

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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*UMKC's independent  
student newspaper  
since 1933*

Vol. 80 // Issue 7 // **Oct. 1, 2012**



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# UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

www.unews.com

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**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](mailto: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.

# War on women?

## Abortion debate remains ugly and polarized

**Elizabeth Golden**  
Managing Editor

About 3,315 abortions occur per day in the U.S., a 2005 statistic from the Guttmacher Institute.

This statistic was brought up by anti-abortion activist Kristina Garza, the outreach director for Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust.

Garza and other protesters, some from the International House of Prayer in south Kansas City, visited UMKC on the afternoon of Sept. 14, displaying large placards with photos of aborted fetuses across the street from the Student Union.

Garza said she believes abortion is a "genocide, which denies babies justice and executes them with no judge, no jury and no trial."

The Guttmacher Institute, a nonpartisan group that researches reproductive health, reported that between 1994 and 2006, unintended pregnancy rates grew by 50 percent for women below the poverty line.

However, this number decreased by 29 percent for women with higher

income. Nearly 43 percent of unexpected pregnancies end in abortion, and the U.S. abortion rate is at the lowest level since 1974, according to Guttmacher.

June Carbone, Smith Chair Distinguished Professor of Law at UMKC, who specializes in family law, said this could be because people below the poverty level are more likely to receive abstinence-only sex education.

"Poor women are more likely than wealthier women to have high school sex education classes as their only source of information about contraception at the time they first become sexually active, and they are significantly more likely than wealthier women to be enrolled in abstinence only classes," Carbone said.

"When we deny women we know are at risk access to reliable contraception this could be considered systematic assault."

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a major source of grants supporting U.S. education and global development, provides funding for contraception to underprivileged communities.

In recent years, Melinda



Emily Imbruglia, 'Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust' protester, holds a sign in front of Swinney Recreation Center. Photo by Meredith Shea

Gates has committed to making birth control her primary focus.

"We're not talking about abortion. We're not talking about population control," Melinda Gates said in the Berlin TEDxChange talk. "What I'm talking about is giving women the power to save their lives, to save their children's lives and to give their families the best possible future."

College graduates are more likely to use multiple forms of contraception, which results in fewer unplanned births.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate among college graduates was substantially lower than for other women, at 12.4 abortions per 1,000 pregnancies.

A plurality of women who have abortions are

economically disadvantaged and often face other hardships. Many already have children.

"These women may not agree with abortion, but they're desperate and out of options," Carbone said.

### Contraception vs. abortion:

"You can't talk about abortion without the necessary contraception debate," Carbone said. "College graduates have access to the more reliable forms of contraception such as IUD's and the pill, which require a doctor's prescription, and are more likely to be in families or communities that encourage their use."

Contraceptive methods such as the morning after pill have caused controversy across the political spectrum.

"Some Republicans believe this Plan B pill causes

Continued on Page 7

# Q&A

## With Chancellor Leo Morton

**Q.**How did the name change idea come about?

**A.**This is something that people have been talking about for years. It's impossible to pinpoint accurately when or with whom the conversations started.

With so much activity and progress happening in Kansas City right now – and much of it connected to us, such as the Downtown Campus for the Arts proposal and our key role in branding Kansas City as "America's Most Entrepreneurial City" – we decided this was the time to take this question out into the marketplace, test it, study it and come up with a definitive answer.

**Q.**What do you believe will be accomplished by changing the name of the university?

**A.**We are open to keeping the current name, and to considering other potential names that may emerge from our research process. As for what we hope to accomplish, it is to take maximum advantage of our unique status as "Kansas City's university."

Let me be very clear: Changing our name to focus on Kansas City would not mean we would be focused only on local issues. We will continue to strive to be an excellent national and indeed global University. Still, I believe we can strengthen our enrollment, our community partnerships and our

philanthropic support by creating a broader and deeper understanding of our critical role as Kansas City's university.

**Q.**What about students who don't want to see a new name on their diploma?

**A.**Looking back over my undergraduate years at Tuskegee Institute, what resonates for me are the friendships I made, the values and skills I learned and the memories I treasure.

When that university changed its name to Tuskegee University, I lost none of those things. Still, I can't honestly say it had no emotional impact.

From that perspective, I can understand how longtime students like you feel about this. I would hope that, if we decide this is the best course for our University, that over time alumni would come to accept and embrace the new name in that spirit.

**Q.**How important is the student body's opinion concerning the name change?

**A.**I take a long-view approach to defining the "student body." The makeup of that body changes substantially each semester.

There are people who have been members of the student body for years who will be alumni by the time the first new sign is hung

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# Chancellor seeks input through name change surveys

**Nathan Zoschke** Editor-in-Chief  
**Kharissa Forte** Copy Editor

A link to an online name change survey was emailed to all students, faculty and staff last Wednesday with a letter from Chancellor Leo Morton.

Participants have until Oct. 12 to complete the survey, after which the results will be released.

Morton reassured students that the cost of the name change would be covered by private donations and that the University's affiliation with the UM System will not be affected.

"Our exploration grows out of the need to ensure that our name best positions us to grow enrollment—both to better serve our community and to improve our financial situation," Morton stated. "We want to ensure that our name reflects our unique status as 'Kansas City's University,' given our central mission of driving positive change in the region."

According to UMKC research, about 70 percent of the school's enrollment comes from the 15-county Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area, and 75 percent of graduates stay in the region following graduation.

The survey gives students three options to choose from: UMKC, the University of Kansas City and Kansas City University, and asks students how they feel a name change will impact their likelihood of attending the school.

The survey also asks students to evaluate UMKC and other schools in Missouri and Kansas based on their location, cost, academic reputation and overall educational quality.

On Wednesday, Morton also concluded the last of the name change forums more than an hour before it was scheduled to end.

The forum, held in Room 4308 of the Health Sciences Building, was scheduled from 3-5 p.m.

UMKC spokesperson John Martellaro said Morton and Anne Spencer, the vice chancellor for marketing and communications, had left the room by 3:15 p.m. due to "very sparse attendance."

Morton said he expects a decision on the name change around the end of October, and that if research indicates a name change is in order, a proposal will be made at the UM System Board of Curator's December meeting.

Morton dismissed concerns about the cost of a name change—estimated at \$1 million—because the University would find private sources of funding. The cost primarily includes signage, but also covers advertising and marketing expense.

"Our goal is to increase enrollment and philanthropy to generate revenue many times that amount," Morton said. "If we don't think we will generate that level of return, we won't do it."

Morton pointed out that state allocations to UMKC have gradually declined, from 40 percent of the school's revenue stream 25 years ago to about 20 percent for the current fiscal year.

"A key to that is to tie our University more clearly and more strongly to the community that has the highest per-capita level of philanthropy in the country: Kansas City," Morton said.

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To take the name change survey, visit:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/NameChange\\_Student](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NameChange_Student)

# Beta Theta Pi mourns loss of Craig Turner

**Elizabeth Golden** Managing Editor

Beta Theta Pi member Craig Turner, 21, passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 21. Turner's body was found by his roommates in their apartment near campus.

A specific cause of death has not been released, but the Kansas City Police Department reports he died of "natural causes."

His church, Cornerstone Bible Fellowship, told members he passed away in his sleep.

Turner was in his fourth year in the six-year medical program and was an excellent student, according to Medical School Dean Betty Drees.

"Craig was a compassionate student, well on his way to becoming an outstanding physician,"

Drees said in a statement to the public. "His loss will impact not only those who knew him but also patients he would have treated."

Born in Winfield, Kan., on Oct. 8, 1990, Craig was an active member of the swimming team. According to his Beta Theta Pi brothers, Turner set the Winfield High School record in freestyle swimming and competed in several state swimming meets.

While at UMKC, Turner quickly became an active member in Beta Theta Pi and the Medical School.

"He served a full term as the Scholarship Chair of the Epsilon Lambda Chapter, and encouraged all members to focus on and excel in academics," Beta Theta Pi said in a statement

released to fraternity alumni.

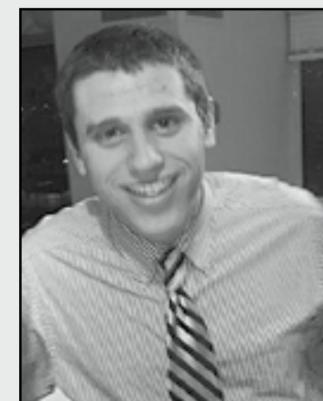
Turner is survived by his brother Heath Turner, a UMKC freshman and Beta Theta Pi member, by parents Wade and Laura and by siblings Brent and Lauren.

The Beta Theta Pi community is greatly saddened by this loss and asks everyone to keep the Turner family in their thoughts.

"Our hearts are with Craig's family, friends and Beta Brothers across the nation during this difficult time of grief and loss," chapter president Andrew Kraft said.

The UMKC police department, KCPD, Beta Theta Pi and Dean Drees declined to be interviewed for this article.

[egolden@unews.com](mailto:egolden@unews.com)



Craig Turner. Photo used with permission of Beta Theta Pi

## Corrections

Issue 6, Sept. 24

**Pg. 2: 'Put yourself in her shoes- literally'**

Habib Hassan was identified as cultural events coordinator for the Activity and Program Council, a position in which he no longer serves.

Spot any mistakes? Email Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, [nzoschke@unews.com](mailto:nzoschke@unews.com).

# \$ LIFE

financial corner

## Investing 101

Saroj Lamichhane Contributor

In finance, investment is defined as putting money into something to receive a higher return. When investing money, it is careful to measure risk versus reward.

When an investment has higher risk, its return possibilities are typically greater, but the return is less certain.

There are several things in which people can invest, such as real estate, stocks, bonds and CDs. Everyone is recommended to seek professional financial advising because there are laws, conditions and other provisions in investments.

Stocks are one of the most popular investment options in today's economy. Each stock is a tiny piece of transferrable ownership of a particular company, which means the return success of the stock is directly related to the success of the company.

Big companies like IBM, Google, Microsoft and Apple offer more secure earnings and future growth, but the stock values are generally more expensive.

Stocks in these big companies are low risk compared to stocks in the biotech, pharmaceutical or computer software/hardware industry.

Mutual funds are another investment option. Mutual fund is created from a mixed and diversified pool of stocks. Fund managers make decisions on the fund based on its investment objectives.

The fund manager then continues to buy and sell stocks and securities according to the style dictated by the fund's prospectus, which includes investment strategies, investment objectives, distribution policy, fees, etc.

Mutual funds are more secure than buying a single company stock because of their diversified pool of stocks and bonds.

A certificate of deposit, or CD, is more like a regular savings account at any bank, but CDs have specific terms of maturity with a fixed interest rate.

An investor has to wait until maturity to receive the maximum capital and interest on a CD.

Withdrawing before maturity usually brings steep penalties.

U.S. savings bonds are one of the safest investments because they are guaranteed by the federal government.

Continued on Page 5

# OUTLAW ECONOMICS

## Progressive economists talk job creation, politics at the Student Union

# 2.0

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

Outlaw economists may not have broken any laws, but their support for progressive policies puts them at odds with the establishment.

This group of heterodox economists challenges the models and assertions of mainstream business leaders, economists, politicians and the media.

A teach-in known as Outlaw Economics 2.0, held Friday and Saturday at the Student Union, focused on job creation and preserving entitlement programs that benefit the middle and working class.

Among the outlaws are Dr. William Black, an associate professor of economics and law at UMKC, and Dr. James Galbraith, a distinguished scholar and chair at the University of Texas-Austin.

Galbraith used the opening keynote lecture to contrast the "outlaws" with what Galbraith termed the "austerity lobby"—deficit hawks and fiscal conservatives focused on reducing the size and scope of government.

"We have an election that is, in symbolic terms, defining the issues for the country and in a very clear way," Galbraith said.

Galbraith dismissed concerns that the U.S. federal budget deficit and accumulating national debt represent a crisis that needs to be addressed as a legislative priority.

He cited historically low interest rates of 2-3 percent on long-term U.S. bonds and securities as evidence of this.

