Cotton ball incident raises racial hackles at MU

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

University of Missouri police are investigating what appears to have been a racially motivated incident Friday morning at the campus’ Gaines/Oldham Black Cultural Center.

Cotton balls were strewn across the center’s lawn, walkway and bushes between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m. Police said two people were seen running from the center grounds.

Whoever is responsible could be charged with littering or tampering, said MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer. State statutes contain no hate crime law, but if racial motivation were found, “it would enhance the punishment for the crime,” he said.

The Legion of Black Collegians, a student government group on campus, is holding a campuswide town hall meeting at 5 p.m. Monday.

“To say the least, I am disgusted by this action,” said graduate student Jennifer M. Wilmot.

In e-mail to campus administrators, Wilmot urged MU to “take swift and public action through campus-wide statements condemning this experience, seeking out the culprits, and hosting campus-wide town hall meetings to assure students that the university will not tolerate such incidents, hate, or discrimination.”

An e-mail statement from university President Brady Deaton on Friday afternoon said, in part: “This university is fully committed to tolerance and respect for every one of its members, and this kind of conduct will not be tolerated at MU.”
Deaton decries cotton incident; town hall meeting set

By Jodie Jackson Jr.
Saturday, February 27, 2010

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton has called on the public to help MU police find the person or persons responsible for scattering cotton outside the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center yesterday morning.

In a statement, Deaton called the incident “a disheartening and inexcusable act.”

Police are investigating who was responsible for scattering cotton balls outside of the center, which is on Virginia Avenue. MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said officers were told that two individuals were seen running from the area between 1:30 and 2 a.m. yesterday. Police were expected to review video from nearby surveillance cameras.

“Those guilty of this despicable action have not yet been identified, but MUPD became involved immediately and is conducting an investigation,” Deaton said in the statement. “This university is fully committed to tolerance and respect for every one of its members, and this kind of conduct will not be tolerated at MU.”

Deaton urged anyone with information about the incident to contact police “and join me in expressing your own individual concern and support to the members of our community who were the apparent targets. ... MU celebrates the diversity of our community and this behavior offends us all.”

The statement also said that the Legion of Black Collegians has scheduled a town hall meeting for 5 p.m. Monday at a location to be determined. Attempts to reach representatives of the group last night were unsuccessful.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Cotton balls scattered in front of MU's black culture center

By Bryan Richardson
February 26, 2010 | 6:57 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – MU police are conducting an investigation after cotton balls were scattered in front of MU’s Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center early Friday morning.

MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said it's too early to say whether the incident would be considered a hate crime.

Talk of the incident spread via text message, Facebook, Twitter and word-of-mouth later in the morning. Many comments on the subject said it was an example of continuing racism.

Before the Civil War, many enslaved African-Americans were forced to work on cotton plantations.

Outside of the center Friday afternoon, MU senior Gerald McLemore said it is sad that things of this nature are still happening in the 21st century, especially during Black History Month.

“For it to happen in February, the month when African-Americans get to celebrate our history, is totally disrespectful,” McLemore said.

Weimer said a witness saw two individuals running away from the area between 1:30 and 2 a.m. There are no security cameras at the center, but there are cameras in residential halls and parking garages, which Weimer thinks could help.

Director of Student Life Mark Lucas said it is unfortunate that there are still people who would commit this type of act.
“Everyone will learn something from this, and hopefully we’ll be a better and stronger campus moving forward,” Lucas said.

People gathered around the display during the early afternoon, taking pictures and holding conversations around the center.

The cotton balls were left in front of the building until 2:30 p.m.

There was some debate about when to clean the area. Lucas said after some talks with his staff, it was decided that the cotton balls should be left where they were for a portion of the afternoon as a way to get the message out about the incident.

MU sophomore Melanie Seaton saw the cotton balls around noon and said she wanted them removed sooner.

As far as the act itself, Seaton said she doesn’t understand the mindset of whoever scattered the cotton balls.

“It’s really petty for someone to take the time to sit out here and do something like this,” Seaton said.

Chancellor Brady Deaton issued a statement, which was also e-mailed to the MU community, saying MU celebrates diversity and the act offends the university.

"This university is fully committed to tolerance and respect for every one of its members, and this kind of conduct will not be tolerated at MU," Deaton said.

Roger Worthington, MU’s assistant deputy chancellor and chief diversity officer, said this incident affects everyone at MU.

“This incident is a hostile act against the entire MU community,” Worthington said. “A campus-wide response is the most effective way to show we won’t tolerate these kinds of acts.”

