothes by adding one cup of vinegar during either the wash or rinse cycle. A combination of a half cup of vinegar, half cup of baking soda and half cup of regular laundry detergent not only cleans well, but also cuts down on static cling and softens laundry.

Ditching the dryer

With the resources to eliminate dryer sheets from the equation, ditch the dryer as well. Air drying clothes has many benefits.

Dryers are one of the biggest energy-sucking home appliances, and huge yearly savings can be made from discontinuing its use. Also, repeated drying at high temperatures can reduce fabric strength and elasticity, while decreasing the lifetime of clothes. Static cling can also be avoided by not using a dryer.

Take advantage of the lingering warm months and hang clothes outside in the backyard with sturdy string (I find hemp twine works well) tied around two trees, poles or railings.

The sun disinfects clothes, because the ultraviolet light interferes with the reproduction cycle of bacteria by damaging the DNA. The sun can also naturally brighten color as well. Retractable lines can be bought at hardware stores and hung up in bathrooms for easy hideaway and drying in the winter months.

Drying racks can be moved to sunny spots outside or in the home and can be found for about \$20 at local department stores.

Be smart with laundry and start a trend in the neighborhood, while saving money and the environment.

jpoppel@unews.com

News about
YOU-News

UMKC's Independent
Student Newspaper
Since 1933!

Visit us online at
www.unews.com



Rugby: A contact sport for UMKC

Dan Moreno
Staff Writer

Rugby, known as an extreme contact sport, was recently established at UMKC. Originally invented in England, rugby has gained slow popularity in the U.S., but a group of UMKC students united to increase the sport's exposure and garner student interest.

"UMKC needed a contact sport," said Aaron Dzick, the rugby team's captain and president. "It is something new [for UMKC] and entertaining. Everyone loves [something] new."

Dzick described rugby as, "basically run forward, pass backwards. Lots of contact and no pads involved." It is played on a 110-yard field with 15 players on each team. The goal is to score a "try," which is similar to a touchdown in football, and it is worth five points. Whichever team scores more points during the two 40-minute halves wins.

A contact sport played without padding and other protective gear may sound intimidating, but Dzick and other enthusiasts are excited about the possibilities for the sport on campus. "It is nice to say that rugby is rapidly growing in the U.S.," he said.

UMKC's rugby team is not officially affiliated with NCAA rules, because it is not listed as a sport in the Athletic Department. Instead, it is considered a club.

"Hopefully within the next couple of years we will be recognized as a quality team so we can be added into the university's

sports arsenal," said Dzick.

Tom Schultz is in charge of advising the team and encouraging its involvement with the Athletic Department.

"He's been very helpful with getting everything set," Dzick said. The team has seen support from UMKC and is looking forward to future success.

This year, the team was accepted into the Gateway Collegiate Rugby Conference, where teams such as St. Louis University will participate.

"Recently the College Rugby Championships were televised on NBC, which is giving Rugby a lot of publicity," said Dzick.

Though UMKC's rugby team is considered a club, there are certain requirements students must fulfill to be part of the team. The most important qualification is being a full-time UMKC student.

"We have 25 players on the roster," Dzick said. "They range anywhere from being in the six-year Med School to engineers, architects and many more."

To promote recruitment, the team has created banners, posters and flyers which hang across campus.

"We are also giving out recruitment t-shirts and setting up stands to talk to players," Dzick said.

For more information on the UMKC Rugby Team, call Dzick at (573) 513-2574.

On September 22nd and 29th there are two home games, played at the Durwood Soccer Stadium and at Swope Park.

dmoreno@unews.com

Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam
Photo courtesy of UMKC Rugby

For Jordan Rideout and Guerrero Pino, soccer means passion

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Sophomore forward Jordan Rideout was born in England, but at age 10, his family moved to America. Since he was young, Rideout said he knew he would play soccer for the rest of his life.

Last year during spring break, he traveled back to England to practice for a week with the professional soccer team Southampton.

"I love it," Rideout said. "Soccer is so massive there. Even the smallest town has

a team."

Rideout's life pursuits are based around soccer. Proof of this are his plans for after graduation.

"I plan to hopefully go back to England and play for a team just like my dad," he said.

Rideout's father, Paul Rideout, is a retired soccer player who is well-known in England. He played for teams such as Aston Villa, Southampton, Rangers, Bari and even the Kansas City Wizards. But it was with Everton where he achieved

greatness, scoring the winning goal in the 1995 F.A. Cup (F.A. is the Football Association, the governing body of soccer in England).

Rideout acknowledges his father's achievements and says he is inspired by his father.

"It is tough to fill those shoes, but I have my own shoes and that is why I do my best every time I go out to the pitch," he said.

Despite a rough start for UMKC's men's soccer, Rideout is determined to improve his personal performance.

Continued on page 9

player profile

Sports are a family affair for Muff

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Skyler Muff's love for sports is no surprise. With her basketball coach father and K-State volleyball player sister, the freshman health sciences major at UMKC is motivated to keep up with family tradition and became one of seven freshman volleyball players for UMKC this season.

The decision wasn't easy. From Concordia, Kan., the 6-foot-1 graduate from Pittsburg High School, had the choice to pursue basketball, but decided to stick with volleyball.

"Since my dad is a basketball coach, I grew up around it," Muff said. "I have an older sister who plays for K-State, and watching her play made me want to be like her."

A regular day in Muff's college life begins with morning classes and study hall before heading to volleyball practice, which lasts nearly three hours each day.

The volleyball team is currently in the middle of the Summit League regular season, so Muff and her teammates travel a lot.

"Right now, we are traveling every weekend and we won't get back until Sunday afternoon," she said.

Muff admits playing for UMKC is a huge responsibility. Coach Christi Posey showed interest in Muff during her senior year of high school and decided to bring her to Kansas City.

"I heard nothing but good things about the coaching staff, which made me want to come to UMKC," Muff said.

Muff is undecided about what to pursue after graduation, but she is interested in finding a career related to her health sciences major.

Volleyball is her passion. She said it makes her happy, but she doesn't plan to pursue it as a career.

"I don't think I will do it professionally," she said. "I love my major and that is how I see myself in the future."

Muff has enjoyed her current season with UMKC's volleyball team, and says the team's biggest strength is optimism.

"We are a really young team with a positive mentality," she said. "Every time we play a game, we go out there and have fun."

Muff has proven her volleyball skills and proudly represents UMKC. She tries her best to succeed not only in sports, but in her everyday life as a student.

dmoreno@unews.com



Volleyball proved the right choice for freshman Skyler Muff, a versatile athlete who also played high school basketball.

Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

Soccer: Continued from page 8

"If I don't score or help score, we can not win," he said.

He made it clear that soccer is a team sport and doesn't exclusively rely on his individual performance.

"We've had a rough start from the first game, [but] we've come together a lot," Rideout said.

Central defender Guerrero Pino was born in Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, and said adapting to how soccer is played in America was hard, especially because of the emphasis on fitness and strength in the U.S.

"Soccer is soccer in any country, but

American players are pretty big and strong," Pino said.

According to Pino, soccer in Mexico is more about technique than strength. Chosen by Coach Rick Benben as the season's team captain, he takes the position seriously.

"It is a big responsibility," Pino said. "My job is to be a leader on the field and to encourage my teammates to give their best."

The rough start to the season may have affected the team's mentality, but Pino said it will change over time.

"It is a bad feeling. It does affect us [to

lose] because all the work we do during the week wasn't enough to get the win, but I know we are doing better every game," he said.

Pino says there is a sense of camaraderie and friendship in the locker room, but on the field, the team has only one objective – winning.

After graduation, Pino has a similar goal as Rideout.