"If the United States was in danger of going bankrupt, you might not be able to market these at all, and the interest rates would be much higher," Galbraith said.

Unlike private households, business firms and state and local governments, which have a balanced budget constraint that prevents the ongoing accumulation of debt, the federal government issues its own currency and is not required to finance spending through taxes.

Galbraith said a solvency crisis, such as the one in Greece, won't happen in the U.S. any time soon.

"There is no operational constraint to stop the Treasury from running out of money," Galbraith said.

Galbraith also dismissed projections that the debt-to-GDP ratio will increase to 200-300 percent by 2050. He said such projections are an arbitrary forecast that assume GDP growth rates of 3 percent and that federal interest rates will increase to 4 percent.

"It's a complete artifice that does not withstand scrutiny," he said.

### Medicare, Social Security and job creation

Galbraith said Republican plans to cap Social Security and Medicare costs through a voucher system would hurt the economy, and that they represent a "targeted attack on the health status and finances of the elderly."

Galbraith also criticized Obama's "policy of cringing compromise," arguing the president should expand Social Security and Medicare rather than finding ways to cut costs.

"We aren't where we were in 1964 [the year before Medicare was enacted] when we knew what we needed to accomplish," Galbraith said.

Galbraith argued that Medicare helps create and sustain jobs in the health care industry, while improving the care of the elderly.

By eliminating the early retirement penalty for Social Security and allowing retirees to begin collecting checks at age 59, Galbraith said job openings would be created for younger generations while giving older adults a stable source of purchasing power.

He argued that the depletion of the Social Security trust fund could be easily fixed if Congress found another revenue source.

"That [the implementation of the trust fund] was a device to justify drastically cutting payroll taxes [in the 1980s]," Galbraith said.

Galbraith expressed skepticism that the private sector will create jobs. The digital revolution, he said, has made it easier for businesses to cut jobs.

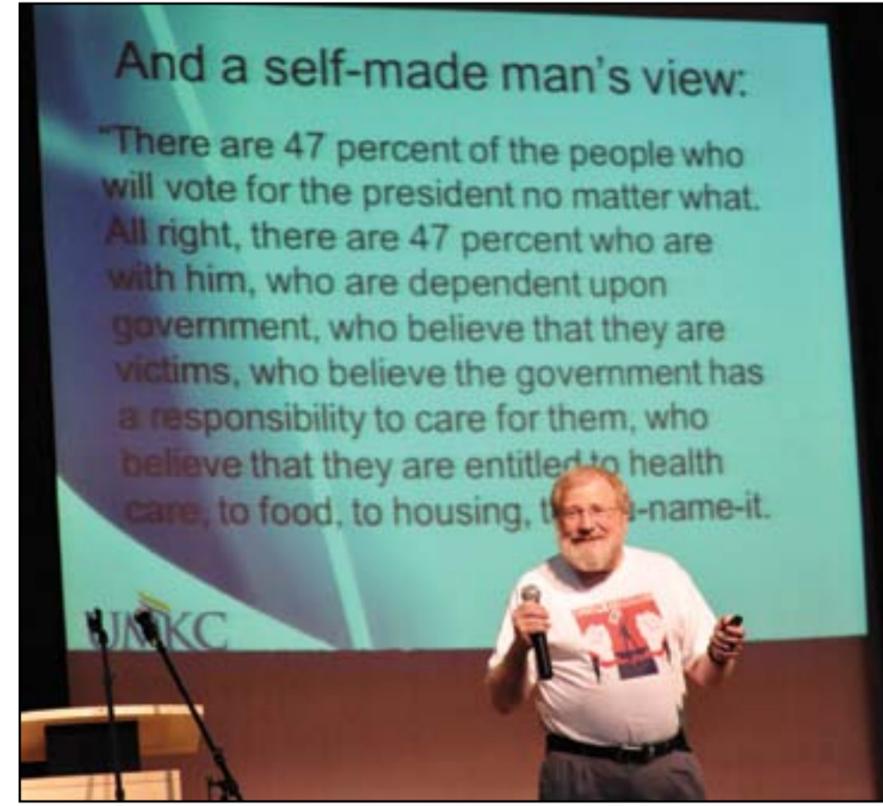
He pointed to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The employment-population ratio of those ages 16 and up has declined from 66 percent, shortly before the 2008 financial crisis, to the current ratio of 58 percent.

It will be up to the public and non-profit sectors to create jobs and reduce unemployment, Galbraith said.

Galbraith said he supports raising the minimum wage to \$12/hour, arguing that Sen. Tom Harkin's (D- Iowa) bill to raise the minimum wage to \$9.80/hour from the current level of \$7.25/hour is not sufficient.

He argued that a higher minimum wage would help equalize working conditions and stimulate consumption.

Continued on Page 5



Left, above: Graduate student Amr Gaber (left) and Jeremy Al-Haj are members of KC99, a local offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street protests. Al-Haj co-taught a workshop at the teach-in with Mike Enriquez about racism and economic inequality.

Left: Dr. James Galbraith, a distinguished professor at the University of Texas- Austin's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, delivered last Friday's opening keynote lecture.

Above: Dr. William Black, associate professor of economics and law at UMKC, denounced Mitt Romney's comments about the '47 percent.'

Photos by Nathan Zoschke

Fears that a higher minimum wage would result in job losses come from "labor market economists speaking from supply and demand models and not the real world," Galbraith said.

### Income inequality and the growth of the financial sector

Galbraith and other outlaw economists believe that under the Obama administration, the financial sector has become even more dysfunctional.

Galbraith said the Obama administration has done a poor job handling the foreclosure crisis. He argued that Obama's policy was to decentralize foreclosures, rather than provide relief for those who have lost their homes.

He said the policy of deregulation in the early 2000s created a massive market for securitized subprime mortgages that was destined to fail.

"When a system is fraudulent to the core, that creates a problem in the aftermath," Galbraith said.

Galbraith said that the government should shrink, simplify and overhaul the financial sector, with the purpose of serving the public good.

Black expanded Galbraith's criticisms of

the financial sector in the closing lecture, titled "How Banksters Broke the Economy."

Black said that while inflation-adjusted median household income is the lowest in 16 years, the top 0.01 percent of earners' share of income is the highest since before the Great Depression.

"It's the poor who get poorer in all of these circumstances," Black said.

Black said that instead of facilitating economic growth by putting money into productive investments, the financial sector has taken money out of the economy. Financial sector compensation has risen steadily since 1980.

Black argued that the political right overlooks economic inequality, because it believes inequality provides a profit incentive that leads to growth. Black argued this philosophy has led to the exploitation of the workers.

Black attacked the political philosophy of Mitt Romney's campaign, which he said portrays the working class as "lazy schlubs" who refuse to work and accept personal responsibility.

As evidence for this, he cited comments made by Romney at a private fundraiser, that the 47 percent of Americans who have no federal tax burden are dependent upon

government and see themselves as victims.

"It's not enough to leave them [the unemployed] without jobs," Black said. "They're abused, degraded and insulted."

Black said that while conservatives and libertarians have focused on fraud and abuse in the government sector, they have ignored the waste created by unemployment—loss of health care insurance, housing, dignity and depression.

"People who are looking for jobs want to work and take personal responsibility, and if they had jobs, they would pay more taxes," Black said. "The definition of unemployed is that [one is] trying to work."

### Support for the outlaws

The teach-in was sponsored by the Jobs Now! Coalition and several other progressive groups: the UMKC Economics Club, KC99, the Institute for Labor Studies, Move to Amend, College Democrats, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City and UAW Local 249.

Amr Gaber, a graduate student in the School of Computing and Engineering who attended the teach-in, said he has been a member of KC99 since last spring.

"I don't believe in the philosophy of Ayn Rand," he said. "I believe the point of our

lives is to work together, make a better world and build relationships with our community, not to secure your own personal wealth."

He said he enjoys organizing because it gives him an opportunity to talk to people "about the issues that matter to them."

"We have replaced our ability to be good citizens with a rote mastery of being obedient consumers," he said.

Communications studies senior Hannah Hayes has been a member of Jobs Now! since the group organized at UMKC last fall.

"We call for real jobs, good jobs, living wage jobs and environmentally sustainable jobs," she said when introducing Black.

Her father, Pat Hayes, is a member of UAW Local 249 at Ford's Claycomo Assembly Plant in the Northland. He taught a teach-in workshop titled "The Rise and Fall of the American Middle Class."

"Most of those guys up there—I grew up listening to them talk politics," she said, "so when they came to UMKC, I joined."

Jobs Now! meetings are held at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, and the location of the meetings can be found on the group's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/jobsnowkc/](http://www.facebook.com/jobsnowkc/).

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Sustainability Corner



# B.Y.O.B.

## (bring your own bag)

Johanna Poppel Production Manager

The staple quote of environmentalism is “reduce, reuse, recycle.”

Notice that “recycle” is last in this popular saying. Recycling supports the sustainability of our planet, but it is also important to reduce our usage of disposable materials and to reuse them as much as possible. Recycling still requires energy and emits harmful emissions into our atmosphere.

A growing trend in sustainability is the use of reusable shopping bags made of durable material such as cloth or thick plastic. These bags can be bought at many retail locations for 99 cents, and they are often given away for free, as promotional materials, around campus and in the community.

Plastic grocery bags are used because they are convenient and inexpensive. Americans throw away an estimated 380 billion plastic bags a year. According to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of plastics generated in the municipal waste stream has increased from less than 1 percent in 1960 to a current ratio of more than 12 percent.

There is a great importance in cutting down the production and disposal of plastic.

Plastic bags contaminate landfills, coasts and oceans. On a class visit to the Deffenbaugh landfill in Shawnee, Kan., I noticed that many plastic bags floated out of the landfill. Because of the light mass compared to the large surface area of plastic bags, wind tends to carry plastic bags out of landfills and into fences and the sides of highways.

It doesn't stop there. Plastic bags are notorious for littering waterways, parks, beaches and oceans. Thousands of marine animals are killed every year for mistaking plastic bags for food and ingesting them.

There are many other reasons why plastic bags are harmful for the environment. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable, so it takes about 400 years for them to decompose in a landfill. In addition, petroleum is required to produce plastic bags. Just 14 bags contain enough petroleum to drive a car a mile. Petroleum is a valued resource used for energy requirements, so why waste it on plastic bags?

Local grocery stores like Target, Hy-Vee and Price Chopper offer a five cent discount on groceries for each reusable bag.

When plastic bags are used to carry groceries, they can be used to hold trash, pick up after dogs or can be dropped off for recycling at various participating retail and grocery store fronts. However, plastic bags cannot be recycled through Kansas City's curbside recycling program.

The next time you are grocery shopping and are asked, “Paper or plastic?” say, “Neither. I have my own.”

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## SIFE: Continued from Page 4

Most can take up to 30 years to reach maturity, so if an investor waits until the bond reaches its highest value, savings bonds are not investments where investors can receive quick cash.

Savings bonds also do not lose interest even if the economy

changes because they are backed by the government (FDIC). Since savings bonds are one of the safest investments, it also means the return isn't as high.

One of the biggest benefits, however, is that bonds are free from local and state income tax.

These investments have varying investment times. Longer investment time provides for compounding of returns, providing a bigger return.

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**UMKC 2012 Career Expo**

Wednesday  
October 3, 2012  
10:00 am to 3 pm  
UMKC Swinney Recreation Center

Hosted by UMKC Career Services  
career.umkc.edu • careerservices@umkc.edu • 816-235-1636 • Student Success Center • 2nd Floor

Sponsors: Cerner Corporation, State Street, Hammark Cards, Kiewit Power, Navy Officer Program, Union Pacific, Axius Financial, Dayton Freight, RBC Medical Innovations, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Burns & McDonnell, Segal Inc., Hotwell, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Win Williams, Air National Guard.

## Abortion: Continued from Page 2

abortion, so they oppose bills requiring doctors from mentioning the option in emergency rooms even in cases of rape,” Carbone said.

