MU Apologizes To Navy Over Band Issue

Navy Defeated Missouri 35-13 In Texas Bowl

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- University of Missouri administrators have apologized to the U.S. Naval Academy for what it says was a misunderstanding by its band during the Texas Bowl game last week.

The band has been criticized on blogs and online news forums for playing the Missouri fight song after the Naval Academy began playing its theme song after the game.

The two bands had agreed before the game that the losing team's band would play first, followed by the winner. Navy defeated Missouri 35-13 in last Thursday's game.

Missouri spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said Missouri's band didn't realize the Naval Academy had begun playing. She said the school did not intend to disrespect Navy tradition.

The Naval Academy issued a statement saying it considered the issue a misunderstanding.

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‘Sorry,’ MU trumpets about bands’ mix-up

Officials: Bowl game glitch was error, not snub.

By Janese Heavin

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

University of Missouri administrators have apologized to the U.S. Naval Academy for what appears to have been a misunderstanding during band performances at the Texas Bowl game last week.

MU’s marching band has been taking heat on blogs and online news forums for continuing to play the MU fight song as the Naval Academy band began to play its “Blue and Gold” anthem. A Facebook page dedicated to the Texas Bowl also is laced with comments from people saying Missouri should “be ashamed.”

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said Missouri’s band didn’t realize the Naval Academy had begun playing and that there was never any attempt to disrespect Navy tradition.

“Given our great respect for the Naval Academy and all those serving in our country in the armed forces of the United States, we greatly regret the misunderstanding,” she said.

Representatives of MU and the Naval Academy agreed during a pregame meeting that the losing team’s band would perform first, Banken said. After Missouri’s loss in the Texas Bowl, MU’s band began playing its typical sequence, MU band Director Tom O’Neal said. That includes playing the fight song, singing the alma mater and finishing with another round of the fight song.

The Naval Academy’s band apparently began performing before MU’s band had completed that sequence, he said. And MU’s some 300 band members did not hear the academy’s 50 performers start playing their own alma mater from the opposite corner of the field, he said.

Richard Johnson, executive vice president of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, said he finds it hard to believe that was the case. He attended the game and said he watched MU band officials looking over their shoulders as the Naval Academy began to play.

“I’m not sure this isn’t revisionist history going on,” he said. “I think Navy fans were disturbed by it. It was an embarrassment for Missouri. Whether or not it was intentional, that’s the way it came across.”

MU has an “outstanding band,” he said, but the performance went “on and on and on.”
The Naval Academy considers the issue to be a misunderstanding, according to its public statement. "We do not believe there was any intent to show disrespect toward the Naval Academy," the statement read.

Over the past few days, Missouri officials have been apologizing to the academy. O'Neal has been in contact with the Naval Academy's band director, and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton contacted his counterpart at the academy to apologize, Banken said.

MU Athletics Director Mike Alden issued a public apology for "any unintended perception of disrespect" the incident caused.

"It was and is the intention of the University of Missouri to always respect and honor the rich and proud traditions of our opponents, even more so the United States Naval Academy and the men and women who so proudly represent our country," Alden said.

O'Neal planned to post public apologies and the Naval Academy's response today on the band's Web site at www.mubands.missouri.edu.

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
I'm writing in response to the Navy-Mizzou band mix-up. Is it tradition that the Tigers rush off the field as their band is playing the fight song and alma mater after a loss? Most teams stick around long enough to carry out the tradition, or they might otherwise be accused of disrespecting their own school. Heck, I bet Mizzou didn't have 200 fans in the stands by the end of their ritual.

I find it amazing that Mizzou hasn't been around long enough to know that Navy always does the B&G after every game. But maybe so. In the end, it was a great game and the Mizzou fans were great folks.

Roy Beaty lives in Houston. His son, Austin Beaty, plays for Navy and is good friends with Will Ebner, a linebacker for Missouri.
LETTER: Missouri band stole the moment at Texas Bowl

By Jose Diaz
January 5, 2010 | 4:33 p.m. CST

As a 1974 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, I was a naval aviator for seven years. I then chose to go to medical school to accomplish a lifelong dream. I was in Desert Storm as an Army anesthesiologist, as I had transferred into the Army while in medical school. I am a board certified anesthesiologist now practicing for 24 years. So much for my intro.

I was at the game; I was so excited, and surprised, at the end of the Navy-Missouri game.

It could never happen that way. Just as my dreams had come true attaining my childhood dreams. I was so happy. Why did the Missouri band steal that moment from me?

If it truly is tradition, and there truly were fans left for the band to play for, and there was truly a miscommunication of the intent and the "usual," then I humbly understand.

I must say, however, most football fans today know and respect each others' traditions. Navy-Notre Dame is not a pretty site, regardless of the outcome, yet both teams know what it means to respect each others tradition.

Jose Diaz lives in El Paso, Texas.
UM Furloughs Still Off the Table For Now
Maureen McCollum (2010-01-05)

COLUMBIA, MO (KBIA) - Despite a reduction in state funding, University of Missouri leaders say the option of furloughs is still off the table for now. KBIA's Maureen McCollum reports.

Many universities across the country are requiring employees to take unpaid days off to make up for budget shortfalls. The University of Illinois is the latest to enforce furloughs. University of Illinois President Stanley Ikenberry announced today (Tuesday) that faculty and staff would each take four unpaid days within the next five months and administrators would take ten days. At a faculty forum last month, UM System President Gary Forsee said he's still exploring other measures that won't affect employees' pay.

"We have not had to have further discussions about furloughs or about salary reductions."

