JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri state board has approved the public sale of $38.5 million in bonds to pay to renovate a University of Missouri-Columbia hall.

The Board of Public Buildings voted Tuesday in favor of selling the bonds for Lafferre Hall in the university's engineering college.

Planned renovations include repairs to portions of the hall built decades ago and adding lab space.

Renovations are scheduled to be completed by December 2016.

The university estimates the project will make space for another 3,300 students and could take care of $15 million in deferred maintenance.

The Missouri Legislature in May approved $200 million in bonding for repairs and renovations to existing college buildings and $400 million for state buildings. Lafferre Hall is the first to get bonding approval.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Lafferre Hall approved for renovations by Board of Public Buildings
COLUMBIA — **MU's Lafferre Hall has been approved for $38.5 million in renovations after the Board of Public Buildings voted Tuesday to issue bonds to fund the project.**

Renovations will include structural updates and additional lab and research space, according to a news release from Gov. Jay Nixon’s office.

In the release, Nixon, who voted to approve the bond sale, said the updates to Lafferre Hall will help the MU College of Engineering "keep up with enrollment growth" and help train Missourians in science, technology, engineering and math-related fields.

According to the release, MU estimates that the funding will help "provide space for 3,300 students and eliminate more than $15 million in deferred maintenance."

The board, which consists of Nixon, Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and Attorney General Chris Koster, previously voted to approve the [bonding last October](https://example.com).

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**Journalism dean candidate Kurpius wants to focus on students, diversity**

Kurpius brings administrative experience from the LSU Manship School of Mass Communications.

Students at Manship School of Mass Communication, where Missouri School of Journalism dean candidate David Kurpius is a professor, simply call him Kurpius. It’s not a sign of disrespect, he said, but a sign of the deeper connection he’s made with them.

**Kurpius visited MU for an open forum Tuesday. The forum was originally scheduled for Monday, but was rescheduled when campus closed due to snow.**

Kurpius said he loves students, and that they should always come first. Student leadership, he said, is critical for student development.
“When I became a news director (at WMGT-TV), I found that I have a knack for building journalists,” Kurpius said. “You can build a lot more journalists at a university than you can in the news room.”

The core of Kurpius’ goals, he said, is student success and entrepreneurship.

Kurpius acknowledged MU’s elite status in the world of journalism, and said he hopes to expand and grow that legacy.

“The foundation is strong but this will require strategic work and focusing of resources … to make sure that we are moving in a direction that maintains and expands and moves forward in the legacy of the school,” he said.

Kurpius previously worked as an associate dean for undergraduate studies and administration at the Manship School of Mass Communications and interim director of student media at Louisiana State University. He is currently the interim vice chancellor for enrollment at LSU.

Kurpius’ previous administrative experience helped him become one of the four finalists, said Clyde Bentley, associate professor of journalism who is a member of the search committee.

“We have a professional school, so we want to have people with professional experience,” Bentley said. “We’re also a star academic school, so we want to have someone who has the knowledge of research.”

Kurpius said this experience helped prepare him for the work of a dean. He said he now has an understanding of how upper levels of the universities work.

Along with his previous experience at WMGT-TV, Kurpius worked for WTTV-TV as a production assistant and WTIU-TV as master control. Kurpius said his jobs in journalism helped him develop the connection between journalism and democracy.

“The importance of newspapers and television stations and radio stations is upholding the information exchange that is critical to a democratic society,” he said.

Kurpius went on to emphasize three key points during his forum: collaboration, diversity and change.

While Kurpius said having faculty input is important to improving the school, he believes student feedback is equally crucial.

Kurpius said as dean, he would have an open, collaborative and conversational style of authority. However, he warned not to mistake that for indecisiveness.

Collaboration between students and faculty would require student interaction, Kurpius said. To build this connection, he said he would work to encourage more students to attend events that affect them, like the journalism dean forums.
Bringing more diversity to MU is another main goal for Kurpius. Recruiting students from all over the world with various ethnic and religious backgrounds will help further diversify MU students’ experience, he said.

Kurpius said being exposed to diversity could help students understand the world in which they work. A student needs to do so for when they report on controversial subjects such as the events in Ferguson, he said.