Worthington leads the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative. The initiative’s goal is to enhance diversity and present a welcoming campus.
"No university is ever completely immune, no matter how hard we try to educate or prevent these types of things from happening," Worthington said.

The Legion of Black Collegians will hold a campus-wide town hall meeting at 5 p.m. Monday at a location to be determined. MU administrators will be in attendance.

The LBC might also hold a protest early Monday, President Anthony Martin said in a statement released Friday.

"We are too progressive of a nation and a university to still see issues of this nature still taking place," he said in the statement.

Students who want an outlet to be heard by MU on racial issues can contact Noel English, director of MU Equity, submit a bias incident report online or inform MU Police.

Anyone with any information about the incident can contact the MU Police Department, 882-7201, or Crime Stoppers via its Web site or phone number, 875-TIPS.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Deaton releases statement on MU Black Culture Center incident

By BRADY DEATON/MU Chancellor
February 26, 2010 | 4:53 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor Brady Deaton released a statement Friday afternoon regarding an incident at the MU Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Cotton balls were scattered in front of the center early Friday. MU Police are investigating the act, but a spokesman said Friday it was too early to say whether it would be investigated as a hate crime.

Here is the full text of Deaton's statement:

In today's early morning hours, a disheartening and inexcusable act was committed on our campus when cotton balls were strewn at the front entrance to our Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. Those guilty of this despicable action have not yet been identified, but MUPD became involved immediately and is conducting an investigation. This university is fully committed to tolerance and respect for every one of its members, and this kind of conduct will not be tolerated at MU. I urge anyone who has information related to this crime to contact MUPD immediately and to join me in expressing your own individual concern and support to the members of our community who were the apparent targets. I have been informed that the Legion of Black Collegians is calling a Town Hall Meeting for Monday at 5 p.m., location to be determined.

MU celebrates the diversity of our community and this behavior offends us all.
Location set for town hall response to cotton ball incident

By Missourian Staff
February 28, 2010 | 8:11 p.m. CST

The town hall meeting in response to the cotton ball incident at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center at MU has been scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday at the Black Culture Center, according to Legion of Black Collegian President Anthony Lawrence Martin. The center is located at 813 Virginia Ave.

"This meeting will be designed to express our feelings and create a plan of action," Martin said in a statement Friday. The meeting is open to all.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Legal experts discuss public defender crisis at MU School of Law

By Matt Pearce
February 28, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — You’ve been arrested and charged with a crime you didn’t commit. How much justice can you pay for?

If you can’t afford a private attorney, the state of Missouri may not be able to afford to prove your innocence.

On Friday, the MU Law School held a symposium to discuss what has long been old news to many in the legal profession: the constitutional shortcomings of the embattled public defender system.

Public defenders are lawyers hired by the state to defend poor clients, and commentators routinely use the word "crisis" to describe the heavy caseloads of public defenders in Missouri. Many at the symposium believed busy public defenders would not be able to provide adequate help to defendants who were genuinely innocent, resulting in wrongful convictions.

As with many discussions involving constitutional absolutes, debate was often passionate.

“When the Constitution makes a promise... it has to mean something, or else we have to tear up the Constitution and pretend it was a lie all along,” said Peter Joy, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis and one of the symposium’s presenters.

Joy was referring to the Sixth Amendment, which guarantees citizens the help of an attorney in a criminal case. Since the 1963 Supreme Court ruling in Gideon v. Wainwright, that right was made a firm guarantee: give criminal defendants a trial attorney, or don’t try them at all.
*Gideon v. Wainwright*, referred to by attorneys simply as *Gideon*, was an unfunded mandate by the Supreme Court. In other words, states now had to supply attorneys to defendants for free.

The Supreme Court has also held that attorneys actually have to be "effective" — meaning they have to make a reasonable attempt at defending their clients — which puts Missouri's chronically underfunded and overworked public defender system in a tough spot. In order to protect the rights of citizens, is it going to be necessary to turn down clients?

A policy in Missouri would allow public defender offices to decline any new clients if they were overloaded — which could potentially cause a chain reaction forcing prosecutors and judges to drop charges against some defendants simply because there aren't enough lawyers to take their cases.

"I think it is a matter of time before doors are closed somewhere, no doubt," said Cathy Kelly, deputy director of Missouri's public defender system, during her presentation. "It's going to happen."

Kelly said eight offices across Missouri had already put their local courts on notice to help lessen the caseload.

