



UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL 28, 2020

www.unews.com

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 28

UMKC SGA donates over \$20,000 to Student Emergency Relief Fund

Logan Lazarczyk

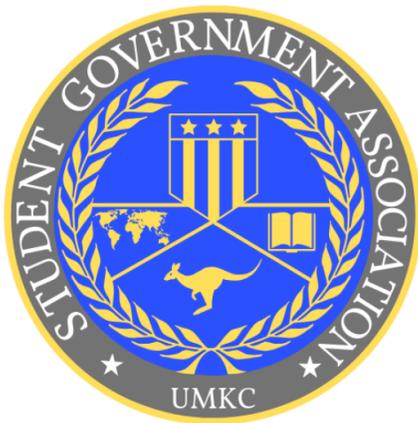
Staff Writer

UMKC's Student Government Association (SGA) has injected over \$20,000 into the Student Emergency Relief Fund for students to utilize during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund gives small sums of money to students who are in a financial emergency.

\$20,000 was donated directly into the fund, while \$4,500 went to the Kangaroo Pantry, SGA President Justice Horn said.

"I got a number of our donors to donate, and I personally raised \$10,000 to go directly to that fund," Horn said.

Business shutdowns and record unemployment have led to an economic recession and serious financial hardship for students.



The Student Emergency Relief Fund gives micro-grants to students in financial crises.

"Students are struggling to cover unexpected expenses related to returning home, food, housing, access to

technology and other unplanned and unbudgeted circumstances," Horn said. "This fund was set up to help those who were directly impacted by COVID-19."

SGA President Pro Tempore Gabriella Stanley estimates that there is around \$800,000 available.

"Students can visit the financial aid office website to apply for funds," Stanley said. "There are options for temporary loans as well as a one-time scholarship awarded based on need."

"SGA leadership came up with the idea and worked with our advisor to come up with the best way to complete the plan," Stanley said. "That ended up being through the UMKC Foundation and the financial aid office."

Money is awarded based on student need and is available after other scholarship options have been exhausted.

Along with the donation from the SGA, student leadership has started an online campaign to raise more money for the emergency fund.

"I'm working closely with the university to make sure that our main focus is fundraising as much as we can and turning around and giving that to those who need help immediately," Horn said.

Horn and Stanley are certain the fund is being utilized extensively by students.

"I am very confident that the fund is being used," Stanley said. "I am lucky enough to have a job, but if I were not, I would definitely use it. I hope those who are struggling are getting help through this resource."

laldpy@mail.umkc.edu

UMKC deliberates plans for 2020 fall semester

Lacey Clark

Staff Writer

As the spring semester comes to an end, UMKC is gearing up to make a decision regarding the 2020 fall semester.

Some students are ready to resume courses on campus for the fall, while others think it may be unrealistic given the uncertainty of when stay-at-home orders will end and what other safety precautions will look like in efforts to help decrease the spread of COVID-19.

"I am expecting fall classes to be online, but I hope that will not be the case," said freshman Lilly Concannon, a business major.

UMKC is also hopeful students will be back on campus for the 2020 fall semester.

"Right now, it is our expectation that we will have face-to-face courses and the full UMKC campus experience in the fall," Interim Provost Jenny Lundgren said.

When classes do resume on campus, courses may not be

conducted the way students are used to.

"The Chancellor has said that the post-COVID-19 environment for higher education will be very different," Lundgren said.

Fast-tracking online instruction this semester has sparked an interest among UMKC faculty on how to innovate the way classes are held in the future, Lundgren added.

"Even with a fully open campus, we are likely to see more "blended" classes that combine aspects of online and in-person teaching," Lundgren said.

Chancellor Mauli Agrawal said this may be the new UMKC, and "maybe that's not a bad thing."

UMKC has taken its role in the community into consideration when determining how to conduct the 2020 fall semester.

"We don't know yet what restrictions or opportunities will be in place for the fall semester, but we are determined to be prepared for any eventuality and ready to provide a

high-quality education in whatever format the situation requires," Lundgren said.

Students who attended class on campus before UMKC moved all course work online feel it has lowered the quality of their education.

"Since it's all online, everything is open note, and I feel as if I'm not learning much," said junior psychology major Maddie Houx.

Undergraduates who have course work requiring hands-on learning are having a hard time adjusting to online classes as well.