“Indeed, Governor Romney vetoed a bill when he was Governor of Massachusetts that would have required emergency rooms to provide it for rape victims. A recent study, however, confirmed that it operates just like the birth control pill. That is, it prevents ovulation, but does not affect the likelihood that an embryo will be carried to term.”

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed a restrictive anti-abortion bill in May that allows pharmacists to refuse to dispense drugs they believe might cause an abortion.

Carbone stressed that emergency contraception is not an abortion pill, but only a large dose of levonorgestrel, a hormone used in birth control pills for more than 35 years.

“A new study now establishes that the morning after pill cannot prevent implantation,” Carbone said. “Instead, it has an effect similar to the birth control pill in preventing ovulation.”

Garza disagrees with this form of contraception and considers it an “abortion method.”

UMKC graduate student Dominic Nguyen is president of Roos for Life, an anti-abortion group at UMKC.

Nguyen is against all forms of abortion, including the morning after pill.

“It goes against the natural law,” he said. “Life begins at conception to natural death. Sonogram machines prove that fact.”

Carbone strongly disagrees.

“No one likes the idea of abortion, but it has been an indispensable component for those communities that have effectively held the line on the single parent pregnancy,” Carbone said.

“Conservative societies that have failed to make contraception available to young women tend to have higher abortion rates than those that encourage systematic contraceptive use.”

### The religious debate:

Carbone cited a statistic from the Guttmacher Institute, that 90 percent of the population has pre-marital sex, including Christians, who tend to delay initial sexual activity by an average of six months.

Of women obtaining abortions, 37 percent identify as Protestant and 28 percent as Catholic.

A devout Catholic, Nguyen believes this is a major issue for those in the religious community.

“If we didn't have so much pre-marital sex, abortion wouldn't be that big of a deal,” Nguyen said.

### The political debate:

“Single women like Obama because these

issues are extremely important,” Carbone said. “If only women voted, it would be a landslide for the Democrats.”

Both parties have a vested interest in the abortion debate. Carbone suggested the issue of rape has polarized the two parties.

“Issues like this energize the population and force us into such an extreme divide,” Carbone said.

Carbone mentions in her book, “Red Families versus Blue Families,” that blue, or Democratic, families believe abortion should be rare but available.

This belief was articulated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a June 2007 speech.

“We come to [the abortion] issue as men and women, young and old, some far beyond years when we have to worry about getting pregnant, others too young to remember what it was like in the days before Roe v. Wade,” Clinton said. “Our core beliefs and values can guide us in reaching our goal of keeping abortion safe, legal and rare into the next century.”

President Obama also advocates for abortion rights.

“As we mark the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we must remember that this Supreme Court decision not only protects a woman's health and reproductive freedom, but also affirms a broader principle: that government should not intrude on private family matters,” Obama said in a January 2012 speech. “I remain committed to protecting a woman's right to choose and this fundamental constitutional right.”

Mitt Romney's campaign website, [www.mittromney.com](http://www.mittromney.com), claims the candidate is “pro-life” and “believes that the right next step is for the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade.”

However, Romney previously supported abortion rights.

“I believe that abortion should be safe and legal in this country,” Romney said in a 1994 speech. “I have since the time that my mom took that position when she ran in 1970 as a U.S. Senate candidate. I believe we should sustain and support Roe v. Wade, and the right of a woman to make that choice. And my personal beliefs, like the personal beliefs of other people, should not be brought into a political campaign.”

Garza claimed that abortion for any reason carries severe consequences and should never be the solution to a problem.

“They tell you, it's a quick fix,” she said. “They say it will solve your problems and allow you to get on with your life.”

Garza expressed a similar standpoint on the election.

“The candidates' position on abortion are extremely important this election,” Garza said. “Our current president is the most pro-abortion candidate America has ever had in history.”

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TJ Ischcomer, from the International House of Prayer University, holds a placard outside of Durwood Stadium with a graphic photo of aborted fetuses, on Friday, Sept. 14. Photo by Meredith Shea

## Q&A: Continued from Page 3

– if any new signs are to be hung.

There are alumni today who were students when these conversations began. There are people in high school today who will be members of the student body when and if a new name, if there is one, really starts to become tangible.

So when I think of the “student body,” I think of a continuum that runs from prospective student, to current student, to alumnus. The opinions of the people in that continuum are very important, but I don't divide them into segments.

### Q. Did anything stand out from the name change forums?

A. The first is the obvious passion that people feel for this University, which I have seen from students, faculty and staff. Whether people support or oppose the

idea, they care deeply, and I am grateful for that. The other is that I need to work harder at making clear who we are trying to reach through this change.

Many people talk about the wonderful reputation our University has, under its current name, in the academic world. And they're right – the UMKC name commands respect in academia, thanks to the hard work and talent of our faculty and students. But to build undergraduate enrollment and philanthropic giving, we need to connect better with people who do not travel in academic circles – people who are unaware of that reputation.

And I'm not worried about losing any luster on the academic side, because it is the people who work in higher education who pay the closest attention to news in the field and are most likely to be aware of any changes we make.

# A look at student housing at UMKC

**Kharissa Forte** Copy Editor

Of about 9,000 UMKC undergraduate students, 1,430 live on campus in one of three buildings: Oak Street Residence Hall, Oak Place Apartments or Herman and Dorothy Johnson Residence Hall.

Kristen Abell, director of Residential Life, said each building serves a different student population with different needs.

"We have different staffing in each of the facilities based on the student population, and we provide different programming based on those populations, as well," she said. "Students living in the residence halls are required to purchase a meal plan, while students living in the apartments are not."

Oak Street, the oldest of the three, opened in August 2004. It houses approximately 550 students, most of who are in the first year of the six-year medical school program. Co-ed by suite, Oak Street Hall has a high-tech classroom and rooms for practicing music. The courtyard is a popular hangout spot for social gatherings, as is the basement lounge area.

"All of the wood makes Oak Street feel like a home," said senior Chelsea Scott, who has lived on campus all four years. "There are more people here, too."

Johnson Hall became the first LEED-certified building on campus when it opened in August 2009. Home to approximately 330 students, Johnson Hall is co-ed by wing instead of by suite. There is a study room, community kitchen and social lounge on each floor. There is also an outdoor sand volleyball court.

Oak Place Apartments opened in 2008, and were built and initially operated through a partnership between UMKC and a private developer. Oak Place has since been purchased by UMKC. With more than 500 students, Abell said Oak Place provides ideal living for upper-level students. Unlike residence hall suites, each apartment in Oak Place is complete with a private bathroom for each bedroom, a contemporary furnished living room, washer, dryer and fully equipped kitchen.

The first level of Oak Place contains retail

space. Tenants include Oak Place Nails and Pickleman's Gourmet Café. Oak Place also includes a parking garage linking the north and south wings, and its residents are given priority when purchasing permits.

"I like living in the apartments because it is more of an adult experience," said junior Tevin Moore, who works as a desk assistant at Johnson Hall.

Meal plans vary in price depending on where the student lives and how many students live in a unit. Students living in Oak Street or Johnson halls are required to purchase a plan. Meal plans cost anywhere from \$8,937 for a four-person double suite with 12 meals per week to \$10,734 for a single suite with 280 block meals per year.

Abell said there is not a shortage of on-campus housing, and that all students who were on a "waiting" list for a unit have been placed in an apartment or suite.

Abell listed the benefits of living on campus, including a 24-hour support staff, planned activities and jobs specific to students living on campus, such as a desk assistant or residential assistant (RA).

Britney Enochs serves as a desk assistant at both Oak Street and Johnson halls.

"I like this job because it's social, flexible and works around my schedule," Enochs said.

Abell said Residential Life will consider adding new housing options when there is enough demand.

"I think there's always the potential for us to add housing depending on the needs of our students," she said. "At this point, we have not had a lot of students express a need for family housing."

In addition to the three facilities managed by Residential Life, single family homes owned by UMKC in the Rockhill Crest neighborhood, bounded by Holmes Street, Troost Avenue, 51st and 55th streets, are managed through a contract with Cohen-Esrey. These houses lease between \$800/month for a basic 1,300 square foot two bedroom, one bathroom home, to \$1,500/month for a premium 1,500 square foot four bedroom, two bathroom unit.

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**Top:** Herman and Dorothy Johnson Residence Hall, completed in 2009, is one of two buildings on campus to receive LEED certification through the U.S. Green Building Council.

**Center:** The Oak Street Residence Hall, completed in 2004, is the oldest on campus and houses the most students.

**Bottom:** The Oak Place Apartments, built in 2008, offer premium living arrangements with a washer, dryer and fully-equipped kitchen in each unit. **Photos by Sai Srikr Kadiyam**

## Where students live at UMKC

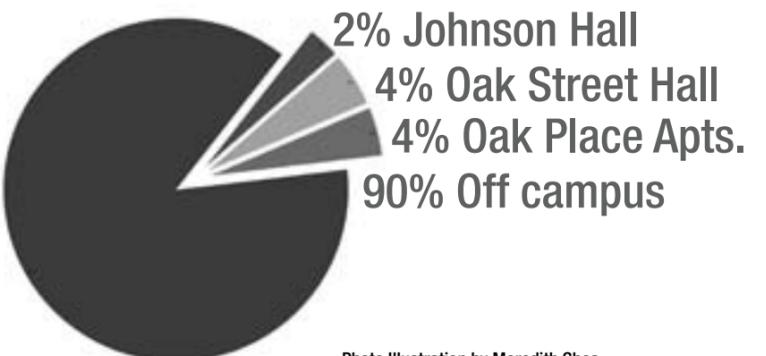


Photo Illustration by Meredith Shea

## Player profile

# From Barcelona to Kansas City Pro soccer brings couple to Sporting KC, UMKC

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

Oriol "Uri" Rosell moved from Barcelona to Kansas City two months ago for the chance to play for Sporting KC of Major League Soccer. However, Rosell, who was playing for FC Barcelona's B team, did not want to move without his girlfriend, Aina Santasusana. So she transferred to UMKC to study English.

Rosell majored in business in Spain, and also plans to attend UMKC.

"When my level of English improves, I want to keep studying business in the Bloch School," he said.

Both Santasusana and Rosell have quickly adapted to Kansas City.

"I didn't know I was going to like it so much here," Rosell said.

Santasusana realized that adapting to a new language, culture and lifestyle could be difficult, but doesn't regret making the big move.

"I miss my family and food, but at the same time I am happy we are growing together," she said.

Santasusana and Rosell initially experienced culture shock in Kansas City.

"In America, you need a car to go anywhere," Rosell said. "In Barcelona, you just get on the subway and that's it."

Rosell, a midfielder, scored the deciding goal for his new team in a 2-1 victory over Toronto FC on Sept. 1. Though he travels

frequently during the Major League Soccer season, Santasusana is accustomed to that.

"I know he is famous, but for me, he is my boyfriend and my best friend before being a soccer player," she said.

But balance between Santasusana's life as a UMKC student and her relationship with Rosell has been difficult.

"Time management is basic, especially when you are learning a new language," she said.

"It is a great place to study. I feel very comfortable and everyone has been so kind here, especially my teachers."

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Uri Rosell and Aina Santasusana are starting to feel at home in Kansas City. **Photo by Dan Moreno**

# Volleyball enjoys undefeated week in league matches



Emma Hagedorn winds up for a kill against Omaha. **Photo by Kynslie Otte**

## Kate Baxendale

Senior Staff Writer

The Roos' volleyball team won its second Summit Conference game in a week by defeating South Dakota 3-2 on Saturday night in Vermillion, S.D.

Senior Emily Lucas recorded a career-high 34 kills and, with 12 digs, posted her team-leading seventh double-double of the season.

Freshman Jessica Hendin totaled six kills and a career-high 17 digs, while freshman Nicole Wemhoff finished with career bests of 33 assists and 14 digs.

The advantage swung back and forth as the Roos took the opening set 25-15, then dropped the next two 27-25 and 25-21. They won the fourth set 25-20, forcing a fifth set.