Such measures are drastic, but have become necessary for a state public defender system swamped with cases and ranked 49 out of 50 in per capita spending for defendants. Kelly said the state spent $288 per trial for public defenders last year. That amount rises to $355 in death penalty cases, Kelly said.

"It's critical that the public know about the crisis," Kelly said, so they could pressure lawmakers to act.

Much of the symposium was geared around various ways to help alleviate the problem — enlisting bar associations to help take cases, enforcing more rigorous professional standards and even decriminalizing some offenses. Ultimately, the consensus was that the state simply needs to spend more money on its public defenders.

But to many, the state was an adversary both in the courtroom and in the legislature.
During the symposium's keynote speech, Stephen Bright, president and senior counsel of the Southern Center for Human Rights, crystallized the problem of low funding in a question posed to the capacity audience.

"How much justice is going to be provided by the same government trying to convict these people, and deprive them of their liberty, and — in some instances — of their lives?" Bright asked.

A veteran of two Supreme Court discrimination cases, Bright's brow seemed stuck in the furrowed position, as if life were a permanent point of contention.

"It's not about being tough on crime or soft on crime," Bright said. "It's about having a fair system for determining innocence or guilt."

At the end of a speech celebrating the role of public defenders as guardians of civil rights, Bright paraphrased Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: "Our lives our not our own; they belong to those who need us desperately." The crowd rose in a standing ovation.

But later, a characteristic gallows humor soon returned to a crowd of current and former defense attorneys accustomed to losing more cases than they win.

A younger law professor, Darryl Brown of the University of Virginia, told the audience "Sometimes, I get to feeling pretty optimistic."

"It'll pass," said Norman Lefstein, a law professor at Indiana University and an elder statesman among the presenters. The crowd laughed.

After the symposium ended, Rodney Uphoff, a MU law professor who helped organize the event, said his goal had been "having a conversation with smart people about this tough issue and have them talk about it in an intelligent way."

Invitations had been extended to some current judges and prosecutors, Uphoff said, but none appeared to have attended. Uphoff shrugged it off, but acknowledged the inherent difficulty of getting help improving the public defender system.

"There is a misconception that funding adequate defense will help criminals," Uphoff said.
MU symposium investigates ‘your brain on music,’ more

By Lynn Israel
Sunday, February 28, 2010

Art bedevils us and delights us, even as music distracts us and concentrates our brains wonderfully.

We still wonder what those cave guys and gals were thinking when they sketched those bulls in the caves at Lascaux, France. A rainy day? Maybe a way to fix up the ol’ man cave?

Or listen to Mozart and then check your mood. Angry? Calm? Invigorated? It’s a question puzzling scientists who study the brain, including other researchers, I call them moms, who find a symphony can soothe a child, as opposed to say Marilyn Manson’s “Irresponsible Hate Anthem.”

Similar themes will be the focus next month during the sixth annual University of Missouri Life Sciences and Society Symposium themed “From Art to Biology and Back Again.” It includes a keynote address March 12 by Daniel Levitin, who will examine intersections between the creative arts and sciences in a cool program themed “This is Your Brain on Music.”

“The symposium will explore through both art and science why humans are interested in art,” Stefani Engelstein, director of Life Sciences and Society Program, said in an e-mail. “The speakers will talk about why humans participate in art, what happens in the brain when we create or perceive art, and how art ‘comments’ on science, with plenty of time for questions and discussion from the audience.”

If anyone could tackle such weighty subjects, it has to be Levitin. He’s a neuroscientist, musician and cognitive psychologist, whose background includes producing albums and working as a sound designer for Blue Oyster Cult, the Grateful Dead and others. A James McGill Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience at McGill University in Canada, he will speak at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium on the MU campus and explore such topics as how the brain interprets music, why people become musical experts and how music affects our emotions.

These universal questions are being studied all over the world as people try to make sense of the “Mozart effect” and other conundrums of how the brain processes music. Just last week, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Philip Ball, author of “The Music Instinct,” tried to explain how music — let’s say a kettle drum roll or how Susan Boyle made audiences cry — has an effect on our brains. The short answer, Ball said, is that our brains have a remarkable ability to
detect patterns and make sense of them, according to an article in the Telegraph by Roger Highfield.

And one of the most interesting parts of the story is Ball suggesting “we are predisposed to make the world a musical place.” Whether it’s true or not, there will be plenty of debate led by Levitin, who also is the best-selling author of such books as “This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession” and “The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature.”