"This has impacted my quality of education because my labs are not the same," said junior Dominique Nichols, a pre-nursing major. "Watching videos about a lab is not the same as learning hands-on, and I feel like I am missing out."

Fall enrollment has opened, and some students are already facing issues with classes they thought would be face-to-face.

"I enrolled in fall classes yesterday, and I have already received an email that one of my professors has decided to



UMKC expects face-to-face classes to return for the fall 2020 semester, although classes may operate differently (Kayl Auch)

switch our in-person class to an online course," Concannon said.

Residential life may also look different for students planning to live on-campus for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"We intend to be flexible enough to provide the safest learning and living environment possible while offering a vibrant and active campus experience," Lundgren said.

Lundgren said it is still too soon to officially finalize plans for the fall semester, and UMKC will work to balance keeping students safe while still providing high-quality education.

"The health and safety of our university community is always our first priority," Lundgren said.

laceyclark@mail.umkc.edu

NEWS

Economics professors discuss the financial impact of COVID-19 on graduates

Jasmine Jones

Staff Writer

Adriana Macias

Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic increase in unemployment. According to the Department of Labor, over 26.5 million Americans have filed for unemployment since March 14, accounting for approximately 16% of the US labor force.

This rise in unemployment has harmed the economy and could prove worrisome for soon-to-be UMKC grads who are just entering the job market.

To learn more about the effects COVID-19 could have on graduates, U-News spoke with UMKC professors Dr. Sirisha Naidu, who has taught economics for 14 years, and Dr. Erik Olsen, who has taught economics for 24 years.

Q: COVID-19 has had a huge impact on businesses both big and small. In your opinion, how will COVID-19 affect the job market for 2020 graduates?

Naidu: It will depend on government policies. If policies only focus on ensuring that businesses don't lose profits, then the benefits will not reach 2020 graduates or those who lost jobs during the pandemic. On the other hand, if government policies support those businesses and industries that create jobs that are well-paying and offer decent wages, then the job market would steadily improve for everyone.

Olsen: The partial shut-down of the U.S. economy as a result of social distancing requirements will significantly adversely affect the job market for 2020 graduates. Because most industries are facing a significant decline in



Dr. Sirisha Naidu, a UMKC economics professor who has taught for over 14 years.

the demand for their goods or services, they need far fewer employees, if any, to operate their business. Some businesses are also unable to get the inputs they need to produce their product. Social distancing will eventually end, but the impact on both the demand and the supply side will continue beyond this.

Q: Are there any majors that you think might be impacted more than others because of COVID-19?

Naidu: The pandemic has affected most industries and professions. There are a few industries that have profited significantly from this crisis, but the beneficiaries operate in the higher positions of the organization. Recent graduates applying to work in these industries may not benefit to the same degree. So, the pandemic will affect all majors negatively unless there are spe-

cific policies put in place to encourage creation of well-paying jobs. All of us should demand these policies of our legislators.

Olsen: Students in health sciences, especially those involved with patient care, will see an improved job market. Most other areas should see varying impacts.

Q: Is there anything that students can do now to prepare themselves for the aftermath of the economy due to COVID-19?

Naidu: For many students this may be a time of extreme anxiety and stress. However, it is also a time to demand that laws and economic policies benefit the regular folks who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Regardless of our political orientation, most of us seek the same things – a decent life for ourselves, our families and our communities. Additionally, the current economy is not our grandparents' or parents' economy. Successful individuals not only have technical skills but practice critical thinking. They question current practices, learn from history and innovate for the future. So, sharpen those thinking skills that a college education fosters.

Olsen: A college education remains by far the best way to improve the opportunities available to someone, and to improve their future earning potential. Higher-performing students have better outcomes on the job market. So, the best way to prepare is to focus on what you can control, which is your own performance in class. In any job market, a student with a high GPA and good recommendations from faculty is going to be considered for a job before a lower-performing student.

Q: Some students may be receiving the \$1,200 economic impact payments (stimulus checks). What tips



Dr. Erik Olsen, a UMKC economics professor that has taught for over 24 years.

or advice can you give on what to do with that money?

Naidu: The first responsibility is to satisfy basic needs of households: adequate food, shelter, physical and mental health. Repaying debts is secondary.