"After I graduate, I want to play for a team in the MLS [Major League Soccer] or even in another country," he said. "It has always been my dream."

dmoreno@unews.com

health journal

Low sodium, high protein baked tilapia with black bean corn salsa

Kharissa Forte

Copy Editor

Sodium can cause high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney failure and other health issues. This fact became a harsh reality for my family when my husband Wesley was told by his doctor he was at risk for high blood pressure and other complications. Wesley made an immediate change in his lifestyle, discarding salty foods from our cabinets. Instead of salt, we use a salt substitute and other sodium-free, MSG-free seasonings.

Here is one of my husband's favorite recipes I cook to alleviate problems caused by sodium. The dish contains 715 mg of sodium, which is only 31 percent of the recommended daily intake, 2,300 mg. If you fall into the at-risk category be cautious, because your recommended sodium intake is only 1,500 mg.

This dish is surprisingly simple and is full of nutritional value. There is only 4.5 g of fat in the dish. It is rich in protein, with 34 g. Sugar scales at just 9 g. There aren't too many vitamins or minerals in the dish, however it contains 15 percent of the daily recommended Vitamin A intake, 23 percent Vitamin C, 10 percent calcium, and 16 percent iron. Each tilapia fillet is only 100 calories and the salsa adds up to 420 calories prepared. The leftover salsa can be enjoyed as a refreshing, cold salad later. Those without health issues brought on by sodium can serve the salsa as a dip with blue corn tortilla chips or baked tortilla chips.

Ingredients:

- 1 – 4 Tilapia filets, approx. 4oz each
- *2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- *Mrs. Dash lemon pepper
- *Mrs. Dash garlic and herb seasoning
- *Morton's Salt Substitute
- 1 cup black beans
- 1 cup Red Gold diced tomatoes (or fresh)
- *1 cup corn
- *½ cup water

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Pour corn and water into a bowl.
3. Microwave on high for 5 minutes.
4. Add black beans and tomatoes to corn and stir to create salsa.
5. Put the salsa into the refrigerator.
6. Coat each side of tilapia filets with a tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil.
7. Season each side with lemon pepper, garlic and herb seasoning, and salt substitute.
8. Place tilapia in oven; let cook for 30 minutes.
9. Remove tilapia from oven and place on a plate.
10. Top tilapia with 1 – 2 tablespoons of salsa.

*sodium free

kforte@unews.com

Visit us online at www.unews.com

Part I: Kansas City organized crime Union Station Massacre: June 17, 1933



Photo by Nathan Zoschke

Today, Kansas City may seem tame, but its association with organized crime and political graft ran rampant in the 1920-30s. With Tom Pendergast's political influence, liquor flowed freely in Kansas City despite Prohibition, and the area became an elusive hotspot for gambling and prostitution.

In part one of a two part series, U-News looks back at The Union Station Massacre, a notorious episode chronicled by UMKC professor Bob Unger.

This event led to the modern function of the FBI. Next week, the U-News will explore the Pendergast era and the recent mafia presence in Kansas City.

Kate Baxendale Senior Staff Writer

A catastrophic event at Union Station on the morning of June 17, 1933 changed the purpose of the FBI. The Union Station Massacre, as it is now called, triggered a complete transformation of the national police force. While the FBI tells one account of the Union Station Massacre, the undisclosed file of events tells another. This file, as decrypted by UMKC Professor Robert Unger in his book entitled *The Union Station Massacre*, contains the genuine account of the mob-related shootings.

The chain of events began with notorious gang member Frank Nash, who had escaped from the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., and was recaptured in Hot Springs, Ark. Oklahoma police chief Otto Reed, along with federal agents Joe Lackey and Frank Smith, took Nash into custody on June 16. The plan was to drive to Fort Smith and take the Missouri Pacific train to Kansas City, which was due to arrive at 7 a.m. the next day. Word spread that Nash would be arriving in Kansas City and that his crony in crime, Vernon Miller, planned to save him from returning to prison.

On the morning of June 17, Otto, Lackey and Smith arrived in Kansas City with Nash. The men exited the train and walked briskly toward the doors of Union Station. Nash was sandwiched between the detectives and the federal agents, who had created a V-formation which witnesses would never forget. Once they crossed the lobby, the men exited at the eastern end of the station.

Federal agents Reed Vetterli and Ray Caffrey, accompanied by KCPD detectives Frank Hermanson and Bill Grooms, were waiting outside in the armored police car. All of the agents were fully armed with an array of handguns, automatics and shotguns, Reed and Lackey possessed the most powerful. The men quickly filed into the Chevrolet. Agent Lackey sat in the vehicle first, directly behind the driver's seat. Agent Reed followed, sitting in the passenger rear seat. Nash started to climb in between Lackey and Reed, but was ordered to sit in the passenger seat for easier monitoring. Agent Smith sat between his fellow officers. Vetterli stood outside the passenger door, along

with Hermanson and Grooms. Caffrey closed the passenger door, squeezed past the men and circled around the car to the driver's side.

The position of the men is a crucial part of the story. If Nash had sat in the back seat then Lackey would not have shot him through the head. Miller and his accomplice were not expecting the lawmen to fire any shots. If Lackey had not panicked upon seeing the villains, the outcome of that morning would have been drastically different. As Unger's book stated, "the stage was set for massacre."

Nearby, Miller and his fellow unidentified gunman watched from Miller's Chevrolet as the agents piled into the car with Nash. Miller and the other gunman, both armed with machine guns, approached Caffrey's car. Miller ordered the men to raise their hands. In the backseat, Lackey reacted with his shotgun. He was unaware his weapon had accidentally been swapped with Reed's during transit. Lackey tried to fire Reed's shotgun, but was completely incompetent. After five or six seconds had passed, Lackey adjusted the safety mode and unintentionally fired a shot directly through the back of Nash's head.

The shot killed him instantly and the bullet traveled through the windshield and hit Caffrey. Lackey panicked and fired again, this time hitting Hermanson in the side of the head. As he tried to fire once more, he was bombarded with bullets and killed. Grooms could not compete with the men carrying the machine guns which caused his own death after he received two bullets to the chest.

"Grooms is the only man who was definitely killed by the bad guys. Nash, Caffrey, Hermanson and maybe even Reed were all killed by Lackey," Unger said.

Vetterli, who was lying flat on the ground, sprang up and sprinted toward the station doors. Smith lay down in the middle of the back seat to play dead. Reed was shot from the front and the back and died instantly. Once Vernon and his accomplice realized Nash was dead, they sped off and disappeared. It is unknown to this day who Miller brought to Union Station as backup. Suspects included a number of men

such as Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Adam Ricchetti, the Barker Gang or local killer William Weissman.

"The truth is that yes, Vernon Miller and some other people did try to rescue Frank Nash. But a panicked FBI agent in the back seat had a gun he didn't know how to use and he started shooting," Unger said.

"The truth is that yes, Vernon Miller and some other people did try to rescue Frank Nash. But a panicked FBI agent in the back seat had a gun he didn't know how to use and he started shooting."

-Prof. Robert Unger

The chapter entitled "The Truth" in Unger's book describes how the Bureau handled the situation afterward. "In the end, the Union Station Massacre investigation sheds far more light on the investigators than it ever did on those investigated. It was a series of dead ends, leads not followed, ignored truths and buried secrets...There's little doubt, for instance, that everybody in the Bureau's Kansas City office know the true story of the massacre and the consequences of Joe Lackey's wild panic long before they dared tell Hoover. And when they did tell him, Hoover dared not tell the people. Instead, the Bureau...chose half-truths, lies, perjury, cover-up and worse."

