University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor Brady Deaton wrote a letter to Anheuser-Busch InBev on Friday asking the company to stop its "Fan Can" marketing campaign in which the brewer has used the college's colors black and gold on beer cans sold in the Columbia area. In doing so, MU joins a number of other campuses around the country asking the company to stop the promotion. "We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles at MU," Deaton said in a statement. "The promotion of a beer product associated with our school colors is not consistent with that commitment." The university has also found that some of the beer displays have been associated with the school's products and logos. The school said this conveys the impression that the university is supportive, when it is not. (Kavita Kumar)
MU asks A-B to stop “Fan Can” marketing campaign

By Kavita Kumar
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The University of Missouri-Columbia is now taking a more pro-active stance against the “Fan Can” marketing campaign by Anheuser-Busch InBev. Chancellor Brady Deaton wrote a letter to the company today asking it to immediately stop the marketing campaign that has used the college's colors — black and gold — to decorate beer cans being sold in the Columbia area.

“We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles at MU,” Deaton said in a statement. “The promotion of a beer product associated with our school colors is not consistent with that commitment.”

In a previous blog post, I noted that the university's trademark folks have been monitoring the displays around town to make sure they do not include any university trademark logos and that they are not being set up near official university merchandise. But now it appears the university has found some marketing displays that are associated with MU products and logos.

“This is completely unacceptable and conveys the impression that the university is somehow supportive of this marketing effort when, in fact, this marketing effort for the black and gold cans was never approved by MU,” the university said.

I have pasted Deaton’s letter to A-B below:

Statement from MU Chancellor Brady Deaton regarding Anheuser-Busch Marketing Campaign

August 28, 2009

Mr. Frank Z. Hellwig, Esq. Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
One Busch Place  
St. Louis, MO 63118-1852  
Frank.hellwig@anheuser-busch.com

Dear Mr. Hellwig:

I write in regard to the Anheuser-Busch campaign known as “Team Pride” that is marketing black and gold beer cans prior to the upcoming fall football season.

It has now come to our attention that the marketing displays of the black and gold beer cans in various retail establishments are being associated with official University of Missouri trademarked products and logos. This is completely unacceptable and conveys the impression to the consumer that the University of Missouri is somehow supportive of this marketing effort for black and gold cans that were, in fact, never approved by MU. I ask that Anheuser-Busch immediately take action to terminate this marketing practice, which is now infringing upon the university’s identity and reputation.

Given the fact that underage college students make up a significant portion of the audience for Mizzou football, we are deeply concerned about the potential impact of such a campaign on our students. At MU, we work hard to educate our students about making responsible choices, and I would call upon Anheuser-Busch as a leading Missouri corporation to assist us in that process rather than targeting this age group with team colors on beer cans.

At the University of Missouri, we put students first. We ask that Anheuser-Busch do the same and cease this “Team Pride” campaign.

Sincerely,

Brady J. Deaton  
Chancellor

The Grade is the St. Louis region’s premier blog on education and child welfare. To read other recent posts, go to www.stltoday.com/thegrade.

Tags: Anheuser-Busch InBev, black and gold, Chancellor Brady Deaton, Fan Can, Higher education, Kavita Kumar, Mizzou, MU, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, University of Missouri-Columbia
MU chancellor asks Anheuser-Busch to stop ‘Team Pride’ program

By T.J. Greaney

Saturday, August 29, 2009

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton yesterday weighed in on a brewing controversy over the marketing of beer in cans bearing the MU team colors.

In a letter sent to an attorney for Anheuser-Busch, Deaton asked the brewery to stop selling beer in black and gold cans.

"This is completely unacceptable and conveys the impression to the consumer that the University of Missouri is somehow supportive of this marketing effort for black and gold cans that were, in fact, never approved by MU," Deaton said in the letter also distributed to news outlets. "I ask that Anheuser-Busch immediately take action to terminate this marketing practice, which is now infringing upon the university’s identity and reputation."

Deaton said his primary concern with A-B’s “Team Pride” campaign was that it was targeting underage students.

