



We're Back Roos!

LGBTQ+ Legislation in Missouri

The fate of 30 bills pertaining to LGBTQ+ rights are being decided

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Record numbers of LGBTQ+ legislative proposals are sweeping through Missouri; 30 have been filed since December 2022.

This puts the state at the second-highest number of bills targeting LGBTQ+ issues in the nation, according to the ACLU.

Supporters of these bills, which address topics such as school discussion of LGBTQ+ topics, drag shows and gender affirming care, assert they protect children and their parents. However, the high volume of proposals concern activists who fear the bills would limit LGBTQ+ rights if passed.

To student senator and public administration major Justice Horn, the most concerning proposal is SB 134, dubbed the "Vulnerable Child and Compassion Act." Horn likens the act to Florida's "Don't Say Gay Act."

Florida's law prohibits teachers from discussing sexual orientation or gender identity with students from kindergarten to third grade. Missouri's version would include all public schools at all grade levels.

"A lot of [LGBTQ+ youth], especially in Missouri, aren't so welcome at home —

school is really the only place where they have community," Horn said. "It would not only create an atmosphere where that's unacceptable but also make every single GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) in the state of Missouri illegal."

Similar bills gaining momentum would impact transgender youth and their abilities to participate in school activities. One such bill is SB 781, the "Save Women's Sports Act." This proposal would demand that transgender students play on the team

females, as defined in the act, shall be open to students that are biological males."

To some UMKC students, the idea seems fair.

"The question about trans athletes is tricky," said Maci Branch, a senior English major and trans woman. "Everybody is different, but in general XY males are stronger and bigger, and XX females are smaller and less strong. There are exceptions, but those are not the rules, and competition only works if we follow them."

However, critics of the Save Women's Sports Act argue it has nothing to do with protecting women's sports and will instead lead to transgender students feeling marginalized, excluded and unwelcome from school extracurriculars.

"The assumption that women are weaker than men is just not true," Horn said. "They are moving heaven and earth to ban these kids from playing."

These are only two of the 30 bills pertaining to LGBTQ+ rights in Missouri right now. Other bills on the docket seek to criminalize drag and restrict gender-affirming care for minors. Although Missouri has been leading the nation in legislation seen as anti-LGBTQ+, it's only the latest out of many.

The current push of the legislature echoes long-held debates about the rights of LGBTQ+ communities, transgender rights and conservative resistance to ideas of gender identity.



Missouri's new legislature concerns those in the LGBTQ+ community. Photo by Emma Sauer

As of Feb. 14, the bill has passed out of committee and is headed for the state senate, according to a post from Horn's Twitter.

matching with their biological sex.

The bill's summary states, "No athletic team or sport designated for biological

AI Aided Academia: How Artificial Intelligence is Changing Education

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Sci-Fi movies of the past tried to warn us, and the time is finally here. Artificial Intelligence is starting to replace people.

Not replacing actual humans, but their ideas at least. Students around the world have been using AI programs, such as ChatGPT, to complete class assignments.

"People could use it for great things, people could use it for terrible things," said Noah Turner, a senior computer science major. "I've heard professors warning about students doing it."

Educators should quickly become aware of the possibilities that AI presents when it comes to academic integrity.

"On a regular basis, I hear colleges discussing the impact and ramifications

of many emerging tools," said Dr. Jesse Lowe, an assistant professor in UMKC's Department of Computing Analytics and Mathematics. "I'm not sure anyone is totally aware of the full impact these tools will have, or how widespread they have already become in terms of active use."

These AIs can even stand up to technically complex testing. Researchers at the University of Minnesota Law School fed ChatGPT a legal exam containing 95 multiple choice questions and 12 essay questions.

The AI passed this test, and across multiple attempts performed at the level of a C+ average student. The bot performed even better when fed an exam from a UMN business course, and achieved a grade average of a B-.

With the bad there must always be the good, and the upside of this technology is that it has many creative capabilities outside of cheating on an English paper.

"Ultimately, we seek things that reduce the barrier of entry into new areas of learning, and I think emerging tools will prove invaluable as they provide highly accessible paths to virtually all types of knowledge," Lowe said.

MusicLM is an AI created by Google, and it can generate music based on a text description. ChatGPT can also be used to generate computer code. There are videos on YouTube that detail how to create structures in the 3D modeling software called Blender.

Regardless of the intentions of the user it is important to remember that these bots are no more than what they claim to be. Professionals warn that the validity of the information they present is dubious at best.

"Despite the authoritative way many of



AI is being used in a variety of industries today. Photo by Catia Montelongo

these systems present information, they do not have any real notion of truth or even belief associated with the information they present," Lowe said. "AI is ultimately in its infancy in a multitude of ways, and we've yet to see what it can ultimately do for us."



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NEWS



UMKC Student Film League Revived

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1

Coffee and Careers with BMG advisors

10:00 a.m. p.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Bloch Heritage Hall

Wednesday, March 1

FSA Risk Management Workshop

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Student Union - 401BC

Thursday, March 2

Writing Workshop and Socratic Discussion

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Student Union - 401D

Thursday, March 2

Volleyball and Socialization

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Swinney Center, Old Swinney Court

For a full list of events, check out calendar.umkc.edu and roogroups.umkc.edu/events



The UMKC Student Film League is reestablishing after disbanding in 2021 to stimulate an environment for student filmmakers, film enthusiasts and anyone that likes movies.

The new board is made up of film students Park Zebley, Abby Marx, Rey Dean and Parker Elliot, and they have high hopes for the once-beloved Student Film League (SFL).

“Professor Mitch Brian gathered as many film students as he could find at an end-of-year celebration and asked us if we wanted to start the organization,” said Zebley, the president of the Student Film League. “All four of us raised our hands, and it was settled.”