Olsen: Everyone's circumstances are different. For some students that check is best-used making sure the rent and utility bills are paid and that there is food in the cupboard. Others might benefit from paying down short-term, revolving debt, [like] credit cards. In general, the best way to use that money is to help get yourself into a better position to succeed at UMKC. A degree will pay dividends for the rest of your life. Distinguishing yourself as a high-achieving student while you are here will also. Using the money towards those goals will help you in the future.

jnrvxf@mail.umkc.edu
aamnx9@mail.umkc.edu

Students react to extended stay-at-home orders, plans to re-open

Brenden Hill

Staff Writer

Emma Lane

Staff Writer

Over the last few weeks, both states and cities have taken difficult measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Reactions to these measures have varied.

The stay at home order was first issued on March 21 for Kansas City and was set to expire on

April 24. On April 16, Mayor Quinton Lucas extended the stay at home order for the city to May

15.

Governor Mike Parson announced that Missouri businesses could begin to reopen May 4, the day after the statewide stay at home order is set to expire.

"I definitely support extending the stay at home order," said UMKC student Emily Moreland. "As someone who is considered an essential employee and doesn't have the luxury of staying home all the time, I'm scared of people



Empty study area on the UMKC Volker Campus (Kayl Auch, staff photographer)

breaking the order and putting me and other employees at risk."

Moreland is not alone in her concerns. The order is aimed to flatten the impact of coronavirus cases on the healthcare system, but will not be effective if Kansas Citians ignore it.

"I know it's not reasonable to ask police to check on what every person out driving around is

doing, but I still see a crazy amount of people running around, and especially with protests

beginning around here to 'reopen' business and what-

not," said student Libby Dewitt. "I hope someone decides to act more strictly, whether it's Mayor Lucas or a group of people."

The protests Dewitt spoke of started within the last two weeks, with groups protesting stay-at-home orders around the country, including at the Plaza

in Kansas City.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the timetable and effects of the coronavirus, students overall seem to

approve of how it has been handled on the local level.

UMKC student Jennifer Nguyen said she appreciated the swift actions of local leaders in response to the pandemic. She added that, overall, it seems to have helped ensure better health and safety for the public.

"More than ever, I think this is an opportunity to be civil servants and to do our part to protect

the safety of our neighbors," Nguyen said. "As we move forward, I can only hope that the same

mission is at the forefront of our leaders' minds when they're called to make these pressing decisions."

Dewitt summed up what she felt were the feelings of most students, saying, "I just want decisions made so we can get back to campus in the fall!"

bmh6dw@mail.umkc.edu
emma.lane@mail.umkc.edu

UMKC students win big at the MBEA Student Media Competition

Amina Dalton

Staff Writer

UMKC students won big at the Missouri Broadcast Educators Association (MBEA) Student Media Competition. Of eight UMKC entries, seven won. There were four first place, two second and one third place across five categories.

The MBEA Student Media Competition showcases individual accomplishments and group projects from Missouri college students across different audiovisual mediums. The official ceremony, hosted at Southeast Missouri State University, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the MBEA still recognized student work.

In the dramatic category, UMKC student Rose Xiong won first place with her story “The Sun and the Moon,” which creatively told a story of the two celestial bodies. “This was simply amazing,” said a competition judge. “I love the story, especially the fact that it was original.”



Seven UMKC students placed at this year’s Missouri Broadcast Educators Association (MBEA) Student Media Competition (source: U-News)

“Tales from the Bog,” by U-News Arts and Entertainment Editor Mason R. Dredge, did not disappoint. “Tales from the Bog” finished third, and the judges complimented Dredge’s writing and audio work.

UMKC student Zoe Rickman placed first in the documentary/public affairs

category with “The History of Korean Cinema.” Her documentary took an in-depth look at the Korean cinema world and her experiences with it.

Winning first place in the news show category was “The Roo Report,” by U-News editors and writers Samantha Capkovic, Sam Bellefy, Jodi

Fortino and Mason R. Dredge. “The Roo Report” is a show that covers campus news and interviews KC notables. The judges praised “The Roo Report” for its host chemistry and quality format.

Second place in the news story category went to UMKC student Gavyn Do, who chronicled the NASCAR races down at the Kansas Speedway.

From Special Programs and Podcasts, “Culture Talk,” by students Dylan Dilworth, Andrew Burns and Adam Sisk took second place. “Culture Talk” airs on K-Roo Radio and talks about all things gaming, film and television. The judges expressed their enjoyment of the diversity of topics.