“At the University of Missouri, we put students first,” Deaton said. “We ask that Anheuser-Busch do the same and cease this ‘Team Pride’ campaign.”

The letter was addressed to Frank Hellwig, senior associate general counsel for AB, who is in charge of protecting the beer maker’s intellectual property, including trademarks.

The so-called “fan cans” unveiled in recent weeks are part of a marketing plan that offers 27 college color schemes nationwide. The cans feature team colors of various schools but do not depict team logos.

Deaton said he is concerned because in many stores the marketing displays for the beer are paired with trademarked MU merchandise.

At least 25 colleges have asked Anheuser-Busch not to offer the cans in their communities, The Associated Press reported.

The Federal Trade Commission is also investigating the marketing campaign.
Carol Clark, vice president for corporate social responsibility at Anheuser-Busch, said in a prepared statement earlier this week that the product is intended for those 21 and older and that the marketing plan aims "to connect with fans of legal drinking age in fun ways in select markets."

A-B donated $1.5 million to MU to help with construction of the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building on campus. The building was completed in 1998.
Deaton speaks out against Anheuser-Busch's 'Team Pride' campaign

By Sangeeta Shastry
August 30, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Chancellor Brady J. Deaton responded yesterday to the new Anheuser-Busch marketing campaign titled "Team Pride" that places MU school colors on beer cans. Deaton is opposed to the promotion's association with MU and said the university did not approve the plan.

"This is completely unacceptable and conveys the impression that the university is somehow supportive of this marketing effort," Deaton said in a letter to Frank Hellwig, senior associate general counsel at Anheuser-Busch.

Deaton asked that Anheuser-Busch end the advertising effort immediately.

"At MU, we work hard to educate our students about making responsible choices," Deaton wrote. "I would call upon Anheuser-Busch as a leading Missouri corporation to assist us in that process rather than targeting this age group with team colors on beer cans."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Columbia College and MU offer H1N1 vaccinations

By Alycia Yount
August 28, 2009 | 6:19 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Columbia College and MU will offer vaccinations for H1N1 flu virus in the fall, representatives of both schools said. “We are following the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and checking updates daily,” said Faye Burchard, dean of Campus Life at Columbia College.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that young adults age 19 through 24 receive the H1N1 vaccine because they often live, work and study in close proximity, and they are in contact with more people on a daily basis.

Christian Basi, spokesperson for MU, said the Student Health Center has seen 14 students with flu-like symptoms and has received phone calls from an additional 34 students since Aug. 24. Basi said vaccinations, which are not expected to be available until late October, will be free for students.

The CDC recommends that if students experience any flu-like symptoms to stay home and remain isolated. Information on those most susceptible to the H1N1 virus and precautionary steps to take can be found on the CDC Web site.

The CDC says the seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the novel H1N1 flu virus, so students should plan to take both the seasonal flu shot and the H1N1 shot as it becomes available.

More information on flu updates can be found at flu.gov.
A University of Missouri scientist thinks he might have found a way to tap into the proverbial fountain of youth.

For years, scientists have known mice live longer when their DNA is altered to carry a certain gene known as the mitochondria-targeted catalase, or MCAT, gene.

But making that alteration required changing a piece of DNA in a fertilized egg and transplanting the egg into a surrogate female mouse — not exactly a procedure humans could or would want to undertake.

Dongsheng Duan, an associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, has found a new way to insert the so-called “longevity” gene into mice. Duan put it inside a benign virus and injected it into the mice.

Duan initially studied the impact of the gene on young mice as they aged. Mice that received the gene therapy demonstrated they could run farther and faster than untreated mice of the same age and sex.

“They performed better,” Duan said. “They kept running and running and running. It was just amazing.”

Duan believes the MCAT gene helps remove toxic substances from cells.

“The principal behind the approach is that it cleans out the toxic free radicals,” he said. “Many diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, are partly due to too much toxic free radicals. Diabetes, Alzheimer’s — they all have something to do with free radicals. So the application of this could be very broad.”