The board is seeking to create an inclusive environment open to all. Additionally, students want a place to enjoy movies, have conversations about film, and most of all, foster true connections.

“You can just join because it’s something you’re curious about,” said Dean, the outreach officer. “The last thing we want is to be elitist or exclusive to students who have the potential to succeed.”

Each board member brings a new perspective and their own film experiences to the league.

“The film space has been exceptionally healing and filled with love and trustworthy people,” Dean said. “I’ve met close friends through

this program so I would say I’ve had a good time.”

Alongside the revival of the league, Kansas City was named one of the best places to live and work as a filmmaker, specifically for the up-and-comers

“Being a young filmmaker in Kansas City means you get to connect with so many other artists and people working in the industry that share your goals and your love for the medium,” Zebley said.

Home to Walt Disney and the Historic Film Row, Kansas City has always been involved with the film industry. The members of the SFL are excited to be where they belong.

“I feel like everyone in the Kansas City industry is connected. That means there’s a lot of camaraderie and not as much competition as there is in LA or New York,” Zebley said. “For every person who disregards you, several want to see you

succeed.”

The SFL is seeking to use this idea as a way to encourage more students to join. The students within the league are excited to share their experiences with others and keep the film environment thriving.

“Being a student filmmaker is all about perseverance [and] pushing through the moments you think you can’t make it big,” Elliot said.

Most of all, the SFL wants to create a space for all students to feel as though they belong, because as Dean said, “film is never a one-man job.”

SFL will meet every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building, room 305.

One of their first events is a movie night at Screenland Armour on February 11th. UMKC students can purchase BOGO tickets to see *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*.



Photo by EllieAna Hale

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Entrepreneurial Dreams Take Flight with M.I.R. Program

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UMKC's Bloch School has reintroduced a program aimed to help students achieve their entrepreneurial dreams. Located in room 317 of Bloch Executive Hall, the Mentors in Residence (M.I.R.) program will give students the feedback and guidance they need to create and grow successful businesses.

The M.I.R. program is led by a team of over 100 mentors who have businesses in all fields, sectors and industries. According to business consultant and M.I.R. mentor Bernie Fried, these mentors are dedicated to helping students succeed in the world of entrepreneurship. Fried believes the program can offer something invaluable.

"I can teach you how to think like an entrepreneur," Fried said.

The program is designed for mentors to connect with and support students who

are looking for extra help in launching and growing their ventures. The program is open to all students who have an interest in entrepreneurship or who are already working on their own business ideas.

This program is a hidden gem on campus many students don't know about. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down UMKC's campus, and most students transitioned to online learning. Now that students are returning to campus, the M.I.R. program hopes to become more visible.

"We are excited to relaunch the M.I.R. program and provide students with the support they need to succeed," said Philip Gonsler, assistant director of the mentor program.

"The mentors get just as much from the program as the mentees," said Matt Heelan, the Regnier Mentor managing the M.I.R. program. "Some of the proudest moments in my career were when I was building teams, empowering people to take on roles and projects and achieving the vision and

goals that enabled small to medium-sized organizations to be successful."

Heelan hopes that the advice students receive from M.I.R. mentors will help them to avoid certain mistakes when they face inevitable situations as an entrepreneur.

"If I've been doing something for twenty years and could give you a shortcut in your career or industry, then why not use it?" Heelan said.

According to Heelan, the M.I.R. program is poised to make a positive impact on the student community by providing access to experienced mentors, resources, and support. The program will provide an opportunity for students interested in entrepreneurship to make their business ideas a reality.

Aside from offering advice

and first-hand experience, the mentors in this program can help students formulate and write business plans and financial plans.

The M.I.R. program is available to all students, not only those who attend the UMKC Bloch School.



Students can find the M.I.R. Program on the third floor of Bloch Executive Hall. Photo by Maddy Bremer

SGA Executive Board Members Step Down

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Two executive council members of



Changes in SGA leave two open positions on the executive board. Photo by Ellen Beshuk

UMKC's Student Government Association (SGA) stepped down at the first general body council meeting of the spring semester.

These resignations come after a fall semester of rising tensions between senate members and parts of the executive council in SGA.

Former Chief of Staff, Kayla Foht, announced her departure via letter to the executive board, and strongly voiced her concerns with the 89th Senate. Foht started the position in August 2022 and resigned after one

semester.

"I joined SGA to see the route of student involvement, to understand the heartbeat of campus collaboration, and frankly, to have fun," Foht said. "Instead, what I have found are layers of animosity."

Foht's message was read by SGA President Tim Nguyen to the general body during the council meeting held on Jan. 23. Foht learned of her letter being shared by reading the meeting minutes sent via email after it happened.

"I can't keep adding the massive ball of stress and negativity SGA consistently brings to the table," Foht said later in her speech.

After reading the note from Foht, Nguyen promptly proceeded to offer the open position to Speaker of the Senate Quyhn Tran, which she denied by stating, "I like my job."

Internal Affairs Director Cameron Quick confirmed the on-the-spot job offer to Tran during the meeting was not a unanimous decision for the executive board.

Student Body Vice President Haaris Rehman immediately followed in Foht's footsteps and gave a parting speech of his own to the general body, confessing that many of them had probably already heard of his decision.

While she has removed herself from SGA, Foht believes there is hope for the executive board and senate to make amends and make large strides in supporting students and making change.

"The things that SGA can accomplish if everybody could focus on one goal and work together would be incredible," Foht said. "We're all working for the betterment of the student body and working together is always better than not working together."

Since Foht and Rehman's secession, neither position has been filled. Tran nor Rehman could be reached by Roo News for comment.