The Roos opened up a 7-3 lead after back-to-back kills from Lucas and an ace from Hendin. But South Dakota took the next six points and led 9-7.

The Roos still trailed 13-12 when they took charge with a kill from Emma Hagedorn and an ace from freshman Taryn Miller. The Roos could not win match point just then, but finally ended the match with Lucas' last two kills for an 18-16 victory.

That victory came on the heels of a five-set victory over Omaha last Tuesday at Swinney Recreation Center.

The Roos won the first two sets with ease, 25-15 and 25-17, but the Mavericks stole the third 25-22. The Mavericks won set four 25-22, forcing a fifth set.

The Roos led 14-9 at match point, but lost momentum from

a delay due to a suspected UMKC illegal substitution. Omaha scored the next point, but the Roos sealed the victory 15-10 with a kill by Hendin.

Hagedorn totaled 12 kills, and has high hopes for the Roos.

"I expect us to do very well [in Summit League play]," she said. "We are a young group so we are excited when we are on the court."

The Roos now stand 11-7, including 4-2 in the Summit League.

"We are already so much better than last year," junior Chloe Jarema said. "Our new girls have learned a lot. We can only move forward from here."

The Roos will head north again to face South Dakota State on Friday at 7 p.m. in Brookings, S.D.

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# Women's soccer sees benefits of tough non-league games

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

Women's soccer had the same 3-5-3 non-conference record last year as the team has now. Head Coach Chris Cissell said that comparison is misleading, though, and does reflect this team's strength.

"Our girls are going to be battle-tested and really mentally strong," he said before opening the Summit League Conference season over the weekend.

His players backed up that opinion with a 1-0 victory over IUPUI on Sunday in Indianapolis. That left them 1-1 in the league and 4-6-3 overall.

Hunter Wagoner scored Sunday's lone goal, with the assist from Catherine Hawn.

The Roos faced such highly-rated non-conference teams as Oklahoma State and Tulsa, leading Cissell to say, "The record is the same [from last year], but the competition was not as good as this year's."

"We are all frustrated for the lack of wins and goals, but at the same time, this is good because if we were content with our record, I would be very concerned."

Balancing school with soccer has not been a huge problem for the players.

"Fortunately, the girls are not just great athletes, but also good students," Cissell said.

Sophomore Hannah Chadick said it is difficult to keep up with school and soccer at the same time.

"It is very complicated," she said. "You need to have perfect time management and do everything that is scheduled on time."

Hannah's twin sister Ellie Chadick is a teammate.

"We are best friends, we always support each other, and to have her here in the team really encourages me to do better," Hannah said.

Hannah has won the Offensive Player of the Week Award in the Summit League. While she said that has increased her motivation, she adds that the team's achievements are more important than individual awards.

"I work really hard, so winning the award was great," she said. "But I could not have won it without my teammates."

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# Part II: Kansas City organized crime Mafia & the Pendergast Machine

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

Riley Mortensen Senior Staff Writer

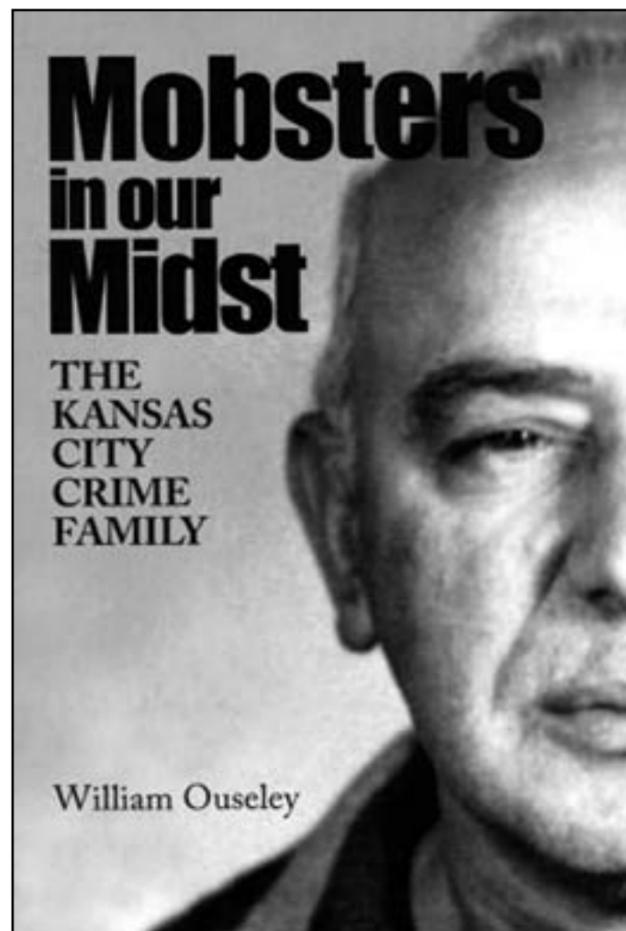
During the 1920s and 1930s, the U.S. experienced several events, such as the Great Depression and Prohibition, that shaped the country into what it is today. But these pivotal events were not the only changes seen in American culture. It took years to be exposed and addressed by law enforcement, but mobsters were invading many major cities. New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and many others were taken over by the "mafia," later known as "La Cosa Nostra," or "Our Thing." Organized crime spread across the country and became part of everyday life.

William Ouseley, a retired FBI agent, dealt directly with some of Kansas City's most notorious mobsters and has published two books about the history and events of Kansas City's organized crime. "The movies have you thinking they're killing left and right," he said about the mob's activities decades ago in Kansas City. "You have to understand that they run on a business basis. Their objective is to make money. Hurting law officers or prosecutors would be bad for business. They have rules and codes."

The Kansas City mob scene started in the 1900s when the gangster founding fathers took root in the historic North End. Gangsters were typically Sicilian, such as the DiGiovanni brothers, Joe "Scarface" DiGiovanni and "Sugarhouse" Pete DiGiovanni, who were key players in organized crime from its very start. There was also "Big Jim" Balistrere and Joe Lusco.

Because of Prohibition in the 1920s, the competitive main men of the North End came together and formed a single group, or "Outfit." Joe DiGiovanni received the nickname "Scarface" when he became disfigured from trying to burn down a warehouse during Prohibition. He denied his involvement and said he became disfigured from an accident with a gas lamp in his home.

Bosses came into power and were quickly replaced like



William Ouseley's book, "Mobsters in our Midst," details the rise and fall of Nick Civella and his powerful Mafia family. Photo courtesy of Google

clockwork. The "Big Five" were in command in the 1940s: Tony Gizzo, Charles Binaggio, Gaetano Lococo, Balistrere, and Charles Gargotta. In 1950, Binaggio and Gargotta were both killed in one fell swoop, so Gizzo emerged as the public face of Kansas City's mob.

After Gizzo's death in 1953, Nick Civella was said to have been in the running to replace him, but he had a lot of

hoops to jump through first, especially a long-standing opposition with Balistrere. It was never confirmed, but it is believed for a number of reasons that Balistrere was behind multiple murder attempts aimed toward Civella.

Ultimately, it was Joe Filardo, a founder and traditionalist of organized crime who emphasized honor and loyalty, who was responsible for getting Civella approved

through the right men. Upon seeing Civella's approval, Balistrere accepted Civella's rise to the head of the Kansas City family.

Civella became the public head of the family and the first boss to represent the Americanized version of the mob.

When Ouseley started on the team that headed the investigation of organized crime in Kansas City, the unit had only been around for a couple of years. Over the course of his work for the FBI, Ouseley came to know all about Nick Civella.

"He was a very interesting guy," Ouseley said of Civella. "Very intense. Didn't particularly like government or the FBI. As a person though, he was a very capable leader of the crime family. A competent boss. Very cunning."

One of the most historic mob incidents is the famous River Quay bombings. It began with businessman Marion Trozzolo, who had a plan to transform the rundown area north of the Missouri River into the next premiere district in Kansas City. Trozzolo envisioned the works: boutiques, restaurants, grocery stores, restaurants and galleries.

Seeing the area's potential, Fred Harvey Bonadonna, known as Freddy, was quick to stake his claim. The spot Freddy had his eye on wasn't available immediately, but after a turn of events, Bonadonna pitched his idea to Trozzolo, who gave Bonadonna and his brother, Tony Mike, the lot on the spot.

Not everyone saw the value the River Quay offered, especially the mob, but Freddy and Tony Mike fixed up their lot and their restaurant, Poor Freddie's, opened on Sept. 15, 1972. Freddy quickly became involved in everything with the River Quay, and the trouble that led up to the bombings revolved around who to let in and who to keep out.

During a trip to the Quay, Civella and Bonadonna struck up a conversation about how Poor Freddie's was doing. Bonadonna embellished his earnings. Through word of mouth, this story got back to Joe Cammisano and Paul "Paulie the Pig" Scola, who had previously made it clear to Bonadonna they thought the Quay was a waste of time and money.

Bonadonna feared the kind of business Scola would bring into the River Quay, and from more than hunch felt the Civellas were behind it. Scola was permitted to open a business in the River Quay, and on Oct. 17, 1973, Delaware Daddy's opened. A mirror image of Poor Freddie's, Delaware Daddy's stole away more than just business.

Things really started to heat up when Cammisano looked into getting his foot in the door. Bonadonna knew that Cammisano known for his prior businesses with exotic dancers, strippers and liquor, would try to turn the Quay into a red-light district. With every move Bonadonna made to keep Cammisano out, Cammisano grew angrier and from then on, crime escalated.

The topping on the crime-filled cake was in 1977, when an entire building with several bars inside was blown to pieces. Eventually, Bonadonna fled the area for a number of reasons, including fear, and only returned to testify against the mob and their activities. Joe Cammisano and Willie "The Rat" Cammisano were both found guilty for crimes linked to the Quay.

Sue Deering, a reference librarian for the Plaza Library, remembers the bombings "killing the area." Most steered clear because no one wanted to get involved.

"There was really nothing that could be done," Ouseley said. "It was over a period of five years and four people were murdered. We had to collect evidence and eventually we did."

During Ouseley's career in the FBI, and after with the criminals he encountered, he said he couldn't dub one as the most interesting. There were many types of mob bosses, each with his own style. In Chicago, they were known for being violent and all the bosses from the five families in New York were interesting in their sense of leading their families.

Mob-related crime has become dormant over the years, which Ouseley attributes to the principles and codes within organized crime diminishing. But the mob characters and myths from movies were alive and well in Kansas City.

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Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

## The man who ruled Kansas City politics

Cyrus Manian

Staff Writer

The Pendergast Machine could be described as one of the key allies of the Kansas City Mafia. Early in the 20th century, Jim Pendergast became the founder of the most powerful political machine in Missouri by forming alliances with his fellow Irishmen and other immigrants. With this political power, the Pendergast machine handpicked every key office in City Hall.

Jim Pendergast taught everything he knew about politics to his younger brother, Thomas J. Pendergast, who, after Jim's death in 1911, would be infamously known as "Boss Tom." He sought to control the Kansas City area and Jackson County.

The Pendergast brothers feared their rivalry in the Democratic Party with Joe Shannon would contribute to the Republicans' rise to power, and therefore chose to share the spoils of political power.

After Jim's death, Tom served on the city council for five years until stepping down in 1916. "Boss Tom" gave jobs to thousands and fed the poor. In return for his kindness

and generosity, his supporters voted his way on Election Day.

However, he purposely guaranteed that the police were underpaid so bribery could be used to leave the speakeasies, bars, and saloons alone.

The Pendergast machine was responsible for appointing Guy B. Park as governor in 1932 and was influential in the election of United States Senator Harry S. Truman in 1934.

The downfall of "Boss Tom" Pendergast began in 1936 when the *Kansas City Star* published an article providing precise evidence of illegal voter registration. While many were convicted, a non-political election board removed 60,000 illegal registrations.

In 1939, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Department of Treasury and some federal judges began investigating many of the county officials and other machine workers. In May 1939, Pendergast pled guilty to tax evasion of \$443,500 and was sentenced to 15 months in a federal penitentiary and fined \$10,000. Once released, he lived quietly in his home with a debt to the federal government of



Tom Pendergast.

