

## Gender-neutral housing gains traction at UMKC

Proposal faces Feb. 4 Student Government Association vote  
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**INSIDE:** 2 News 45 years ago, MLK assassination led to local riots  
10 A&E Conservatory partners with Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art





Martin Luther King, Jr. CREDIT // Library Congress

### KC History MLK assassination prompted local riots

*“Violence erupted for the second straight night on Kansas City’s East Side last night, turning a large part of the area into a battleground where snipers dueled with police and national guardsmen in the glow of high-reaching flames from fire-bombed buildings.”*

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Jessica Turner Staff Writer

That was the lead story in *The Kansas City Star* on April 11, 1968, two days after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s funeral in Atlanta and seven after his assassination in Memphis.

In the days following King’s death, nationwide riots broke out in more than 100 cities, caused by elevated tensions and frustrations with lagging civil rights struggles.

Kansas City was one of those cities.

UMKC professor Dr. Rebecca Miller Davis, whose expertise is in Civil Rights and African American History, said students, perhaps some from UMKC, planned to march in memory of Martin Luther King and in protest to the Kansas City School District’s decision not to cancel classes for the funeral.

“There are conflicting accounts of what caused the riot, but several Kansas City police officers claimed that they shot tear gas into the crowd after marchers threw bottles, rocks and makeshift

bombs—probably Molotov cocktails—at them near Lincoln High School and City Hall,” said Davis.

She also said National Guardsmen were positioned—along with Kansas City Police—on the rooftops in the Plaza, charged with halting the rioters if they attempted to move west from The Paseo area.

In the span of four to five days, there was nearly \$1 million in damage from fires and looting, affecting more than 100 buildings.

According to the Kansas City Public Library’s archives, “A three-block wide section of town running down Prospect Avenue lay in ruins. Over 1,700 National Guard troops joined 700 policemen in putting down the riot. For two nights bullets flew from both parties. Nearly 300 arrests were made, mostly of young black males. Tragically, seven black citizens died in the violence.”

One of those victims was an African American boy named Michael McKinney, who was only 12 years old when he suffered two fatal gunshot wounds to the chest and wrist at 30th and Prospect Avenue.

Until then, Kansas City was known for its non-violence when working toward social change and many residents found the riots both shocking and ironic, given King’s peaceful approach to racial conflict.

“Kansas City had escaped much of the racial violence that plagued other parts of the country,” Davis said. “But it was not immune to the sickness of Jim Crow. Starlight Theater and Municipal Auditorium integrated in 1951

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## Gender-neutral options could come to UMKC next year

Roze Brooks News Editor

A resolution that sets a spring 2014 target date to implement gender-neutral student housing on campus will be voted on Feb. 4 by the Student Government Association.

The Residential Life office has been approached about creating designated gender-neutral accommodations since the beginning of the school year.

This is the first time the conversation will be brought before SGA.

“As one looks at this conversation, a number of issues need to be determined,” said Dr. Eric Grospitch, Dean of Students. “One—Do the students want it to happen? Two—If the students want it to happen, how can we implement it?”

Conversations began with how to address housing options for transgender students. Current accommodations are not coed unless special arrangements are made.

However, the resolution is to create an open housing option for any student who would like to room with someone of a different gender.

Grospitch said UMKC’s definition of gender-neutral housing includes transgender/sexual or gender nonconforming students, heterosexual married couples and different gendered siblings.

Residential Life’s current procedure for gender neutral accommodations is on a case-by-case basis to fit individual needs. A key point in the resolution states, “The exclusive nature of the Residential Life policy discourages transgender students from living on campus, thereby denying them equal opportunity to participate on residential life and their activities.”

This resolution acknowledges the benefit of creating a friendlier atmosphere for transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

The resolution also states, “Gender-neutral (open) housing would provide options for [...] different gender family members and students who feel that they would have more success in an environment with a roommate of a different gender.”

Because apartments at Oak Place have private bedroom/bathroom suites, it appears to be best-suited for gender-neutral housing.

However, the conversation hasn’t ruled out future implementation at the residence halls.

Although the resolution mentions 2014, discussions haven’t included a timeline for implementation.

“There are additional structural concerns in the residence halls that may be more difficult to overcome, but I can’t say that we won’t look at the possibility,” Grospitch said.

### Gender-Neutral housing in other universities

The resolution states that “58 colleges and universities across the U.S. offer gender-neutral or open housing including University



A male and female sitting together in the living room of an Oak Place apartment. CREDIT // UMKC Residential Life

## Michael Eric Dyson to deliver MLK keynote at UMKC

Jessica Turner Staff Writer

To commence Black History Month, UMKC is welcoming columnist, radio host and author, Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D.

Dyson is listed as one of *Ebony* magazine’s 150 most powerful African-Americans, having been presented with two NAACP Image Awards and the American Book Award.

Dyson, a contributing editor of *Time* magazine, has been the guest for countless programs, such as *The O’Reilly Factor* and *Real Time* with Bill Maher. He is currently a professor of sociology at Georgetown University, and hosts *The Michael Eric Dyson Show* on NPR.

Dyson will deliver the Martin Luther King, Jr. keynote address, 6 p.m., Jan. 30 at the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

According to *Philadelphia Weekly*, Dyson “is reshaping what it means to be a public intellectual

by becoming the most visible black academic of his time.”

Dyson was featured on the cover of *Savoy* magazine as, “one of the nation’s most influential public intellectuals.” He told the magazine his most recent book, “Can You Hear Me Now? The Inspiration, Wisdom, and Insight of Michael Eric Dyson,” is a compilation of his “best quotes, most insightful paragraphs and most interesting and lively sentences from the last 20 years of work.”

Dyson began giving speeches when he was 10 years old.

“I’ve been running my mouth for about 45 years now,” he told *Savoy*. “I want to get better each time. I want to refine my craft. I want to deepen my roots of excellence.”

Dyson has covered several subjects, including race and identity, relationships and homophobia, and the culture of hip hop.

In his book, “April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Death and How It Changed America,” Dyson wrote, “His dreams were the

natural reflex of hope and redeemed curiosity.”

He told *Newsweek* he wrote the book to “take a look at how Dr. King’s martyrdom has both elevated and distorted his message and track where we were in terms of progress.”

The event is free and open to the public, but online registration is required through the UMKC Division of Diversity, Access, and Equity website, [www.umkc.edu/diversity/](http://www.umkc.edu/diversity/). Free parking will be available at the Cherry Street Parking Garage on levels five and six.

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**When:** 6 p.m., Jan. 30  
**Where:** Student Union Multipurpose Room  
**Registration:** [www.umkc.edu/diversity/](http://www.umkc.edu/diversity/)



Michael Eric Dyson, keynote speaker. CREDIT // Lloyd Peterson

### FYI Gender-neutral housing

- 18-to-24-year-olds are nearly four times as likely as those ages 55 and above to have a best friend of the opposite sex.

- More than 50 U.S. colleges and universities offer gender neutral housing including Dartmouth, Harvard and University of Chicago.

- The National Student Genderblind Campaign was spearheaded in 2006 as a grassroots network of student activists working to pioneer a movement for broader gender equality.

- A 2010 U.S. News survey of 251 national universities reported 38.5 percent of undergraduate students live on campus and this number is steadily increasing. At UMKC, more than 1,400 of nearly 16,000 students lived on campus in fall 2012.

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Memorial guest book for Dr. David Atkinson. CREDIT // Lauren Gepford

# Dr. David Atkinson

## UMKC remembers professor of 44 years for 'hunger for life'

Lauren Gepford  
Copy Editor

More than 60 former colleagues and students from several departments across campus gathered to honor the contributions and achievements of Dr. David Atkinson, who passed away on Nov. 14.

A memorial was held for the retired political science and law professor on Jan. 25 at the School of Law student lounge from 4-6 pm.

In his 44 years at UMKC, Atkinson came to know many colleagues and students from many departments across campus.. Current, former and retired professors and faculty rekindled and shared memories of Atkinson before the event.

The memorial's program included tributes and thoughts from Dr. Beth Miller, Arts & Sciences Dean Wayne Vaught, School of Law Dean Ellen Suni, Dr. Harris Mirkin, Dr. Dale Neuman, Fred Wickman Angela Bennett and Dr. Mona Lyne.