A UM System spokesperson said today that Forsee still isn't considering furloughs. Last year, Forsee received permission from the Board of Curators to enforce furloughs if necessary. Furloughs were never implemented. The furlough authority expired in July, and Forsee has yet to ask the Curators for the option again. Missouri's higher education budget will be cut 5% across the board next fiscal year. That's about $42 million for the UM System. A spokesperson from Governor Jay Nixon's office says university furlough decisions will be made by university leaders and not state government.

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GUEST COMMENTARY: Hundreds of unfilled jobs in Missouri? You've got to be kidding

By Richard Oliver
January 6, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CST

What if I told you there are hundreds of great paying jobs in Missouri and no one available to fill them? What if I told you that this was just the tip of the iceberg, that thousands of these jobs will continue to become available over the next several decades? What if I told you that the inability to fill these positions will have a detrimental effect on the quality and availability of health care to the citizens of our state? And what if I told you hundreds of highly qualified students seeking admission to University of Missouri degree programs to prepare them to fill these jobs are turned away each year because of a lack of space to accommodate them?

At a time when unemployment is soaring, manufacturing facilities are closing and attempts to attract new industries to Missouri have not yielded great returns, the health care sector is still hiring. Why? Because there is a huge shortage of qualified professionals. The other irony is that with all the talk in Washington about health care reform, there aren't enough health care professionals to deliver care. For reform to be successful, building the health care workforce must become part of that discussion as well.

As the dean of the largest public school of health professions in Missouri, the University of Missouri School of Health Professions, I hear the same complaint from clinic and hospital administrators, school districts, skilled nursing facilities and health industry leaders many times a week: "We need more of your graduates."

The shortage of the diagnostic, imaging and rehabilitation health care professionals in the "allied health professions" has been called the silent health care crisis. With the aging society, rise in chronic conditions like obesity, diabetes and asthma and the skyrocketing diagnoses of autism disorders, more allied health professionals like physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, imaging and respiratory care professionals and medical technologists are needed to provide the care the public needs now and in the future.
The shortages are alarming. According to Ed O’Neil, director of the University of California-San Francisco Center for Health Professions, and a leading national expert on health care work force, the allied health shortage is projected to reach 2.5 million workers by 2025. O’Neil has observed that “(A)s important as shortages in pharmacy, medicine, and even dentistry might become, they will ... fail to reach the depths of the looming crisis in the allied health professions.”

The allied health disciplines represent great jobs for Missouri. Our undergraduates report an average annual starting salary of around $45,000 with graduate students reporting an average starting salary of around $60,000. It’s not uncommon for new graduates to start in the $80,000 range. Ninety percent of our students are Missourians and more than 80 percent of our graduates remain in Missouri. Training Missourians to care for Missourians represents tax revenue and business revenue for Missouri — real dollars and cents that make economic development sense for our state.

Why is MU turning away qualified students? For the School of Health Professions, it’s all about capacity. We’re out of space in our 1960s dormitory home, and each year we are forced to turn away about as many students as we accept into our professional programs. Nonetheless, I’m proud to say some of MU’s finest graduates pass through our doors and go on to careers to serve the public.

So what’s the solution? Rather than focusing entirely on attracting new jobs and industry to Missouri, why not fill some of those hundreds of unfilled allied health positions in Missouri clinics, health care facilities and schools? To do so will require innovative solutions to solving our capacity issue and an investment in new facilities.

Providing outstanding health care for all Americans is not just a national issue, it is a Missouri issue that affects all Missourians. It is time to increase, not decrease, support for higher education, with special emphasis on supporting those degree programs that will bring improved personal health to our citizens and foster economic recovery for our state. We ought to take heed to Ben Franklin’s sage advice that “an ounce of prevention in worth a pound of cure.” The window of opportunity to prevent a health care work force crisis in Missouri is narrowing at an alarming rate, but if we move quickly with the right strategic investments, we can avoid an incurable prognosis so all may be assured a healthier tomorrow.

Richard Oliver, Ph.D., is dean of the University of Missouri School of Health Professions.
MU play "Holding Up the Sky" receives Kennedy Center honor

By Jonathan Arner
January 6, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Thanks to an unusual collaboration, "Holding Up the Sky," a play by Grammy-nominated Columbia resident Milbre Burch, has been transformed from a thesis performance into a stylized and dynamic piece.

The play, directed by MU professor and department chair Clyde Ruffin with an original score by Tori Meyer, has been selected as a regional finalist for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

“It’s pretty exciting to see the production get the recognition,” said Burch, an MU doctoral candidate in theater.

The play has seen a long evolution, with a range of talents contributing to the piece it is today.

"Usually you have a playwright and they write the play," Ruffin said. "This was a fairly organic and unusual way of producing a play."

The piece grew out of a solo performance for Burch's thesis show. Coupled with the hard work and imagination of the director, actors and composer, the play evolved into a tale of peace, justice and reconciliation.

Grounded in folk tales, the play centers on war and its impact on society. Dance ritual and rich movement were added to the production.

There is no scenery in the play, only performance space. The actors' movements and body shapes work to create a sense of place.

Burch said she felt the work was such a collective effort that the honor was not just hers to claim.
“I had a really remarkable opportunity to work with a director who placed his confidence in me and in the actors,” she said. “The actors acted their hearts out. It has an incredible ensemble cast.”

There will be an encore performance of the play on Jan. 15 at Rhynsburger Theatre before the festival premiere on Jan. 20 at Johnson County Community College in Kansas City, Kan.

The prestigious Kennedy Center festival is the only national competition for college theater. Eight regional festivals are held in January and February, from which four to six pieces will be chosen for a performance at the Kennedy Center.