Photo courtesy of Google

\$841,000. After "Boss Tom's" death in 1945, Vice President Harry S. Truman shocked many by being the only elected official at his funeral and controversially speaking of their friendship.

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# TATTOO

of the week



Photos by Kynslie Otte

## Herrera's ink symbolizes his love for dance and "the king of pop"

Kynslie Otte

Senior Staff Writer

Senior Seto Herrera's tattoo celebrates his love for "the king of pop" Michael Jackson, who he professionally impersonates during drag performances.

Herrera's first two tattoos were inked when he was 19. They are Aztec hieroglyphic symbols on both of his hips that represent movement, inspired by his love for dance and his Aztec ancestry.

His third tattoo is the silhouette of Michael Jackson on his foot.

"My MJ tattoo is especially significant because I love Michael Jackson, and I'm a professional MJ impersonator, so it's very dear to me," Herrera said.

All of Herrera's tattoos are inspired by his 19-year career in dance.

Herrera was inked by his friend Leah at Lucky Lady Tattoo in Westport. He did not specify the cost.

For Herrera, one of the most significant things about his tattoo experience was the pain he endured.

"It hurt like hell, but the entire time the owner of the tattoo parlor let me play my Michael Jackson on the store radio," he said. "It was really nice and calming to listen to MJ while I got him tattooed on me. It felt kind of relaxing and reassuring that I was doing this for my love of MJ."

Herrera said the Michael

Jackson tattoo on his foot was far more painful than his hip tattoos since the top of the foot is a sensitive area.

Herrera's tattoos have received positive reception from his friends.

"They know they are special and represent who I am," Herrera said. "Everyone goes wild for my MJ tattoo. It kind of proves just how much I really do love Michael Jackson, and how dedicated to him I am as an MJ impersonator."

Unfortunately, Herrera's parents did not share his friends' reaction. He tried to hide his tattoos from his parents, but was unsuccessful.

"My parents know about all my tattoos now, but they don't like them at all. They never wanted me to get tattoos," he said.

However, Herrera's parents are no longer vocal about their disapproval.

"They were really upset about my MJ tattoo because they had already told me no more tattoos after my Aztec ones, but they haven't really said anything to me since they found out," Herrera said.

Reactions aside, Herrera will always have a significant representation of one of his biggest inspirations.

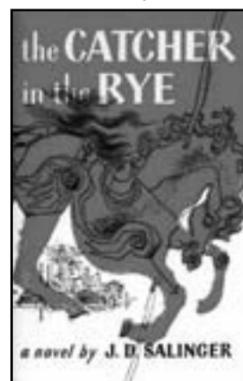
If you or someone you know has a tattoo of significance and would like to be featured in the "Tattoo of the Week" column, please contact me at [kpohd7@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:kpohd7@mail.umkc.edu).

[kotte@unews.com](mailto:kotte@unews.com)

# BANNED BOOKS

week

Famous banned books of the past



Images courtesy of Google

Roze Brooks

Senior Staff Writer

An author could write on this page and may have no idea what the means.

Frustrating, right?

A student doesn't have to be an English major to know of major literature titles that have received a place on the banned or challenged books list. High school and introductory literature course curriculum often requires students to read "Huckleberry Finn," which sent up a red flag for its excessive use of "the N word."

Inappropriate language, homosexuality, blasphemy and explicit content have been grounds for pieces of written work being denied entry onto library shelves, subject to burning and disdain. This has occurred since the creation of the notated story.

Banned Book Week is a national event held annually, typically on the last week of September. This year marks its 30th anniversary, held from Sept. 30 – Oct. 6. The purpose of this event is to promote awareness of free ideas and access. A communal attitude about all forms of writing professions emerges—librarians, journalists, authors and more stems from an overall opposition against the restriction of reading.

The reason these books receive less-than-appreciated responses typically stems from concern that students will get the "wrong idea" about things, learning about societal abstractions with which parents and teachers may not feel comfortable or agree.

The biggest qualm is a lack of protocol or clear-cut rules to

determine if a book or written work truly deserves to be rejected from circulation in schools and public libraries.

Several UMKC professors currently use text that has once been blacklisted as a banned or challenged book, using this history to further engage students in the merit of the literature. Not all challenged or banned works are books though. Dr. Michelle Boisseau's modern poetry class spends time analyzing the poem "Howl" written by Allen Ginsberg, for example.

Even certain translations of The Bible and The Qur'an have been banned due to belief that the transcription wasn't accurate.

Modern books that receive outstanding positive public reaction such as the Harry Potter series even have some skeptics. In a time where book burning should seemingly be placed far into the past, oppositionists in Michigan decided to burn J.K. Rowling's written manifestation of witchcraft and wizardry.

This censorship and discretion hasn't been forgotten in a time of easier accessibility to written material. According to its website, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OFI) doesn't make these decisions based on its own opinions. Reports are submitted from varying sources challenging written material based on content. The ALA doesn't condone indefinite censorship and strives to promote freedom to read and enable access to information.

The difference between challenging a book and banning a book is the stage in which a book resides. A challenged book is on the chopping block, having attention drawn to its alarming or concerning messages. A banned book has been rejected entirely. Challenged books typically don't hold as much permanence, lacking enough conviction on behalf of librarians, parents or administration to remove

Continued on Page 15

film review

## 'The Master:' a cult film unlikely to draw followers

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

The first 10 minutes truly make a film, and within those first scenes, the movie's eternal fate is decided. "The Master" was defined in the first 10 minutes as a beautiful piece of art and a masterpiece fit for acting glory. The first 10 minutes also prove confusing and meaningless while attempting to create life within the screen.

"The Master" opens with a breathtaking view of the ocean. The bright blue waves swirl back and forth, intertwining beautifully with the white ribbon of a ship. Cue a melody of powerful music that paces with the moving ocean, and the opening sequence sets the pace for the film with its strong cinematography.

The waves wash up on the shore, Freddy (Joaquin Phoenix) is seen sitting next to the water with his famous pout. From his opening dialogue, it was obvious Phoenix would give an Academy Award-worthy performance.

This opening sequence on the beach slowly alludes to the storyline involving Freddy's alcoholic and sexual tendencies, which

proves unnecessary to the story, but crucial for character development.

Still, the plot, centered around a cult, does not appear until 30 minutes into the film. The Master (Philip Seymour Hoffman) could be described as a charismatic but sickening old man running the cult, The Cause, which is said to be Scientology in disguise. The film depicts Freddy's relation to The Cause and his decision to finally break free.

Throughout the two-and-a-half-hour film, nothing really happens. The Cause is discussed in an unflattering way, and viewers may feel a strong desire to punch all the characters in their faces. None of the characters are particularly likeable.

The plot is surface-level and reveals little about the unknown cult society. Half of the scenes seem unnecessary, filmed only to receive the prominent R rating. For example, there is a musical number where all of the women perform naked – and these are not attractive women. There was sagging in all the wrong places. Phoenix is shown performing several actions better left for the imagination.

cult classic review

## 'But I'm a Cheerleader' endures as a romantic LGBT comedy

Kynslie Otte

Senior Staff Writer

Director Jamie Babbit's "But I'm a Cheerleader" is a hilarious 1999 cult romantic comedy that successfully satirizes the gay community, the social construction of gender roles, heteronormativity and the religious right.

The plot is centered on the life of Megan (Natasha Lyonne), who appears to be an all-American, heterosexual, Christian high school girl with a passion for cheerleading and a handsome boyfriend.

Even though Megan appears perfectly "normal" on the surface, her friends and family believe she is homosexual, and arrange an intervention.

During the intervention, Megan's friends and family offer hilariously stereotypical evidence to prove she is a lesbian.

Her mother points out how Megan's been eating tofu, her father showcases her Melissa Etheridge poster as "gay iconography," her best friend argues she only has pictures of women in her locker and her boyfriend whines that she doesn't even like to kiss him.

Using this evidence, Megan's parents send her to an expensive, reparative therapy camp called "True Directions," a program designed to "cure" homosexuals by re-establishing their gender identities and roles in society.

The camp is run by strict disciplinarian Mary Brown (Cathy Moriarty), and "ex-gay" Mike (RuPaul). When Megan arrives, she promptly meets Mary's son Rock, who

is supposedly heterosexual, and a group of misfit homosexuals who are trying to "cure" themselves with Mary's five-step program.

The first step in True Direction's rehabilitation process is admitting to being homosexual.

Megan initially denies her homosexuality and deems the stereotypes as illegitimate evidence. After a fellow member of True Directions points out how Megan may think it normal when she looks at other girls, she just "assumes everyone else is thinking the same thing."

Megan then realizes her homosexuality, and is deeply disturbed due to her religious upbringing.

The second step is for members to redefine gender identity by "finding your root," which is establishing what "turned" the campers gay in the first place.

After establishing everyone's root, the camp is divided by sex, so the men and women are forced to do stereotypical tasks related to their respective gender roles.

For example, the girls practice cleaning house and changing diapers while the boys learn to cut wood, fix cars and play football. The "root" discussion makes fun of many hilarious homosexual stereotypes.

The girls' roots to explain what turned them gay include, "I was born in France," "I went to an all-girls boarding school," "My mom got married in pants," etc. The boys' roots are "I played in my mom's pumps as a child," "too many locker room showers with

There is no denying the intense feelings derived from the acting. Every character performs flawlessly. Phoenix is guaranteed to receive an Academy Award nomination. Hoffman is also likely to receive a nomination. Amy Adams, who plays The Master's wife, once again showcases the versatility of her talent, flawlessly portraying a brainwashed woman.

Paul Thomas Anderson does an outstanding directing job, for the most part. Each shot showcases the beauty of his artistic mindset. However, some scenes seemed to be missing necessary characteristics, as he seemed to focus on the least important aspect of the shot. He seemed to be very fond of "blurry camera" shots, where the camera shows a character or object with clarity while the rest of the shot is out of focus. This technique could be viewed in an artistic way, but tends to be occasionally irritating since these shots commonly focus on the blurred background.

Overall, "The Master" is extremely well done with its performance and production value, but the script seems to drag on. Every



Photo courtesy of Google

aspect of the film could easily be summarized in a paragraph. Admittedly, this is a film full of intrinsic value, which may not be easily noticed, so those who may not be top-notch film connoisseurs may not appreciate the quality of filmmaking. Even as someone who had a couple dozen film classes, I found myself bored throughout the majority of the film. Yes, "The Master" features high quality filmmaking techniques, but doesn't quite cut it when it comes to entertainment value.

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Photo courtesy of Google

For example, every room, piece of clothing and object the girls use are bright pink and often look fake and/or plastic. The same applies for the boys, except everything is bright blue.

"But I'm a Cheerleader" was not well received by critics, who claimed Babbit tried too hard to imitate John Waters with her colorful sets and overtly artificial scenery.

Babbit stated that Waters was one of her biggest influences, though she was not aiming for the same "bite" as a Waters film.

Regardless of critical reception, the film quickly gained a cult following and has become one of the most popular LGBT romantic comedies in America. For those who can appreciate the satirical dissection of stereotypes related to gender and sexuality, "But I'm a Cheerleader" is an absolute must-see.

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# St. Louis vs. Kansas City

Roze Brooks

Senior Staff Writer

Transitioning from one major Missouri city to another wasn't strenuous. Learning how to adapt to what Kansas City has to offer after spending 20 years in Saint Louis was a harder task. It's been a year since trading in the Gateway to the West for the City of Fountains, but so far it hasn't been a regretful decision. Hometown still holds a special place, but exploring the artistic tropes KC has to offer has been rewarding.



The St. Louis Gateway Arch facing East towards the Missouri River.

Photo by Johanna Poppel

## St. Louis: Continued from page 14

### Entertainment

Sporting events probably make up the highest percentage of entertainment outlets in Saint Louis, prompting bars, restaurants and other recreational outlets to choose locations immediately surrounding the three major arenas downtown.