Miller shared that Atkinson was "more than a colleague— my mentor— a regular lunch date — [and] the number one source of gossip at UMKC."

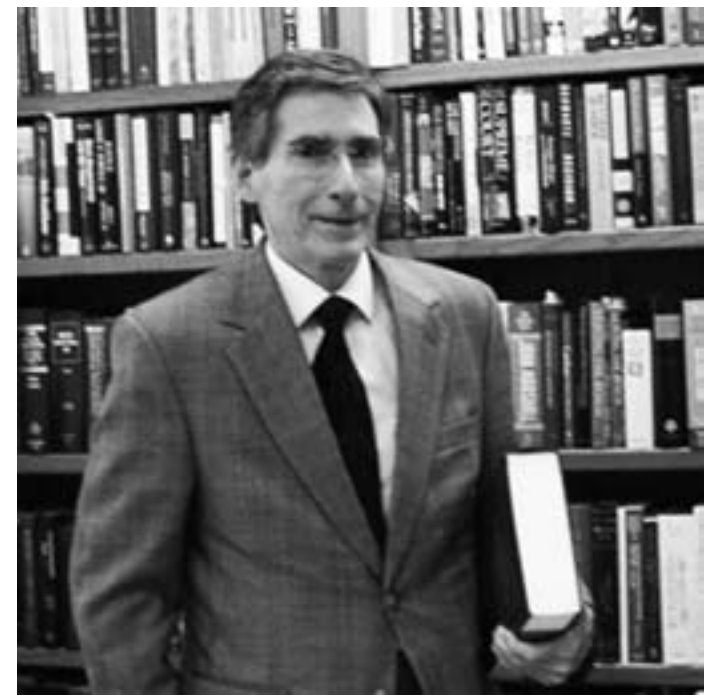
Vaught spoke of when Atkinson first came to UMKC in 1967. Atkinson signed his employment offer to earn \$8,800 per academic year.

Among moments of grief, speakers and attendees shared light hearted memories highlighting his personality and legacy.

"He had a hunger for life and fine dining," Miller said.

This sentiment set the precedent for many other anecdotes about Atkinson's heightened culinary palette.

"David never ate lunch anywhere but in a restaurant.



Dr. David Atkinson. CREDIT // UMKC

The only reason I got on the rotation was Beth refused to go to Stroud's," said Lyne.

Wickman, worked as the faculty adviser to the University News under Atkinson's direction as the Board of Publishers' chair . The two had a monthly lunch ritual, and Wickman remembered Atkinson's love of Indian food.

"David always had my back, and I always had his. He was the purest scholar I have ever known," said Wickham.

Mirkin, who shared an office next to Atkinson for 40 years, joked that he was very cheerful, but morbid because he focused on studying the death of judges. Neuman, remembered Atkinson's love of mystery novels, poetry and a variety of cars.

Atkinson taught in both the Political Science Department and the School of Law, progressing to emeritus professor in both departments. He was awarded the

"highest honor" of UM Curators' Teaching Professor.

"His expansive knowledge of the justices and the judicial system is incredible," Suni read from a student evaluation.

His interest in constitutional studies, the justice system, law and his students, lead Atkinson to establish the David N. Atkinson Scholarship in political science.

Bennett, former University of Missouri Curator and a student of Atkinson's, talked about the scholarship, which was established in 2010.

Bennett said the scholarship is substantial and that it has reached numerous political science students with interests similar to Atkinson's.

For more information on the scholarship, please call the UMKC Foundation (816) 235- 5776. lgepford@unews.com

# Butt out

## Resolution will create tobacco-free task force

Roze Brooks News Editor

A resolution to form a tobacco-free exploratory committee was approved 19-4 by the Student Government Association last November.

This vote in favor of the committee is expected to prompt a university-wide discussion about replacing UMKC's designated smoking areas with a completely tobacco-free policy.

Amy Johnson, a senior biology major and the Student Representative to the University of Missouri Board of Curators, is spearheading the tobacco-free efforts.

Johnson said she met with former Missouri Students' Association president Xavier Billingsley last year in Columbia.

"[We discussed] the possibility of moving their [MU's] date to go smoke-free up by an entire year," Johnson said. "When I realized how easily and quickly this would be done, I began to examine the other policies in the [University of Missouri] system."

The UMKC resolution approved by SGA on Nov. 12 made several references to the Surgeon General, including reports on the negative effects of second-hand smoke,

smokeless tobacco and the yearly death rate of people who use tobacco products.

Dr. Eric Grospitch, Dean of Students, said any future decisions to create a tobacco-free campus would not be limited to smoking. This would also include smokeless tobacco and hookahs, and would affect both the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses.

The 19-4 vote, with two abstentions, affirms the creation of a tobacco-free policy task force, whose recommendation would be put to a student vote.

The full version of the tobacco policy proposal includes in-depth information, such as cost effectiveness of creating a tobacco-free university, a list of Missouri campuses with a variation of smoke-free policies and a mock-up of proposed language for the immediate transition into a 100 percent tobacco-free implementation.

This 12-page policy proposal, created by Johnson and student Caleb-Michael Files, has been presented to the UMKC Faculty Senate, Student Health and Wellness, Environmental Health and Safety, student organizations and UM System President Tim Wolfe.

With the passing of the resolution, the next



A proposal to create a tobacco-free task force has been approved by SGA. CREDIT // Caleb-Michael Files

step is to obtain student feedback. Johnson said the intent is to conduct several student forums on both the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses, with dates to be announced.

"SGA agreed to continue the conversation," Grospitch said. "They should be planning a series of open forums like were done around the potential name change. Once the forums take place then SGA will need to decide how they want to move it forward to Vice Chancellor [Mel] Tyler."

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## briefly mentioned

# School of Dentistry seeks patients

Roze Brooks News Editor

The School of Dentistry is offering free dental care as part of dental students' National Dental Board Clinical Examination. People who need small fillings or a deep cleaning can receive four hours of free dental care including x-rays.

Qualified students must be 18 or older and in good health. Potential participants cannot currently wear braces or other

fixed orthodontics and cannot have or require dentures. More than 16 teeth are required for services, including back molars. Anyone receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment is not eligible.

The four hour sessions will take place on the mornings or afternoon of March 17-18.

For more information, call (816) 200-2278 or email dentalboards2013@gmail.com

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## Word on campus

# Should UMKC become a tobacco free campus?



Alaa Basarwan, Freshman University College

"I like the ban because smoking affects other people and it's also bad for the smoker."



Melanie Mabry, Sophomore English

"No."

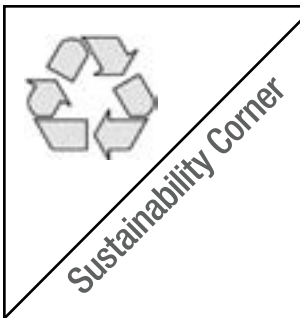


Brandon Shiao SGA Webmaster

"No. I don't smoke but I think people should be allowed to do what they want."

CREDIT // Andrew Graff





# The power of youth

## Young adults should lead the push for sustainability

Johanna Poppel Photo Editor

How can young adults change a stubborn society? Last Thursday, the local City Planning and Development Department held a meeting to discuss the Midtown and Plaza areas at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 11 E. 40th Street.

Between 1950 and 2010, the area has lost 60 percent of its population.

While 40 percent of the area's population is from ages 20-34, that group was poorly represented at the community meeting.

City planners and attendees emphasized the importance of the opinions of the younger generation. After all, it is our home for the future and our opinion carries weight in how our community develops.

The area plan is under the policy of the FOCUS Kansas City Plan, to develop future

land use, zoning, public improvements, transportation, housing and economic development.

Approximately four-to-five groups of about 30 people formed to share their opinions of future development, which were recorded and will be used as a reference for city planners.

Three questions were asked:

- Why do you choose to live and/or do business in this area?
- What concerns do you have for the future of this area?
- What do you want to see in the area for the future?

It was an interesting experience to see community members interact and share why they love their neighborhood and what they want to see change.

I was happy to see environmentally sustainable infrastructure and resources

were common themes among the few young people there.

Many suggested the need for bike lanes, improved sidewalks more accessible public transportation and more trees along streets. The interest for sustainable infrastructure was there, but the representation and voice were missing.