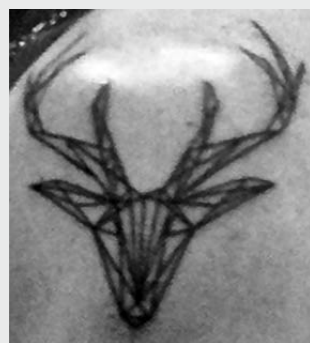
Director of the Bureau J. Edgar Hoover called the massacre a "turning point in the nation's fight against crime" and asked for the tools to clean up the mess. In less than a year following the Union Station Massacre, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had nine major anti-crime bills passed under his New Deal. These reforms paved the way for the modern-day FBI. The new federal laws gave Hoover and his agents broad power over federal crimes and the authority to enforce them. While the Union Station Massacre proved to be a monumental error for the Bureau, the incident jumpstarted the change in the national police force that makes the FBI what it is today.

kboxendale@unews.com

TATTOO

of the week

Tattoos represent religion, family and love



Photos by Kynslie Otte

Luis Ruiz's tattoos are inspired by his moral compass

Kynslie Otte
Senior Staff Writer

Luis Ruiz is an international student whose tattoos are inspired by family, religion and love. Ruiz currently has five tattoos: a sparrow on his left wrist, an anchor on his right ankle, the word "Abud," which means "son of God" in Arabic on his waist, the quote "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21) and a deer on his right shoulder.

Ruiz got his first tattoo at age 14 on a trip to Lebanon, and several of his tattoos have religious connotations.

"The way I see Luke 17:21 is telling us that there is no heaven or hell," Ruiz said. "It's just this life, it's the only one, and it's the only chance we have to build the kingdom of God within us."

Ruiz' most significant tattoo revolves around respect. The deer on his right shoulder symbolizes his respect for all living things.

"I was born and raised in a family that loves deer hunting, so I used to see it as just another sport," Ruiz said. "As I grew up, I realized that you should not kill animals for entertainment - it is just an awful practice. I felt ashamed of myself, so I

quit. I got the tattoo because it symbolizes the commitment that I have now to respect any kind of life. I learned how to live in harmony with others. As a gay male, I believe in acceptance of differences."

Ruiz got his deer tattoo in Barcelona, Spain, for roughly 200 Euros, or approximately 260 U.S. dollars. According to Ruiz, the tattoo was a memorable experience, because it was also a form of celebration.

"After I got my bachelor degree in Mexico, I moved to work in Spain," Ruiz said. "I was living many new experiences, and it was just another way to celebrate a new season in my life."

Ruiz acknowledged the pain of getting inked is all part of the experience.

"Getting a new tattoo would not be the same without the pain; it just makes them more memorable," he said.

Ruiz plans to get more tattoos in the future, but hasn't decided what they will depict.

If you or someone you know has a tattoo of significance and would like to be featured in the "Tattoo of the Week" column, please contact me at kpobd7@mail.umkc.edu.

kotte@unews.com

Making a joke of economics

Roze Brooks
Senior Staff Writer

Opinionated people enjoy endlessly supplying their own commentary about the best ways to fix the economy. A one-of-a-kind entertainment act which took to the Student Union stage last Monday was more qualified to make jokes and social commentary about America's money spending.

In fact, he holds a Ph.D. "You know I'm a real economist because I can make fun of subdivisions [of economics]," said Stand-Up Economist Yoram Bauman.

UMKC's economics chair Stephanie Kelton couldn't pass up the chance to have Bauman perform on campus. She noticed one of Bauman's earlier performances during the same week in Overland Park wasn't open to the public, so she sent Bauman an email hoping he would do a public show. His quick response said yes.

"I organized an event that would bring people in the community together with us — the students, faculty and staff at UMKC — for a more light-hearted purpose," Kelton said.

Before welcoming Bauman to the Student Union's stage, Kelton delivered an introduction featuring the accomplishments of UMKC's Economics Department, adding her own light-hearted anecdote on how the Department was featured in a five-page Playboy news spread, "but of course none of us have read it," she said.

Bauman humored the audience by admitting he was probably the only existing performer in this field. However, he possesses the credentials, receiving his degree from the University of Washington.

Warming up with political comedy, Bauman figuratively split the audience into three sections.

Bauman labeled an outer section of the room as "left-sided," referring to liberal, generally democratic political affiliations.

The opposite outer section of the room became "right-sided," describing them as "befuddled, unpatriotic looking."

The middle section, or "swing voters," was deemed most important.

"If you're not a communist or a fascist, you're probably a swing voter. If you don't know the difference, you're definitely a swing voter," he said.

The left side: "spineless." The right side: "heartless." And the



Stand-up economist Yoram Bauman has a message... but it's not meant to be taken too seriously.

Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

middle? "Clueless," Bauman said, "so apathetic, they can't be bothered to look up what it means."

On the furthest end of each side were the libertarians. Bauman explained that both extremes are "freedom lovers."

Joking that the right wing wants the freedom to use guns and the left wing wants the freedom to use drugs, Bauman said, "The world is full of pistol-packing potheads."

Bauman also discussed trends seen with economics students. He showed donation behavior among students before and after beginning economic courses. Typically, economic students donated less overall before taking major-specific courses, and continually decreased donations after classroom experience. Bauman said his conclusion was that economics degree-seekers are just born guilty.

Segueing into his comedic economics material, Bauman told the audience about his recent trip to Beijing, China. He was prepared to explain to natives what a democracy was, but instead, overwhelmingly received questions about America's budget deficit. His response blamed "the middle."

"People in the middle believe in magic," he said, joking that swingers hear promises from opposing government representatives and

quickly chant, "Yeah, let's do that."

Using an appropriate analogy, Bauman visualized a doctor's office. "If a doctor said you needed to lose weight," he said there are typically two reactions: one being "less doughnuts," and the other to "work out more." In the case of the "middles," Bauman said they would say, "I need a new doctor."

Bauman said someone referred to the U.S. as a "loanshark," but said he felt it's more appropriately labeled a "borrowing walrus."

"Involuntary trade where both parties are unhappy - that takes a lot of effort," he said.

Bauman used his expertise to break down a specific economic topic: Mankiw's 10 Principles of Economics. Bauman started his unique career as a Stand-Up Economist using this presentation. He said the ability to translate the 10 Principles, which he posted on a projector for the audience, required a Ph.D. in Economics, musing how fortunate it was that he possesses one.

Separating the Principles into their specific subdivisions of economics, Bauman labeled the first seven as "microeconomic" and the last three as "macroeconomic."

"Microeconomists, they're wrong about the little things.

Continued on page 13

All around Kansas City



Jazz lives in Kansas City

Tyren Rushing Staff Writer

Long before being placed on the National Register of Historic Places, 18th and Vine District was a significant part of Kansas City and jazz music history.

The 18th and Vine area grew originally because of the hand-in-hand correlations of segregation and the Great Migration of southern blacks to urban areas. Many blacks from the South felt there were more job opportunities in larger cities and began to form their own communities in northeastern and midwestern cities. Kansas City was one of those urban hotspots. The area surrounding 18th and Vine was considered the black area of town, as Kansas City was very segregated at the time.

Eventually the area became the hub of black commerce, socializing and entertainment within the city. The entertainment aspect of the district is how 18th and Vine developed its reputation for being on the forefront of jazz music and fun.

According to www.kclibrary.org, "During the Prohibition era, when Kansas City was under the control of political boss Tom Pendergast, the 18th and Vine

area also became known for its rollicking nightlife, personified by the jazz music that accompanied it. The soulful sounds of future legends, such as Bennie Moten, Big Joe Turner, George and Julia Lee, Count Basie, and Charlie 'Bird' Parker could be heard from the nightclubs."

Thanks to the political machine run by Pendergast, many historians have noted Prohibition essentially never took place in Kansas City. Gambling, prostitution and liquor all flowed frequently and were fueled by the rambunctious sounds of jazz music.