However, there are far more things to do than stop in for a drink to watch the Cards vanquish each season.

The Delmar Loop is a six-block entertainment and shopping district, with numerous restaurants and bars. Fitz's, famous for premium root beer, displays the brewing and bottling machines behind glass windows while guests eat.

There are two concert venues along this stretch, both offering a more intimate musical experience due to smaller seating and standing room space. Ciscero's doubles as a restaurant and has gained a reputation for staging local up-and-coming bands. The Pageant, my personal favorite in the entire city, headlines bigger bands and comedians.

City Museum is unlike any other attraction and difficult to describe. Imagine the joy of a Chuck E. Cheese at age 6, but for adults.

Three stories of tunnels, mirrors, vaults, caves, slides and endless other oddities for guests to climb, crawl and explore draw in huge crowds each weekend. Outside, an industrial pseudo-playground called Monstrosity towers over the edge of the parking lot. The roof nests a Ferris Wheel guests can ride for an additional charge.

I once took a roommate from Holland to Saint Louis for a weekend and this was her favorite part of the trip.

Kansas City speaks to my more artistic inclinations. The Crossroads' First Fridays event is a pleasurable experience. I've yet to attend any concerts at the numerous venues, but have been pleased with band names on the upcoming shows lists. The Plaza movie theater was a sigh of relief, charging only \$6 whereas back home, the cost is \$10.

Westport and the Power and Light District have been huge draws since I turned 21 and always offer a pleasing experience.

The concerts and large-scale events held in the center of Power and Light don't disappoint and also

offer a more personal musical encounter. This summer I was able to see pop-band Karmin and Dreamgirls' Jennifer Holiday back to back at the same event.

### Attractions

After baseball, The Arch is the main identifier of Saint Louis. The small elevators to the top are worth the impressive view of the city. However, most residents don't opt to go to The Arch when looking for something to do. Tourists are more enthused.

The Saint Louis Zoo is one of my favorite parts of the city. For starters, it's free. Renovations have been made over the past few years to bring new exhibits and renew older ones.

This summer, it opened a sea lion observation tunnel, allowing guests to walk underneath the water and view the animals. Each exhibit is sectioned off into regions where certain clusters of species came from. For example, River's Edge houses two breeds of elephants, hippos, mongooses and others.

Neighboring the zoo, The Muni is an outdoor theater venue, featuring musical theater performances while on tour. The other featured theater is The Fabulous Fox Theatre, which not only programs for Broadway musicals, but concerts as well. One year I was in the 10th row to see Lady Gaga, and the next year I was in front row balcony viewing "Wicked."

Kansas City doesn't foster as big an attraction as The Arch, but the Liberty Memorial is hard to miss when venturing downtown.

The Kauffman Center is a beautiful building inside and out. Not only have I attended shows there, but I was fortunate enough to perform on the Helzberg Hall stage in spring 2012 with the UMKC concert choir, an experience I wouldn't have been afforded anywhere else.

Moving to Kansas City was a refreshing opportunity to experience new things and reshape my lifestyle. I've made friendships with incredible people, some of who also came from Saint Louis. Through networking, I've earned a reputation as a leader, aspiring reporter and a writer. I envision continuance in Kansas City even past the time of my graduation, but am comforted to know I will always be able to call Saint Louis "home."

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## Banned books week: Continued from Page 12

the item. According to research by the ALA, parents are the most prone to express issues with written work.

The OFI cites three major reasons that books have been challenged:

- The material was considered to be "sexually explicit"
- The material contained "offensive language"
- The material was "unsuited to any age group"

The irony of these claims from offended outside voices are that most challenges come from the intent to protect children from controversial subject matters. UMKC and the surrounding community are observing Banned Books week in various ways.

Miller Nichols Library currently displays a selection of books that have been banned or challenged, including information on censorship on its first floor. Kicking off the awareness week early, it hosted a panel

discussion and read-out on Tuesday, Sept. 28. Featured works included "To Kill a Mockingbird," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Bastard Out of Carolina" and "Fahrenheit 451."

The KC Plaza Library also launched with a discussion event on Wednesday, Sept. 30, prompting participants to bring banned or challenged books and review the reasons they had received those labels.

Sigma Tau Delta, UMKC's Nu Theta chapter of the International English Honor Society, will be present on campus sporadically through the first week of October, dressing up as characters from recognizable banned or challenged books and reading excerpts. Tabling will take place in the Student Union and Royall Hall.

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### Entertainment

Sporting events probably make up the highest percentage of entertainment outlets in Saint Louis, prompting bars, restaurants and other recreational outlets to choose locations immediately surrounding

Continued on page 15

### Public Transportation

Downtown Saint Louis prospers with greater access to a variety of transportation options. The Metro serves as an inexpensive means of maneuvering to several larger areas in the metropolitan area.

The suburban areas are prone to using cars, but buses offer connected routes from county to city.

Union Station provides an Amtrak link as well as scheduled pick-up and drop-off points for Mega Bus and Greyhound charter bus services. This fully functional facility doubles as a shopping center and nightlife hotspot.

Kansas City has well-established public transportation, also having a fully functional Union Station and a stop for Amtrak. The convenience of the Main Street Max bus transit line is hard to ignore, especially with the built-in bus fare on my student ID. I don't exercise my options as often as I probably should, but I appreciate the possibilities.

### Sports

Saint Louis proudly houses three professional teams. When lockouts aren't affecting the NHL, the Saint Louis Blues entertain on the ice at Chaifetz Arena downtown. Snugly placed in the city's prime convention area, the Edward Jones Dome hosts NFL games for the Rams.

However, the most notable sports spectacle has many residents saying "We're a drinking town, with a baseball problem." With unexpected triumph in the 2011 World Series, the "11 in '11" title quickly turned the Greater Saint Louis area into "Cardinal Nation."

Long-term and fair-weather fans alike even adopted a squirrel as the mascot for the surprising trudge from being 10 games out of the wildcard slot to winning the whole thing.

Kaufmann stadium serves as a good marker for when I'm nearly back from a weekend trip home, but I know I will never sport the blue colors. I would happily attend a game since I enjoy watching baseball, but would likely choose red and white attire.

### Beer

Saint Louis is famous for its Anheuser Busch-brewed products. The brewery, located near downtown, offers free daily tours of the entire manufacturing process, including complimentary draft samples at the end of each visit.

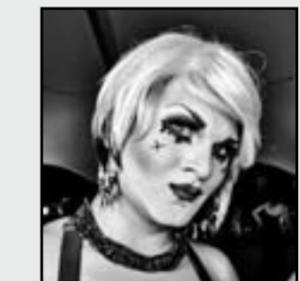
Heritage Festival is held annually during the summer, displaying 80 different beers from different local hand-crafted breweries, providing participants with a customized quarter pint glass and conveniently located within earshot of Busch Stadium.

Budweiser is even available overseas in English pubs.

Boulevard Brewery has satisfied my taste buds countless times over the past year, offering a fuller, refreshing taste in comparison to the AB I'd come to know and love. I wouldn't say I now prefer one over the other, but appreciate that I have even more options for my drinking endeavors.

## Ask Phoenix

Phoenix Rishon  
Columnist



Dear Phoenix,  
My parents just got their own Facebook accounts and now they want to be my friends. I am worried they may not approve of the things they see on my profile. Should I accept them?

Dear rebellious offspring,

Parents joining the Facebook community may seem like a nightmare, but it doesn't have to be. All parents are different. You can have a mom resembling Amy Poehler's "cool mom" from "Mean Girls," or you can have a mom like Piper Laurie's maternal character in "Carrie." Either way, most parents just want the best for their children, but their methods may not always be ideal.

Have a discussion with your parents about acting as your "friend" on Facebook and not as your parent. Parents are infamous for being embarrassing, and no one wants to be embarrassed on Facebook.

It is right for them to be worried about some of the information and pictures on your profile. If you do not want your parents to see, you probably do not want your prospective employers to see either. In this era, employers jump to the Internet to see who they are truly hiring. Although it may be fun to post about your rebellious adventures, be careful about putting some information on the web. There is no such thing as privacy on the Internet anymore.

You can attempt to change your privacy settings and limit what other people see, but the best way to keep your integrity and reputation is to simply not post socially controversial data. Accept your parents' friend requests, but talk to them about it. Most parents do not have the technological skills or time to even pay attention to immature posts. They raised you for a couple decades; the least you can do for them is be their friend on Facebook.

Dear Phoenix,  
What are some basic, daily makeup tips I can utilize?

Daily makeup has one goal: perfect one's face without revealing the use of any cosmetics. Daily makeup is used to cover any blemishes and accentuate certain features. This being said, do not cake on makeup or you will end up looking like a drag queen. While my makeup is absolutely flawless, my cosmetic gender alteration is impractical for daily

usage.

Apply foundation to even the skin tone and cover any blemishes. If you are using any liquid or cream foundations, remember to apply them before using any powders. Once your face no longer resembles a pepperoni pizza, lightly apply some blush to accentuate those fabulous cheekbones.

Accentuate the eyes with mascara and eye shadow. If you are going for a subtle look, like most, do not use a bright blue eye shadow. There are several techniques for varying eye colors and skin tones. The general rule of thumb is to highlight the eyelid and underneath the eyebrow while subtly contouring (or darkening) the crease of your eyelid.

There are several tips and tricks to makeup. You must always remember that makeup does not create beauty. You are naturally beautiful, but if you wish to change your look to match your outfits, cosmetics can provide this luxury.

Hope this helps!  
Toodles for now,

Phoenix Rishon

Questions can be submitted by email to prishon@unews.com

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.

# Nelson-Atkins offers aesthetic fall exhibits

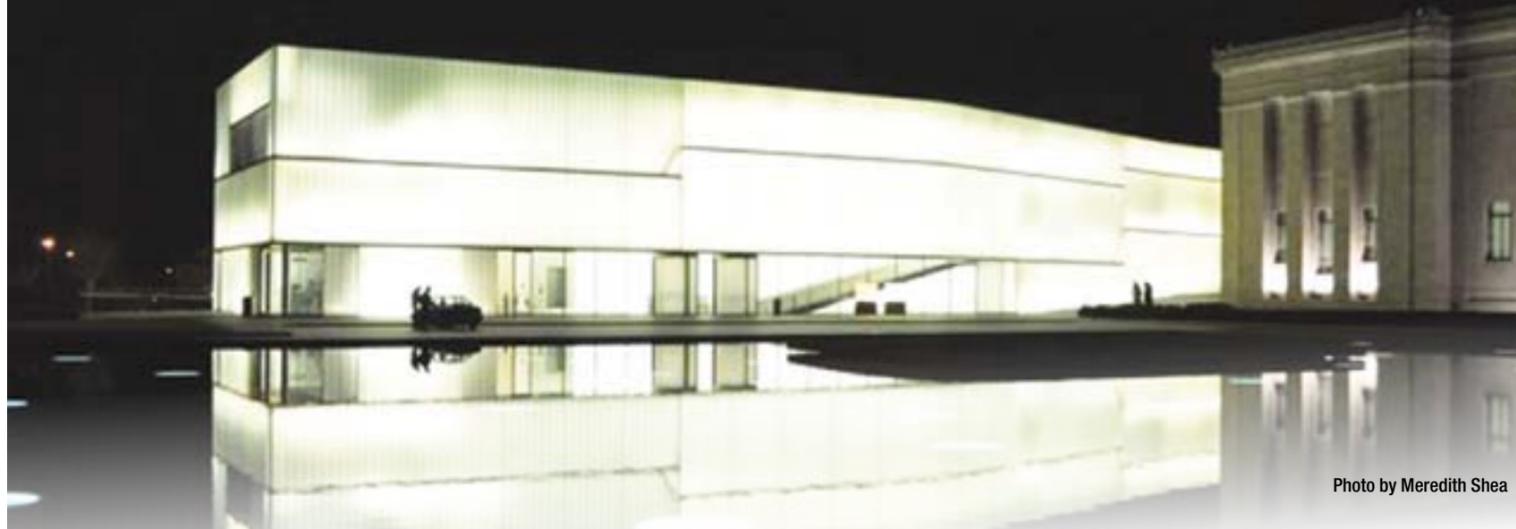


Photo by Meredith Shea

Riley Mortensen Senior Staff Writer

Patrons are drawn to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art with the thrill of finding new exhibits, including its current featured exhibitions: "Faces of China's Past," "Bonjour Picasso," "Cabinet of Curiosities" and "Ives Maes: The Future of Yesterday." The upcoming exhibit "Photographs of Terry Evans" opens Oct. 20.