The Midtown and Plaza areas have many cultural assets and a diverse realm of people, businesses and public space.

They have the potential to develop into thriving neighborhoods supportive of students and young adults.

I encourage students to engage in the community, address concerns to city leaders and discuss urban issues..

We, as young people, have the power to improve our neighborhoods and mold them into the change we want to see in the world.

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### briefly mentioned

## UMKC Innovation Center sparks partnership with local

Roze Brooks News Editor

The UMKC Innovation Center is partnering with SparkLabKC, a locally based internet business incubator.

SparkLabKC selects 10 new internet companies in the Kansa City region each year for a 90-day accelerator program.

The program offers up to \$18,000 in seed capital, cross-industry mentorships and advisory services, free workspace and marketing to potential investors.

The partnership combines the UMKC Innovation Center's expertise in entrepreneurial startups with SparkLab's internet focus.

SparkLabKC hopes to bridge an experience and capital gap in what they believe is a rich community for early-stage startups.

Interested businesses may fill out applications starting Feb. 1.

Applications will be open until March 31. The 90-day program is broken into monthly

phases.

- The first month entails in-depth mentoring to refine business and product strategy.
- The second month focuses on prototype development.
- The third month focuses on refining the prototype pitch for "Demo Day", in which each company presents its prototype product to Angel investors and venture capitalists.

The program begins on May 29 and runs until Demo Day, Aug. 23.

Kansas City has favored well in rankings for startup firms. . *Forbes* listed Kansas City as one of the U.S. Biggest Brain Magnets for attracting college graduates in 2011. StartupDigest.com ranks Kansas City among the top five fastest growing startup communities in the world.

Other SparkLabKC sponsors and partners include MRIGlobal, University of Kansas Center for Technology and University of Missouri-Columbia.

Companies considered for the business accelerator program must have one experienced coder. Company size is limited to two-to-four founders. Each company receives seed capital of \$6,000 per founder with a maximum investment of \$18,000.

To apply or access more information, visit [SparkLabKC.com](http://SparkLabKC.com).

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# TAASU hosts Freedom Breakfast

Jessica Turner Staff Writer

The African-American Student Union (TAASU) held its twenty-third Annual Freedom Breakfast Wed. morning at Pierson Auditorium in the Atterbury Student Success Center . 320 students, faculty members, and guests came to commemorate the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to kick off African American History Month.

The event consisted of performances, speeches, and presentations. Attendees celebrated past civil rights progress and hoped for future progress.

The theme of this year's function was embodied in the words of King: "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Keichanda Dees-Burnett, Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, Keichanda Dees-Burnett noted that the "theme was chosen to honor King, and to serve as a reminder of the participation and sacrifice made by past leaders who made possible the freedoms that would not otherwise be enjoyed today."

Kelsey Major, sophomore, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing." She was followed by a welcome from Chancellor Leo Morton, who introduced the featured performer and singer-songwriter, Rudy Currence.

Currence played the piano and delivered optimistic lyrics as audience members clapped their hands. He also performed that evening in the Student Union.

The breakfast moved from music to acknowledging the Herman Johnson Scholarship. Created in 1987, it was the first

African-American Scholarship offered at UMKC.

Meosha Smith-Russell, TAASU Culture Chair, introduced UMKC Alumnus, Weston Parham, who gave a speech about how the scholarship impacted him.

"It's what allowed me to go to college," Parham said. "[It] changed my life. If I hadn't attended college, my life would have been dramatically different."

Parham is currently pursuing his doctoral degree.

"When I look back, every interaction I had with the Herman Johnson Scholarship added something to my life, professionally and personally," he said.

Herman and Dorothy Johnson's daughter, Tara Johnson, spoke on behalf of her parents.

"Dad and Mom left ninety percent of everything they ever had in their lives to educating minorities," she said. "This is a wonderful investment. I can't think of anything better. This is a wonderful partnership, and I look forward to working with TAASU for years to come."

Aurielle Young, President of the TAASU Executive Board, presented Johnson with a token of their gratitude for all she continues to do for UMKC.

Each year, TAASU recognizes the service, leadership, professionalism, and dedication of one faculty member by awarding the Dr. Joseph Seabrooks, Jr. Leadership Award. Seabrooks was present and took the stage.

"When I asked the board who they thought should receive this award, this was the first name that came up," Smith-Russell said.

Erica Portley, UMKC Athletics Department Administrative Assistant, was chosen as the recipient.

"It's an honor to receive this award," Portley said in her acceptance speech. "I'm just grateful that I've had the opportunity to work with such wonderful students."

Students were encouraged to stop by the MSA Office in room 319 of the Student Union to pick up this semester's calendar of upcoming events. It includes functions such as the Men of Color Campus Initiative events throughout February, African American Youth Day on Mar. 8, and a conversation called "I Am Not My Hair" on Mar. 19.

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## Q&A with Angie Cottrell, Director of the Office of Student Involvement



Angie Cottrell.

**Hometown:** Dubuque, Iowa

**Do you have a sidekick?** Dexter – my 90 pound black lab

**What career would you choose in an alternate reality?** I'd be a lawyer. Or own a diner . . .

**What was the last restaurant you patronized?** Classic Cookie – So yummy!!!

**Favorite Charity?** Human Rights Campaign

**Do you do any community work with the Human Rights Campaign?** Yes, I am on the Board of Governors

**Favorite place to go on payday?** Ameristar Casino. Mama needs some new heels!

**What is your favorite thing about UMKC?** The students – they inspire me every day.

**Finish this sentence: "UMKC got it right when . . ."** they built the Student Union and renovated the University Center. More opportunities for students to engage, commune, study, and connect with campus.

**UMKC needs . . .** Domestic partner benefits and other benefits for the LGBTQIA community.

**Last book you read:** Fifty Shade Trilogy. Guilty. .

**Describe a recent triumph:** Creating the Office of Student Involvement strategic plan.

**"In five years, I'll be . . ."** advancing in my professional career, fitter due to Sky's Limit, CrossFit and deeply in love with my girlfriend, Jen.

CREDIT // Permission of Angie Cottrell

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UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper





Members of Delta Sigma Theta. CREDIT // Delta Sigma Theta

# Intelligence, the torch of wisdom

**Caleb-Michael Files**  
Student Life Editor

Founded at Howard University by 22 African American undergraduates on Jan. 13, 1913, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has grown to over 200,000 members. Notable Deltas have included civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, singer Aretha Franklin and politician Shirley Chisholm.

Delta women have marched for women's suffrage, participated in public policy in the nation's capital and hosted mentorship and service programs – all in an effort to create change within their communities. Past President, Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, noted at the fiftieth national convention two years ago that, "Delta Sigma Theta is not a monument but a movement."

In Kansas City, a citywide chapter of Delta Sigma Theta provides membership to students at UMKC, William Jewell, Rockhurst University, Avila University, and Park University.

The Lambda Epsilon City-Wide Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was chartered March 16, 1974. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the inception of Delta Sigma Theta.

With galas and service projects, hundreds of Sorors descended on Washington D.C the weekend of January 11th. Their celebration began with a gathering at Howard University for a day of public service projects around the city, continued with a luncheon and gala on Saturday and culminated Sunday with an ecumenical

service and black-tie dinner at the Washington Convention Center.

Although the Ladies of the Lambda Epsilon chapter did not go to Washington, D.C. for the festivities, they have celebratory events planned for the upcoming week.