The beginning of desegregation proved to be a double-edged sword for the district. With Kansas City growing outward and as more career and living options became available, blacks started to move into other parts of the city. By the 1960s, jazz clubs and all of the other businesses were closing in the district as more and more residents left. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the area was vacant. Abandoned buildings, rubble and vacant storefronts were all which remained of the once bustling community.

Then in 1989, Councilman Emanuel Cleaver II and the Black Economic Union spearheaded a plan to save and

revitalize the district. According to www.kcjazzhistory.org,

"The 'rebirth' of the District started with the passage of a sales tax revenue package - 'The Cleaver Plan' - which included funds for the renovation of the 18th & Vine District. This funding would (1) renovate the GEM Theater, a 1912 structure currently being used as a performing arts center and (2) construct a new facility which now houses the American Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the Horace M. Peterson Visitors Center and the Blue Room (i.e. jazz club/museum exhibit)."

While the area is not as popular as it was during its peak through the 1920s and 1940s, the area offers plenty of dining and entertainment options.

The annual Jammin' at the Gem Performance series kicks off Sept. 29 at the historical Gem Theatre. The opening show will feature Chick Corea, Gary Burton and the Harlem String Quartet.

The Rhythm & Ribs Festival on Oct. 13 will be a chance for people to experience two Kansas City treasures: barbecue and jazz music. Arturo Sandoval, Joe Louis Walker, Claire Davis and Brian McKnight will headline the main stage



Thanks to the Cleaver Plan, 18th and Vine recaptures much of its glory.

Photos by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

while two other stages will feature local and regional acts.

For history buffs, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the American Jazz Museum offer combination tickets for \$10. Operating hours for both museums is 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12-6 p.m. Sunday.

The legendary Arthur Bryant's Barbecue still sits on the corner of 17th and Brooklyn Avenue and offers sizeable portions at reasonable prices. Danny's Big and Easy offers fresh Cajun cuisine, while the 9th Inning Sports Bar and Grill serves wings and a variety of other foods.

Nightlife at 18th and Vine ranges from live poetry readings at the Jukehouse on Mondays to live jazz five nights a week at the Blue Room. Danny's Big and Easy also has live music for its night time patrons and the 9th Inning is a popular destination for watching sporting events.

The district has seen its shares of ups and downs over the years, and thanks to the efforts of many it is on the upswing again. With more help, one day the district could return to its glory days.

trushing@unews.com

Stand-up economist:
Continued from
Page 12

Macroeconomists are wrong about things in general," he said, humorously explaining the difference.

He added these are the same economists who predicted "9 of the last 5 recessions."

The presentation summary revealed, in Bauman's words, "Choices are bad, choices are very bad, people are stupid, people aren't that

stupid, trade can make everyone worse off, governments are stupid, governments aren't that stupid, and that government is needed to control trade." Bauman made complicated concepts easier to understand by using candy as symbols for trade, allowing non-economic majors to follow the jokes.

"We're an entertaining bunch, actually, so even

our public lectures often include some attempt at humor. Not everyone loves economics, but everyone loves to laugh," Kelton said, adding that she thought the event was a great success and Bauman enjoyed himself.

rbrooks@unews.com

film review

'The Words' brings strong emotions to big studio filmmaking



Elizabeth Golden
Managing Editor

Grasping such a "clever" movie may be difficult for some viewers, since "The Words" attempts to explain in detail what it means to be a fiction author. Crafting a witty story or brilliant piece of literature is no simple task, and for some, plagiarism may seem like the only escape from a horrible case of writer's block. This subjective concept could make the movie

irritating or incomprehensible for some, giving perspective to the large amount of horrible reviews.

"The Words" is an emotional take on the difficult struggle faced by any writer wishing to compose a work of pure brilliance. Though the story is difficult to comprehend in certain parts, the film's overall fluidity is exceptional despite simultaneous plot lines.

This story within a story begins with a narration by character Clay Hammond (Dennis Quaid). He starts reading the first chapter of his recent book in which the main character, Rory Jansen (Bradley Cooper), discovers a lost manuscript in a small Parisian gift shop. He is in awe of its intense quality and wishes to be truly absorbed in the material, so he begins typing. Word for word he copies the text, never believing he would cause any harm. Rory sails into literary stardom as

his published book becomes a best seller.

"Then he met the old man," Clay said, coming to an abrupt stop in his book. "That's the end of part one."

The old man (Jeremy Irons), though never given a name, turns out to be the original author of the book and begins telling his own story of youthful tragedy to explain the story behind his book. He never demands anything, he only wanted to make Rory aware of his horrible decision market the work as his own.

"We all make difficult choices in life, the hard thing is to live with them," he said.

The old man begins to describe his military life in post-World War II Paris and the woman and child who changed his life. He tells a story of heartbreak and joy mixed with calamity and life-altering

regret.

Once again, Clay is shown reading his story as he finishes up the second part and begins to reflect on his own life. This storyline is the most lacking of all, but still manages to find a solid grasp in profound drama. Clay finds himself alone in his apartment with a graduate student (Olivia Wilde) who forces him to own up to his past more than ever before.

The film ends without an explanation, leaving the audience to question whether the book was actually autobiographical.

Despite complications and an overly long plot summary, the writing and directing by novices Brian Klugman and Lee Sternthal pull off this difficult concept exceptionally well. The duo does a wonderful job of blending solid emotions with an intriguing storyline. This

is a rare feat for modern-day Hollywood blockbusters, but "The Words" is structured more like an independent film even though it was produced through a big studio. Rarely are emotions and story mixed in such a brilliant way.

Cooper is also one of the best reasons to see this film. His acting is flawless and he brings life, as well as depth, to his character. The onscreen relationship with his wife (Zoe Saldana) could be described as one of the best seen in recent years.

"The Words" is by no means perfect. Some segments lack cohesion and consist of mediocre directing, but the emotional connection unlocked by the film definitely makes it worth watching.

egolden@unews.com

cult classic review

'Good Will Hunting': The Journey to Greater Meaning in Life



Elizabeth Golden
Managing Editor

How is it possible to describe a movie with so much meaning? The effect "Good Will Hunting" has had on my life is beyond definition. Not only is the movie outstandingly written, the culture shown through the movie adds to the overall effect.

Will Hunting seems to be a normal college-aged boy, but turns out to be a rebel genius from a rough part of Boston. He was orphaned at a young age, leaving him with severe attachment problems. Through his young adult years, he is arrested and bailed out by a professor at MIT, who notices his genius. In order to be free from jail, Hunting is required to go to counseling. After trying several counselors, he finally finds one unwilling to accept his reverse psychology techniques. This counselor helps him discover his hidden potential and realize his gifts revolve around more than just his brain. He also discovers the meaning of love and the one girl who allows him to feel love's true meaning. For the first time, he lets someone in. However, the film's real story involves Hunting finding out who he is, which is more than just a blue-collar man or extreme genius.

"Good Will Hunting," in my opinion, is the closest I've seen to a perfect movie. The story delves deep into the characters and every one is fully developed. The movie was written by and stars Ben Affleck and Matt Damon before they were Hollywood stars. Therefore, "Good Will Hunting" is real and raw. It is one of the few movies that has

not been "Hollywoodized." "Good Will Hunting," more than anything, is a story about discovery. After years of working construction, the main character thought he knew who he was, but it wasn't until fate put him in the hands of the therapist played by Robin Williams when he truly discovered his inner potential.

Hunting never had any family. He grew up in a foster home with an abusive, alcoholic dad. This film is relatable to almost every family situation. No one has a perfect family, but everyone must learn to grow and adapt, even when encountering life's toughest situations.