The next SGA meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union Chambers.

Sen. Josh Hawley Takes Aim at TikTok on a National Level

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Missouri Senator Josh Hawley introduced a bill on Jan. 25 that would eliminate TikTok from all American devices.

This bill, aptly named the "No TikTok on United States Devices Act," aims to protect American citizens from excessive data harvesting from ByteDance Limited, the company that owns TikTok. According to the bill, if the act is signed into law, it will "block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a covered company."

In 2020, Hawley introduced his first bill against TikTok on government devices. This bill passed unanimously. While in office, he has made many social media posts of his discussions in congress, tearing down the very thing he's communicating through.

Dr. Greg Vonnahme, an associate professor and chair of the political science department, said Sen. Hawley has made a name for himself by taking a stand against "big tech" and how much user data it owns.

"Hawley's interest or agenda that he staked out is particularly the protection of

minors," Vonnahme said.

There is no precedent on how much control the government has over social media in America. Many social media platforms used in the U.S. are based on our soil and do not face backlash for

aggressive data harvesting.

"TikTok is always going to have a unique problem of being a Chinese company," Vonnahme said.

For some students, like 22-year-old senior film and media major Seneca

Whorton, who use the app regularly, the potential ban is jarring.

"I don't post, but I find out a lot of information on there," Whorton said. "It may seem like a useless app, but I use it."

Whorton uses the app for a myriad of reasons, from a pick-me-up on a bad day to learning information about mental health advocacy.

"If it's my specific illness, I'm like, 'Yes. Finally, somebody gets it,'" Whorton said.

"When somebody makes a video just dedicated to it, it's like, 'wow, there's another person like me out there, I'm not alone.'"

Americans are free to post, scroll and have the app on their devices because this potential ban is still only a bill. Vonnahme encourages TikTok users like Whorton to keep an eye on updates involving the bill as regulations may develop.



The proposed bill would impact UMKC students who regularly use the app. Photo by Julia Kapros

Letter from the Editor

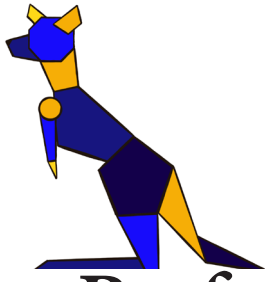
Hey Roos! I hope everyone is having a great spring semester so far. My name is Bre Blankenship, and I have the privilege of being editor-in-chief for Roo News this year. This publication is run by a group of about 40 students who are passionate about journalism and telling stories that need to be heard in a variety of ways. It's part of my job to make sure our newspaper is covering what you, the students, want to read and know about, as well as show how national news can affect UMKC's campus. Some of my personal goals this semester are to highlight UMKC creatives and artists, as well as student entrepreneurs and local businesses. If you are interested in learning more about Roo News or feel there is something we are missing coverage on, I am happy to meet and discuss opportunities. I am excited to meet you!

--Bre Blankenship, Editor In-Chief

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Stunning Performance Stands Out in UMKC Show

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Kayla Brazelton performed and choreographed during UMKCs dance senior capstone on Feb. 3 at Spencer Theater.

The senior capstone takes place every year in the spring semester. The dance conservatory seniors plan their own group piece that is performed by other students, as well as execute their own solo.

"I really enjoyed being able to freely collaborate with artists within the conservatory and the light and sound crew," Brazelton said.

A big challenge about putting together two pieces all by herself was the time frame.

"Originally we started in October with auditions, you only get one day a week to rehearse, all December and half of January is gone because of winter break, and then it is basically showtime," Brazelton said.

In this incredibly tight schedule, at the end of January, Brazelton had the opportunity to show off her dancing skills in Toronto for five days in front of possible employers. To squeeze in all of that and come out with the exquisite piece that she did is beyond impressive.

Originally from Chicago, Brazelton moved to Kansas City in 2019. Gloria Brazelton,

Kayla Brazelton's mother, came down from Chicago to watch her daughter shine on the stage.

"I can't believe that was my daughter up there," said Gloria Brazelton.

Going into the show Brazelton mentioned that she did not plan to pursue choreography as a career, but seeing her excel in this, my hopes are that we see more from her in the future.

Brazelton's group piece, "Reflecting Growth" is just as it sounds, it is about reflecting over her growth as a person and dancer.

"As an artist it is hard to appreciate your work and it is very easy to do what someone tells you to do," Brazelton said. "To create your own movement on stage and see how people can reflect on it, relate to it, and become moved by it is an uplifting feeling."

The feelings that surfaced while watching her group piece proves how difficult and inspiring it can be to completely make up a dance from scratch that tells such a clear story.

Her solo "Repressed" is also self-explanatory. Brazelton shows off her stunning piece about being held back by something good. She used a rope as a prop to represent her technique.

Brazelton explained how sometimes a technique restricts a performer from showing their artistry, full movement and enjoyment

of dance.

It was very easy for me to picture this as she threw the rope into the ground and the dance took off. Brazelton's movements were smooth like silk and her timing to the music "Unfolding" by Diana Yukawa were immense. I think this made the piece the most outstanding during the show and it really stunned me.

Many dancers, including Brazelton, know the challenge of choreographing something by themselves and all the uncertainty that comes with it. My emotions and eyes did not lie to me in that it became a beautiful and joyful project she should be very proud of.

"I was really excited to work with my dancers because you get to see people in class but you don't really have the opportunity to teach and work with them like I've been doing before this show," Brazelton said.

What she loves most about the senior show is how different parts of the conservatory (light, music and dancers) come together to put on this wonderful production.



Kayla Brazelton in front of her poster after the show. Photo by Hugo von Reis

"I was very happy to put some of my work on my peers to see how they move in my vision," Brazelton said. "It was great to see that all the hard work I put into it became such a beautiful moment to share with family, friends, and teachers."