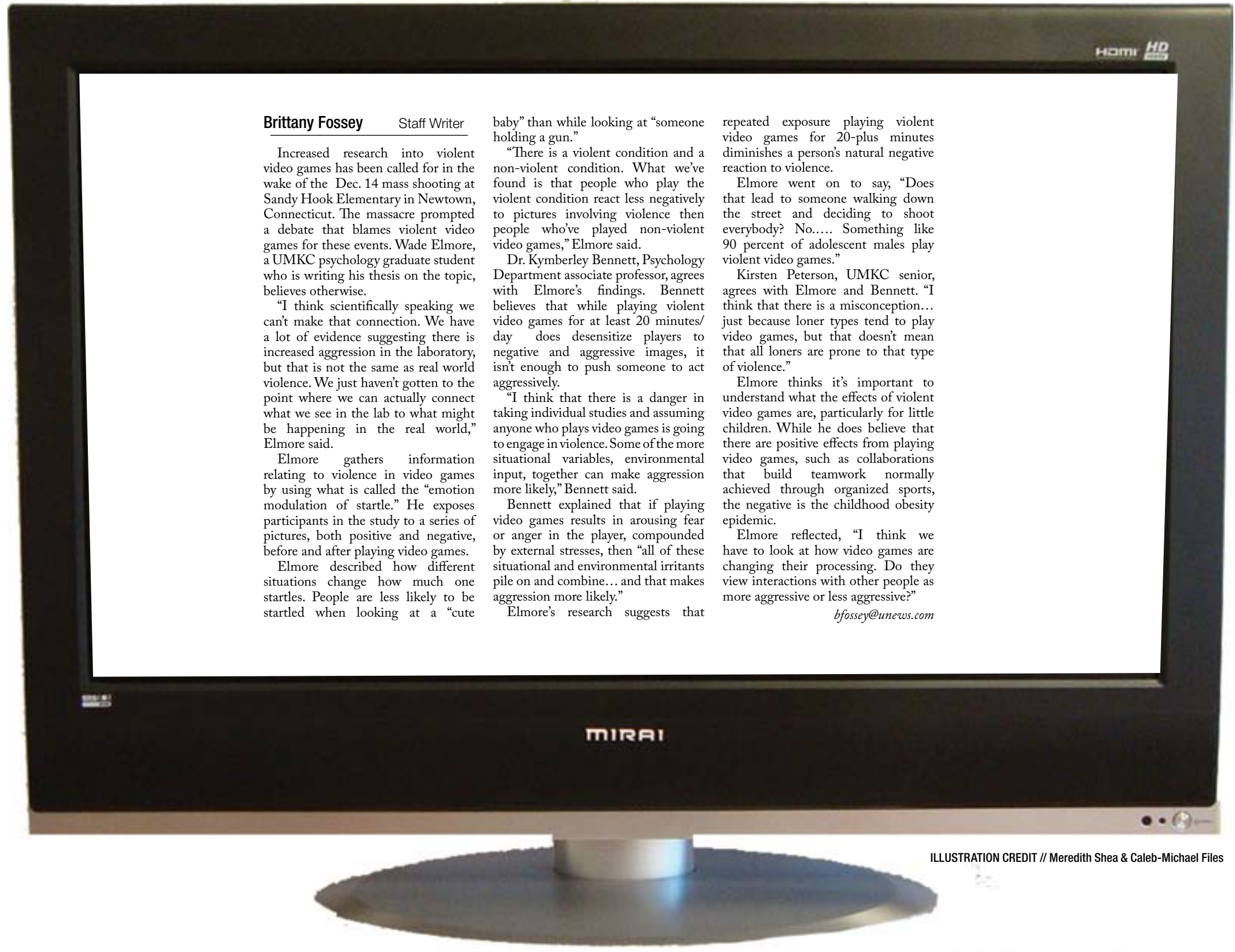
At 7:13 p.m. Mon., Jan. 28 in the Student Union, there will be a class to learn about fiscal responsibilities with a twist. Tue., Jan. 29, in Johnson Hall they will offer a class on self-defense and give out healthy smoothies. On Wed. in the Johnson Hall Lounge, the ladies will explore different cuisines. At 7:13 p.m. Thurs. the story of Stan "Tookie" Williams, founder of the Crips L.A. street gang, will be shown in the Multicultural Student Affairs Office Village. Fri. at the Culture House, the Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta will "REDiscover" their Roots, with a journey through African American history. The week culminates with a Service Project at the Cornerstones of Care; a RSVP is necessary for this event.

Jasmine Bryant, Δ – LE Chapter President, noted "Lambda Epsilon is unique at UMKC because all of Δ programming is focused in areas relating to the 5 point programmatic thrust: Educational Development, Physical and Mental Health, International Awareness and Involvement, Economic Development and lastly Physical and Mental health. Delta Sigma Theta is unlike any of the other sororities on campus."

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# Do video games provoke violence?

## Student shares perspective in wake of recent shootings



**Brittany Fossey** Staff Writer

Increased research into violent video games has been called for in the wake of the Dec. 14 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. The massacre prompted a debate that blames violent video games for these events. Wade Elmore, a UMKC psychology graduate student who is writing his thesis on the topic, believes otherwise.

"I think scientifically speaking we can't make that connection. We have a lot of evidence suggesting there is increased aggression in the laboratory, but that is not the same as real world violence. We just haven't gotten to the point where we can actually connect what we see in the lab to what might be happening in the real world," Elmore said.

Elmore gathers information relating to violence in video games by using what is called the "emotion modulation of startle." He exposes participants in the study to a series of pictures, both positive and negative, before and after playing video games.

Elmore described how different situations change how much one startles. People are less likely to be startled when looking at a "cute

baby" than while looking at "someone holding a gun."

"There is a violent condition and a non-violent condition. What we've found is that people who play the violent condition react less negatively to pictures involving violence than people who've played non-violent video games," Elmore said.

Dr. Kimberley Bennett, Psychology Department associate professor, agrees with Elmore's findings. Bennett believes that while playing violent video games for at least 20 minutes/day does desensitize players to negative and aggressive images, it isn't enough to push someone to act aggressively.

"I think that there is a danger in taking individual studies and assuming anyone who plays video games is going to engage in violence. Some of the more situational variables, environmental input, together can make aggression more likely," Bennett said.

Bennett explained that if playing video games results in arousing fear or anger in the player, compounded by external stresses, then "all of these situational and environmental irritants pile on and combine... and that makes aggression more likely."

Elmore's research suggests that

repeated exposure playing violent video games for 20-plus minutes diminishes a person's natural negative reaction to violence.

Elmore went on to say, "Does that lead to someone walking down the street and deciding to shoot everybody? No.... Something like 90 percent of adolescent males play violent video games."

Kirsten Peterson, UMKC senior, agrees with Elmore and Bennett. "I think that there is a misconception... just because loner types tend to play video games, but that doesn't mean that all loners are prone to that type of violence."

Elmore thinks it's important to understand what the effects of violent video games are, particularly for little children. While he does believe that there are positive effects from playing video games, such as collaborations that build teamwork normally achieved through organized sports, the negative is the childhood obesity epidemic.

Elmore reflected, "I think we have to look at how video games are changing their processing. Do they view interactions with other people as more aggressive or less aggressive?"

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ILLUSTRATION CREDIT // Meredith Shea & Caleb-Michael Files

words of wisdom

# How to treat your broke friends



Bradley Hoffman

**Bradley Hoffman** Staff Writer

For college students, being broke can become a fixed characteristic in much the same way as being female or Caucasian. It's an immediately perceivable trait: tall, blonde, broke. There are stereotypes associated with the just-getting-by lifestyle, like 5-year-old shoes, substituting hand lotion for hair product, and knowing many generic substitutes to name brand products. To those living above the broke-student class line, the persistently poor can sometimes be a difficult lot to understand.

What's most bothersome to the broke is being repeatedly put in situations where one has to restate their meager means. When a more uptown friend wants to meet at a bar that serves nothing under \$8 and charges \$10 just to enter, the broke buddy has to explain in vague, dodging terms, that they can't afford it.

From my experience, here are a few tricks to dealing with the blindly more moneyed. First, you can lie. "I actually have this huge project I'm working on," is a good one because it sets you up as a person with projects, which is always attractive. "I'm sick," is short and simple and common enough so it's very plausible. They may ask for more information; so, if you're a strong actor, you can feign coughing or, if you're on the phone, pinch your nose when you speak to imitate that nasally, stuffed-up sound. All the while list off the usual symptoms, like a scratchy throat, headache, and fever. If you're not a good actor, allude to an embarrassing illness

like something bowel related, which is rarely contested.

If dishonesty isn't your thing, you can suggest a new place. I often try luring my friends to KC's lesser known dive spots. The key to this however is finding the right complement to their original suggestion. If they want to meet up at Blanc Burgers on the Plaza, you can suggest Eric and Frac on 39th Street; both have beer and burgers and a distinguishable decor. If they are in the mood for a trendy Mediterranean restaurant, toss them the idea of grabbing a gyro from Jerusalem Café's food truck in Westport. They suggest the Tivoli, you suggest illegal downloading.