In addition to family background, cultural assumptions such as education and socio-economic status influence the way one views "Good Will Hunting." It is difficult to understand why someone so brilliant as Hunting is not in school. Although he is a genius, his mental capacity goes unrecognized without an education. Hunting can't afford a proper education, and lacks motivation because of his rough family background. He does not think he deserves a greater life.

Everyone in Hunting's life expected him to do poorly. Therefore, he failed in the few attempts he convinced himself to make.

However, this was not considered failing in his opinion. He considered this following the norm.

"Good Will Hunting" is predictable, but the storyline, in some ways, is irrelevant. The emotions associated with the story overpower the stereotypical situations. Emotional dialogue is the key component of this film and hearts are touched while delving deep into the unmentionable parts of life.

Love, faith and trust are also important themes in the film. After Hunting let his girlfriend into his vulnerable, emotional side, he found everything he had been searching for in life. The answers to his problems couldn't be found in books, but they could be found in love.

"Good Will Hunting" is by far my favorite movie because of the ways it has influenced my life, as well as how it relates to it. If one were to live in a world filled with nothing but education, the education would mean nothing in the end. The meaning of life is to give life a meaning, after all. "Good Will Hunting" shows how a life strictly devoted to education instead of love, faith or trust would be a sad existence.

egolden@unews.com

Graham number highlights dance recital

Cyrus Manian
Staff Writer

The Fall Production of the Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company showcased professional talents Saturday night at White Recital Hall. From exquisite lifts to impressive poses, the performers successfully entertained the audience, proving the performers' flexibility, both in body and in skill.

The production began with performances telling intimate stories. The first, "Whispering Bench," portrayed the movement of secrets from person to person through graceful, beautiful motion. With exaggerated movements, the dancers showed how stories vary as they are passed.

The storytelling continued with "Behavior," showing the benefit and beauty of kindness toward strangers. The two performers, Winston Dynamite Brown and DeeAnna Hiatt, wonderfully portrayed the interaction between two strangers and the impact of their generosity. After Brown sang to Hiatt, the hospitality was returned at the number when Hiatt shared her jacket.

The production continued with "E. what Say You." The dancers maintained their brilliance, but the audience was dazzled by the violinist. As the only performance featuring live music, this number

showcased the talent of both the violinist and the dancers through the coordination of art forms.

The first half of the production ended with the centerpiece "Diversion of Angels," famously choreographed by Martha Graham. Graham built a vocabulary of movement which explored the complexity of human emotion, embodied through the dancers' grace and energy. Graham's genius is the reason she was named "Dancer of the [20th] Century" by Time Magazine.

"Not many companies get the honor of performing a Martha Graham number," said Mary Pat Henry, co-founder of Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company.

The number did not tell a particular story, but displayed three aspects of love: love in perfect balance, erotic love and adolescent love. The dancers showed the flexibility of talents through graceful movements, intimate interactions, challenging lifts and statuesque poses. "Diversion of Angels" showcased the majestic talent of the performers.

The concert resumed with an all male number, "Evidence of Souls Not Seen." Brown, Hassan Ingraham and Michael Tomlinson exhibited an exceptional combination of gentility, strength and flexibility, showing holistic expertise. Flowing movements

were followed by sporadic jerks portraying conflict within.

This all-male number was rivaled by the following all-female performance, "Variations." The small details of facial expressions added to the excellence of the performance while the dancers exchanged solos and periodically fused together in beautiful synchrony.

The production continued with a visually stunning solo performance by Brown, "Sweet in the Morning." Brown showcased his extraordinary body control through delicate, fluid movements. His skill and dedication captivated the audience.

The evening concluded with a large-cast performance of "Moore in Time." This finale modeled the strength of the dancers through physically demanding lifts creating abstract shapes, mirrored by projections on the backdrop of the stage.

Overall, the performance was a feat of physically demanding choreography, which, according to Henry, only took six weeks to prepare.

For upcoming Conservatory performances, tickets can be purchased at the Central Ticket Office, located at 4949 Cherry Street in the James Olsen Performing Arts Center.

cjmz72@mail.umkc.edu

Ask Phoenix

Phoenix Rishon
Columnist

Dear Phoenix,

How does a soon-to-be college graduate figure out what to do with the rest of his or her life?

Dear every college student,

You are not alone in the endeavor of deciding your future aspirations. Every student is constantly trying to figure out what to do with his/her life, and with the tough economy, the pickings are slim. Sometimes, it is quite a challenge to balance passion in a certain field of study with practicality. Some passions lead to careers that pay big bucks, while others leave you begging for change. These financially superior careers may give you a positive number in your bank account, but money does not equate to happiness.

You must make a career choice a bit more serious than McDonald's or Taco Bell. You must choose whether happiness or financial stability is your priority in life. This is not to say that you cannot achieve both, because it is quite possible. You may not acknowledge this, but the fact that you are attending college puts you ahead of many individuals. Education is extremely important in today's society.

The best advice I can give anyone is to do what you love with people you love. In order to discover your passion, get an internship, participate in research, study abroad or shadow someone in a similar profession. You will find that even the richest businessmen are not happy if they are not devoted to their jobs. If you want to acquire your Ph.D., work hard, and you will receive the honor of having a prefix before your name.

There is no manual I can present you to succeed in life. If there were, I would be distributing it in mass quantities. As it is, everyone must make mistakes and learn to succeed in their own ways. Never give up.

As one of my favorite drag queens, Latrice Royale, put it, "Get up. Look 'sickening,' and make them eat it." Do not give up because you make a mistake. Get back up and prove you are strong enough to take a challenge.

While none of this is concrete advice, it is all I, a fellow college student, have to offer. Life may



not allow all of us to follow our particular passions, but be grateful for what you have and do your absolute best.

When life gives you lemons, make spiked lemonade, because plain lemonade is just not good enough.

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

The age-old question of the chicken or the egg is still up for constant debate. I am sure there is a lengthy, descriptive, philosophical answer a professor can provide. The answer may confuse you or light a brilliant, metaphorical bulb in your brain.

My answer is the egg, and let me tell you why. I eat eggs for breakfast and chicken for supper. So, simply, the egg came first, at least for me. This philosophical debate becomes a menu for those of us at the top of the food chain.

While you and many others ponder the true answer, I attempt to decide what eat with my eggs.

Toodles for now,

Phoenix Rishon

Submit questions to cjmz72@mail.umkc.edu

'Ask Phoenix' does not substitute for a professional psychologist or psychiatrist. If you need psychological support: Contact the UMKC Counseling Center at 816-235-1635. If you are in crisis or thinking about suicide you deserve immediate support contact the Trevor Project at 1-866-488-7386 -or- contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. If you are in immediate danger or in crisis, please call 911.

cjmz72@mail.umkc.edu

Advertise with U-News

Reach 4,000 readers each week!

Contact Luis Ruiz at universitynewsads@gmail.com
or (816) 235-1386.

News about
YOU-News

UMKC's Independent
Student Newspaper
Since 1933!

Travel Corner

Germany



Left: It is tradition for one young man of the Etzelwang "Kirchweih" to dress as a woman for the last day of the festival. Center: The "Kirchweih" tree is decorated with traditional Bavarian heart-shaped gingerbread cookies and ribbons. Right: The Theatine Catholic church in Munich, Germany is known for its yellow color and Italian inspired architecture.