“Free speech is critical, but so is the cultural understanding of the issues at hand,” he said.

Change was another point Kurpius emphasized.

This is a time for change in journalism, Kurpius said. He said technology is growing faster every day, and MU needs to remain an elite icon for journalism, despite this change.

“We talked about all this change happening, but if we don’t manage the change, it’s unlikely to go well,” he said.

Kurpius said journalism will continue to change as technology advances. Therefore, he said, throughout the course of current MU students’ career, they will need to be adaptive and open to this change. Kurpius said it’s important to teach journalism students how to reinvent themselves throughout their career.

This constant change has led Kurpius to deeply believe in convergence journalism. Kurpius said teaching future journalists how to interact on varying platforms will aid them in the continuous change.

The uniqueness of convergence journalism is fading away, Bentley said, as all platforms begin to converge. Bentley said he believes Kurpius meant convergence not in terms of technology, but in terms of what one individual person can do.

“I think what he was saying was: ‘Look at your strengths,’” Bentley said. “It’s not just the technology ... Look at what you can do for journalism and that’s where it’ll probably be going.”

Kurpius said technological advances ignite change in journalism, values such as accuracy and truthfulness will remain constant.

Technological change is not only affecting the reporting aspect of journalism, but also strategic communications, he said, and while these changes are “cause for communication heartburn,” they also bring opportunities for the field to grow.

“Don’t just be happy with the status quo, because that means you’re moving backward … others are moving forward,” he said.

Kurpius admits he is not an expert in strategic communication, but said he will consult those in this field.
Bentley said he agreed with much of what Kurpius said at the forum. He said Kurpius did not dodge questions, but was open when they were not questions he could answer.

“He’s very good at fielding questions in a friendly way,” Bentley said. “I have been in that situation. It’s very easy to get very nervous and to respond inappropriately, but I thought he did a very good job of maintaining his composure, even in some pretty tough questions.”

Bentley said the four finalists are not ranked in any order and that Kurpius and the other candidates each have multiple levels of experience and qualifications.

Provost Garnett Stokes will review all four candidates — Sonya Forte Duhé, who visited campus for an open forum last week, Esther Thorson and Thor Wasbotten — for the position of dean and consult the search committee before making a hire. Thorson will visit campus on Feb. 23 for the next open forum.

Mizzou athletics continue to operate in the black

By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri’s first two years in the Southeastern Conference proved to be lucrative for the school’s athletics department, to the tune of nearly $10 million in operating budget surplus.

That’s the good news for Mizzou. Even better, MU and member schools have yet to cash in on the expected windfall from the SEC Network.

Missouri athletics generated an operating surplus of $3,488,408 for the 2013-14 fiscal year, according to data submitted to the NCAA and obtained by the Post-Dispatch through an open records request. For the 2012-13 fiscal year, Mizzou’s first year collecting SEC revenue, athletics took in an operating surplus of $6,030,874.

The 2013-14 fiscal year, which included Mizzou’s first of two consecutive SEC East Division football titles, generated school-record athletics revenue of $83,718,587, an increase of 9.7 percent from 2013. Mizzou athletics spent $80,230,179 in 2013-14, a 14.2 percent increase from the previous year.

“That was obviously a great year for football and that drove a lot of things to exceed our expectations,” executive associate athletics director Tim Hickman said. “We’re still riding off the excitement of moving to the SEC. Donations were up and a lot of things hit right for this year.”
“Any school at our level or any level that can operate at a surplus is a huge benefit,” he added. “We take a lot of pride in that.”

In 2012, Missouri had to borrow from the university’s coffers while operating at a deficit of nearly $18 million during its first year in the SEC. That’s because the Big 12 withheld from Mizzou $12.41 million in league revenue as part of the school’s exit fee.

For the 2014 fiscal year, which ended last June 30, Missouri’s largest source of revenue came from ticket sales, $24,235,754, an increase of 7.5 percent from the previous year. The football team led the way with $17,554,536 in ticket sales revenue for the 2013 season, a 17.2 percent jump despite Memorial Stadium’s decreased capacity caused by renovations on the east side.