The last great option is preemptive, strike first. If your pals enjoy the finer things, then I highly recommend Groupon. Groupon arrived to the world of broke students like penicillin arrived to the world of medical maladies; a near cure-all treatment for your money-strapped woes. There's an incredible range of products offered by Groupon, most at a 50% or more discount. The most prominent offerings are for food and drink, which often make it possible to patronize a classier establishment for the price of a large two-topping pizza. Right now you can get \$75 worth of fare at the Michael Forbes Bar and Grill, a Yelp double-dollar classified restaurant in Brookside, for only \$25. Split two ways, you can't go wrong.

Opportunities still exist for even the financially challenged to indulge once in a while.

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## Men's basketball suffers second defeat to Omaha this season

Kate Baxendale

Staff Writer

The men's basketball team fell 67-59 to the Omaha Mavericks last Saturday at Swinney Recreation Center. Thomas Staton and Brad Reid led the Roos with 12 points each. Reid grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds.

Despite a 77-65 loss to Omaha on Dec. 31, Head Coach Matt Brown said he was "looking for a win on Saturday."

In his five years at UMKC, Brown has an overall record of 56-98.

The team had a great disadvantage this season with four players injured at one time.

Top scorer Trinity Hall was sidelined for three weeks with broken fingers. The 6'7" junior forward said he listened diligently at practice so he would know what Coach Brown was teaching his teammates.

"I have been going to physical therapy everyday so I can heal faster and get back on the court," he said.

Hall said he hoped for the team to win with tougher defense than last time against Omaha.

"If we win these conference games, anything can happen," Hall said.

The Roos suffered a nine-game losing streak earlier this season, but with

several games left to play, the team is still optimistic.

Estan Tyler, a sophomore point guard, said that remaining confident is a key component to ending the season on a good note.

"If we listen to our coach, I think we will be prepared for the competition ahead," he said "We all want to end the season with wins."

Brown said his team is healthier now that his injured players have recovered, particularly Hall.

"We played four top 50 teams so far this season, so the competition has been tough," he said.

Among them are current No. 5 Louisville, No. 11 Kansas State and No. 14 Ohio State.

Hall said he expects to see more stiff competition throughout the rest of the season.

"North Dakota State and South Dakota State are both big teams," he said.

The Roos lost to both teams the first week of January at Municipal Auditorium.

This week, the Roos will play North Dakota State on Thursday in Fargo.

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## health journal

### How to get back in shape after the holidays

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Another year has ended and everybody made New Year's resolutions. One of the most common resolutions is to look better and take care of one's body.

Statistics show that January is the month when gymnasiums experience the highest rates of attendance. It's obvious, if you think of all the food we eat during the holidays.

Paul Arndorfer, UMKC's Director of Strength and Conditioning, offers some tips to enjoy better results.

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| weeks | sets | reps |
|-------|------|------|
| 1-3   | 3    | 8-10 |
| 4-6   | 4    | 5-6  |
| 6-9   | 5    | 3    |
| 10    | 5    | 2-3  |
| 11-12 | 5-6  | 1-2  |

**Q:** What kind of workout does a beginner need to gain muscle mass?

**A:** *The number one lift people should focus on to gain muscle mass is the squat, which involves the most and largest muscle groups in the body (quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes, lower erector muscles of the back, and calves). Along with that you need to have a well-rounded total body workout that also focuses on each muscle group.*

**Q:** What kind of workout does a beginner need to lose weight?

**A:** *The best way to lose weight, without a doubt, is circuit training. The thing to remember is that you really want to limit your rest time in between sets. The key to losing weight is keeping your heart rate elevated for at least 20-30 minutes if not longer. During the intervals do short sprints with recovery periods. An example of this would be bike sprints: go as hard as you can for 30 seconds then do an easy ride for 30 seconds. You could do three 10-minute periods of this.*

**Q:** What is the best diet to follow?

**A:** *The focus should be on fruits and vegetables as well as lean protein. A mistake that a lot of people make is that they think they need to cut their carbohydrates out completely. This is a big mistake. Our bodies use carbs for energy. If there is no carbohydrate store to burn, our body will then start burning muscle for that energy; therefore, it is important that we eat enough of the right kind of carbohydrates. Fruit is a great example, and during workouts a drink with carbs (Gatorade for example) can be ingested throughout the workout.*

**Q:** Can you give us an example of a workout routine?

**A:** *Make sure to start with higher reps for about three weeks and then cut the number of reps [as the number of sets and weight is increased].*

## Track and Field

### Bethune, Frerichs, Okonta shine at Jayhawk Classic

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

participating teams.

Chantel Bethune won the 400-meter dash with a personal best time of 58.81, last weekend at the Jayhawk Classic in Lawrence. Courtney Frerichs took the mile run with a time of 5:11.95.

On the men's side, D.C. Okonta won the triple jump with a mark of 50-00.50 (15.25m) and placed fourth with a leap of 23.0075 (7.03m) in the long jump.

Okonta's triple jump was the second-best performance in UMKC history.

It was the team's sixth competition of the season.

The Roos were one of the forty

In the 3,000-meter women's run, sophomore Siara Stahl finished third with a personal best of 10:20.10, followed by senior Jylian Jaloma, who finished six seconds later and placed fourth.

Finishing behind Bethune in the 400-meter race, Patricia Miller was third with a personal best of 59.54.

In the men's 400-meter race, senior Johnathon Barnett finished second. Freshman Kolton Sheldon finished third in the mile.

The Roos will head to the University of Central Missouri this weekend.

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Courtney Frerichs  
CREDIT // UMKC Athletics



## film review

# 'The Last Stand'

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

"The Last Stand" marks Arnold Schwarzenegger's return to the film industry after not having a lead role since 2003, with the exception of "The Expendables." This Schwarzenegger film is hilarious, but unfortunately it is not a comedy. This sad attempt at an action movie only makes one statement to the world: Arnold Schwarzenegger is a badass.

Complete with melodramatic dialogue, cheesy combat sequences and a horribly constructed plot, "The Last Stand" is only worth seeing due to the extreme cheesiness turned into laugh out loud hilarity.

Sheriff Ray Owens (Schwarzenegger) recently left the LAPD narcotics post and moved to a small town in the middle of nowhere California. The high crime life involves checking up on farmers and catching speeders. However, this boredom suddenly turns exciting when one farmer turns up dead.

In other news, the most notorious drug lord, Gabriel Cortez (Eduardo Norlega), escaped from an FBI prison and is now trying to make his way across the Mexican border. Unfortunate for Cortez, he happened to cross Schwarzenegger's turf. In referring to Sheriff Owens, he must be called Schwarzenegger since this is nothing but a

full-fledged Schwarzenegger film. Saying Owens and expecting it to have a terrifying affect doesn't quite work out very well.

Words cannot describe the horribleness of this film. The audience laughed when characters died due to the lack of character development. Every aspect of the film was over played and melodramatic. This could have been the director's intent, but that's very unlikely.

Every single character was extremely dumb and had the audience wishing they would die—every character, except Schwarzenegger that is. He comes across as Schwarzenegger, nothing more and nothing less. He is an action hero and world-class badass. His sense of humor is priceless and he adds entertainment to such a mind-numbing script. However, it is a little odd that someone with such a strange accent would end up in a small town close to Mexico.

Although Schwarzenegger is once again Schwarzenegger...wow, that name just seems to feel longer every time it's typed... his character lacks depth and deals heavily in contradictions. Owens has difficulty walking and calls himself old, yet Schwarzenegger beats up the bad guys with ease.

This movie seems to have been made for the sole purpose of making Schwarzenegger look cool again. The script and the other sad



excuses for creating production value are irrelevant. As long as the tough guy shoots up the bad guy, everyone's happy, right? Yes, they are indeed.

Every person who buys a ticket for this movie only wants to see bad guys get owned. Schwarzenegger not only beats up everyone, but he also has high-tech guns. These aren't just your ordinary guns; these are Schwarzenegger's guns, meaning they're awesome. Simple as that.

If you are not a Schwarzenegger fan or are unfamiliar with his previous films, this review may make no sense. Just remember, Arnold Schwarzenegger equals awesomeness. He blows up the bad guys and the planet is saved. This plot is present in almost all of his films.