Johanna Poppel
Production Manager

I am the first U.S.-born member of my German family. Although I have never lived in Germany, my first language, identity and heritage will always be German. After the first five years of my life mostly overseas, I finally started to learn English when I moved to Missouri. I have lived here since. The familiarity of both American and German cultures gives me an alternative perspective on life. Germany makes itself well known in society many different ways. For example, the country is known for its excellence in automotive engineering and rich history in science. Perhaps Germany is more famous for the hand-crafted bratwurst with sauerkraut, perfect beer, fresh baked pretzels and Oktoberfest, or maybe for its deep black

forests, medieval castles and roots of Brother Grimm that entice storytellers. Historians may argue the cathedrals that endured bombings from the first World War in the hearts of old towns provide the true charm of Germany. Perhaps the sleek and modern architecture flourishing in major cities entices travelers to visit. I had a different agenda. For the past decade I have been visiting my aunt Ruth in southern Germany during the summer. Her house is nestled along the hills of the Black Forest in a small Bavarian village called Etzelwang, approximately 30 minutes away from Nuremberg or two hours away from Munich by car or train. The escape to Ruth's house places me in a fairy tale with luscious green mountains and colorful fields of wildflowers and wheat. The train station down the hill from my aunt's house can connect me to anywhere in continental

Europe. The train was my main resource during my stay, enabling me to visit all my extended family in various parts of Germany. I give myself at least six weeks in the summer to fully enjoy Germany and make the 10-hour plane ride worthwhile. The escape to my aunt's home distracts my mind from America and helps me dive in to German culture and language, gaining a fresh perspective on how people live their lives in a different part of the world. This is what I appreciate about German culture and norms:

1. Education
The German education system offers children many different routes to get a quality education, regardless if a student is more focused on getting a vocational education or college education. German teachers are valued and make

Continued on page 17

NOW OPEN

Back to School Special!

5% OFF YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE

Hurry in! Coupon expires September 30, 2012

BROOKSIDE WINE & SPIRITS

www.BrooksideWineAndSpirits.com

600 E. 63rd St., KCMO • 816-361-BEER

News about YOU-News

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

Find us online at www.unews.com.
Contact us at universitynewsline@gmail.com

WE DELIVER

Kin Lin
金陵
Chinese Restaurant

Tel. 816-561-4334
FAX 561-5108

314 E. 51ST
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
KINLINRESTAURANT.COM

DINE IN - DELIVERY - CARRY OUT

BUY 10 LUNCH MEALS - GET 1 FREE
BUY 10 REGULAR MEALS - GET 1 FREE
BUY 10 LARGE MEALS - GET 1 FREE

album reviews

Cat Power Strikes back, claws drawn

Roze Brooks Senior Staff Writer

"Sun" from Chan Marshall, or stage name Cat Power, is a reemergence from a six-year quiet period since her last album. Cat Power manages to deliver a youthful, motivating array of introspective songs with the album's anticipated 2012 release. With more of a pop sound than Cat Power's previous mellow, folk-style creations, this album offers an eccentric mesh of intriguing lyrics, hum-worthy melodies and innovative instrumentals. Marshall's vocals are a rich, crisp foundation for each track. Her slight rasp accentuates lyrics like "Bury me marry me to the sky, if I die before my time bury me upside down," from the opener "Cherokee." This song holds a subtle driving force as its backbeat, incorporated nicely with the rustic

feel of the entire song. Emphasis on certain power words in each song reflect angst and conviction in the topics portrayed in the well-crafted lyrics. The catchiest phrases come from the track, "3,6,9." Trickling through a hypnotic percussion blend comes the chorus, "3,6,9 you drink wine, monkey on your back you feel just fine." Overlapping harmonious loops in each track add dimension. They create soothing yet perplexing chords. Another track is faintly reminiscent of Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall," paired with confrontational lyrics and upbeat percussion. Instrumental expertise is apparent throughout the entire album, offering head-bobbing motive for every listener. Each song seems to hold social or personal

commentary with relatable issues, such as in "Ruin," where Marshall chants "Bitchin complaining and some people ain't got s*** to eat, bitchin' moaning so many people you know what they ain't got." "Real Life" lists several interactions with interesting characters, vocalizing, "I met a preacher he want to be sinister, I met a kid he want to be unknown." The track continues with perception on the ways ordinary people choose to do unordinary things. "Nothin But Time" takes full 11-minute advantage of collaboration with Iggy Pop. This album could have further benefitted from pairing with other artists to emphasize Cat Power's rebirth after many hardships kept Marshall from creating new music. The track "Human Being" takes a step in this direction, telling listeners, "You got your own voice so sing, you got two hands

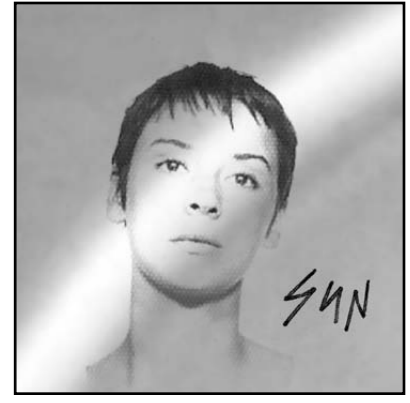


Photo courtesy of Google

let's go and make anything." This particular track aligns with the sultry, fluid sounds of previous work from Cat Power. The overall impact proves Marshall's versatility and open-mindedness to branch out.

rbrooks@unews.com

Animal Collective adds layers to its confusing sound

Meredith Shea Staff Writer

Animal Collective takes a foreboding approach to its new album, "Centipede Hz." The group's last release, "Merriweather Post Pavilion" in 2009, left fans hungry for more, but whether "Centipede Hz" feeds this hunger is questionable. Many listeners may not be ready for this experimental psychedelic band hailing from Baltimore. "Moonjock," the album's opener, takes an in-your-face approach clear to the finish line. First, it knocks the wind out of the listener with a bombardment of explosive sounds. "In our covered wagon times when dad he had his captain eyes, we'd get the steel horse moving on the straights and lines of 95," the lyrics say. At first, Avey Tare's vocals match

the punchiness of the background noise, but out of nowhere disturbingly begins working against the song's repetitive structure. Still raw, rhythmically mechanized and electronic, Animal Collective doesn't stray far from its musical roots, but may confuse new listeners. Nonetheless, this is Animal Collective's most intricate collection of lyrics to date. In "Applesauce," Animal Collective approaches the song with distorted, alien-like sounds, true to the band's nature. Tare takes fruit to the extreme with sexual metaphors, singing, "Oh pink lady your days so distinguished are a movement so fluid, so smooth against my palm, reminisce of the days when they all praised your sweet red delicious." The listener can't help but think Tare is screaming

out with sexual delight. Contributing vocalist Panda Bear takes the reins in "New Town Burnout." On the surface, it is reminiscent of previous Animal Collective albums. The track seems to have background noise working against the grain of the song all the way through. This song is easier to listen to than other tracks like "Wide Eyed," where there is too much sound happening at once. Animal Collective closes "Centipede Hz" with "Amanita." This vortex of menacing guitar, vocals, synth, pulsing drum rolls and the addition of faint strings that linger underneath the mayhem of sound combine to encompass everything the album set out to be: confusing, but thrilling.

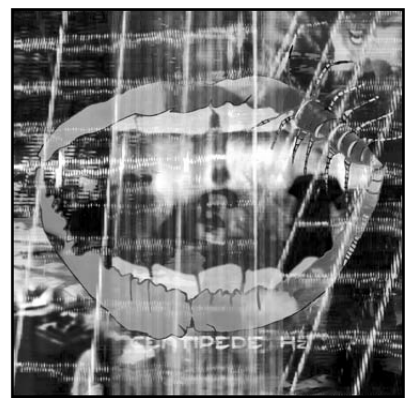


Photo courtesy of Google

mshea@unews.com

Germany: Continued from page 16

much larger salaries than teachers in the U.S. College is affordable, ranging from \$0 to \$500 a semester, depending on the region or city in which you want to study. Students even get paid a monthly stipend from the government. After all, well-educated students will benefit the future of Germany.