Finally, Anna Stokes won first place in special programs and podcasts for “The No.1 Magazine Show.” No.1 Magazine showcases the literary and visual arts produced by UMKC students. The show has multiple guests who showcase their works.

ajd6r9@mail.umkc.edu

Student filmmakers awarded at Bison Film festival

Emma Lane

Staff Writer

The Bison Film Festival recently recognized UMKC students Emily Harris and Mahryn Rose for their short films. Harris received an Award of Excellence, and Rose received an Honorable Mention.

“Being a student filmmaker, validation like this brings a boost of both confidence and legitimacy,” Rose said.

“Though awards are not what give me the passion to create, they make me feel content knowing my work is being seen and enjoyed.”

Rose’s film, “My Sappho,” is a short stop-motion documentary about Sappho, the legendary lyric poet from Lesbos, near Greece. The story is told through English translations by Rose, who directed and animated the film.

Rose animated flowers and paper cut-outs of art she digitally colorized. She spent over 48 cumulative hours in the studio bringing the story to life, doing voice-over, singing and music composition for the film.

“I have had the ability to

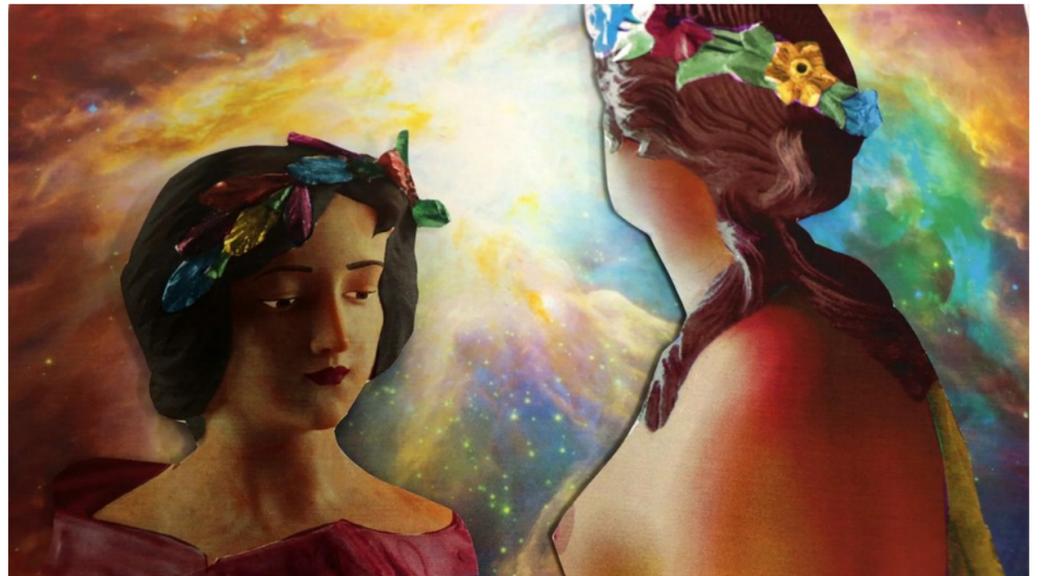
experiment with all different modes of filmmaking,” Rose said. “Creating “My Sappho” was a largely isolated process—mostly me toiling away in the studio animating or recording. And I’ve also had opportunities to collaborate with peers on new live-action projects, and that’s been really exciting, too.”

“My Sappho” was also selected for screening at Kansas City FilmFest International and Fault Line Film Festival, where Rose also received an Honorable Mention.

“The final line of my film is Sappho saying that ‘Someone, somewhere will remember us, I swear,’” Rose said. “I wanted to do my part in sharing the vibrant life and words of Sappho.”

Harris’ film, “Wildflower,” is about a young girl who, inspired by a popular activist, becomes a climate-change enthusiast and discovers that “Her hero is not everything she hoped he would be.” Harris made the film for the 48-Hour Film Project.

“Basically, you get assigned a genre, prop, character and line of dialogue, and have 48 hours to create an entire short



Stills from My Sappho by Mahryn Rose

film,” Harris said. “It is crazy and stressful and super fun.”

In addition to the Bison Film Festival, “Wildflower” was screened online at Kansas City Film Festival International and the Heart and Soil Earth Day event. It is currently scheduled to be screened in-person on June 5 at the First Friday Film Festival.