Overall, Schwarzenegger is a badass. That is all.

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# Voices among the statues

## Conservatory collaborates with Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Joey Hill

Staff Writer

There exists a very true and almost primordial connection between visual art and music. When this connection is fully realized, the outcome can fulfill beauty on a gargantuan scale. On Jan. 26, the Metropolitan Chorale of Kansas City, conducted by UMKC's Dr. Rebecca Johnson, made this beauty real in the Sculpture Hall at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

The Sculpture Hall is a quiet room. Its walls are blank and smooth, toned a pale cream. It serves as a connecting passageway separating the European painting and sculpture galleries, as well as the entryway to the contemporary wing.

Its space is sparse, aside from the

toned, hardened statues that dot its composition. Francesco Mosca's marble creation, "Atalanta and Meleager with the Calydonian Boar," towers near the doorway leading to the center foyer. It is a complex work of tender and vibrant emotions. The lovers are caught with their faces inches away from one another.

The Chorale performed at the base of this statue. An old rendition was performed, followed by a more contemporary rendition. In the case of the first piece, "O Magnum Mysterium" ("O Great Mystery"), there's a clear difference between the 1500s composer Tomas Luis de Victoria's somber yet hopeful rendition and the 1900s Francis Poulenc's cynical and ominous approach.

The second work, "Mille Regretz," ("Million Regrets") possessed an overtly

heavy sense of absolute hopelessness, the lyrics describing a young man's contemplation of his regrets. This 1400s piece by Josquin des Prez expresses these feelings with long, low and soft vocalizations while UMKC student Thomas Mark's rendition plunges directly into the depths of despair beginning with a boisterous exclamation from the choir.

This element defines the deep rage possessed by the young man over his regrets. This feeling is carried through the piece, examining a much more internal sadness so great and insurmountable it is paralyzing.

The final work of the performance was "Ave Maria," a known piece of choir music, in the hands of the 1800s composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. It is

transformed into a rolling and flowing work of audible beauty. Nathan Brown, a member of the Chorale, composed the second contemporary rendition. His approach involved a more somber consideration of the source material, not focusing on Mary herself but more the hardship that comes before faith.

The piece takes a much more divine approach, but it's a frail form of divinity - beautiful, but deeply sorrowful.

What made this performance great was the way the viewer's eyes could drift from the choir to one of the statues, like the snarling teeth of the Greek Lion or Rodin's "Adam," his every muscle caught in a moment of tense chaos twisting his body until it is frozen in his pose. This is musical performance.

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## COME AND EAT!

Central United Methodist Church invites you to join our College-Age ministry on Wednesday evenings throughout the semester. All are welcome to join in a free dinner and fun every Wednesday night starting at 6pm. First come, first served. Wednesdays in August will be cookouts with life-sized board games.

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### art



Johann Sebastian Bach eats lunch.

CREDIT // Meredith Shea

## Lunch at the opera

Joey Hill Staff Writer

by Robert Bode.

What makes a better companion to lunch than live music? Live classical music, that's what.

On Jan. 25, UMKC's Conservatory of Music hosted "Bach's Lunch," a lunchtime concert performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Peasant Cantata." (A "Cantata" is a lyrical composition accompanied by music.)

Performed by UMKC students and faculty, the "Peasant Cantata" was written in the 1740s by Christian Friedrich Henrici and was set to music by Bach. During this time of his life, Bach worked as a Cantor, a choir instructor, at a church in Leipzig. While there, he was required to perform cantatas for various events.

The cantata itself was performed in German, but translations were provided with the programs. It was sung by two vocalists. Baritone, David Farwig, played a farmer and soprano, Jessica Salley, played his wife.

The 24 movements of the composition cover a conversation between the farmer and wife regarding the appointment of a new governor, a greedy tax collector, the town's avoidance of Army recruitment, and an eventual trip to the local tavern.

The music has a very rustic old-world feel. A steady beat is carried by all the instruments including two violins, a viola, a cello, a bass, a flute, a French horn and a harpsichord, all conducted

by Robert Bode. The vocalists, in combination with the music, perfectly complement each other, keeping in mind the very theatrical aspect of the composition, but still keep it loose and fun. Presented is a form of live performance that is seldom seen or explored anymore, a definite slice of high musical art.

While the venue itself was no concert hall, it did not take long to realize that wasn't needed. This composition relied on the talents of the musicians and vocalists, not the grandeur of the space. It was perfect for small audiences sitting five feet away. This feeling of intimacy is an important aspect of the experience.

It is recommended to bring both a lunch and a friend to Bach's Lunch. Eating is accepted, as long as it does not greatly disturb the performance. Sometimes lasting as short as half an hour, it is a wonderful break from the regular day. It gives you a little moment of cultured happiness to carry with you for the rest of the day.

This is what makes Bach's Lunch such a wonderful experience. It provides just the right amount of beautiful music right in the middle of the day, just when you need it most. It removes classical music, for at least a moment, from the realm of academics and makes it more approachable to more people.

The next Bach's Lunch is Feb. 15, at 12 p.m. in room 122 of Grant Hall.

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### album review

## A\$AP Rocky, the next rap craze

Johanna Poppel

Photo Editor

Harlem native A\$AP Rocky already has an A-List entourage of R&B stars supporting him to the top. This new sensation is breaking into the scene with the support of key artists like Drake, Kendrick Lamar and Rihanna. A\$AP Rocky will even open for Rihanna on her tour this March. A\$AP Rocky is also a member of the A\$AP mob, a community of hip-hop producers, music video directors and rappers.

The deluxe version of "Long.Live.A\$AP" came out Jan. 11. Both iTunes and Spotify list "F\*\*kin' Problems" as Rocky's most popular track on the album.

iTunes rates his second most popular song as "Wild for the Night," featuring Skrillex and Birdy Nam Nam, while Spotify rates "Goldie" as his second best track.

These songs have helped place A\$AP Rocky's current album on this week's Billboard top selling albums of all genres, making it an obvious winner for the number one spot on Billboard's R&B and Hip-Hop albums. It also won the spot of the nation's top rap albums and digital albums.

A\$AP Rocky is sure to be the next craze. Canadian music lovers even welcomed A\$AP Rocky onto their Billboard top 100 albums and the album is working its way to the top ten status in all 24 global markets.

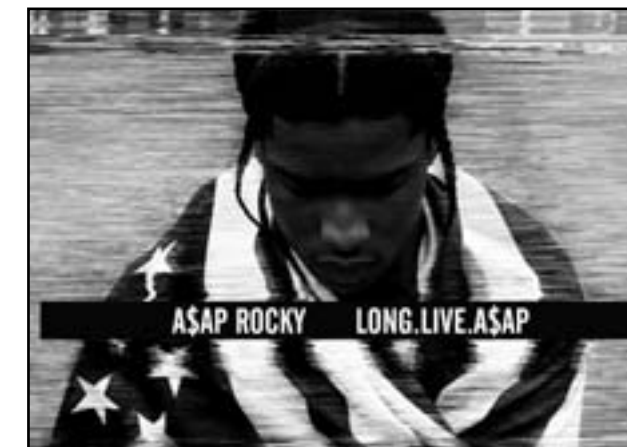
"He is the Lupe Fiasco of the present, it is what white kids listen to to think they are cultured," said sophomore Chemistry major, Jesse Wilson.

Artists of other genres such as Santigold, Yelawolf and Florence Welch were also involved in the production of A\$AP Rocky's fame, accompanying him on his latest album.

"Long.Live.A\$AP" opens with its title track, an ordinary sounding rap that is not too memorable.

Track two, "Goldie," opens with a catchy beat and a cocky rap of courage and greatness. Many songs on the album aren't dance songs, but "Goldie" offers high pitched harmonies that nicely blend with this rap of relaxing strong beats.

"PMW (All I Really Need)" sounds similar to the beats of a Drake song and is not unique or impressive. Cliché lyrics of



strippers, money and drugs are prominent in this song and throughout the album.

"Hell," featuring Santigold, is impressive because it offers a fresh sound by the addition of a female voice that is not in the R&B or rap scene. Santigold offers smooth sensuous raps that sound similar to the female rap rebellion M.I.A.