2. Heritage and tradition
"Kirchweih," meaning "church anniversary," is a religious festival celebrated since the Middle Ages. This celebration is reserved for small towns and villages, hosted by young men and women from the village. Young women serve beer and the men go into the forest to cut down a 75-100 foot-tall tree to protect throughout

the festival. At the end, the young men and women dance around the tree in "lederhosen" and "dirndls," traditional Bavarian dress. I attended this type of festival and appreciated the sense of community it created between town members.

3. Drinking
The drinking age for beer and wine is 16, and for liquor is 18. Drinking beer and certain liquor is part of tradition and culture. Adolescents are exposed to these traditions by their family at a young age, and mature with responsible drinking habits.

4. Environmental Forwardness
The German government allows for any middle class family to have solar panels on their roofs. There are even solar panel parks, and of course wind turbines scattered across open fields in many rural areas. Did you know the compact, gas-efficient "smart" car originated in Germany from Mercedes-Benz?

5. Driven attitude
Germans are known for a "work hard, play hard" mentality. On average, Germans are given more vacation time in their occupations, but are efficiently skilled and educated. For example, the cars that fill the German autobahns, BMW, Audi

and Mercedes, lead the way in automotive engineering and it makes sense to offer a place to drive them to their full potential and speed.

6. Food
Germans value freshness and quality in food. Fresh meat, bread and produce are purchased on a daily basis. Bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels, potato dumplings with schnitzel and gravy are just some of the savory dishes I love. Lastly, German beer is the best. These are only a few aspects of German culture I love. To fully experience what the country has to offer, I can't wait to spend more time there in the future.

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.

Why I'm 'Black,' not 'African-American'

Tyren Rushing
Staff Writer



Tyren Rushing

The term African-American was introduced in the 1970s to categorize black citizens of the U.S. Jesse Jackson, Sr. helped popularize the term with the media in the '80s, which in turn helped popularize it within the black community.

Although this term is acceptable, I have one little problem with it: Neither I nor any of my ancestors for the last 100 years have come from Africa, nor have we gone for a visit. It's hard to understand why we are classified as African-Americans.

Why does every race in America need some sort of title? If you are born in America, doesn't that make you an American citizen? If this is the case, then what truly makes you an American? The people whose land this originally belonged to are even called "Native Americans."

Does that mean in order to be considered just a plain old American one has to be a white person in the upper-middle class who drives an SUV, or who can trace ancestors all the way back to the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

I, personally, would rather be recognized as just a black person in America instead of having some sort of politically correct title to make others more comfortable. Sure, if you want to get technical, I'm more of a caramel-peanut-butter blend in skin color with both African and Native American blood flowing through my veins, a Japanese mentality and American tendencies. To me, an African-American is a person who is from Africa and has just become an American citizen. It establishes where that person is from and also relates to where that person is now. I can't fit the criteria when I haven't even visited that continent.

In fact, the labeling of ethnicities could be considered a subliminal way of keeping racism alive and out in the open. The Caucasian race that's often considered the majority ironically doesn't have a label. There's no such thing as a European-American, Anglo-Saxon American, or Insert-Generic -Title-Here-American, so why is it that every other racial group is classified and dissected into some pre-packaged Crayola alphabet of terms? I consider myself first and foremost an American. This is the land where I was born and raised. I don't need any thing in front of my American title to make me feel

Continued on Page 19

Lower drinking age could mean safer consumption

Kynslie Otte
Senior Staff Writer

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would allow 18-to-20-year-olds to consume alcohol safely in regulated environments, with supervision. Since the drinking age is 21, underage college students often consume alcohol in unsupervised spaces, such as house parties, where binge drinking and other drug use occurs.

Lowering the drinking age would also reduce the number of alcohol-related accidents among underage drinkers. Many underage drinkers will not seek medical attention, no matter how severe injuries may be, because they fear the legal consequences of their actions.

In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which changed the national legal alcohol purchase and consumption age to 21. Though states were not required to comply, those which did not change the drinking age to 21 were threatened with losing 10 percent of their federal highway money.

Though the act successfully reduced traffic fatalities related to drunk driving accidents, underage drinking has not stopped.

According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, underage drinking accounts for 17.5 percent (\$22.5 billion) of consumer spending for alcohol in the U.S.

If the drinking age was lowered, alcohol consumption could be less taboo for adults between ages 18 and 20. Alcohol could become a more integral part of American culture, making young adults less prone to drink excessively as an act of rebellion towards the currently implemented law.

In many European countries, the legal drinking age is 18 or lower, and minors are not as compelled to drink excessively because moderated drinking is part of the culture. Even though raising the drinking age in the U.S. caused a decline in traffic fatalities, the percentage of traffic fatalities in the U.S. is still higher than some European countries where the legal drinking age is less than 21.

Whether or not the drinking age is lowered, it is still



Kynslie Otte

difficult for the government to enforce the legal drinking age. Many law enforcement agencies consider enforcing the drinking age a low priority due to limited resources.

A 1995 study published in the Public Health Report found that only two of approximately every 1,000 occasions of illegal drinking resulted in arrests.

Underage drinking will occur no matter what the legal drinking age is, and lowering the drinking age to 18 will ultimately lead to safer consumption habits for young adults.

kotte@unews.com

Legal drinking age not arbitrary

Michelle Heiman
Copy Editor

rates of drunk driving 37 percent more than drivers ages 25 to 54, and 13 percent more than drivers ages 21 to 24. This shows that it was MLDA 21—not extenuating factors like seatbelt use or larger penalties for drunk driving—that contributed to the decrease for drivers ages 16-20.

Proponents of lowering the MLDA argue that teenagers will drink regardless of the legal age, so we may as well just make it legal. I believe this would simply cause even younger teens to drink more, and drink and drive more. Because the legal age is currently 21, it is 18-20 year olds who usually drink illegally. If the legal age were lowered to 18, it would be 15-17 year olds who would drink illegally most often. In essence, we would be propelling younger teens into the drinking world.

The U.S. implemented the Uniform Drinking Age Act in 1984, and since then, there has been a large decrease in underage alcohol-related traffic injuries and fatalities, according to a 2011 article in the *Journal of American College Health*.

The same article explains in the years following the Act, placing the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) at 21 has reduced underage drivers'

lowered the legal drinking age when they lowered the minimum age to vote. This caused increases in sales and consumption of alcohol and in alcohol-related traffic fatalities, particularly among those ages 18 to 20. It also created a patchwork of states – some with a legal age of 18, some with 21- which caused many young adults to simply drive to the next state to purchase and consume the alcohol that was illegal in their home state. This initiated the 1984 Act.

Evidence suggests that MLDA 21 has saved more than 800 lives annually among young adults ages 18-20 in the U.S., according to a June 2010 article in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Psychology experts also argue that the brain is not yet fully developed at age 18, and therefore the processes should not be interrupted by a



Michelle Heiman

substance such as alcohol because of the long-term effects of stunting brain development.

While the college atmosphere and peer pressure may influence drinking before age 21, I encourage young adults to wait. Not only could you get in legal trouble (as well as whoever provided the alcohol to you), but you could be legitimately harming your own brain's development. Alcohol is a drug that does kill neurons.

mheiman@unews.com

51st and Troost: Dangerous intersection for pedestrians and motorists alike

Kate Baxendale
Senior Staff Writer

Many students cross the intersection of 51st Street and Troost Avenue on their commutes to campus. This intersection consists of a two-way stop on 51st Street, where drivers must yield to cross-traffic on Troost.

A terrible accident involving a UMKC student and a motorcyclist turned fatal in May. The student's vehicle was stopped at the stop sign on 51st Street facing westward toward campus at the intersection. The student pulled into traffic when a young man driving a motorcycle heading southbound on Troost collided with the student's vehicle on the passenger side. The biker was thrown from his motorcycle and died at the scene. The student's car was totaled, but the driver did not suffer

when crossing especially during rush hours, when motorists often exceed the speed limits. Students walking to class are sometimes late because of the extensive and unpredictable wait for traffic to pass on Troost.