MU took in $21,836,870 from SEC and NCAA distribution, which includes conference bowl revenue for the 2013 season and conference revenue from the SEC’s TV package. This figure is expected to rise significantly this year when SEC Network revenue is distributed to league members. Mizzou didn’t budget for an increase in TV revenue, but Hickman said MU’s SEC Network payout could be between $2.5 million. Also, Mizzou budgeted for a $2.5 million increase in bowl revenue based on the new College Football Playoff and SEC bowl structure, Hickman said.

Revenue from donor contributions increased 26.6 percent to $20,113,654, partly the result, Hickman said, of several major gifts donated around the time Mizzou joined the SEC that are spread out over eight to 10 years.

Missouri’s athletics revenue for 2012-13 ranked 11th among the 13 public schools in the SEC and 35th nationally, according to USA Today’s annual survey. MU ranked ahead of Ole Miss and Mississippi State. Vanderbilt, a private school, is not required to submit financial data. MU ranked 12th in athletics expenses, ahead of only Mississippi State.

Hickman expects Missouri to rank in the same range this year.

“The SEC Network is great and will give us an infusion of capital,” he said. “But it’s doing that for everybody (in the league.) All boats have risen there with the tide. For us to close the gap we’ll have to do it other ways.”

That starts with expanding the Tigers Scholarship Fund. Missouri has around 8,000 current members who donate money that goes toward athlete scholarships, facility projects and the department’s endowment.

“That’s the thing that sticks out to us compared to the rest of the league,” Hickman said. “We’re not last, but we’re probably in the bottom quartile. You see some schools, Florida, for example, with 30,000 members in their annual fund.

“A lot of people think, ‘If I can’t give you $1,000 or $5,000 it’s not worth it.’ No, that’s not the case. If you look at our average gift per member it’s higher than most because a lot of people think that. I think we want to
re-educate a lot of our folks, because you can be a member at $50. And if we can get a couple thousand people doing that, that’s a big deal.”

As for expenses, Mizzou spent the most on coaches’ salaries ($16,211,134) and support staff and administration salaries ($15,055,996), increases of 12.5 and 5.4 percent, respectively. Team travel expenses climbed 40.9 percent to $6,647,984. Hickman cited Mizzou’s trip to Atlanta for the 2013 SEC football championship game and the 2014 Cotton Bowl as major factors for the increase. Hickman expects that figure to rise with MU’s 2014-15 expenses after another SEC football championship game trip and the 2015 Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla., plus general increases in travel costs for all MU teams.

Mizzou also spent a bigger chunk on facilities maintenance, a 59.4 percent jump to $11,406,559, most of which was spent on building an SEC Network production room at Mizzou Arena.

Also, MU athletics received $1,515,000 from the university as direct institutional support but also gave back $2,179,583 to the school.

Three Sci-Fi Designs for the Future of Farming

Humans love to speculate on the future. Always have. From the very beginning, the most curious among us have donned prophetic glasses and peered into the distance to make best guesses for what our world might be like in the years ahead. We’re not always right.

“We’re actually kinda really terrible at guessing what the future is going to be like,” says Kaitlyn Schwalje. Schwalje is a recent graduate of the Copenhagen Institute of Interaction Design who, for her graduating thesis project, is making her own best guess at the future by envisioning what farming might be like a century down the road. In Three Propositions for Future Farming, Schwalje designed objects to explore three scenarios for what farming might be like in 2115, when bioterrorism and weather manipulation are commonplace.

The three objects, Gene Gun Hack, Aurel Insecticide and Precision Weather Modification Device aren’t real (they’re non-working prototypes), but they are rooted in reality. The Aurel
Insecticide device, for example, is based on a study from the University of Missouri, which found that certain plants respond to the sound vibrations caterpillars make when eating by amping up defense mechanisms. This inspired Schwalje to design an omni-directional speaker that pipes out an aural insecticide in order to stimulate plant defenses. The speaker would be positioned at crop level, and farmers could activate a library of sounds (depending on the insect) in anticipation of an infestation. No chemicals necessary.

The Precision Weather Modification Device echoes Beijing’s effort to control the weather during the 2008 Summer Olympics ceremony, which used rockets and shells filled with silver iodide to break up clouds heading towards the city and direct them to areas outside of Beijing. Schwalje envisions her device will be purchased by farmers and corporations who, facing increasing droughts and shortening food supply, will be able to target specific locations with rain.