Free radicals are damaged cells that can do a variety of damage to a body. “Free radicals can lead to aging but also health problems and diseases like cancer, heart disease and other chronic diseases,” said Jessica Kovarik, a specialist at MU Extension.
Duan now plans to test the therapy on mice that have already aged to see if it makes them more active. Human application of the therapy is years away, but early results are promising, he said. “A lot of people, when they get old, cannot move their bodies around and need a lot of assistance,” Duan said. “This would give them more freedom and would be a big help for them.”

His research findings were published this week in the Public Library of Science journal PLoS ONE.

The study comes on the heels of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that shows life expectancy in the United States is at an all-time high. Data from 2007 shows life expectancy is 77.9 years, up from 77.7 the year before. Over a decade, life expectancy has increased nearly a year and a half, the CDC reported.

Duan said his research isn’t aimed to add years but rather to improve those lived.

“What one really wants is not a simple lifespan prolongation but rather a health span increase,” he said.

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
Dalton booted off Mizzou team

By Gerry Fraley
SPECIAL TO THE POST-DISPATCH

Freshman quarterback Blaine Dalton was dismissed from the University of Missouri football team today, a few hours after being arrested on a drunk-driving charge.

According to the University’s police department, the 18-year-old Dalton was arrested near the intersection of Hitt Street and University Avenue at 1:16 a.m. on charges of driving while intoxicated, failure to drive in a single lane and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said only that Dalton was dismissed for a violation of team conduct policy. Pinkel would not comment on the decision.

Dalton could not be reached for comment.

This was Dalton’s second brush with the law in Columbia. He was stopped April 30 and arrested for possession of an unopened can of beer, failure to stay on the right side of the road and driving an unregistered vehicle. In addition, Dalton was charged with
possession of pain pills that had not been prescribed for him.

The pill charge was dropped when a friend said he had inadvertently left the pills in Dalton’s car. Dalton paid $387 in fines to settle the other charges.

Pinkel suspended Dalton upon that arrest and reinstated him when the court case had been disposed.

Dalton, from Blue Springs, Mo., had been competing with Jimmy Costello to be the backup to starting quarterback Blaine Gabbert.

Dalton played well early but struggled in the final two scrimmages, completing only 17 of 40 passes for 91 yards with one interception.
Blaine Dalton has confirmed to The Star he has been kicked off the Missouri football team after his arrest early Friday morning on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

As to whether the door may be open to allow his return?

"I don't know," Dalton said when contacted on his cell phone Friday before his client conference with Columbia attorney Bogdan Susan. "I can't answer anything else right now. Maybe later."

Susan, after counseling Dalton not to make any more statements, told The Star that Dalton was arrested by University of Missouri police shortly before 1:30 a.m. Friday and was charged with DWI, not driving within the proper lane and driving an unregistered vehicle.

Dalton, who posted $500 bond, took a breath alcohol test and a field sobriety test, though results of those tests were not released.

Capt. Brian Weimer of the University of Missouri Police Department confirmed these details. Susan said Dalton faces an Oct. 8 date in Columbia Municipal Court.

Susan and Weimer both said that the charges against Dalton were technically violations of city ordinances, rather than misdemeanors, charges brought in a county court.

Weimer said normal procedure on a first-time offense was generally a fine. Susan said that's what he would try to negotiate, though he acknowledged that is not always the outcome.

Dalton, 18, paid fines of $378 in Boone County Court earlier in the summer after pleading guilty to having an unopened can of beer in his car and to misdemeanors for the same sort of lane violation and driving an unregistered vehicle.

MU released the briefest of statements late Friday morning, saying Dalton — who received the Simone Award as the Kansas City area's most outstanding high school football player last year as a quarterback at Blue Springs South — had been dismissed, effective immediately, "due to a violation of team conduct policies."

Susan represented Dalton in the previous arrest.

When pulled over by police in Columbia on April 30, Dalton was charged with having pain pills in his car that had been prescribed for a friend. That charge was dropped after the friend told police he had simply left the pills in Dalton's car.