Noah Kahan Stick Season Tour

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To no one's surprise, Noah Kahan is not only a phenomenal artist, but an amazing performer. The Stick Season Tour made its stop at The Truman theater in Kansas City, and has left me itching for more.

My friend and I arrived at the 1,200 person venue two hours before the doors opened, but to our surprise the line was already wrapped half way down the block.

The cold weather made the wait tough, but the staff of The Truman made sure we were comfortable by passing out water and constantly checking to make sure we were safe.

Once it hit 7 p.m., we made our way into the main room.

The show began with opening artist Jack Van Cleaf, a smaller folk artist out of Tennessee. Although his set was small, it was not forgettable.

Van Cleaf began with introducing himself and his band, lead singer Bennett Emery, who played a wide array of instruments,



Photo by Zoe Strohm

and Ethan Fortenberry on the electric guitar. My friend and I both appreciated the conversation and connection that came with such an intimate venue.

Each song was different and new, a couple getting an instant save to my Spotify account after their set. Van Cleaf's music was perfectly complementary to the headlining set, and I hope to hear more from them in the future.

Between sets, venue staff passed water out to those waiting along the barricade, as well as checking to make sure everyone was feeling okay. This experience with staff is much different than I have experienced in bigger venues, and made me appreciate The

Truman even more.

At just around 9:15 p.m. the lights went dark, the band walked out, and the crowd began to scream. From behind the curtains, Noah Kahan began his set with "False Confidence" from his 2019 album "Busyhead". The room buzzed with energy as the crowd busted out in song. Kahan was illuminated by bright blue lights behind him, running back and forth, making sure to be seen by everyone in the crowd.

The band consists of Noah Levine on electric guitar and banjo, Marcos Valles on drums and back up vocals, Dylan Jones on piano, and Alex Bachari on Bass.

The chemistry between these men was undeniable, and it showed in their music and ability to work together to create something amazing. They danced, sang along, and interacted while performing, showcasing a friendship outside of just bandmates.

The main set consisted of 17 songs, including the debut of a brand new track, played for the first time live in Kansas City. There was then a short break and a three song

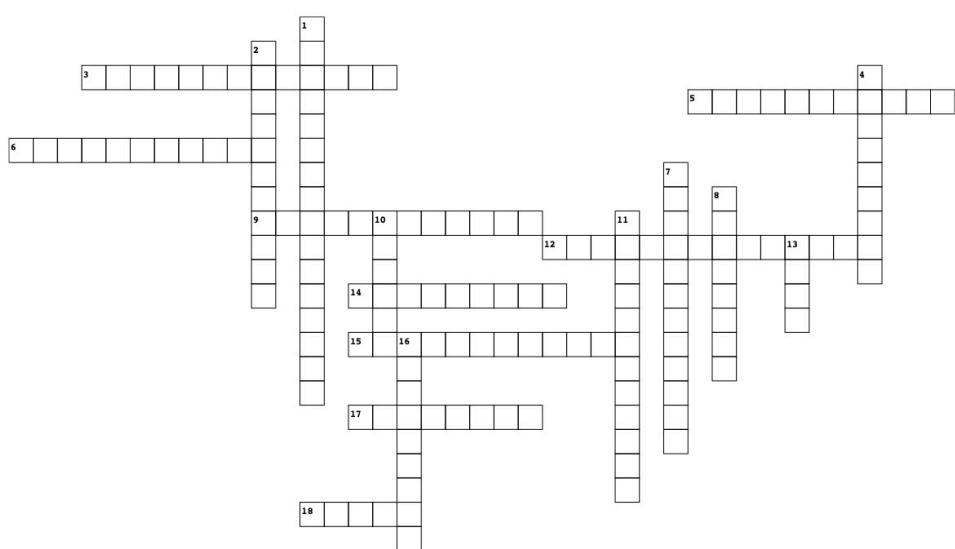
encore. While my favorite song from the album is "All My Love", "The View Between Villages" was my favorite performance of the night.

The band returned to stage, revealing Kahan and Bachari wearing Chiefs gear, garnering cheers from the crowd. "The View Between Villages" was extended past its three minute and thirty three second runtime, gaining an extra run through the chorus. This led into "Stick Season", the album's name sake and most well known song, before ending with "Mess".

All together, the show ran about three hours, including the break between sets. Although small, the venue was incredibly accommodating and accessible, and lent itself to an amazing show. Staff went out of their way to ensure the wellbeing and comfort of their guests, even going out of their way to make sure patrons did not park in tow away zones on accident.

Noah Kahan is an amazing artist, but his band brought his performance to a whole new level. I highly recommend checking out "Stick Season" on Spotify or Apple Music and to invest in Noah Kahan tickets next time he comes to town.

Do you know Kansas City?