“I feel so honored to be recognized,” Harris said. “So many great films by amazing

filmmakers were shown at the festival, and I’m so honored to have even been considered amongst them.”

Harris plans to use her prize money from the festival to help fund her next short film, which she has written and will produce and direct as soon as it is safe to do so.

“I’m currently in the process of deciding if I should move to Los Angeles or New York City to work in the film

industry elsewhere,” Harris said. “Hopefully, I can learn as much as I can about filmmaking and bring that knowledge back to KC in the future to help further grow our film community here. I am also working on polishing up two feature-length screenplays that I would love to see made into films eventually.”

erlwny@mail.umkc.edu

DO YOU WANT MORE OUT OF LIFE?

Come In and Take a Free Personality Test Today!
Church of Scientology Kansas City | 18th and Grand



OPINION

How COVID-19 highlights conservatives' outdated views on economics

Brenden Hill

Staff Writer

"Government is not the solution. Government is the problem." This quote from President Ronald Reagan from his inaugural address might be one his most famous, which is really saying something.

The reason for its popularity isn't just due to Reagan's communication skills. At its core, it speaks to an idea that has become central to traditional libertarianism, as well as movement conservatism over the past few decades: that the government has little role outside of traditional national security. While the policy results of this line of thinking are not always consistent, even from those who spout it, the power of this way of thought is undeniable. The view of "government is the problem" doesn't really hold up in reality, as seen with the wave of chaos evoked by the coronavirus, which is hitting all fronts, from public health to the economy. This pandemic has clearly shown how this view of the government has once again been proven wrong.

The disarray of the virus has certainly been the nail in the coffin for the seemingly booming economy of the past, but what the virus really showed was the frail foundations of that boom.

For too long, the government has been seen as nothing more than a problematic leviathan which only undermines the economy when it gets directly involved.

Most are still taught and cling to the conflict between the public and private spheres, or the different processes of the "market," whose ability to control itself often sounds magical.

These ideas are outdated, with people stuck in their old ways or others only peddling them in the name of bad faith for self-gain.

In reality, the government has a clear and important role to play in the everyday function of the economy, even if it isn't always noticed.



The Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol are seen in Washington, at sunrise (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

For one, without the government, there would be no economy or "market." It is the rules set up by the government that set up the very guard rails of what is or isn't in the economic "market." To try to take the government out of the economic "market" would be a fool's errand.

The government also plays an active role in setting up and running the welfare programs that should be doing more to provide a strong foundation for the economy and the people that make it up. Without these programs, there would be even greater instability in an economy that is already too prone to disruption.

In reality, while it is impossible to solve all the problems facing the U.S.

during this pandemic, that lack of greater investment in the US welfare system due to outdated ideas has certainly made things worse.

If the U.S. had better baseline sick leave programs, higher wages for everyday people, cheaper healthcare, and more money spent on other important programs or departments (like the health department, for example) than it has currently, the situation would be far better.

Right now, the government is taking greater action to put more money into the economy, and it is a start—even if it isn't going to all the right places or enough money to solve the underlying problems. More will need to be done, especially if this pandemic continues.

Once this is over, sadly, the old paradigm will reemerge, where spending a dime to help someone is viewed as wasteful or a dangerous entitlement. That shouldn't be allowed. Too often the government only attempts to do something when things hit the fan and doing nothing is impossible. The coronavirus saga, while being a public health nightmare, has also proven to be an economic parable. It, like other events in the past, shows that government is the solution, not the problem, and hopefully we hold onto that lesson this time.

bmh6dw@mail.umkc.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Professor releases virtual, interactive art gallery

Quincy Rast

Staff Writer

Artist, linguist and UMKC adjunct German professor Tanya Kelley has released a virtual, interactive gallery on language, perception and representation.

Kelley was scheduled to give the gallery talk at the Yale Art Gallery this month before it was canceled due to COVID-19, but has now made the presentation available to the public via video and PowerPoint.

Kelley's presentation engages the audience by having them participate in a few short interactive tasks, such as the Stroop experiment, and name and color recognition tests. The presentation allows the audience to explore language, color and the natural world virtually.



Michel Eugene Chevreul's color wheel, 1861

Kelley found a way to bring her love for painting, language and history of science together as one. She's interested in perception and how language affects that. By applying those concepts with color, she has created a beautiful passion. Kelley says she is interested in how people divide and label the natural world and believes that language is the key to exploration.