MU coach Gary Pinkel suspended Dalton in that instance, reinstating him after disposition of the court case.

This time, Dalton has not merely been suspended, but dismissed.

Susan, asked whether he expected that Dalton might at some point be let back onto the football team, would not speculate.

"I don't answer those questions," he said. "That's up to the coaches."

Whether or not Dalton eventually returns to the team, his dismissal has at least settled the question of who will be Missouri's No. 2 quarterback behind starter Blaine Gabbert in the season opener Sept. 5 against Illinois. That job belongs to sophomore Jimmy Costello of Liberty.

Any competition ended when Dalton, a true freshman who graduated early from high school and enrolled at MU in the spring, was arrested for the second time in a span of four months.
Trammell Crow drops out of Missouri Innovation Park

Kansas City Business Journal - by Rob Roberts Staff Writer

Trammell Crow Co., the master developer for the proposed 500-acre Missouri Innovation Park in Blue Springs, has decided not to continue as the project’s master developer.

In May, Trammell Crow was named as master developer for the research park, which is to be anchored by facilities developed for the University of Missouri. But Trammell Crow’s contract called for a predevelopment period, after which its role would be reviewed by Trammell Crow and the Blue Springs Growth Initiative Inc. (BSGI), an entity created to manage the development for the Blue Springs Economic Development Corp.

Brad Scott, director of strategic planning and communications for BSGI, said Friday that Trammell Crow determined after the predevelopment period that it could not meet BSGI’s project timeline, which called for a master-plan layout, due diligence related to the master planning and other functions to be completed within 18 to 24 months.

The ongoing master planning efforts will require significant investment, Scott said, and Trammell Crow officials did not think the prospects for tenants at the park represented adequate potential return for that investment.
Now, BSGI must decide whether to hire another master developer or "take another road," which could include BSGI serving as master developer, Scott said.

In a statement from BSGI Chairman Bill Wrisinger, the company expressed gratitude for work already completed by Trammell Crow.

"Despite a difficult credit market and resulting downturn in both the speculative development market and the planned development market, the project is well advanced due to the partnership's planning efforts," the statement said. "However, it became evident that a new strategy and new approach would need to be employed to achieve BSGI milestones and timeline."

The statement also expressed confidence in the project.

When they announced the project in December, Blue Springs officials said they would seek state legislation allowing real estate and infrastructure costs to be financed from sales and state income tax revenue generated within a business district that would include the park.

Senate opposition to expanding development incentive programs torpedoed that effort last session, Brien Starner, president of the Blue Springs Economic Development Corp., said recently.

But, he said, the development timeline included a cushion to absorb a legislative setback. Boosters will try again next year, he said, and conventional financing also is an option.

The proposed research park would include the 216-acre Adams Pointe Golf Course and 275 acres surrounding the municipal course.
Scott said that two tenants are close to committing to the park. One, which awaits approval by the University of Missouri System, is the Mizzou Center. It would include 33,000 square feet of office space for university programs in its first phase, a business and research incubator in its second phase, and leasable wet-lab space in a third phase.
Today's Question: What else can MU do to adjust to high enrollment?

By Jenn Ballard
August 29, 2009 | 5:08 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU student enrollment is at an all-time high, according to a report released by the MU News Bureau on Monday, with 30,831 students enrolled on the first day of classes.

Even though the freshman enrollment rate isn't as high as last year, a record percentage of students from last year's freshman class — the largest in history — returned for their sophomore year at MU.

The campus bookstore reorganized to better meet more students needs.

"We added four cash registers upstairs ... some more downstairs, and rearranged some things to make the lines move faster," bookstore employee Megan Jaeger said.

Three new residence halls opened on campus — Dogwood, Galena and Hawthorn — but the MU Department of Residential Life looked again to off-campus housing to accommodate additional student demand, renewing arrangements with Campus View and Campus Lodge, said Frankie Minor, director of Residential Life.

Many large classes on campus are even larger, but academic departments have added more sections and support staff to satisfy demand.