Schwalje’s Gene Gun Hack is more ominous. Taking inspiration from Phragmites australis, an invasive weed that poisons the soil around it, the designer imagines a time when bioterrorists are able to hack genetic modification guns to do agricultural harm. “Injecting the gene marker to a targeted few plant hosts within a crop fields begins a systematic devastation of the field,” she explains.

The three speculative scenarios are just that—totally hypothetical. In actuality, they’ll never manifest, at least not precisely as Schwalje presents them. But that’s not the point. Schwalje’s scenarios don’t paint the futures as utopian nor dystopian; there’s enough imaginative wiggle room to let your mind wander in both directions, and that’s a good thing. But like we’ve shown with Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg’s Designing For the Sixth Extinction project and the Extrapolation Factory’s design work, projects like this can at least get a conversation started around what kind of future we’d like to build for ourselves.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Open dialogue addresses gray areas in black culture

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 | 10:36 p.m. CST
BY THOMAS CARTER

COLUMBIA — Black students crowded into the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center Tuesday evening to fill in the blank of the night's question: "Am I still black if...?"
Jonathan McElderry, director of the Black Culture Center, organized the event aiming to illustrate how each black person's personality and background add to the diversity of black culture.

"I want them to walk out of this event knowing that being black is not a monolithic experience," McElderry said. "We all have unique experiences and come from different backgrounds."

McElderry participated in a similar event as an undergraduate at George Mason University and brought it to the Black Culture Center last year. He moderated the event with graduate assistants Jordan Williams and Curtis Taylor Jr. and student employee Phelan Simpkins.

The moderators approached the audience with four topics: what it means to be black, hip-hop, homophobia and activism, giving background on each and asking questions to get the conversation started.

For Malcolm Bouchee, an MU junior, being black has meant wrestling with stereotypes and the expectations they breed.

"I signed up to live in an apartment with random roommates and they all happened to be white, and they saw I was from Chicago and they expected me to act a certain way," Bouchee said. "I don’t act the way black people are portrayed in the media, so they thought I was from the suburbs, but I lived in a very poor neighborhood."

Bouchee said his experience was a perfect example of the gray area within blackness.

That gray area between how blacks appear in the media and the experiences of most blacks was also prevalent in the discussion of hip-hop, which addressed the assumption that all black people listen to hip-hop music. Students in the audience expressed musical tastes that included artists Passion Pit and Mike Snow.

The conversation also addressed homophobia in the black community.

Audience members commented on the dominant influence of the church in black culture and what was described as its often-harsh views on homosexuality. Students said those views contribute to the taboo status of homosexuals in the black community.
McElderry and the moderators also led a discussion about black activism, a topic that had gained significant momentum in the aftermath of the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York City.

Students voiced their concern that groups formed in reaction to the deaths, such as MU4MikeBrown and Wage Peace, convey messages that clash.

Audience members disagreed at times, but the dialogue flowed freely throughout the discussion, which Simpkins attributed to the safe and open environment. He estimated that about 50 people attended.

“When you have certain people on the panel that people have seen around or talked to here and there, it fosters that development of comfort,” Simpkins said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Students express themselves through art during Black History Month
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 | 7:04 p.m. CST
BY JENNY JUSTUS

COLUMBIA — The Craft Studio hosted a free chalkboard painting event Tuesday in celebration of Black History Month.

Jess Bueneman, an MU freshman who works at the Craft Studio, said students come to the studio's space in Memorial Union for a variety of reasons. For some, it's an escape from the stresses of class, work and campus life. For others, it's a social gathering place where friendships are made and strengthened.

Bueneman worked alongside fellow freshman and roommate, Jess Grill.

"I enjoy doing art, but I’m definitely not a pro," Grill said. "But that's the cool thing about art ... I can be terrible at it and still do it."
The Craft Studio allows students to work on projects that would be impractical or even impossible in small dorm rooms, and it often organizes crafting projects centered around holidays and noteworthy events.