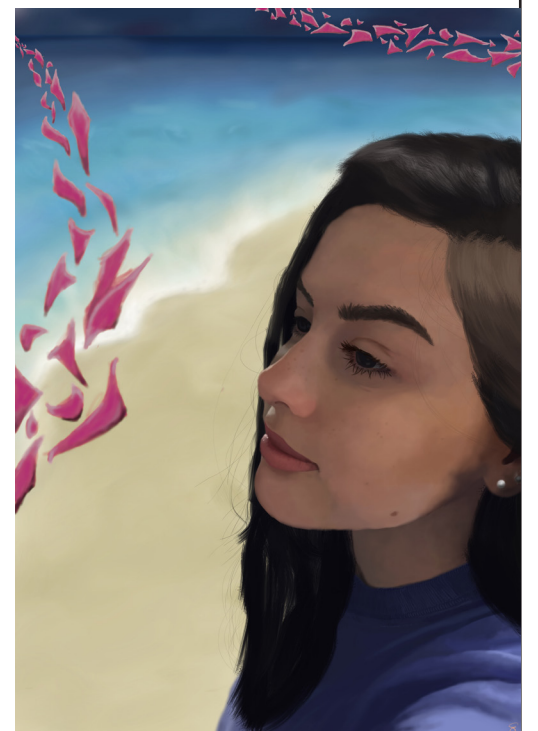
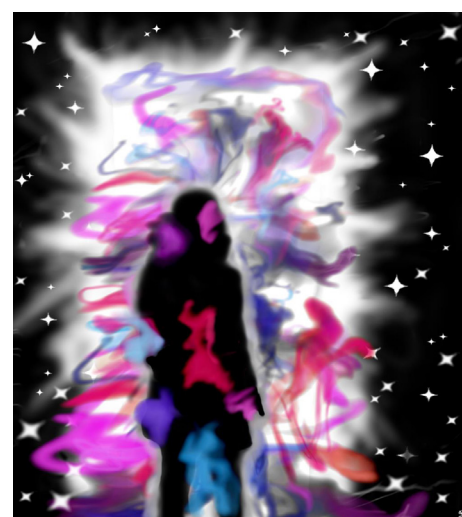
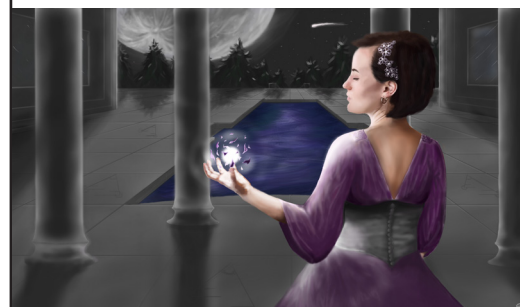
Across

- The Beast and Edge of Hell are examples of these.
- A monthly event that takes place in the Crossroads
- Place where you can buy produce, grab pizza, and explore unique stores.
- Known to some as the "Little Italy" in KC
- Location of the latest Chiefs' championship parade
- Theatre that's located near the Kansas City Zoo.
- Art museum that hosts limited-time exhibits and has a wide array of art
- Where you can find a namesake flea market and ale house in Kansas City
- _____ and Light District

Down

- Shopping center located near UMKC
- You'll find this enlarged item a lawn in front of a museum.
- Where the KC Current host their training facility.
- Concert venue most well-known in KC (hint: The name changed from one phone service name to another.
- Last name of a famous Kansas Citian whose name is used for a baseball park, a garden, and a school.
- _____ Hall
- Where the NFL draft will be hosted this year.
- 18th and _____
- A go-to spot to enjoy lunch or a picnic. Located right off campus

Artist of the Month Seth Dunfield



Grand Coffee Company Brings Italian Values to the KC Coffee Scene

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The owner of Grand Coffee Company, Salvatore Silvio, crafts a cannoli as I take a seat at the coffee bar.

The large windows and contemporary decor remind me I'm in the city, but looking more closely, I spotted an old black and white photo of a family hanging next to the Victrola record player.

Silvio hands me the sugar coated cannoli as he describes who is in the image. Silvio's great grandfather – mom's side – cuts Rocky Marciano's hair while his grandfather – dad's side – stands by. Silvio's great uncle is behind the barber shop chair. The family's connection didn't start overnight. It goes back generations.

Grand Coffee Company captures a Kansas City feel by combining modern aesthetics with rich history. Silvio describes the coffee shop's Italian background, highlighting the value of family and his desire to feature it in the business.

Silvio informs me about the family's food. An Italian cookie recipe is written in his

grandmother's handwriting on a card, and he holds those tokens of family close to heart.

"It's kind of what I know and the morals I grew up on," Silvio said. "And I actually do

to the business. Whether it's the skills of the restaurant industry or learning how to bake, Silvio is always learning from others.

Silvio wants to capture tradition within the

cannolis and biscottis are also featured in the menu – and very delicious. Food is an important part of Silvio's life.

"Any family event that we go to, everyone checks in and cooks," Silvio said. "But at the end of the day, anytime there's good food, [it] groups people together."

The songs "Piano Man" and "American Pie" playing on the Victrola make the shop feel like home. From song choice to food selection, Silvio sprinkles his family throughout Grand Coffee Company.

Establishing customer connection beyond business interactions is what Silvio hopes to achieve at his coffee shop. He chats with customers at the coffee bar, taking the time

to slow down and be present. Additionally, he wants employees to feel this same welcome.

"Usually it's the first person you see when starting your day," Silvio said. "[A] good atmosphere" among both staff and customers is important to the shop's authenticity.

Grand Coffee Company is located at 2345 Grand Blvd, just 10 minutes from campus.

Stay updated on the spot through their Instagram. They are open Monday through

Friday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. or customers can order online through their website.



Owner of Grand Coffee Co., Salvatore Silvio. Photo by Julia Kapros

think it's [family] one of the most important things in your life."

Aunts, uncles, and even cousins contribute

coffee shop. The "Classics" menu contains coffee with an Italian history, such as the macchiato and affogato. Pastries like



Photos by Julia Kapros



Psychedelic Sounds of Lil Yachty's Album

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Come immerse yourself in the psychedelic pop rock synth soundscape that is Lil Yachty's newest creation; his latest album titled "Let's Start Here".

The 14-track album comes as a refreshing change of pace and sound for the hip-hop artist who compiled a project filled with Pink Floyd-esque guitar rifts, wide airy synths, spaced-out drums and bright, autotuned vocals mixed in layers with lots of delays and reverbs.