The Office of the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management made additional funds available to the College of Arts and Sciences in response to last year's "freshman surge" Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, said.

What else can MU do to adjust to high enrollment?
As a personal finance columnist, there are some things that make me pull my hair out. I try not to think about them, because I have less and less hair these days and people are noticing.

On the list are payday loan shops that gouge the down and out, credit card banks that slap 35 percent penalty interest rates on people who skip a single payment, and brokers who make fat commissions by locking clients into overpriced variable annuities.

The devil should keep a hot spot ready for the guy who invented the nasty software that banks use to handle bounced checks. When you overdraw your account, the program sees that you bounce several little checks instead of one big one. Each bounce can cost you a $30-plus bank fee.

This week, I lost another clump of hair. It seems that many college and trade school students are taking out pricey private student loans when they’re eligible for cheaper federal student loans. That’s like throwing money out the window.

Federally backed student loans, called Stafford loans, charge 6.8 percent interest. Students who show financial need may qualify for a subsidized Stafford and pay no interest while in school, and only 5.6 percent later. The loans are guaranteed by Uncle Sam, so the lenders require no credit checks.
By contrast, anything goes in the private student loan market, where you can pay interest of 18 percent or higher. Private loans carry an added risk: Their rates are variable, going up and down with an index, often the prime rate. If rates rise, so will your interest payment.

Stafford loans also offer more mercy if you have trouble repaying. There are forbearance programs and the new "income-based repayment" program that make payments affordable. You won't get those with most private loans.

Yet many students are grabbing private loans. The Project on Student Debt reported this week that nearly two thirds of students with private loans haven't borrowed all they can in federal loans. Federal loans are limited to $5,500 per year for most freshmen and rise to $7,500 for seniors. ("Independent" students can borrow more.)

Meanwhile, the number of students with private loans has grown from 5 percent in 2004 to 14 percent last year, according to federal survey data crunched by the Project on Student Debt.

Why are so many student sheep lining up for a financial shearing?

Part of it may be ignorance. Some parents can't face the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is required for federal loans. If tax forms confuse you, the FAFSA will drive you batty.

About a quarter of families don't file the form. Non-filers are highest among well-off families who don't think they'll qualify for scholarships, perhaps not realizing that they are freezing themselves out of federal student loans.

Lenders also make more money from private loans, so they tend to beat the drums for customers. Tim Ranzetta, founder of Student Lending Analytics, says the average interest rate on private loans is 11 percent, making them much more profitable than Staffords at 6.8 percent.
Lauren Asher is president of the Institute for College Access and Success, parent organization of the Project on Student Debt. She complains that private loans are hawked like snake oil.

"40,000 cash for students. No complicated forms. Call tonight!" says Asher, quoting pitches she's seen. "There are some really strong analogies to the subprime mortgage industry," she says.

The great financial crash of 2008 took a lot of oomph out of the private student loan market. Defaults on private loans are two to three times the amount on Stafford loans, and unlike Staffords, private loans carry no government repayment guaranty.

Rising defaults drove some players out of the market, says Ranzetta, while the remaining players have sharply raised credit score requirements. That said, private loans are still widely available.

Much of the blame for misuse of private loans falls on students and parents who don't explore options, preferring to trust the friendly loan officer behind the desk.

Most of us won't get angry at a person for being naive or ignorant; curing ignorance is why people go to college. But we ought to be angry at those who prey on the ignorance of others to make a buck.

A very lucky student with a co-signer and really great credit might find a private loan deal better than a Stafford, but those instances are rare, says Ranzetta. Almost everyone is better off with a federally backed loan.

Many students in private universities feel they have to turn to private loans — Staffords won't cover the full cost. If you're in that situation, you might consider whether you're at the right
An education is certainly worth borrowing for. But it's not clear that expensive private schools are worth their premium over cheaper state universities. Is a Washington University bachelor's degree really worth $212,000 when the University of Missouri in Columbia is selling the same degree for $72,300? Those cost estimates come from Sallie Mae, the big student loan company, combining 2009 tuition, room, board and book costs and assuming no scholarships.

