

The University News - Forum
Issue: 4/8/02

Letters To the Editor

Holes in columnist's theories

Recently I read and analyzed the article in the University News about the hole in the ozone (University News, March 25, 2002). While I realize that we are in college, a society made up of severe liberal thoughts and tastes, it seems as though this issue needs to be addressed on both sides. I believe that the concern of this article has been "over-thought." Please let me tell you why.

Your article states that there is now substantial evidence of global warming. This statement is unequivocally false. Instead of flooding you with facts, I am going to rationalize and simplify the whole issue with a few questions followed by answers.

- 1) How many years old is the earth? Scientists cannot prove an exact date. Period.
- 2) How long has the human race inhabited planet earth? Scientists do not know an exact length on this, do you?
- 3) How long has the human race been studying the ecosystem? Starting with the enlightenment period moving forward. Again no real exact date, but let's estimate a liberal 300 years of study.
- 4) How long have scientists been studying this "problem" of global warming? 35 years max.

Now let's compare dates. The earth has been in existence for billions of years and apparently is on patterns of cycles. Humans haven't been seriously documenting facts in nature for even one decade of our existence. Now, you are trying to tell me that we have a hole in our ozone? Okay, sure it is an argument that I can understand, but if you visit the premise that the earth revolves in cycles, then it really isn't an argument at all. The answer is that "holes" have been with the Ozone for years and now some wacko on a power trip is telling me that our existence is doomed because our habits of use and destroy are inevitable.

Why doesn't everybody who reads this article do yourself a favor and try recycling and using less of our natural resources. When that happens (not likely), you can come at me with threats and your facts.

Nathan J. Watermeier

freshman of Conservatory of Music

Michael Moore

I read with interest the University News' April 1 report on the appearance of Michael Moore in Kansas City. However, I was quite surprised to see no reference to the fact that Moore was brought here by UMKC, was funded by UMKC, and spoke to a UMKC (and community) audience free of charge. The Uptown Theatre essentially rode on the back of UMKC and undertook no significant work of its own to arrange Moore's visit. Moreover, there was no mention of the heroic efforts of Dr. Stephanie Bell, Department of Economics, who convinced Moore to add Kansas City to his tour and spent untold hours in making the necessary arrangements to make the affair a resounding success. I do know that the U-News attended the UMKC event, as the photo accompanying the article was taken in the University theater where Moore spoke.

So, I'm curious: how is it that a University newspaper does not cover a University event organized by University personnel? Surely its staff is not embarrassed to be affiliated with UMKC?

John F. Henry, Ph.D.

(visiting Professor, Department of Economics)

UMKC Faculty Senate resolution on academic freedom

The UMKC Faculty Senate met in an emergency session Thursday, April 4, 2002 with a quorum present. The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

We, the Faculty Senate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, deplore the attempt of the Missouri House of Representatives to reduce funding to the University because of articles authored by Professor Harris Mirkin. Open and free exchange of ideas, even controversial ones, is a fundamental tenet of all universities. Affirming this principle, the University of Missouri Board of Curators has stated in its Collected Rules and Regulations (310.010): "Institutions of higher education are established and maintained for the common good, which depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression. Academic freedom is essential for these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth." The same themes are reflected in UMKC's core values, which "encourage free, honest and candid communication" and "foster academic and intellectual freedom." We strongly support Professor Mirkin's right as a scholar to express his views and find reprehensible the attempt by the Missouri House of Representatives to stifle academic freedom.

Kathleen Schweitzer

Chair, UMKC Faculty Senate

Michael Moore Economics Club

I was surprised to see the article on Michael Moore's visit to KC referring to his second show at the Uptown Theatre, but not to his first (and initially only) show at UMKC, co-sponsored by the UMKC Economics Club. Even though the picture printed in the article was taken from his first show at UMKC.

There was no credit given to UMKC, the Economics Club and Professor Stephanie Bell for doing all the work behind the scene, for bringing Michael Moore to UMKC and for asking him to schedule a second show for the Uptown Theatre. If it weren't for the Economics Club, he wouldn't have given the second show at all. He was not even intending to come to Kansas City. It was the Economics Club who insisted on inviting him to UMKC and asked him for a second show for the Kansas City community.

I think that University News should be more careful with such issues, because the Economics Club people spent time and effort doing the job and at the end not even UMKC was given any credit for it.

Fadhel Kaboub

UMKC Economics Club
