

Children build crafts on campus

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Photo by Lori Richie

Scott McCarty holds his daughter, Echo, as her sister, Lexie, and friend, Makayla Greenway, make bead art.

Lakeesha Turner, campus breaks coordinator and business management junior, sat quietly at a small table in the IUS Children's Center on March 17, waiting for the children to arrive. The time seemed to tick by slowly until 2 p.m., when the St. Patty's Craft-a-Ganza would begin.

Paula Downs and Terri Taylor, elementary education freshmen, arrived with their children, Abby Downs, Rebecca, Amanda, Justin and Douglas Taylor.

The children drew pictures while waiting for others to arrive. Then Regina McCarty, Student Development Center, and Scott McCarty arrived with their daughters, Lexie and Macie, and their friend Makayla Greenway, shortly followed by Melissa Williams, general studies senior, with her children, Forrest and Lacey.

Four craft stations were set-up by Katie Partin, Campus Life coordinator of student activities, and Takeisha Thompson, Student Program Council Children's Hour coordinator. The children worked

on crafts with edible multiple-colored sand, sun-catchers to paint, bead art for necklaces and bracelets and door hangers. St. Patty's Day cookies, chips, green punch and milk were offered as snacks for the children.

"I am very pleasantly surprised by the attendance for this event," Thompson said.

"Everyone gets to take something home."

As the children enjoyed the fun, Sherry Brading, Regina McCarty's sister, joined in the crafts with her three children, Gryphon, Declan and Echo,

who at 1 year old, was the youngest to attend the event. Also in attendance was Brenda Picache, Spanish and communication sophomore, with her son Gafred and daughter Paloma Altamirano-Picache and local resident Cindy Coddington with daughter Faith.

"We enjoy all the activities for children that IUS has," Coddington said.

Coddington read about the Craft-a-Ganza in the local paper.

The SPC will sponsor the Garbage Can Band on April 14.

New Kings of Leon album addictive

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Often times compact disc players get jammed, and albums get stuck in your record player on accident. Rarely, though, a band releases a record that you simply refuse to remove because you can't get enough.

The latter is the case for the latest Kings of Leon album "Because of the Times," which is more addictive than alcohol and cigarettes combined. This album, slated to be released on April 3, is nearly perfect. If you haven't heard the Kings, you are missing out on some of the best new rock 'n' roll in existence.

Too many times I have heard people complain, "Rock 'n' roll is dead." Those people just aren't listening to the right music.

"Because of the Times" expands heavily on the Kings' original southern take on "indie rock."

You won't find any pretentiousness or whining on this album, though, just an eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll.

The first single from the album, "On Call," finds the band exploring a new pseudo-psychedelic sound. It begins with some spacey keys, but when the bass cuts in, the track starts to take form.

This mid-tempo song tells a story of devo-

tion and dedication. "I'm on call, to be there/One and all, to be there/And when I fall, to pieces/Lord you know, I'll be there waiting," lead singer Caleb Followill sings on the chorus.

"Because of the Times" is more than just a southern rock album, though. It is very easy to hear punk and even reggae influences on many of the songs. For instance, the song "Ragoo" contains a guitar riff that seems to come from a Peter Tosh song, albeit with a bit of distortion.

This song is extremely catchy and hard not to like, and I could see it even getting some minimal radio play.

While each of the tracks is different, Kings of Leon maintain their unique, signature sound. Followill's awkward delivery and sometimes hard to understand lyrics evoke emotions that can make you shiver.

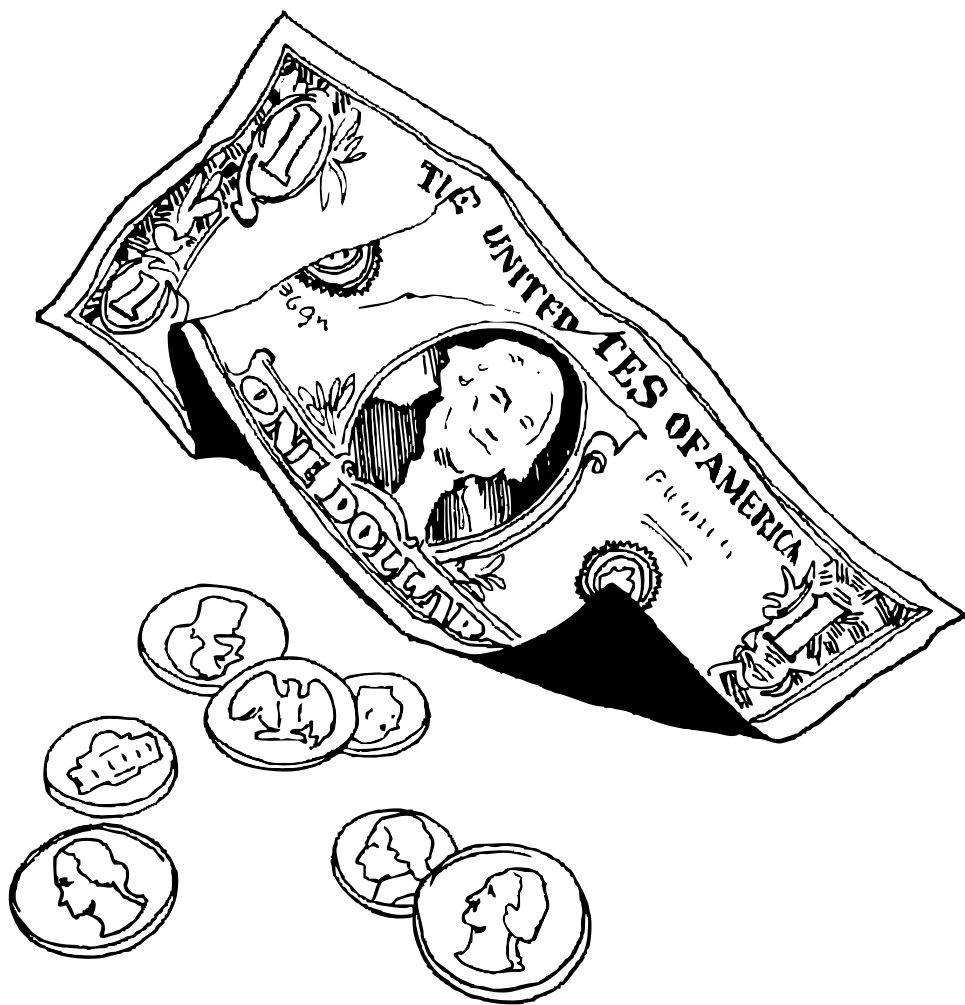
Although it's sometimes hard to make out what Followill is saying, you will find yourself singing along, even if they are the wrong words. The ballads on this album stick to your head like expensive wigs to Britney Spears.

I'm not the only one to fluff the Kings, though. They toured with Bob Dylan and Pearl Jam last year.

If that doesn't urge you to go out and pick up this album, I don't think there is any hope for you.

Price and participation may vary.
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