Kelley wants to continue to communicate and show the importance of linguistics.

"I think it's sometimes underestimated just how important a good vocabulary is, in one language or multiple, and how it is able to connect you to things around you and open doors to other parts of the world," Kelley said.

Kelley's presentation was intended to accompany artist,

writer and naturalist James Prosek's exhibit "Art, Artifact, Artifice." Prosek's exhibit has been postponed until fall, when Kelley hopes for the opportunity to present her gallery talk and workshop live.

The link to her presentation discussing color manuals used by artist-naturalists and biologists and an interactive close-looking and drawing, can be found below.

PowerPoint link: [https://www.academia.edu/42808073/Lan-](https://www.academia.edu/42808073/Language_Perception_and_Representation)

guage_Perception_and_Representation
Video link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YHzX_YR_wOWC3JUvfBcW7KucWX0Wlr_o/view?usp=sharing

qrgvv@mail.umkc.edu

“The Last Dance”

Explaining the legend only makes it more legendary

Luke McKiddy

Staff Writer

As a child of the 90s, I was aware of Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls, even though my family didn't watch the NBA. Their appeal surpassed basketball and even sports in general, and instead became this overwhelming presence of greatness. In the time since, I have wished that I was more aware of the phenomenon that was occurring and had been able to experience it for myself. I suspect that many people have felt something similar.

For us, “The Last Dance” is a godsend, especially in the days of quarantine. Released two episodes per week, the 10-part docuseries goes in-depth on the lives of the key figures behind the Chicago Bulls two “three-peat” championships.

The greatest strength of the documentary is its access. Numerous interviews give perspective to every situation throughout Jordan's historic career. The timing is perfect—nearly all the prominent figures are still alive and cogent enough to remember and describe even the smallest details of the narrative. An additional benefit to the majority of the cast still being alive is that no one seems to feel obligated to speak well of each other. Jordan, as well as the others, often speak with tact, but that only adds to the satisfaction when he calls Isiah Thomas an asshole for walking off the court without shaking hands after their loss.

Another incredible factor of the documentary's access is the mountains of footage from games, practices, interviews and leisure. It would be impossible for similar superstars of previous decades like Larry Bird or Magic Johnson to receive this treatment. But the Chicago Bulls emerged at the same time as many modern technologies, which allowed for greater, unfettered access.

My biggest complaint about “The Last Dance” is that the timeline can be a bit hard to follow. Most people are

aware to some extent about major moments: “The Shot,” “The Flu Game,” the first championship against the Lakers and any number of greater or lesser feats performed by Jordan and the rest of the Bulls. However, for those not intimately familiar, the context for these moments can be lost in the general aura of legend. The documentary tries to keep things clear with frequent reminders of dates, but even then, keeping track of the narrative can be a challenge.

“The Last Dance” exists on three separate but interwoven tracks of time. The first is the story of the Chicago Bulls going into the 1997-98 season, in which they are competing for their sixth championship. This finals victory would complete the second three-peat and cement the legacy of the Michael Jordan, Phil Jackson-helmed Bulls.

The second track of time follows Jordan's career more broadly, but is also generally about the Chicago Bulls as an organization. With Jordan drafted, they go from a joke of a team (Jordan gets a big laugh when the interviewer calls that era of the team “The Chicago Travelling Cocaine Circus”) to six-time champions and recognized as one of the greatest teams ever formed in the NBA.

The last track focuses on the life of a specific character in the story. To this point in the miniseries, Scottie Pippen has been the focus of an early episode, interviewing his family and delving into what brought him to be “the most underpaid man in the NBA.” Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause gets the spotlight and is presented as something of the antagonist to Jordan's last run for the championship. Dennis Rodman comes across as a hard worker and physical player who grapples with his expression of self by leaving on spur-of-the-moment binges and Vegas vacations.

Taken as a whole, these three tracks work well to give context to all of the moving parts required to win six championships in eight years. But on a mo-



“The Last Dance” gives viewers incredible access to a historic team. (ESPN)

ment-to-moment basis, it can be disorienting. “Is this When Rodman was on the team, or is this when he was still on the Pistons?” “Wait, who's the coach at this point?” “Is this before or after the Bulls started weight training?” The back-and-forth nature of the presentation can lead to the uninitiated having to do some additional googling.