The good news here is that most families pay for college sensibly. A Sallie Mae survey found that 58 percent didn’t borrow at all for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The typical family pays 46 percent of the cost through savings and earnings. Scholarships cover 25 percent, while student loans cover 14 percent and parent loans cover 9 percent. Friends and relatives cover the remaining 6 percent.
MU professor leaving for Ireland as a Fulbright Scholar

By Corey Motley
August 31, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — When Robert O'Connell received a letter from the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in April, instead of opening it himself, he gave it to his daughter, Nancy O'Connell, a freshman at MU. Inside the envelope was a letter telling him that his application to be a Fulbright Scholar was successful.

A professor in MU's electrical and computer engineering department, O'Connell, 60, leaves today to begin working with the engineering faculty at the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland.

O'Connell and the Dublin faculty will focus on three areas: figuring out problems humans face in the 21st century, trying to isolate the skills needed to solve those problems and looking at the best way to teach those skills to other engineers.

When he returns from his sabbatical, O'Connell plans to incorporate what he has learned into existing MU classes for engineers and possibly add new courses.

The Fulbright program includes a roster of other activities, including museum tours and receptions. Some may even require a rented tuxedo, O'Connell said. "That isn't me, but you know, you gotta do it," he said. "It's just part of the deal."

The trip will not be all work and formalities, however. O'Connell has a great interest in the culture and history of Ireland, partly because his father and maternal grandparents are from Ireland. While he is there, he hopes to "track down some family."

The Fulbright Scholarship, funded by the U.S. Department of State, is given to about 800 scholars from the United States and about 2,000 scholars worldwide, according to the Fulbright Web site. Winners are chosen for academic merit and leadership potential.
The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board reviews applications for the program, then selects winners through a series of eliminations.

O'Connell is one of 36 MU professors to win the Fulbright award since 1998, according to MU's International Center Web site.
Swine flu hits hard at KU
By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

Jayhawks apparently are a species especially susceptible to the swine flu. The virus has exploded across the University of Kansas campus, where now 284 students are sick.

Most of those likely H1N1 virus cases were reported in the last five days since fall classes started by students suffering with flu-like symptoms.

No one has been hospitalized, and none of the KU cases is confirmed as H1N1 by testing.

"Any testing we do now is not going to change the treatment advice — plenty of fluids and rest," said Mike Heideman at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "The caseload is more than the state lab can handle."

Because it's too early for seasonal flu, state health officials estimate there is about a 97 percent chance that those who are sick have H1N1.

"It's the only influenza virus circulating now," said Robert Tackett, medical director at Kansas State University's Lafene Health Center.

As of Friday, his school had only 15 cases. The University of Missouri at Columbia had 46 sick students, the University of Central Missouri had seven and the University of Missouri-Kansas City had six.

Why KU is seeing more cases is not clear to state health officials. Seventy-three cases were reported on Wednesday alone.

"One student told me her whole body ached," said Todd Cohen, KU spokesman.

The good news is the number of new cases is dropping. On Thursday, 59 students reported being ill, and 44 on Friday.

"It is trending in the right way," Cohen said.

Other campuses across the country are seeing spikes. Georgia Tech is reporting 150 suspected cases, and the University of Tennessee administrators estimate 100.

KU cases have not disrupted class scheduling. Those ill represent about 1 percent of the 27,000 students, Cohen said.

Alex Earles, a junior from Salina, takes attendance for the KU Student Senate. Two of the 70 senators "e-mailed me to say they couldn't come to this week's Senate meeting because they had swine flu," Earles said, adding he was glad they had stayed home. "The last thing I need is every senator out sick."

"There is general worry on campus — of course, no one wants to get sick," Earles said. "But it's just the flu. It's not like it's something you're likely to die from."

Campuses recommend that sick students isolate themselves. Some have opted to go home. In residence halls, roommates of the infected are being allowed to move temporarily.

To reach Mará Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.