"Terry shoots many aerials and lush visions of the prairie," said Kathleen Leighton, the Nelson's communications and media relations officer. "She also photographs urban settings such as Chicago."

The first exhibition to catch would be "Ives Maes: The Future of Yesterday," on display until late October. Maes'

exhibition is not part of the World's Fair exhibition, but it offers a different perspective with its concentration on the architectural remains of the World's Fair through photography. Following Maes, Leighton said there will be a huge sculptural piece by the artist El Anatsui.

"Bonjour Picasso" can be best explained by the Picasso quote on the wall near the exhibit: "For those of you who know how to read, I have painted my biography." This exhibition allows patrons to step in to the life of Picasso during his time at his villa, La Californie, in southern France, where he lived from 1955 to 1961. The exhibition's display of prints, photographs and drawings depict his life. Leighton said "Bonjour Picasso" has been extremely popular.

"Cabinet of Curiosities" is an exhibition

featuring photography and specimens of what the brochure calls, "The unusual, unexpected, exotic, the extraordinary or rare." From present day dating back to the 1850s, "Cabinet of Curiosities" gives relevance and meaning to scientific specimens of all kinds, from snowflakes to the first steam-powered mechanical man.

Leighton said "Cabinets of Curiosities" was the exhibition with the most potential to attract college-aged students.

"There's a photo of a soldier showing off his gunshot wound, one of a man standing at a table with a pile of skulls and a microscopic blow-up of a crab louse," Leighton said. "Very unusual subjects, and college students would find it both fascinating and creepy."

The Nelson also features a number

of exhibitions which are collaborative efforts, like "Faces of China's Past." In collaboration with the History of Art Department for the University of Kansas and the Spencer Museum of Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum proudly welcomed this presentation. Although some of the exhibition's paintings feature imagined or real subjects, not much is known about the whereabouts or names of the artists. However, with every face, there's a story.

Leighton revealed that future exhibitions at the Nelson-Atkins will feature modern work by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, as well as other modern art from Mexico. The Nelson-Atkins team is also planning an exhibition of French landscape paintings.

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Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

## Musica Nova

The Conservatory hosted the year's first Musica Nova concert under the direction of Zhou Long on Sept. 27 at White Recital Hall, featuring musical performances by the Conservatory's composition faculty.

The event included works and performances by James Mobberley, Mara Gibson and Long, among others. Musica Nova performances have often mixed electronic noises with traditional sounds such as brass and strings, which promises an intriguing and distinctive concert.

album review

## Mumford & Sons Offers chilling sophomore release

Meredith Shea Production Manager

Mumford & Sons, a four-piece band from London, exposes its soul and reaches a new level of vulnerability in "Babel," exceeding expectations for the band's sophomore release. The authenticity and genuineness is exactly what the American music scene has craved since Mumford & Sons' 2010 debut album, "Sigh No More."

Lead singer Marcus Mumford continues to grip listeners' souls with his gritty vocals in every song, creating a chilling effect. The lyrics are beautifully crafted and reveal the depth of a hauntingly personal relationship. In "I Will Wait," Mumford sings, "But I'll kneel down, wait for now, I'll kneel down, know my ground." In "Ghosts That We Knew," Mumford sings, "But you saw no

fault, no cracks in my heart, and you knelt beside my hope torn apart, but the ghosts that we knew will flicker from you, and we'll live a long life."

But there's more to the band than Mumford alone. Like songs on the album "Sigh No More," the band attacks its new hit single, "I Will Wait," with a four-piece harmony, a characteristic that makes it interesting. If Mumford's solo voice isn't good enough as is, the four-piece harmony is sure to send shivers down listeners' spines.

Mumford & Sons, along with The Avett Brothers, and more recently, Trampled By Turtles, brings back the popularity of instruments like the mandolin and banjo. The instruments' interesting sounds are traditionally found in bluegrass, but Mumford & Sons especially manages to transform the old sound into a riveting

combination of folk, alternative rock and tenacity.

Mumford & Sons' precision demands attention and respect. The band weaves through a maze of songs that are fast and slow, major, minor, relaxed and aggressive, and is not afraid to wear its heart on its sleeve.

In "Broken Crown," Mumford reveals inner turmoil. A decaying relationship is brought to life, perhaps revealing the story behind Mumford's 2010 breakup with girlfriend Laura Marling. Either way, "Broken Crown" exposes a hurt that "Sigh No More" failed to embody so gravely. The song starts cooking from the first few words: "Touch my mouth and hold my tongue, I'll never be your chosen one." It then escalates into a high-speed chase with Mumford's iconic near-scream singing.



Photo courtesy of Google

Mumford & Sons is sure to attract old and new fans alike with this genius collection. "Babel" will certainly be at the top of the Billboard charts for weeks to come.

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book review

## Non-fiction takes the spotlight English department brings authors to campus

Roze Brooks

Copy Editor

Non-fiction writing is often overshadowed by popular fiction works about vampires, bondage or other fantastical elements. UMKC's English Department gave non-fiction the spotlight by hosting a written-work reading Sept. 19, featuring non-fiction authors Steve Paul and Dr. Steven Church.

English professor Christie Hodgen introduced the authors, holding each in high regard. Paul, a *Kansas City Star* senior writer, editor and book and restaurant critic, has long been in the journalism industry, often implementing his personal experiences on the job into his non-fiction material. His most recent published book, "Architecture A to Z," originated as a magazine feature, and has drawn much attention to the interesting aspects of Kansas City.

His selections for the event included a variety of pieces, plucked from 24 feet of file drawers

of his own archives. Paul used this as an opportunity to dig out some old favorites.

His first piece was filled with anecdotes of literary New York in the '90s, where Paul attended a series of events for up-and-coming authors with book critics ready to praise them or haze them. Paul narrated several interactions with authors, most of whose books he hadn't read, and encounters where he commiserated with fellow journalists about shrinking space and privileged invitations to top-tier events to which he usually wasn't invited. Ultimately, the fuss of authors praising their own work, calling their pieces "timeless," averts Paul's enthusiasm. He is glad his night ends with spinach pizza rather than a hoity-toity dinner in the "constellation of a city in love with itself."

Paul followed with an interesting piece about a Lewis and Clark bicentennial feature, spending 10 days traveling the historical trail. Paul narrated how he was intrigued by a small bookstore, a "Barnes and Noble squeezed in a corner grocery," and the debate

among his fellow travelers whether or not to enter a lumberjack bar with chainsaws hanging from the ceiling.

With a somber tone, Paul relayed a written pseudo-eulogy for his step nephew-in-law, Adam, describing the unfortunate circumstances of the mother finding her son's body and an ethereal photo of him found after the funeral.

Not wanting to end on a negative note, Paul presented one more piece which manifested by sheer accident. Heading to a friend's bookstore in the Crossroads, Paul unintentionally switched into work mode as he encountered an eccentric street performer. This punky, barefoot female sang about death, nature and Wal Mart, which epitomized a political folk-sing that Paul wasn't sure still existed. His final exclamation at the end: "Hallelujah, she's a bum!"

Steve Paul will be presenting an addition reading on Oct. 2 at Central Library. The event is called Kansas City Noir, featuring Paul as well as Catherine Browder, Matthew Eck and Andres Rodriguez as they share stories

about the "seedy underbelly" of Kansas City.

Church, associate professor at California State University, Fresno and co-founder of *The Normal School* literary magazine, focuses on details that many writers and readers never take the time to notice. Church's latest book is "The Day After the Day After Tomorrow: My Anatomic Angst," focusing on father-son relationships.

The first piece Church read delved into a comedic experience involving his own son in Rhode Island. Constant inclement weather prompted Church's family to continually search for new indoor activities. This particular instance placed him at the shopping mall, crawling through a cancer awareness attraction called Coco the Colossal Colon.

Using statistics from the American Cancer Society in his narration, Church pinpointed the introspection of his own risk for cancer, and he thrived on the unconventional educational mark left on his son.

His essay "Osculation" focused

on short scenes involving the syncopation of heartbeats. This included the melancholy of coal miners buried alive. Church continued by discussing a stethoscope's symbolism, stating that people immediately identify a doctor by this inanimate object. This tool also confirms new life, accompanied by a sonogram, allowing fathers to hear a child's heartbeat for the first time.

Church spoke about his literary magazine after enthusiastically delivering his thought-provoking works. During his post-MFA years, Church collaborated with a group of friends to create a writing group, which later decided to create a low-cost literary publication.

Church values this project, which contains a large spectrum of written work ranging from text from Ebay auctions on odd items to Google maps essays. He views it as a strong educational tool for his students, empowering them to make hands on decisions about quality work.

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

# Politician or celebrity?

**Elizabeth Golden**  
Managing Editor

Politicians are everywhere these days, from magazine covers to television shows about their lives.

This is problematic when so many people get political information from Saturday Night Live or other comedic news forms. Once in a while, politicians even go so far to guest star on SNL.

"The Race for the White House" is the best reality show on TV," writes Max Robins, vice president at the Paley Center for Media. "Despite the flowering of a zillion voices — good, bad and ugly — we are getting informed and entertained this election season."

Most recently, social media has become an

extremely large part of celebritizing American elections.

According to a Pew Research Center poll, roughly 22 percent of Americans use social networking sites for campaign updates.

These updates will most likely come from biased friends as opposed to legitimate news sources. Certain politicians even go so far as to give speeches through Facebook, which has more than 152 million American users.

Barack Obama changed the face of politics in the 2008 elections. He gave speeches online, raised funding online and kept his humble followers updated. The Campaign Finance Institute reported Obama raised more than \$5 million

through social media, and \$80 million overall through online donations.

The GOP hasn't quite figured out the whole social media concept. According to the Pew survey, Democrats are 10 percent more likely to use online sources for campaigning.

This is probably an attempt to engage younger voters, who typically favor Democratic candidates.

The 2008 election showed the third highest turnout of young voters in history, and 2012 could also be a very important year.

Facebook reports that 96 percent of college students use the social networking site on a regular basis, so appealing to voters this way sounds like a good idea, right?

Why hasn't the

Republican Party made the transition online instead of appealing only to voters who already plan on voting for Mitt Romney?

When it comes to celebrity status, both parties have been guilty of provoking the audience.

At his first press conference, Obama was asked what breed of dog he was looking to acquire, and the "first dog" then went on to make front-page news.

In 2008, John McCain criticized Obama for his wannabe celebrity status, but then embraced Sarah Palin for all of her attention-getting ideas.

Many viewers don't care if she's qualified to run the country in case of an emergency, says Tucker Carlson, a campaign correspondent for MSNBC.

"The American people aren't in the market for the most qualified person. They want to be inspired and entertained," Carlson said on the cable network's Hardball show.

According to presidential historian Douglas Brinkley of Rice University, this is not a new phenomenon. Treating politicians as celebrities goes as far back as Theodore Roosevelt.

Recently, Romney has stayed out of the celebrity spotlight more than Obama.

Michelle Obama read the Top 10 List on the David Letterman show, the President recently gave "redditors" 30 minutes to ask any question they chose, and shockingly, most questions weren't even related to the election. Instead, the White House beer recipe



Elizabeth Golden

has invaded all Internet news sources, claiming importance.

This isn't about picking sides. It's about the positive and negative relationship between celebrity status and social media. Social media use and celebrity status is definitely linked, and Americans should not replace real research about the issues with information garnered from social media.