These sounds come familiar to the frequent listeners of Tame Impala, MGMT, Beach House, etc., but to hip-hop fans, it stands as a fun-filled trip out of left field by Yachty that poses himself in a new territory of sonics.

Yachty revealed in

a tweet that the album took only

six months to make, but he sat on it for a year and a half, debating on when to release it into the world. In another tweet, he says "Truth be told, all I ever wanted was to be respected as an artist".

We've seen it repeatedly, artists putting together bodies of work that are considered experimental or risky compared to the music they generally put out.

As for Yachty, these luscious and glimmering sounds in his experiment seem to pair with his easy-going spirit and lyrics almost seamlessly, creating what is his magnum opus at this point in his career.

Yachty didn't need to create and drop a psychedelic rock album to remain

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relevant, but he did, and created his first true body of work where we can see him explore his artistry in an evolving capacity. This once again launched him into the category of musician that no one saw coming, much like his entrance to the scene in 2016 with hits like "Minnesota" and "One Night."

The album is available to listen to on all streaming platforms and continues to sit high on the charts, furthermore portraying a testament to the public's ear being pleased by this leap of artistry.

"Infinity Pool" Takes Horror Genre By Storm

The film begins with cinematography that physically flips and turns, depicting the uneasiness that the viewer is almost forced to feel. James is portrayed as a money-following author who uses his wife's family finances as his own.

There is a tension that follows the couple that makes the viewer feel physically uncomfortable. A monologue begins, where Foster starts discussing how his life doesn't feel real and how he feels as though he is in a dream, which is a foreshadowing of the horrors experienced later.

Picture-perfect, wealthy couple Gabi (Goth) and Alban (Jalil Lespert) are then introduced, who appears to take the Foster couple under their influence.

From this point on, the couple falls down a path of crime, execution, and an elitist, classist escape from persecution. The film explores the idea of the scientific body doubling as a form of paying their way out of being executed.

Execution becomes a form of entertainment for the rich, watching their own body-

doubled selves be killed time after time.

This group of wealthy individuals exhibit cult-like behavior, led by the aforementioned Gabi, and have no plans of escaping or returning to normal, humane life.

Given an 86% by Rotten Tomatoes, the film is described as one of the most gruesome movies of the year.

Personally, the movie pushed all boundaries as a viewer and forced a "WTF" mindset, trying to navigate the fever dream that is this horror flick.

With engaging visuals that are reminiscent of the Cronenberg style, and things only seen in the most macabre nightmares, the viewer is almost dared to not look away.

After watching this film, I remained in my seat for approximately ten minutes after it had ended trying to grasp what just happened and how I was supposed to feel. The movie's knack for disorientation felt like a true 70s psychedelic experience with the characters' use of ceremonial drugs alongside the trademark Cronenberg nightmare-fuel

visuals.

The film, to those not acquainted with horror movies, can easily be described as "hard to watch" with its sensory bombardment accompanied by the epilepsy warning at the very beginning of the movie.

Additionally, as a viewer, you cannot just look at the film and expect to understand what is happening. Symbolism is found within every aspect of the plot that forces the viewer to take a deeper understanding of sociological issues such as nepotism, classism, and ethical understanding of morality.

Overall, this monstrosity of a horror flick takes a place in one of my top ten movies of this year. As a horror-loving person, I believe this feature contributes a strong in-your-face approach to sophisticated psychological horror. Not only with the satirical dialogue playing a role, but additionally with the visuals that would make anyone uncomfortable.

This is definitely not a film you would dare recommend to your mother, but if you are a horror-movie buff, take a watch and make sense of it yourself.



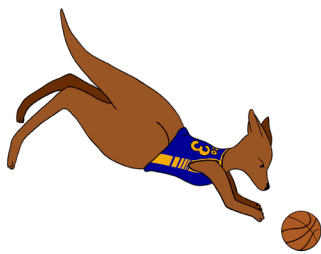
EllieAna Hale
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Recently released film "Infinity Pool" adds a strong contender to the psychological horror film genre through satirical commentary on class, a conversation of morality and an abundance of urns.

Directed by Brandon Cronenberg, son of the infamous body-horror icon David Cronenberg (Director of 'The Fly'), the movie continues Brandon's filmography career as he follows the horror film legacy his father created.

Starring Mia Goth and Alexander Skarsgård, the film follows washed-up and at times, insufferable novelist, James Foster (Skarsgård) and his wife Em (Cleopatra Coleman). The story shows the Fosters' journey to finding inspiration for James' new novel after a six-year hiatus from his previous, and only novel, at a resort in a fictional under-developed country, Li Tolqa.

SPORTS



Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

A time capsule of African-American heroes in baseball

Jarrold McDaniel

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The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is a tribute to the pioneers who battled segregation to play America's favorite pastime.

The exhibit, located in the heart of Kansas City's historic 18th and Vine District, is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Negro Leagues and its players, who were often overlooked and undervalued during their time.

The Negro Leagues were a series of African-American professional baseball teams that operated from the late 19th century to the mid-1960s. Despite facing discrimination and segregation, these teams provided a platform for talented Black players to showcase their skills and pursue their dreams of playing professional baseball.

The museum was founded by a group of dedicated individuals who were passionate about perpetuating this important part of American history. They collected artifacts, photographs and stories from former players, fans and historians. With that, they created exhibits that brought the struggles and triumphs of the Negro Leagues to life. Visitors to the museum are transported back in time, to a world where baseball was not just a game, but a symbol of hope and perseverance for African-Americans.

One of the museum's most popular exhibits was a replica of a 1920s-era baseball field, complete with old-fashioned uniforms, gloves and bats. Guests could step onto the field and imagine what it was like for the players of the Negro Leagues to take the field in front of thousands of cheering fans. There was also a display of rare photographs, showcasing some of the greatest players in Negro League history, such as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell.