**MU is hosting more than 30 events focused on black history and culture this month, according to the Mizzou Diversity website.**

The city of Columbia organized a three-pronged Black History Month celebration, according to *previous Missourian reporting*. The third and final event of the month will be a race relations panel at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center, 701 E. Ash St.

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**Women in Engineering Center hopes to change culture within the field**

**A new program within the MU College of Engineering hopes to promote women’s roles in engineering and to enhance female students’ education in the college.**

The Women in Engineering Center celebrated its launch with an open house event Feb. 3. The center was made possible by an anonymous donation of $330,000 and will provide female engineering students with resources and support, such as access to study sessions and career advising. Through the center, students can participate in organizations like the Mizzou Women Mentoring Women program; Alpha Omega Epsilon, an engineering sorority; and the Society of Women Engineers.

Jayme Gardner, the center’s programs coordinator, said one of the center’s goals includes assessing the climate of the college to get a handle on what the student and faculty experiences are in terms of diversity and how welcomed and supported students feel.

Out of 3,795 students enrolled in the College of Engineering in 2014, 656 were female, about 17.3 percent. Gardner said the college has seen many of its first-year female students and minority students transition from engineering, which is predominantly male, to other math-intensive fields, despite their high grade point averages.

“The problem doesn’t lie with the women,” Gardner said. “It lies with the environment they’re placed in. It’s something about what we’re doing that isn’t right. I’m excited to see that be eliminated, so that the only students we’re losing are the ones that truly wouldn’t flourish in
engineering because it’s just not their interest, and not because they feel like they don’t fit in with this environment.”

According to an American Sociological Association study, women studying engineering have lower confidence levels than their male counterparts. The story attributes this issue to engineering’s association with men and masculinity, leading to differential treatment based on gender during engineering education.

Lisa Wilken, president of the Society of Women Engineers, said the new center’s initiatives could help transform the overall culture within engineering, which she said she believes is a major part of the problem.

“We’re not trying to fix our women,” Wilken said. “We’re trying to fix the attitudes towards our women. Getting the conversation going is what it’s really about.”

A large factor keeping more women from engineering is that science, technology, engineering and math fields are not often presented to young women as career options, said Kate Trauth, the center’s director and Croft associate professor of civil and environmental engineering.

Trauth said young women need to be able to clearly understand what it means to be an engineer. She said students should not be gripped by engineering only because they excel at math and science.

“Engineering, at its core, is about helping people,” she said. “Sometimes we don’t do a good enough job talking about that.”

Programs within the center, such as the Society of Women Engineers, a mentoring program, and AOE help serve as outreach and support in order to better explain engineering’s purposes to young students, girls and boys alike, Wilken said.

She said the SWE is especially involved in recruiting more women into the field. It previously headed the mentoring program before the founding of the Women in Engineering Center, which will now take reins of the mentorship program.

The SWE also visits middle schools to host Girl Scout Day, during which they complete projects with students and inform them about the roles of engineers.

“(The students) can look at somebody and say, ‘Oh, I can see myself in that role. I could see myself as an engineer,’” Trauth said.

Trauth’s own inspiration to become an engineer came from having six older sisters to look up to, a support system that is now replicated by the Women in Engineering Center, she said.

“I had these wonderful role models of women who were going for what they wanted. I had my own personal support network,” Trauth said. “I think it is so important that we provide that.”
She said lack of diversity in engineering can have negative consequences over time, especially because engineering is a field that requires constant creativity and innovation.

“To the extent that we are continuing to face more and more complicated problems both technically and societally,” Trauth said. “If we can broaden the scope of the individuals who are addressing these problems, I think we’ll have better results. If you ask more minds who bring different experiences to the table, I think that can just improve that creative process.”

The center also seeks to connect students with opportunities and other students to improve the community within the school, Gardner said. A major issue that needs to be addressed is lack of engagement of female students within the college, she said, which can lead to those students’ failure to see past things in which engineering is often associated: cars, planes and trains.

The center hopes to address this issue by creating new programs that will broaden its ability to meet student needs. Gardner said the center hopes to create a student advisory board that will develop day-to-day programs and other ideas.

“They’ll give us student experience and student voice,” Gardner said.