It is no wonder, A\$AP Rocky's most famous piece is "F\*\*kin' Problems" featuring Drake, 2 Chainz and Kendrick Lamar rap solos making this song full of a sense of energy and empowerment.

Another popular song, "Wild for the Night," offers a unique spin to the album by introducing electronic music to this edgy and dark piece. Imagine dubstep and rap morphing into a new club sound.

Overall, A\$AP Rocky's lyrics are too similar to the rest of the rap world with the mention of drugs, alcohol, women and an over-announced ego. If rap and hip-hop are your favorite genres, then enjoyment can be found from these similar sounds of A\$AP's, along with finding some new emerging sounds that will get anyone grooving into some dance moves.

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### concert preview

## Stone Sour to play in Kansas City

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

The Midland opens its doors once again to hard rock and metal lovers this Wed., Jan. 30. The internationally acclaimed band, "Stone Sour," will be performing a one-night-only show.

Front man Corey Taylor, best known for his work with Slipknot, and the rest of the Des Moines, Iowa crew will be presenting "House of Gold & Bones, Part I." This is their latest full-length release, which came out late last year.

The band has sold over four million records worldwide and the video for the first single off its latest release, "Absolute Zero," has surpassed half a million views online. Stone Sour will be in Kansas City, having just been named "Rock Band of the Year" by the reputable online magazine, Loudwire.

98.9 The Rock presents Stone Sour in Kansas City and tickets are only \$9.99. For event details and tickets, go to: [www.midlandkc.com](http://www.midlandkc.com).

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### Arts around KC

#### Happening now:



"Death of a Salesman" presented by KC Rep Theatre on the Spencer Stage in the Performing Arts Center. Student rush tickets are \$20. The show features UMKC M.F.A. theatre students and runs through Feb. 10.



"Number the Stars" presented by Coterie Theatre, featuring UMKC M.F.A. theatre actors. Tickets are \$10 for students. The show runs through Feb. 21.



"Rational Aesthetics" open at the UMKC Gallery of Art. Admission is free. This exhibit is open through Feb. 15.

#### Happening soon:



Feb. 1- The Conservatory of Music and Dance will once again pair up with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to offer gallery performances for all ages. The show mixes sight, movement and sound together and is performed in the museum's Lens 2 Event Room at 6:30 p.m. No tickets required.



Feb. 11- UMKC Conservatory of Music presents a guest artist recital with trombonist Harold Reynolds, a professor at Ithaca College. Event takes place at Old Mission United Methodist Church in Fairway, Ks. at 7:30 p.m. Free admission.



Feb. 12- ArtSounds presents two chamber orchestras featuring Ryan Oldham and Nihal Yesil. ArtSounds combines "cross-media expression through creative concert-making." Event takes place in Epperson Auditorium at KCAI. Admission is free.



## food critic's corner



A fish taco salad with feta cheese and corn from YJ's.

CREDIT // Andrew Graff

## YJ's, a Crossroads secret

Andrew Graff

Staff Writer

YJ's Snack Bar and Café, located at 18th and Wyandotte streets, is much more than just a snack bar although the name is not misleading. There is the option of getting snacks as well as a nice cup of coffee, and you can even purchase a pack of cigarettes.

To get to the door, you must first open a screen door that has what looks like a year's worth of stickers plastered on it.

I have been to YJ's countless times, yet I always notice something new. People are sometimes thrown off as they go up to the bar to place their order with the one employee that is working that night. You don't receive a menu, but rather you have a few options between what they are offering that day.

Each employee has a different meal they prepare. Dinner usually starts at around 6 p.m. or sometimes a little later. YJ's has a different type of cuisine each night. The variety in the dishes is impressive. For example, on Wednesdays they offer an Italian feast (both vegetarian and meat options) and a few days later you can have a great Middle-Eastern dish, and then the next day, hey, why not get some soul food?

The food isn't the only part of YJ's that makes it a unique beyond-dining experience. Because YJ's is open 24 hours Thurs. through the weekend, you can meet a wide range of people. After midnight, people start rolling in for the generous amount of breakfast food that YJ's serves. I have had some great (and sometimes not so great) conversations with complete strangers where a few words have turned into hours of conversation, and I am convinced that our paths crossed for a reason. I'm sure that many people who frequent YJ's share this feeling with me.

Reading reviews online, people rave about the breakfast biscuits and gravy. I can agree that they are indeed out of this world, and normally I don't even particularly enjoy biscuits and gravy.

I encourage you to go to YJ's with an open mind and mouth and try something that maybe you've never had or something that you think you won't enjoy, because at YJ's, chances are they will change your mind.

Now lastly, I must talk about the unfortunate part of going out to eat—the price. It would seem that you would have to pay more than you would want to for this delectable food and great atmosphere, right? Wrong. Meals are usually \$9-10, but I like to tip the employee since they are both cooking your food and serving it.

Go to YJ's by yourself, or with friends and I promise you won't be disappointed.

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## art



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CREDIT // Joey Hill

## “Rational Aesthetics” Innovative art exhibit opens at UMKC

Joey Hill

Staff Writer

“Rational Aesthetics,” by Robert Howsare, is an adventurous examination of production and performance employing an innovative combination of sound, light and space in each work.

Upon entertaining the gallery, viewers are met with the scene of two record players side by side, acting as a drawing apparatus. Both records have thin planks of wood attached to them, which are connected with screws that allow articulated movement. On the end of the “arm” is a pen moving along a large piece of paper, drawing complex geometric designs.

Known simply as “Drawing Apparatus,” this work makes clear from the very beginning the atmosphere of the exhibit. The constant movement of the arms, sound of the running turntables and the collection of past drawings above the machine give the feeling of having entered a factory.

This work also helps illustrate one of the great questions posed by this exhibit: the relationship between artist and tool. In a situation like this, where the art is created by a mechanism put together by the artist, can any art made by it be considered the artist's work? At what degree of creative separation is it made clear the real place of the artist in such a work? Can any of the drawings made by this machine even be considered art when its only connection, its work, is purely a product of production?

Around the corner is a darkly lit room housing the exhibit's loudest work: “IV Phases.” A group of four projectors lined up against each other project mysterious film being cycled through them onto a two-way mirror suspended from the ceiling, which simultaneously projects a refracted version of the film back on the projectors while casting a linear shadow on the wall behind it. The images on the film are patterns of different colors painted with ink directly onto the 16mm film.

The noise is the element that leads viewers to it: a cacophonous, droning, loud, industrial overlapping of sounds, clicks, beeps and horns give the film a surreal and unnerving soundtrack.

Complete creative detachment makes “IV Phases” stand out from the other works. After little running time, the projectors begin to play sections of film and sound at different times shifting the work's visual and auditory elements. Though each is running individually, as a group they gradually change the work as a whole. This aspect of chance adds a new mechanical independence to the work.

What should be taken away from an exhibit like “Rational Aesthetics” are the questions it raises and the answers it refuses to give. For an exhibit like this, one visit will not be enough. Robert Howsare's “Rational Aesthetics” is currently being shown at the UMKC Fine Arts Gallery through Feb. 15.

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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).

## Gender-neutral housing is more than just a housing issue

Caleb-Michael Files

Student Life Editor

In the upcoming weeks, UMKC has a chance to further contribute to this generation's civil rights movement.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans still are denied basic, fundamental rights because of an innate, uncontrollable, harmless facet of their identity. In what many call the greatest nation in the world, society is actively marginalizing your fellow citizens.

We cannot allow this to continue any longer.

LGBT citizens are told day in and day out that they are different, immoral and disgusting. That we are causing the downfall of this nation and the unraveling of families.

It still is socially acceptable in many circles to express hateful, discriminatory, even violent sentiments about us in polite conversation. In fact, we live in a state where regular citizens feel comfortable spouting toxic hostility and contempt for LGBT people in the public forum of a city council meeting.

We can be fired, denied housing, kept from adopting children, banned from teaching, barred from basic tax and inheritance rights and denied validation of their relationships from the state. We still face daily discrimination, harassment, violence and murder. LGBT individuals are often driven to suicide.

Continually, we are denied protections in Missouri, PROMO (Missouri's LGBT Advocacy Group) year after year introduces the Missouri Non-Discrimination Law (MONA) and year after year it fails. Former Republican Presidential Nominee Rick Santorum compared the love of LGBT individuals to pedophilia and bestiality.