The museum is a wonderful experience for

all. Many African Americans' family members played in the Negro League, including the writer of this story. People travel from all across the country to visit the museum, and many have connections to the Negro Leagues and to Kansas City itself. Kansas City was known as a hotspot for many African Americans during when the leagues were established.

As the birthplace of the Negro National League in 1920, Kansas City played a crucial role in the development and success of the league.

For more than three decades, Kansas City was home to two of the most prominent teams in the league - the Kansas City Monarchs and the Kansas City Stars. The Monarchs, founded by J.L. Wilkinson in 1920, quickly became one of the most successful teams in the league, winning four league championships and one World Series title.

The team's success was due in no small part to the talents of some of the greatest players in the history of baseball. Legends like Satchel Paige, Buck O'Neil and Jackie Robinson

all played for the Monarchs at one time or another, solidifying the team's reputation as a powerhouse in the Negro Leagues.

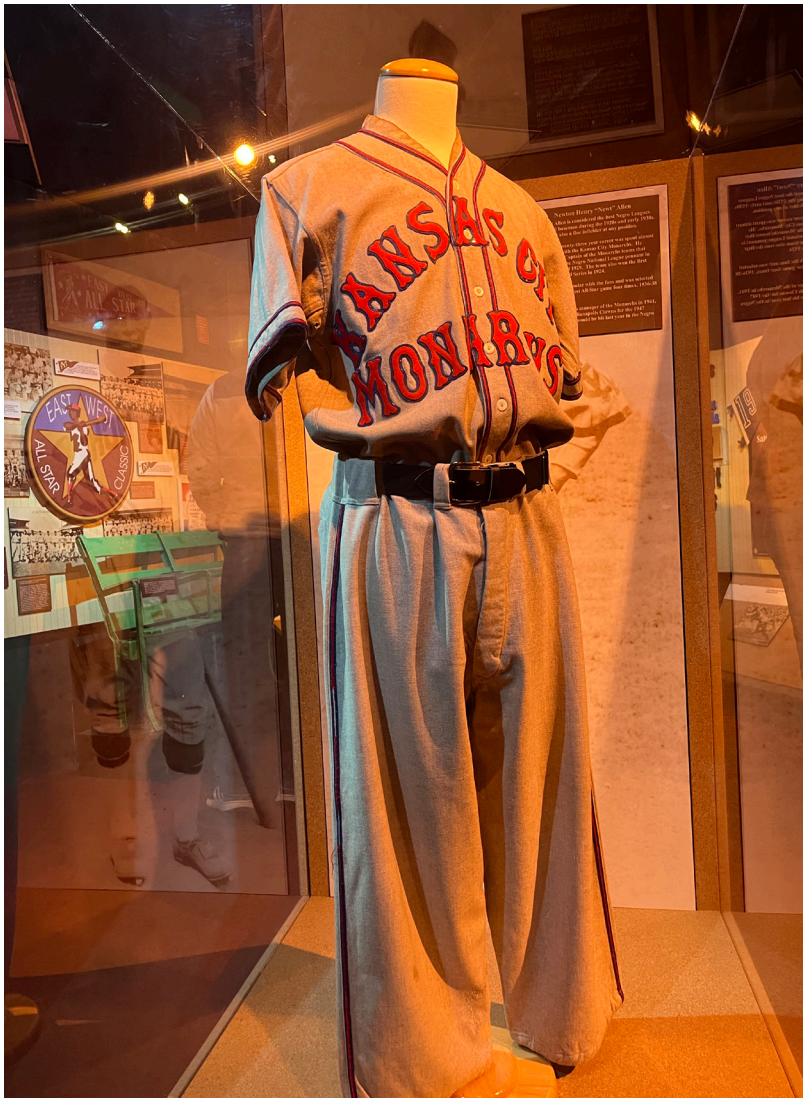


Photo by Jarrold McDaniel

But the importance of Kansas City to the Negro Leagues went beyond just the success of its teams. The city was also a hub for black culture and entrepreneurship, providing a supportive community for players and team owners alike. This environment allowed for the creation and growth of the Negro Leagues, which offered black players an opportunity to play professional baseball at a

time when segregation kept them out of the major leagues.

The contributions of Latin American players to the Negro Leagues are often overlooked in the history books, but a new exhibit at the museum is aiming to change that.

The exhibit, titled "Latinos in the Negro Leagues," tells the story of the many Latino players who were a part of the Negro Leagues, despite facing their own unique challenges.

One of the most notable Latino players in the Negro Leagues was Martin Dihigo, a Cuban-born player who was known for his versatility on the field. Dihigo played multiple positions, including pitcher, outfielder and infielder, and was known for his impressive speed and power at the plate. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977.

Women also played a vital role in the Negro baseball leagues, breaking barriers and showcasing their talent on the diamond.

During the era of segregated baseball, Black women faced multiple obstacles in pursuing their passion for the sport. However, several all-Black female teams emerged in the 1930s and 1940s, such as the Kansas City Monarchs' "Colored House of David" and the Memphis Red Sox's "Soul Sisters."

The players on these teams faced racism, sexism and poor working conditions. They often had to travel long distances in cramped buses, sleep in segregated accommodations and endure verbal abuse from spectators and opponents.

Toni Stone, who played for the Indianapolis Clowns in 1953, was the first woman to play in the Negro Leagues. She was followed by players like Mamie "Peanut" Johnson and Connie Morgan, who also played for the Clowns in the 1950s.

There is a lot to learn about the museum. Visitors might also be able to catch Negro League President Bob Kendrick walking the halls. He's more than willing to stop and chat with people about the league.