The center also hopes to create a first-year program within the College of Engineering modeled after the Chancellor’s Leadership Class, Gardner said. She said this program will allow a select group of passionate and elite students to develop leadership skills, a plan to impact the world and connect to resources.

Gardner said the center will host career service workshops geared toward women, focusing topics like companies’ attitude toward women and minorities.

Through its programs, the center seeks to eliminate pre-existing barriers present to women in the College of Engineering and enhance students’ experience, Gardner said.

Heather Hunt, assistant professor of bioengineering and faculty advisor for MWMW, said in an email that she is excited about the center’s focus on increasing engagement of female engineering students.

“It’s great that our donors and our university have realized the potential of all of our students in engineering, and that they want to help them succeed,” she said. “I also think we have an opportunity to showcase what a coordinated effort to improve recruitment and retention of women in engineering can do for our student body and our culture.”
NFL Network analyst Mike Mayock was among Johnny Manziel’s biggest supporters during the run-up to the 2014 NFL Draft, even comparing him to Hall of Famer Steve Young.

He issued something of a mea culpa Monday during a teleconference ahead of the NFL Combine.

Mayock said he overlooked some red flags on Manziel, who slipped to the Browns and No. 22 and made a mess of his rookie season in Cleveland.

“I’m fairly conservative, and I kind of let myself get talked into, in my own head, ‘I wanted to root for this kid,’” Mayock said.

Mayock, who is widely considered one of the preeminent draft evaluators in the media business, said he learned from Manziel’s situation.

NFL teams probably did, too.

“I don’t ever get as close to those situations as the teams do, because I don’t have a security group and a bunch of psychologists,” Mayock said. “But I do get some information. As we get closer to the draft, I will start to ding those kids and you’ll see some of them will start to slide down my board. There’s a reason. I’ll get more information, and I’ll act accordingly.”

**Former Missouri wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham — who was dismissed from the Tigers in April and wound up transferring to Oklahoma.**
where he sat out the 2014 season — is among the players in the high-risk category for the 2015 draft class.

Mayock said he has Green-Beckham rated as the No. 4 wide receiver in the 2015 draft class, but cautioned: “You better do your homework off the field.”

Green-Beckham is ranked behind West Virginia’s Kevin White, Alabama’s Amari Cooper and Louisville’s DeVante Parker.

Nobody doubts Green-Beckham’s talent, but he was arrested twice for marijuana possession and later dismissed amid an assault investigation at MU.

He’s going to get drafted.

Green-Beckham reportedly ran a 4.37 40-yard dash, which is incredible for a 6-foot-6, 225-pound wide receiver, and he was a productive player, with 59 catches for 883 yards and 12 touchdowns as a sophomore for the Tigers.

But Green-Beckham’s off-field issues might give NFL teams pause before handing out a big-money, first-round contract.

“Green-Beckham this year is going to be a polarizing conversation,” Mayock said.

He compared it to Dez Bryant, Justin Blackmon and Josh Gordon.

“All three of those guys, gifted wide receivers with significant off-the-field issues,” Mayock said. “One of the three has turned out — Dez Bryant. That’s probably about the right ratio, so how do you not mess up? That’s your question, and I’m not sure there’s a right answer other than being a little more conservative.”

Bryant, who wasn’t allowed to take part in Oklahoma State’s pro day before entering the draft, became an All-Pro with the Cowboys.

After a strong rookie season, Blackmon was suspended for most of the 2013 season and all of the 2014 season for repeated violations of the NFL’s substance-abuse policy.
Gordon, a second-round supplemental pick by the Browns in 2012, had substance-abuse issues at Baylor and now faces a season-long suspension for repeated violations in the NFL.

Mayock said the character evaluation process also might affect his (and NFL teams’) view of Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, who is currently his top-rated quarterback.

Winston had several run-ins with the law during his time with the Seminoles and also was suspended for a profane display on campus last season. He was the subject of a sexual-assault investigation, though no charges ever were filed.

Washington cornerback Marcus Peters, who had discipline issues after Chris Petersen took the Huskies’ reins, also will have some questions arise regarding his character.

Mayock said sometimes an organization gets seduced by talent and the belief it can help fix a troubled young man “when, most of the time, statistically, it can’t.”

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/campus-corner/article10534472.html#storylink=cpy