Also, each episode opens with a focus on a specific character, seemingly setting up that the entire installment would be a deep dive into that person. Some do—Pippen received a lot of attention in episode two. However, most seem incapable of fully shifting the attention off of Jordan. Rodman in particular had to share the spotlight. Ever an interesting and enigmatic figure, Rodman's story of growing up on the streets and finding basketball, dating Madonna and Carmen Electra and drastically changing his appearance was still cut to pieces within the overwhelming narrative of M.J. and the Bulls. The effect is exacerbated with Rodman because he was also a part of the 1988-91 Detroit Pistons team that shut down Michael & Co.'s first real run at a championship. So within a single episode, Rodman can bounce back and forth between teammate and rival, hero and villain.

The other negative impact that the somewhat-confusing timeline has is how it plays into the weekly release of the miniseries. By the end of the episode seemingly about Pippen or Rodman, the audience is only at the early parts of the 97-98 season and similarly early in the story of the Bulls. So, there is a strong sense that everyone but Jordan may end up getting short-changed by the documentary treatment.

“The Last Dance” has accomplished two seemingly diametrically opposed goals. On the one hand, the documentary has given insight into the lives and emotions of people who took over the popular consciousness at that time. This sort of tell-all documentary would normally shed light on the fact that all of these larger-than-life athletes are in the end still just people. However, on the other hand, the documentary seems to further engrain the divinity of M.J. and the Bulls, even as it illuminates their humanity. Like a modern-day Homer, “The Last Dance” proclaims the skill and unstoppable drive to victory Jordan possessed like an Achilles of the hardwood. And like the Iliad, everyone watching already knows how the story ends.

ltmtz4@mail.umkc.edu

Loved “Tiger King?”

Here are other great documentaries to watch during quarantine

Sarah Abney

Staff Writer

While in quarantine, most, if not all of us, have watched “Tiger King.” Now, what else is there to watch after that chaotic masterpiece? Here are a few groundbreaking documentaries that will leave you speechless, all available on Netflix.

“**Voyeur**” (2017) directed by **Myles Kane and Josh Koury**

Fly-on-the-wall former motel owner, Gerald Foos, wishes to broadcast to the world his hobby of people watching. Through the vents of his motel, Foos observed his guests every night for over eight years, witnessing some rather unusual events. However, this film is more than just a creepy memoir of a peeping Tom. Journalist Gay Talese has been chasing down the three-decade-long story of Foos' secrets in his publication, “The Voyeur Motel.” Humility and trust are put aside as Talese introduces the world to the man behind the vent.

“**Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father**” (2008) directed by **Kurt Kuenne**



A still from the Netflix film “Voyeur.” (Entertainment Weekly)

Filmmaker Kurt Kuenne grieves the tragic passing of his lifelong friend, Dr. Andrew Bagby. Kuenne creates this documentary in hopes to capture the memory of his beloved friend for Bagby's newborn son, Zachary. However, while filming this documentary, Kuenne captures more than just Bagby's memory. Unfore-

seen conflicts leave Kuenne documenting the frustrating injustices of Bagby's son. You will need to grab a tissue box for this one.

“**Amy**” (2015) directed by **Asif Kapadia**

Legendary singer Amy Winehouse is documented in an incredibly personal way in “Amy,” the Oscar-award-

winning film that honors the late singer for who she really was. Underneath Winehouse's iconic cat eyeliner and retro beehive hairdo was a talented and authentic woman who desired to be loved. The rise and fall of Winehouse is a deeply moving story for anyone to witness.

“**Rich Hill**” (2014) directed

by **Tracy Droz Tragos and Andrew Droz Palermo**

Indie documentary “Rich Hill” follows the lives of three young boys as they try to make a promising life for themselves in the most unforgiving circumstances. This Sundance-award-winning film takes place only an hour away from UMKC's campus in Rich Hill, Missouri. Directors Tragos and Palermo put a microscope to this Midwest small town, providing an intimate view of poverty. You can call this documentary a real-life ‘coming-of-age’ or American dream story. However, it is more than just that: “Rich Hill” sparks a conversation of humanity and compassion.

There are just a few honorable mentions of documentaries available on Netflix as well. If you haven't watched “Blackfish,” “Fyre” or “Making a Murderer,” clear your quarantine schedule to watch those iconic staple documentaries as well.

skaycc@mail.umkc.edu