

# Sound Opinions

## Starting the semester at the Aquadome

BY CHRIS BURK  
Contributing Writer

Maintaining the punk rock ethos of supporting local music, I found myself braving the dreadful Kirksville weather to catch the first live gig of the semester at the Aquadome Jan. 17.

Three bands were promised on the bill. Seeing as I haven't paid enough respects to the new Aquadome yet — rest in peace, 121 N. Main St. — I figured it was best to put on a couple of layers and see if I couldn't give myself tinnitus.

While the new location the local do-it-yourself group occupies at 120 S. Main St. has a smaller footprint than the old joint on the corner of Main and Harrison streets, it is still roomy enough to fit the group's varied schedule of shows, meetings and readings. Local art lines the walls, Christmas lights warmly light the corners and a community billiards table doubles as the focal point for potlucks, as was the case for that night's show. Aquadome executives had cooked up quite the evening to draw in returning students — see three bands for free, eat free food and try to forget about the upcoming semester.

The opening set of the evening came from Fairfield, Iowa, duo Dagmar, an indie classical group that sounded much like if Sam Beam of Iron & Wine

gave up on singing and backed two female songsters instead. Vocalists Gemma Rose and Miranda Lee were warm in performance and to the crowd of 50 revelers who were staving off the chill with free chili. Percussionist Justin LeDuc matched the beat of the duo's keys and guitar while legendary Aquadome guitarist Dana T strummed along. The group's live shoegaze

and warmed me up. A few days after the show she announced a partnership with a St. Louis upstart record label, Raptor Records, so it would be radical to see a studio release from her during 2016.

The evening ended with Kirksville rock 'n' roll quartet American Basswood. While I pondered if the early set time was to avoid conflicts with individual curfews, the group of Kirksville High School students energetically launched into their set. Matt McFarland's vocals and acoustic guitar were poignant, even more so if the whispers from the audience were true and he, in fact, only just got his driver's license. Matt Sullivan's long hair and hectic pace on the drums were reminiscent of Jayson Gerycz from Cloud Nothings. Jon Self's electric guitar solos seemed to come easily, and the small pauses so Scott Krause could switch between upright bass to bass guitar were worth it for the deep tones of the upright. The group's off-handed attitude meshed well with the audience, and their set was tight and loud.

While loud, live music usually leaves me wanting more, the chill of being only a night away from another first day of classes replaced the usual after-show glow. Another bountiful semester of live music in Kirksville awaits, however, so why not at least go to class to pass the time?

### "Aquadome executives had cooked up quite the evening to draw in returning students"

-Chris Burk, contributing writer

matched the studio dynamic of its recent long-playing record, "afterlight" — good music to vibe to.

Truman State junior Maddie Edgerley was the girl-with-a-guitar second act. Despite suffering from cold fingers, her sugary songs about lost love filled the Aquadome for a bit less than half an hour

# Truman students watch 100 movies

BY EMILY PLOCH  
Assistant Features Editor

When graduate student Jamie Garland heard Internet Movie Database was releasing a top 250 movie list, she was eager to get started on a list of her own that included all the movies she determined as the best. With the help of her friends, graduate student Morgan Siebert and Truman State alumna Becky Phung, Garland set out on a mission to create YouTube videos reflecting their top 100 best movies.

IMDb's list was voted on by IMDb users, according to the IMDb website. Because the list is based on user voting, the IMDb website also can sort the list based on number of rankings each movie has, release dates and personal rankings. The website also includes an IMDb ranking.

Although the website does not specify what factors went into considering the ratings other than user votes, Garland said she ranked movies based on awards and nominations the movie received, critical reviews and personal preferences. She said she also considered whether her and her friends had seen the movie or not.

"There were a lot of films that I really wanted to be on there, but we limited ourselves to only 100," Garland said. "We had originally decided on 50, but there was no way we could cut it down. There were too many good movies."

Garland said it took her and her friends about 10 days to create the list last October. She said it includes a wide variety of movies, and is an eclectic mix of lighthearted movies, such as "My Neighbor Totoro," and hard-hitting classics, such as "Apocalypse Now."

After creating the list, Garland said she and her friends decided they would upload video reviews of the movies to YouTube. Creating the YouTube channel helped her keep track of how often she was uploading videos so she could decide when to make a new one, she said.

Compared to a blog, Garland said creating the videos would be easier to keep up with. Because Garland is interested in pursuing a career in video editing, she said editing the videos gives her more experience in that field. As a film studies minor, Garland said she also is interested in becoming a screenwriter. She said her passion for movies started at a young age, and she finds the deeper meanings of films captivating — something she wishes a wider audience could appreciate.

"As art forms they deserve to be discussed and viewed, whether they were made in 2015 or in 1939," Garland said.

So far, Garland said only four movies have been uploaded to their channel — their last reviewed movie, "Million Dollar Baby," came in at 96 on their list. Garland said other videos have been uploaded to their



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Emily Ploch/Index

At the end of their second video, graduate student Morgan Siebert, Truman State alumna Becky Phung and graduate student Jamie Garland set their viewers up for the next review. Although the three are passionate about movies, Garland said their main intention they had making the videos was to have fun.

channel separate from the list, including a Halloween special and a video mash up for the Filmmakers Club at Truman, of which she is the vice president.

Because Garland, Siebert and Phung all want to do the reviews together, Garland said coordinating a schedule to upload videos that accomodates all of

Kirksville anymore. Phung said possible options for her to remain part of the project include creating a separate video response from her or visiting them and being featured in videos as a guest star.

Phung said a passion and respect for movies is the one thing the three friends have in common. Sharing that perspective through this project meant a lot to her and is an important way to stay connected with them even when she's not in town, she said.

"Even the movies I'm skeptical about, I've committed to watching them," Phung said.

Phung said though movies are a big part of her life now, she hasn't seen all of the classics, which she feels an obligation to watch. She said going through the movies on their list gives her the opportunity to watch movies she considers classics.

Phung said she is drawn to movies, especially classics, because of the deeper story element that reflects on reality. Phung said a deeper message can be found in any movie regardless of genre if you look closely enough. Because of this perspective, Phung said she enjoys a variety of movies, making her even more excited to continue reviewing the movies on their list.

To see the videos they've done so far and to stay updated as they continue through the 100 movie list, visit Top100MovieChallenge on YouTube.

### "As art forms they deserve to be discussed and viewed, whether they were made in 2015 or in 1939"

-Graduate student Jamie Garland

them is nearly impossible, especially since Phung moved after graduating in December.

"Usually we watch three or four movies in a row and I edit them separately," Garland said. "Hopefully, we make it up pretty far on the list with Morgan still here, but it might just come down to me."

Phung said they are still deciding how she can be involved in the project because she doesn't live in

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Free tickets for students with a Truman ID are available in the Student Activities Board Office. Free tickets for faculty and staff with a Truman ID are available at the information desk. Both are located in the Student Union Building.

A limited number of general admission tickets are available for \$11 each at Edna Campbells in downtown Kirksville and the Truman State University Business Office cashier window in McClain Hall. Tickets may also be purchased online at [lyceum.truman.edu](http://lyceum.truman.edu).

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