Summit League Basketball Tournament

Friday, March 3

#8 vs. #9

Women's: 12:30 p.m.

Men's: 6 p.m.

#7 vs. #10

Women's: 3 p.m.

Men's: 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 4

#1 vs. #8/#9

Women's: 12:30 p.m.

Men's: 6 p.m.

#2 vs. #7/#10

Women's: 3 p.m.

Men's: 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 5

#4 vs. #5

Women's: 12:30 p.m.

Men's: 6 p.m.

#3 vs. #6

Women's: 3 p.m.

Men's: 8:30 p.m.

Monday, March 6

Semifinal

Women's: 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m.

Men's: 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7

Final

Women's: 1 p.m.

Men's: 8 p.m.

Girl Gains is Connecting with Women Across Campus

Aurora Wilson

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As a weight lifter, junior Makena Martinez didn't have much use for the comments: "You're getting too big."

"You don't want to look like a man!" or her favorite, "That body type isn't feminine or attractive."

In response to these and other demeaning comments she heard at Swinney Recreation, she wanted to create an inclusive environment for women on campus. Martinez became president of Girl Gains at the beginning of 2023, and strives to provide representation of women who enjoy working out.

The organization focuses on bringing together women who spend time in the gym and works to implement a safe, judgment free zone.

Since its creation in 2020, Girl Gains has rapidly expanded to more than 80 chapters around the United States. The UMKC chapter started in the fall of 2022 and has since grown to more than 230 members.

Girl Gains hosts meetings ranging in topics from playlists, conquering gym anxiety, nutrition and body image. The members can post their workouts through the Girl Gains Instagram account to give others tips and advice for their workouts.

Martinez worked out in the gym for years, but the establishment of the chapter on

campus has provided her a network of other women to connect with.

"It's okay to be nervous," Martinez said. "I still get nervous sometimes, the gym is very intimidating, but it's just about not letting the fear of something happening keep you from the gym."

Martinez wants people to know that Girl Gains is a tight knit group that accepts all women- no matter where they are in their workout journey.

The club puts a spotlight on the importance of mental health, especially during school. They emphasize that health and learning how to work out is a process that requires support from others in the community.

"It doesn't just help me physically to go to the gym. More than anything, it helps me mentally," said Emely Lopez, the director of marketing for Girl Gains.

Lopez, a senior majoring in biology, shared that finding the balance between work, school and the gym was difficult initially. After finding her groove, she enthusiastically embraced the gym and prioritized it in her daily life.

"Moving is what matters," Lopez said. "Everyone has to start somewhere."

The newly-minted group aims to add a locker room in Swinney for women and members for the organization. It would include menstrual products, barbell pads and other items that aren't accessible at the service desk.

To keep up with Girl Gains, check out their Instagram or their Roo Groups page.



At their first meeting of the year, Girl Gains discussed how to make a good workout playlist. Photos by Julia Kapros

Chiefs' Off-Season Opinion: Fortifying the Offensive Line, Letting a Well-Known Player Walk

Jackson Ogden
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As the final confetti pieces get picked up and the championship celebration ends, the Kansas City Chiefs' attention must quickly turn to one thing: positioning themselves to win it all again.

While 31 other teams prepare to take the Chiefs spot at the top of the league, Kansas City knows they must get busy and make key decisions. Handling their impending free agents, as well as focusing on the draft in April is already well underway.

The Chiefs currently have roughly 3.5 million dollars in cap space to work with as they enter the off-season. Cuts and contract restructures will be coming in the next few weeks to give the team more flexibility.

Here's what needs to get done by General Manager Brett Veach this off-season to

ensure the Chiefs are back in the big game next February.

Promote Matt Nagy to offensive coordinator

This one is obvious with the departure of longtime offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, who joined the Washington Commanders. Nagy was the Chiefs' offensive coordinator in 2017 before getting a head coaching job with the Chicago Bears. Now that the position has opened, it's inevitable that he will take back over as a play caller.

Re-sign Orlando Brown Jr to a multiyear contract

Keeping franchise quarterback Patrick Mahomes upright and healthy is a must for the Chiefs if they want to even dream of running it back. It won't be easy to get a deal done with the Pro Bowl left tackle, however, as Brown turned down a six-year offer last summer. The Chiefs need Brown to

sign a contract that will keep him in town for another half decade to protect Mahomes.

Let JuJu Smith-Schuster walk in free agency

This one won't be popular among fans, but from a business perspective, it's a must. The Chiefs signed the veteran receiver last off-season to a one-year prove-it deal. He did just that, posting over 900 yards after the exit of star wideout Tyreek Hill.

The problem is that JuJu is far and away the best receiver on the open market and is projected around 14.5 million dollars a season, according to Spotrac. The Chiefs need to either bring him back on a pay cut or wave goodbye.

Sign a veteran wideout

While the Chiefs shouldn't overspend for a receiver this off-season, they will need to bring someone in to replace some of their impending free agents. Some names to

monitor are Marvin Jones, Jarvis Landry and Jamison Crowder due to their veteran presence and affordability.

Draft a right tackle

The Chiefs need to support the right side of the offensive line with a younger and better tackle. Andrew Wylie played at a serviceable level in his five seasons in Kansas City, but he is set for free agency.

The Chiefs need to draft and develop someone who will become an anchor on the offensive line moving forward. If they were to use the draft to fill the voided position, they'd have three of their five linemen on rookie contracts.

Winning back-to-back Super Bowls doesn't just happen on one cold February night, it happens with these decisions throughout the spring and into the new season. Free agency begins March 15, and the NFL draft will take place in Kansas City April 27-29.



Chiefs Super Bowl Parade. Photos by Julia Kapros

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