One must be aggressive

any life-threatening injuries. A white cross with flowers at the scene of the accident serves as a daily reminder of the tragedy.

This intersection is located in an area known as the Troost Corridor. Back in 2003, the local Southtown Council devised the Troost Corridor Action Plan. The purpose of this plan is to make improvements along the Troost Corridor: 47th to 75th streets, Bruce Watkins Drive to Brookside Boulevard. The plan consists of four development principles.

The third principle is entitled "Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement." This principle is to "continue neighborhood improvements, such as construction and maintenance of sidewalks,

street trees, lighting, code enforcement and redevelopment initiatives that stabilize neighborhoods."

The plan incorporates the installation of gateway crosswalks. Gateway crosswalks are described by the Troost Corridor Action Plan as follows: "They are envisioned to define the pedestrian crosswalk lane and provide a more 'plaza-like' image with enhanced materials in the intersection itself." As a resident of the Troostwood neighborhood, I have seen some efforts to improve the area.

New sidewalks have replaced uneven ones desperately in need of repair at 51st Street and Virginia Avenue, and sidewalks are being replaced on Lydia Avenue as well. However, I have yet to see any

improvements made to local intersections as outlined in the Troost Corridor Action Plan. Talk of gateway crosswalks appears to be just that — talk.

In March of this year, the Kansas City Big 5 Urban Neighborhood Initiative announced that the Troost Corridor would be the first of several improvement projects. The mission of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) is "to build strong, collaborative partnerships among neighborhood residents, the regional business sector, civic and community groups, governmental agencies, and the philanthropic community to work together to improve community health and safety, education and prosperity."

This nonprofit organization has a



Kate Baxendale

governing board that includes representatives from UMKC, Rockhurst University and other local institutions. Since the Troost Corridor Action Plan seems to have faded into the background, hopefully the UNI and its collaborators will take the necessary steps to ensure the safety and longevity of the neighborhood just east of campus.

kbaxendale@unews.com

Rushing:

Continued from Page 18

like I'm not as American as I can be.

Black is a term that is socially acceptable amongst both black and white people. Black is the word that helped inspire civil rights activists. It's what made Tommie Smith and John Carlos don the black gloves and throw a Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympic Games. It's what inspired Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale to start their revolution, and it's what made James Brown sing songs about being it. Black is not a term to be ashamed of but instead should be embraced if not preferred as opposed to the more PC, African-American. So say it loud: I'm black and I'm proud.

trushing@unews.com

News about YOU-News

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper Since 1933!

Visit us online at www.unews.com

GAMES

Cartoon

Sudoku

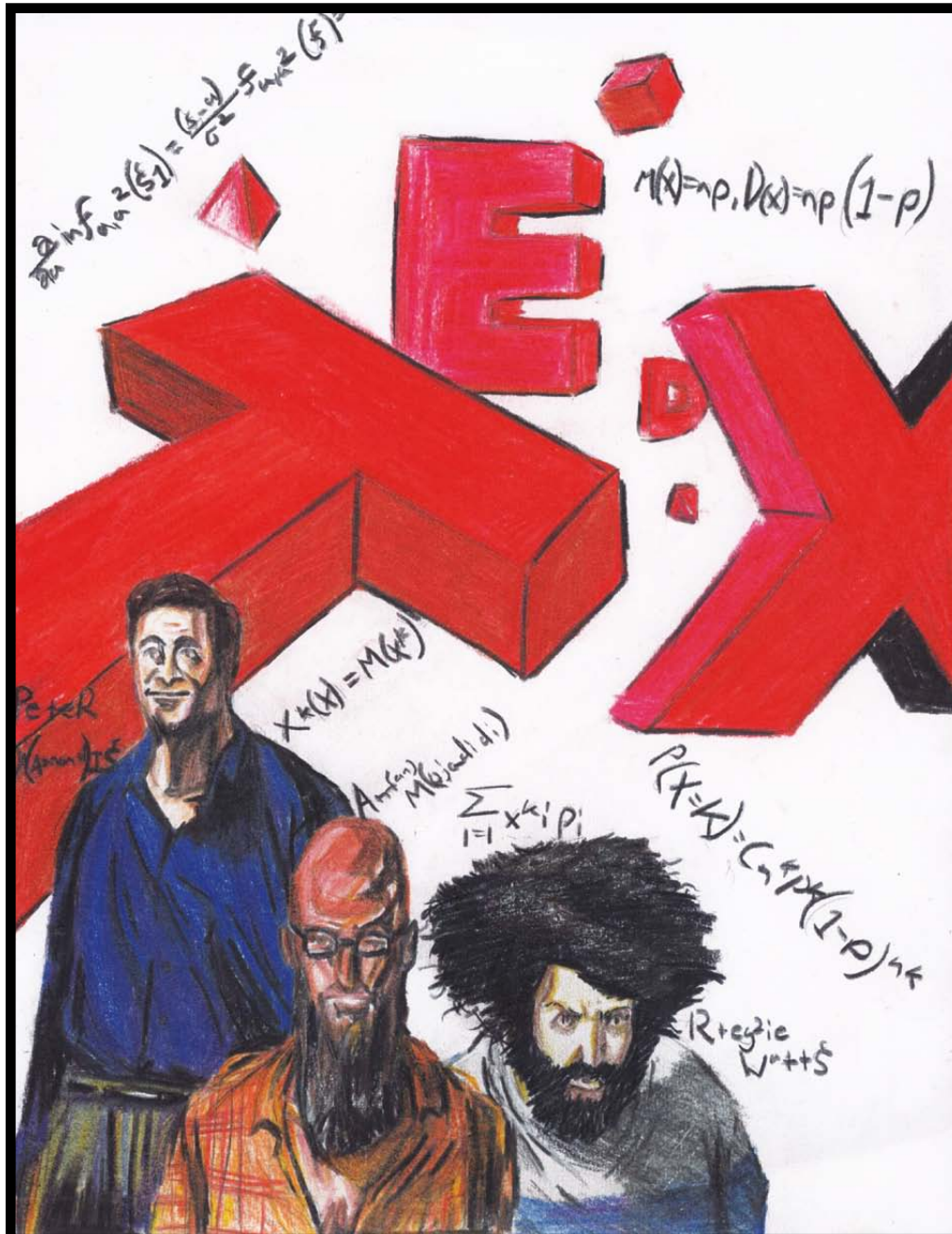
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | | | 7 | | | |
| | | 2 | 1 | | | | 4 | 8 |
| | 3 | | | 8 | | | | 9 |
| | 6 | | 7 | | 5 | 8 | 2 | |
| | | 3 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 8 | 5 | 3 | | 6 | | 1 | |
| 6 | | | | 1 | | | 8 | |
| 8 | 1 | | | | 2 | 4 | | |
| | | | 5 | | | 6 | | |

Kakuro

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| | | | 12 | 6 | | | | |
| | 4 | 29 | | | | 32 | 7 | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | 4 | | |
| 11 | | | 10 | | | 10 | | |
| | 3 | | | 14 | | 4 | | |
| | 7 | | | 17 | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | 9 | | | 9 |
| | 8 | | 10 | | | 17 | | |
| | | | | | | 17 | | |
| | | | | 10 | | | | |

© 2012 KrazyDad.com

Each box contains digits 1 through 9. The same digit will never be repeated twice in one line. If you add the digits, the sum will be the number shown in the clue.



TEDxUMKC speakers from Page 5

Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

Advertise with U-News
and reach 4,000 readers each week!

Contact Luis Ruiz at universitynewsads@gmail.com or
(816) 235-1386.

Visit us online at
www.unews.com