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# It's never too late to live on campus

**Meredith Shea**  
Production Manager

I have lived both on and off campus over the last four years. Living on campus is one of the best decisions undergraduate students can make. It offers convenience to classes, enhances social lives and pushes students to be more involved on campus than they would be otherwise.

In 2010, I transferred to UMKC as a sophomore from Ohio University. I didn't know any other students who went to UMKC, and I did myself a disservice by living off campus. It disconnected me from my new college.

In Ohio, I was required to

live on campus my freshman year. I was forced to live with people I had never met, and it taught me a lot about the kind of person I am.

I don't believe living on campus should be a requirement at UMKC because so many students are from the metro area and save money by living at home, but I certainly think it helps freshmen with their transition into decision-making and adulthood.

Where else are you going to have to make a decision between staying up until 3 a.m. on a Monday playing to Apples-to-Apples with your suite mates when you know you should be writing a 10-page history paper due the

next day?

In residential halls, students are able to practice decision-making skills that will help them after they graduate and enter "the real world." Living off campus, a newbie to Kansas City with no friends, no job and pretty much no life, just plain sucks.

I eventually made a solid group of friends thanks to the tight-knit theater community at UMKC, but had to spend a lonely couple of weeks in my apartment by myself wondering if it would be like that the entire year. I even spent my 20th birthday by myself.

Had I lived on campus from day one, my transition into a new college would

have been much easier. I would have been forced to integrate with people I had never met before, had easier access to study groups and probably a higher GPA that year.

The UMKC student handbook states that, on average, students who live on campus have half a letter grade higher GPA than students who do not. This alone should be incentive for new and returning students to live on campus.

In addition, UMKC has really nice residential living options compared to other colleges, like Ohio, which have residential housing that hasn't been renovated for decades.

The cost of living in a residential building on Oak Street may be expensive for students, but with that expense comes convenience, security and an abundance of resources right at your fingertips.

If the cost of living directly on campus is too high, students should take advantage of the UMKC houses for rent right off campus.

These houses offer more independent and affordable living options, and allow students to still have easy access to campus activities within walking distance.

Whether it was out of laziness or an overall feeling of discontent keeping up



Meredith Shea

with bills and rent, I chose to live on campus my senior year.

My classes, job and apartment are all within easy walking distance of each other, and I love it. My study habits are better this year because I am surrounded by students at all times.

I am glad I made the right decision.

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# UMKC unfriendly to transfer students

**Tyren Rushing**  
Staff Writer

As I prepare to graduate from UMKC in December, I can truly state that I have never felt like a true Kangaroo or that I'm so hardcore in love with this school that I bleed blue and gold. I'm not sure if that stems from me being a transfer student, a commuter student, an avid hater of the University of Missouri portion of our name or some combination of all three.

I do truly think that the transfer factor has something to do with it. I didn't transfer to UMKC because I was so enthralled

with the course offerings. I came here because it was the most convenient option and somewhat reasonably priced, or so I thought.

I came to UMKC with about 60 credits from my previous college. UMKC only accepted 46 of them. The credits which were declined were crucial, so instead of being a junior on track for a 2010 graduation, I was a sophomore who was forced spend thousands of dollars on courses I had already passed.

Unfortunately for me, those courses weren't considered "junior/senior level," and therefore were unacceptable.

Needless to say, I wasn't a happy camper, and I am not

the only student who was put off by UMKC's transfer protocols. Senior Allison Nehls is graduating in May and is on her second stint as a transfer student at UMKC.

"The hardest part for me about transferring was trying to transfer my credits," Nehls said. "UMKC didn't accept my literature credits so I have to petition that. Also, I'm not sure if they are going to count the internships I already did, or if I'll have to do another. I'm still working on finding that out. I don't understand why they are that picky about credits."

Unfortunately, I have heard countless versions of our stories from numerous other transfer students.

It makes one wonder if UMKC is more concerned about making money from students than educating them.

Bryan Whitehead, a journalism professor at Kansas City Kansas Community College, gave his thoughts on major universities that make students retake courses.

"Colleges at all levels make money based on how many students they enroll and how many credit hours they take," Whitehead said. "So you can see why they want to keep students from taking classes at other schools, but that's short sighted. If students get the basics out of the way at a community college, that

should free them up to take more upper-level classes at a four-year school."

Many transfer students, myself included, feel that the education we received at our previous schools was more than sufficient and that we shouldn't have to retake classes we have already passed. Whitehead agreed.

"I don't think community college classes are as good as their four-year equivalents," Whitehead said. "I think community college courses are better. The students are just as good, and so are the faculty. But class sizes tend to be smaller, and the two-year schools tend to be better with student support."

With about two months



Tyren Rushing

left in my UMKC career, I can walk away knowing that this university and I used each other. The school used me for extra income, and I used it for a college degree.

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## Letter to the editor: On Meredith Shea's 'Obama-Romney video wars'

There are a couple of issues in this piece that I want to address from an economic perspective. I will try to keep these in the order they were raised in the comment.

**1. Redistributing wealth is the defining feature separating socialism from American capitalism. Redistributing wealth has also been unsuccessful in promoting prosperity throughout history.**

The Republican Party has seemingly succeeded in associating every kind of policy designed to help the poor with terms like class warfare and socialism as practiced in the countries mentioned in the comment.

Now as a starter, I see no reason why we should evaluate redistributive policies only according to socialist countries of present and past times.

Non-socialist countries have made extensive use of policies that can be described in this way as well. (In fact, this seems to be what the author of the comment argues against, so I do not understand why she does not just evaluate the success of such policies in the U.S.).

If we want to evaluate such policies now, we would need to define what we understand by 'prosperous.' If we narrow our focus solely to economic growth as shown by the change of the gross domestic product (GDP) of a nation, then the answer will be unclear.

Ask three economists and you will get five answers.

In my opinion, it is likely to have a positive effect as, to put it simply, redistributive policies tend to move income from folks who use a comparatively small amount of income for consumption to people who spend a large portion.

Consumption expenditure makes up roughly 70 percent of U.S. GDP, so changes to consumption are of vital importance to

economic growth. Additionally, if companies are faced with robust sales, they are likely to be upbeat about the future and will tend to invest more, which is another important part of GDP. Lastly, one might also note that the evolution of large scale redistributive policies in the U.S. responding to " is historically associated with:

A) Getting the U.S. out of the Great Depression and

B) Leading to a long period of robust income growth.

Apart from that, one might add that it has to be asked what constitutes prosperity. If we do not only concentrate on the quite arbitrarily selected measure of economic growth but have a look at social figures as well, one can see that (e.g. Fullbrook 2012) countries with more redistributive policies than the U.S. are healthier, more educated, and have a higher degree of gender equality besides the more obvious effect of more income equality (which, in itself, is a positive thing if we consider negative psychological effects of inequality on individuals (Wilkinson/Pickett 2009)).

**2. People are unemployed, because they are lazy. Taking away their welfare benefits will make them more self-dependent by working.**

Two things are to be said about this: first, we are currently experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The problem here is certainly not a lack of supply of, but demand for labor.

Secondly, the notion that large numbers of people would willingly be content for a prolonged period of time with a lifestyle that is associated with an income in the amount that the U.S. welfare system pays is just beyond me. In fact, the famous Cato Institute studies (e.g. 1995, 2012) purportedly showing

that there is no incentive to work is largely negated by the ubiquity of people actually receiving welfare and working.

If we want to reduce welfare spending and get people to live dignified lives with stable employment, we need to make sure that employment opportunities associated with incomes sufficient to let people live such a life actually exist. As long as the private sector does not provide these jobs, we might have to look elsewhere.

**3. The 53 percent are subsidizing the 47 percent.**

This is a point that has been pointed out over and over again in the discussions following the leakage of the Romney video. Since the author is reiterating this in her comment, the critique needs to be reiterated again as well: First, the above statement is based on the assumption that only the 53 percent are paying taxes. In fact, the 47 percent are paying taxes that are hugely regressive in nature (meaning that poorer income brackets pay more taxes in percent of their income than richer income brackets), like payroll or sales taxes. Add to that the preferential tax rate on capital earnings vis-a-vis normal income taxes and you get a totally different picture on who is providing the money that is subsequently distributed as 'subsidies'.

Also, the 47 percent are not the only ones receiving subsidies. Estimates of corporate welfare (government handouts subsidizing companies) amounted to nearly \$100 billion for fiscal year 2012, according to the Cato Institute.

**4. Whatever income people receive by participating in the economy is the amount that they deserve.**

I am not sure whether the author of the comment actually shares this notion (her

application of the Jefferson quote leads me to think that this is indeed the case though), but since this idea has also been a prominent one in the political debate of the past couple of months I am tempted to include it anyway.

Completely setting aside the issue of power relations within the economy and assuming that the income to the individual forthcoming through the market process is, in fact, the "just" one, there is still the issue of the economic and social conditions you are born into.

Mitt Romney did not "build that" all by himself. His career was, to a considerable degree, made possible by his father's wealth.

The so often cited "American dream" is, apart from a few chance events, largely a myth.

There is hardly any country in the Western hemisphere that has less upward social mobility than the U.S. (NYT/De Parle, 2012), meaning nothing else than the education and income of your mother and father is an excellent predictor of the education and income of yourself. So if you want to provide every American with equal opportunity at achieving success, there is no way around at least a certain degree of redistribution.

I think it is important that we as an academic community do not let us get fooled by blatant ideology, and instead try to stick to the facts and endeavor to find out why things are how they are and what should or should not be done about it.

Regards,

**Christian Spanberger**  
First year graduate student and GTA at the Economics Department of UMKC

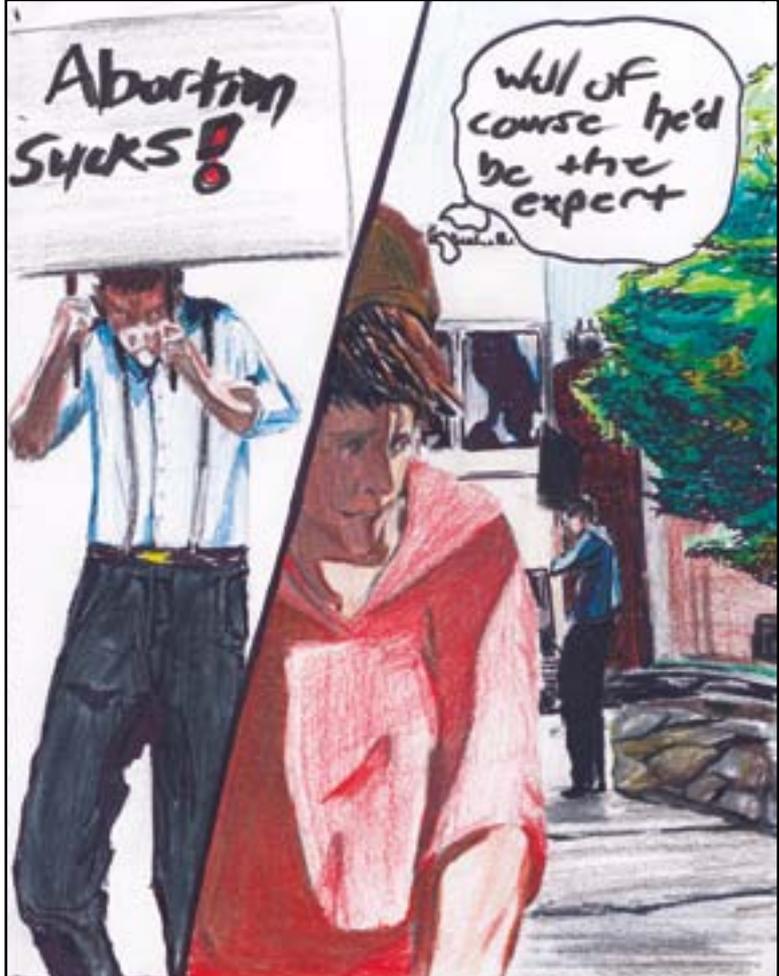
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# Sudoku

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

# Cartoons



Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

# Continued from page 19: letter to the editor

**Citations:**

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