The free program open to the public also includes these speakers:

**March 13 at Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center, 1201 Rollins St.**

10 a.m.: Ellen Dissanayake “The Arts in Human Evolution: the Artification Hypothesis.”

11 a.m.: Kathryn Coe “Dialogue with the Ancestors: The Arts, Anticipation and Cultural Change”

1:30 p.m.: Lisa Cartwright “Critical Art Practice in the Era of Biological Citizenship”

2:35 p.m.: Eduardo Kac “BioArt”

3:40 p.m.: Panel discussion with Dissanayake, Coe, Cartwright and Kac

**March 14**

8:45 a.m.: John Onians “Quality versus Speed: What Neuroarthistory Teaches Us about the Importance of Unconscious Mental Formation”

9:50 a.m.: Barbara Stafford “Whatever Happened to Selective Attention?”

11:15 a.m.: Patricia Olynyk “(Re:) Visualizing Bioscience — Re-Picturing Art”

12:20 p.m.: Panel discussion with Onians, Stafford and Olynyk

There also are related programs on the campus, including exhibits, films and dance, such as an event at 2 p.m. Thursday titled “Art and Human Nature” at Colonnade in Ellis Library with Carsten Strathausen, chair of the MU Department of German and Russian studies. Go online to see the complete schedule at http://muconf.missouri.edu/artbiology/.

‘**TOKYO VICE**’ BOOK TALK

**TODAY BY JAIME ADELSTEIN**

On the cover, I wrote about a book talk by Hickman High School grad Peter Hessler, but another Columbia native and a Rock Bridge High School grad also is delivering a book talk today you
won’t want to miss. Jake Adelstein, author of “Tokyo Vice: An American Reporter on the Police Beat in Japan,” will speak from 2 to 4 p.m. in the art gallery at Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St. in Jefferson City. Adelstein covered organized crime for the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan’s largest newspaper. For more than a decade in Tokyo, he has investigated and written about the Yakuza, the Japanese version of the mob.

A BIT OF THE IRISH

Being part Irish on me mum’s side, I’m excited about a couple of events coming up, and I don’t just mean St. Patrick’s Day. Here are some ways to be a bit more green:

Impressive seems like a such a weak word when you talk about Eileen Ivers, a seven-time all-Ireland fiddle champion, star of the original “Riverdance” and best-selling recording artist. The queen of the Irish fiddle, Ivers and Immigrant Soul will return at 8 p.m. next Sunday to the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, 203 S. Ninth St. Expect an evening reflecting the richness of her Irish roots touched with jazz, blues and rock influences. Call 875-0600 for tickets.

Musicians and actors join forces Thursday through next Sunday when Central Methodist University’s Little Theatre presents the dark Irish comedy “The Cripple of Inishmaan.” Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland in 1934, Martin McDonagh’s strange comic tale reflects the great traditions of Irish storytelling. To top it off, Irish folk music will be performed Thursday, Saturday and next Sunday by musicians Cathy Barton and Dave Para and on Friday by folk musician Jackie Ambrose.

Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. next Sunday. Tickets are $6 for adults, $1 for students. Call (660) 248-6281 for tickets.

Contact Features Editor Lynn Israel at lisrael@columbiatribune.com, mail your news to the Tribune at P.O. Box 798, Columbia, Mo., 65205, or call 815-1714.
Forsee gets high marks for MU system tenure

Once skeptical of president's expertise, officials laud leader.

Janese Heavin • The Columbia Daily Tribune • February 27, 2010

Columbia -- Gary Forsee is getting satisfactory marks from faculty leaders as he begins his third year as president of the University of Missouri System.

Asked to grade Forsee as he celebrates his second anniversary at UM this week, faculty members gave him everywhere from an A- to a passing mark.

No grade inflation going on here: These are the same faculty members who were skeptical of the former Sprint CEO with no academic experience when he became president of the state's largest university system. Turns out, Forsee's business background is making him the "right guy at the right time," said MU biology Professor Tom Phillips.

"The job he has isn't the one he accepted," Phillips said. "The fiscal crisis made it a whole different game. He got the short end of the stick but, in reality, he's probably better for us in that sense. He's a guy who can make tough business decisions."

Despite his image as a corporate executive, Forsee said he spends much of his time focused on the educational mission of the university, whether he is meeting with academic leaders and students to ensure each campus is providing a relevant education or fighting to make college more accessible.

On his watch, the university formed a P-20 task force to review whether the educational pipeline is preparing younger generations, and this year Forsee directed administrators to study expanded e-learning options and three-year degree programs.