We are relegated to second-class status, easily denied acknowledgement and basic rights, on the basis of who they have sex with and what gender traits they feel comfortable expressing.

LGBT Americans face the very real, everyday threats of isolation, bigotry and hate. It is ridiculous that we are still debating civil

rights, that there still is so much stubborn opposition to the proposition that all — those you like and those you don't — are created equal. It is backward, unacceptable and, frankly, insane.

It is time for change. UMKC now has one small, symbolic but effective way to challenge that reality. Roos cannot afford to play it safe.

The gender-neutral housing option being presented to the University would give students the choice to live with students of any gender. This is an important right for all UMKC students, but it is particularly important for LGBT students because it provides a safe home on campus — something many do not have.

Gender-neutral housing means the choice to live with someone whom students know will be supportive of their sexuality or gender identity. It means freedom from discomfort, discrimination, harassment and fear.

It means the choice to live with those who are most comfortable with them, and, in turn, to live in the environment they find most comfortable — a right taken for

granted by students at UMKC.

It means one small step toward equal treatment for LGBT citizens. It means a step into the 21st century for UMKC and for Missouri. It means UMKC being a true leader.

It means equality.

This is something UMKC must do. It is only a little step, but every little step is important. Roos may not be able to change the world today, but we certainly can change UMKC.

So this is not just about providing a new housing option for one group of students. This is about ensuring every American has access to the American Dream, to the equality of rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

This policy is a message to every gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender member of the UMKC community that they are worthy of acknowledgment, protection, support and safety.

This issue affects us all. Equality isn't a special interest. Americans have a responsibility to demand the promises of our founding be fulfilled and to fight so their fellow citizens may be recognized as human beings



Caleb-Michael Files

worthy of the same regard, the same respect, the same basic dignity.

This country has struggled to answer that demand and win that fight for a long time. It's still struggling. We are calling on our fellow Roos and the University of Missouri — Kansas City to join that struggle and take this simple, powerful step to reject repression and affirm freedom for all.

And that's why it's more than a housing issue.

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## ‘Black history is American history’

Jessica Turner

Staff Writer

As we all know, February is Black History Month.

But what exactly does that mean?

For some, the month serves as a reminder of the important contributions made by African-Americans throughout history. Many of those contributions have been ignored, or the credit for them has been inaccurately documented.

For some, it's about setting the record straight. It's about saying, “No, he actually invented that,” or, “Remember that chapter in your fifth grade history book? Turns out, it was wrong.”

For some, the month honors past leaders who fought for civil rights.

For others, it's time to move on.

Morgan Freeman referred to the designated month in a 60 Minutes interview as “ridiculous”.

“You're going to relegate my history to a month?” He asked Mike Wallace. “What do you do with yours? Which month is

White History Month?”

“I don't want a Black History Month,” Freeman continued. “Black history is American history.”

When Wallace asked how he proposed to eliminate racism, Freeman replied frankly, “Stop talking about it.”

I'll be honest. I'm a Morgan Freeman fan. I loved The Shawshank Redemption, and “Through the Wormhole” is a scheduled recording on my DVR. But let's be honest: When was the last time ignoring a problem lead to its solution?

It's understandable that Freeman would deem it “ridiculous” that Black History is ironically segregated and reduced to one month, but one month better than no month.

When Freeman made those statements in 2005, President of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Andrew P. Jackson, came forward in agreement.

“In the 21st century, Morgan Freeman is right,” he said. “By now we shouldn't have

to remind anyone of the contributions of Black people.”

Ah, yes. In a perfect world, we wouldn't have to remind people of the obvious. In this world, we do.

For example, everyone knows that during the Holocaust in Europe between 1941 and 1945, Nazis systematically murdered about six million Jews. Since it is common knowledge, should we turn Auschwitz into a Disneyland?

And although it's obvious that over 110,000 innocent citizens of Japanese descent were imprisoned in U.S. internment camps after Pearl Harbor, should we take that exhibit out of the Japanese American National Museum?

What is actually “ridiculous” is to assume that just because a tragedy clearly happened, we can forget it. But should we not remember historical mistakes and learn from them?

“We should be past that, but we're not,” Jackson said. “Not until you can go to classes and learn about Langston Hughes

as part of American literature instead of African American literature.”

He's absolutely right. Until those history books are corrected, and until “African American history” is appropriately incorporated into regular American history, we should—at the very least—take a month to remember what really happened.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The day we see the truth and cease to speak it is the day we begin to die.”

Black History Month allows the truth to live on. It's a time to remind each other that African-Americans are just as much a part of this country's history as all those white faces in our textbooks, if not more. Because not only did they accomplish great things, they did it all uphill, amidst a great struggle.

And that struggle should not be ignored.

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# Thrift shopping is fun!

**Riley Mortensen**

Staff Writer

When it comes to Thrift Store shopping, some would say it's a buyers world. You may not always leave with what you came in looking for in the first place, but chances are you won't leave empty handed and your find may be one of a kind. Thrift store shopping is for anyone with the gumption to walk in the store and dig, but for college kids it's often times the perfect opportunity to find something neat without breaking the bank.

Sometimes on campus it's easy to pick out a thrift store junkie and other times you'd be surprised, but on the subject of best finds, favorite stores, and the frugality of it all, I talked to the adventurous bargaining pair of Alex Dapp and Christie Thomason. The young ladies are both sophomores at UMKC. Dapp is studying Communications and Thomason is studying Art Education. They both had there favorite stories to share of triumphant ordeals at the racks and in the bins.

What is your favorite store and where is it located? Dapp: City Thrift by far. That's where I found this vintage Cat Noir poster for only \$15. I had been looking for it for almost 2 years. It was so expensive everywhere else. It's on Wornall and like 78th. Thomason: City Thrift.

What has been your best buy? One time I was in New York at a thrift shop and I found a pair of brand new Juicy Couture heels for only \$10. That was amazing. Thomason: My best buy would be a tie

between a 35 mm Nikon film camera and a genuine leather studded jacket. My camera was \$39 and my jacket was \$15!

Why do you like thrift store shopping? Dapp: I like that you never know what you're going to find. It's a new experience every time you go. Thomason: I like thrifting because it's something I've done with my mom since I was little, and you can always find stuff for half the price, so for some reasons economical, but mainly I love the aspect of thrift stores compared to department stores. I love the adventure of looking and digging.

What are the cons of thrift store shopping? Dapp: I think sometimes when you go thrifting, you're more likely to buy random thing that you normally wouldn't buy just because they're cheap. Thomason: I would say the only con to thrifting would be poor quality of the items sometimes. But that's anywhere kind of.

Where do you splurge? Dapp: I definitely hit up Urban Outfitters whenever there's a good sale going on. Thomason: I splurge at thrift stores sometimes but other than that I'd say Urban is where I splurge when I do go out and shop.

Have you heard the new song Thrift Store by Macklemore? Dapp: Oh my god, I'm obsessed with that song. I laugh every time I listen to it because it's so true. Thomason: I have not heard of that song.

So perhaps you'll take



Riley Mortensen

into account the words of Macklemore who says "I'll wear your grand dad's clothes, I'll look incredible." There are plenty of great stores in the area. Goodwill is always a good place to start. Or maybe you'll check out City Thrift. On a budget? So is Macklemore. "I'm gonna pop some tags, only got 20 dollars in my pocket, I, I, I'm hunting, looking for a come up, this is f\*\*\*ing awesome." Like he says, it could be awesome.

Our mannequin is dressed from head to toe in thrift store finds, including her reading material. This could be you. Black ruffle dress: \$15.99 at the Arizona Trading Company. Black beaded belt: \$2.99 at Goodwill. Silver earrings: \$7.99 at the Arizona Trading Company. Purple fringe purse: \$6.99 at a used clothing store in Lawrence. Hand painted black scarf from Greece: \$1.99 at Goodwill. Purple, red, and green patterned pumps: \$5 at Vaughn Trent in Bonner Springs. 1985 National Geographic issue of the Afghan refugee: \$1 at A-lotta Stuff on K-32.

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To provide relevant, timely coverage of the UMKC community by seeking truth, fairness and accuracy in reporting while preserving the integrity of *U-News* as an independent student-run publication.

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