But Forsee's messages related to economic development are what faculty members say they hear the loudest. Perhaps that's because the system has seen drastic increases in invention disclosures, patents, licensing income and research park development since Forsee arrived, and he's quick to tout those numbers.

Some faculty leaders say they're fine with Forsee's focus on economic development. After all, Phillips noted, early critics were more concerned that he would become too involved in what goes on in the classroom.

"A major concern amongst faculty when someone without a track record in academics was hired was that he might be tempted to insert himself into academic matters outside his scope of
expertise," said Phillips, a former MU Faculty Council chairman. "He has kept away from these types of issues."

Biochemistry Professor Frank Schmidt agreed, saying immediate academic decisions "are coming back to campuses, and that's where they ought to be."

But some wonder whether Forsee is too far removed from the educational mission of the university.

"I would like it if he tried to help us a little more," said MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin, specifically pointing to his recent decision to allocate $5 million to economic development compared to a smaller allocation of $700,000 for e-learning.

After all, Rubin said, faculty members are shouldering much of the budget crunches. Research might generate funding, she said, but "the enrollment surge has been holding up the budget. When push comes to shove, increases in class size made the difference."

Spanish Professor Michael Ugarte said he thinks the educational mission has been pushed too far on the back burner.

"I understand universities have to function so they're economically solvent and we're in an economic crisis now. But we can't lose sight of what we're here to do," Ugarte said. "Clearly, he shouldn't be meddling in departments, but at the same time he should be a voice, a spokesperson for the university and what we do here. And I don't hear my ideals in education being voiced by him at all. I feel excluded from what he wants to do."

Forsee has been an advocate when it comes to voicing support for more state funding. He has verbally endorsed a proposed state bond package to improve public university facilities, and he has repeatedly criticized the state's Access Missouri scholarship program for awarding more dollars to students who go to private schools than to public college students. "He's the first president to have spoken out vocally and aggressively, saying: 'No, we're not getting a fair deal here,' " Phillips said. "I admire him for that. He's a guy who's willing to stand up for what he thinks is right for our university."

In existing economic conditions, Forsee said, that means partnering with the state to turn the economy around.

By turning research and ideas into products and startup companies, the UM System isn't simply a public entity asking for more state funds but rather part of the solution to generate new revenues. "If we can do that, this university will be fine," he said, "and the state and country will be fine because of that."

Although some faculty members seem to have warmed up to Forsee in the president's seat, a few remain skeptical. Ugarte said he couldn't give Forsee a letter grade because the president hasn't made his specific goals clear.
Schmidt continues to take a "wait-and-see" attitude.

"I don't think any president will win over all faculty members, at least while he's still in office," Schmidt said. "He certainly gets a passing grade at this point, but I'm not ready to chisel his name in the base of one of the Columns."
Books chronicle epic binges
Rite dangerous, counselors say.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Sunday, February 28, 2010

From a baby’s first steps to high school graduation, scrapbooks provide friends and loved ones a way to preserve cherished memories. In some college towns in the Midwest, scrapbooks are also used to chronicle a far more ominous rite of passage: bar-hopping drinking binges, one alcohol shot at a time.

They’re called “shot books” and often are used to commemorate 21st birthdays, with one shot for every year represented.

“It’s a real tradition here,” said Ken Sher, a Missouri psychological sciences professor who studies alcohol abuse among college students.

Shot books are made by and for women almost exclusively, especially in sororities, Sher and other experts say. The keepsakes come bedecked with photos, drink names, bar locales and progressively sloppier signatures — visual reminders of a night of excess few could recall on their own.

Those who study the phenomenon say it’s primarily a Midwestern ritual, though it has popped up elsewhere. There are online “how-to” guides offering step-by-step instructions, and YouTube videos chronicling such events.

Giselle Paris, 22, a sorority member at Missouri State University in Springfield, called 21st birthday scrapbooks an ingrained part of Greek life on campus at her southwest Missouri school.

“I see it almost every weekend here,” she said.

Paris, a senior from Kansas City, described an all-day event on her birthday that began with a “wake-up shot” at 9 a.m. and included regular meals and a nap before the binge concluded 15 hours later.

“I’m sure it sounds dangerous,” she said. “It’s evidence that we condone binge drinking.”
At the University of Missouri, junior Courtney Schmiermeier of St. Louis said her shot book is more about cherished memories than drunken misbehavior. The English major even invited her mother along for the party — and Mom accepted.

"I'm going to be proud of it forever," she said. It's not so much the drinking. I have pages showing all of my good friends."

Alcohol counselors say the shot books not only encourage risky behavior but also expose bar owners and employees — who are sometimes included in the photos — to legal consequences should the birthday drinker get sick from alcohol poisoning or even die.

"They're putting themselves in such a vulnerable position, liability-wise," said Kim Dude, assistant director of the Wellness Resource Center at Missouri.

"If this person ends up dying of alcohol poisoning, that picture is being taken at your bar. ... Now you have written proof of your role in the ceremony."

According to National Institutes of Health figures, alcohol-related deaths among U.S. college students rose from 1,440 deaths in 1998 to 1,825 in 2005 — a 27 percent increase. The numbers include traffic-related deaths.

For 21st birthday party drinkers, successfully finishing 21 shots is less important than making the effort, said Clayton Neighbors, a University of Houston psychology professor. His research shows fewer than 10 percent of those who try to reach 21 shots actually do.

"Most of them don't make it," he said. "If you get 21 shots down without throwing up, you're going to be in the hospital, or dead."

Video diaries of 21 shots are as accessible as the nearest YouTube link, Neighbors pointed out. Creating permanent reminders of the birthday ritual can only heighten the risk, he said.
MU grad makes gains with his popcorn snack

By Justin Willett
Saturday, February 27, 2010

A year after he began selling Pub-Corn online, University of Missouri graduate Cary Silverman has scored a deal to have his alcohol-flavored popcorn carried in almost 30 Mid-Missouri Break Time stores.

The nonalcoholic snack comes in three flavors — beer, piña colada and Irish crème — and is sold in 5-ounce bags that retail for $2.29 to $2.49. The snack also is carried in Columbia’s two Hy-Vee gas stations and sold online at Pub-Corn.com.

Denise Stroud, category manager for Break Time, a division of Columbia-based MFA Oil Co., said she began talking to Silverman about Pub-Corn six months ago.

She said she liked the product and got the go-ahead to carry it in 28 stores. Stroud said if Pub-Corn is well-received during a 30- to 60-day trial period, it could end up in 70 to 75 of the 79 Break Time stores.

“It’s kind of a fun idea,” she said. “I think it will go over very well.”

Silverman, who also operates a notes-sharing site called GradGenie.com for college students, developed the idea for Pub-Corn while at MU.

Over Christmas break in 2007, he watched some friends sneak alcohol into a movie and drink it while snacking on popcorn. He wondered whether the two could be merged.

A Lincoln, Neb., plant began producing the snack in September 2008. Silverman has since switched to Noble Popcorn Farms in Sac City, Iowa, for production.

The flavors also have been overhauled, he said, to taste more like the drinks.

Silverman sent some samples to the Tribune; Irish crème and piña colada were popular, but beer was not highly regarded.

“It’s very similar to as if you were actually drinking Irish crème,” Silverman said of his most popular flavor. “The beer is popular initially because people are curious about it. But perfecting a beer flavor can be difficult.”
Silverman said over the next year, he's also going to roll out tequila, tequila lime, margarita and strawberry margarita flavors.

THE BRADY BUNCH

The owners of Brady’s Glass have found a buyer for their building at Providence Road and Ash Street and are preparing to make an offer on a new location.

Owner Jerry Brady said he has signed a deal to sell the 16,000-square-foot building at 203 N. Providence to the owner of Eagle Liquor. Sureshbhai Patel owns the liquor store at 1500 I-70 Drive S.W., according to Columbia business license records.

Brady said he and his sons, Sean and Ryan, are considering a few possible locations and are going to narrow down their options this weekend. "We're in process of cleaning out our space now," Ryan Brady said. “As soon as we figure out where we’re going to go, it’s going to go quickly after that.”

Brady’s Glass dates back to 1914. The business moved to Providence and Ash in 1965. The business specializes in auto glass, residential glass and contract commercial glazing.

Meanwhile, The Frame Shop, which was located inside Brady’s Glass, has closed while owner Emily Brady, sister of Jerry Brady, prepares to open a new shop on Orr Street with longtime employee Shan McElroy and his wife, Carla. Emily Brady said the McElroys will be taking over the business, which will be called The Frame Shop on Orr Street. The business is at 110 Orr St., Suite 105.

“It’s all coming together wonderfully,” Emily Brady said. “We’re shooting to be open April 1.”

Brady said Shan McElroy is the best framer she’s had in her 30 years in the business, and his wife is going to begin learning the business. Brady said she plans to gradually step out of the business over the next few years.

“My customers didn’t want me to quit just yet,” she said.