Missouri Moves Into National Title Picture

By PETE THAMBE

For decades, Missouri's football program seemed to exist solely to give the graduates of its esteemed journalism school a way to conjure new hyperbole for haplessness. A longtime doormat with little history and less national prestige, Missouri seemingly served only as a speed hump for the teams from Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas on their inevitable drives to glory.

But after the Tigers stunned Oklahoma, 36-27, on Saturday night — yet another achievement in the long and incremental march to becoming a national power under Coach Gary Pinkel — Missouri's ink-stained students are having to devise hyperbole of a completely different kind.

The Tigers are No. 6 in the latest Bowl Championship Series rankings, and a victory at Nebraska this Saturday could catapult them into the thick of the national title race.

"I definitely think Missouri could win the national title," said Wyoming Coach Dave Christensen, a former Missouri assistant whose team has faced the contenders Texas Christian and Boise State this year. "They've got an explosive offense and a fast and aggressive defense and an extremely sound kicking game. They don't have glaring weaknesses."

Missouri showed that on Saturday night in one of the bigger victories in program history. The Tigers (7-0) ran away from Oklahoma, which was No. 1 in the B.C.S. standings, thanks to a furious fourth quarter in which they scored 16 points.

Pinkel, in his 10th season, has twice led the Tigers to the Big 12 Conference title game, and they even reached a No. 1 ranking in 2007. But both of those championship game appearances ended in lopsided losses to Oklahoma. Pinkel entered Saturday night winless against Oklahoma and Texas, the Big 12's best teams of the last decade.

Pinkel is now 1-6 against the Sooners, and the upset had all the trappings of a big game, from the presence of ESPN's "GameDay" crew to the obligatory storming of the field by a rejuvenated fan base.

"If you want to notch your program up, you've got to win games like this," Pinkel told reporters after the game. "We've fallen short a number of times, but I'm a competitor and I'm a fighter."

And don't look now, but Missouri is in prime position to ascend to one of the top two spots in the B.C.S. standings. The Tigers may be No. 6 now, but their computer numbers portend a large
jump if they are able to win the rest of their games, including the Big 12 title game, where their opponent would probably be the Sooners.

Missouri, ranked seventh in the Associated Press top 25, is ranked second by the computers and will only rise in the coaches’ and Harris polls if it finishes 13-0. The B.C.S. analyst Jerry Palm predicted that Missouri would jump Boise State and T.C.U. because an undefeated team from one of the six major conferences has never finished behind an undefeated team from outside the so-called B.C.S. conferences. “They’re in the hunt,” Palm said. “But they have to stay undefeated and they need help.”

Missouri has one of the top quarterbacks in the country, Blaine Gabbert, who proved spectacularly steady in the victory over the Sooners. Gabbert, a junior, is the latest in the impressive assembly line of front-line quarterbacks in Columbia. He follows Chase Daniel and Brad Smith, both key figures in pulling the program up from the bottom of the Big 12.

Christensen, who came to Missouri with Pinkel in 2001, said that one of the turning points for the program came when it installed a no-huddle spread offense to help level the playing field against top competition.

Missouri’s offense has been consistently productive since that moment early in Pinkel’s tenure, but the most interesting evolution in the program has been that it has closed the talent gap that forced it to install the spread in the first place.

Christensen said that Missouri had one of the country’s top offensive lines. Missouri is ranked No. 32 in the country for total offense despite being without the star tailback Derrick Washington, its leading rusher the past two years, who was suspended before the start of the season.

“Absolutely without a doubt,” Christensen said when asked if having better offensive and defensive lines had been the final component needed for Missouri. “The guys they’re playing with up front are mature and older. They were able to recruit better players. My last couple years, there were more advanced skill players than trench guys. Now they have those guys in the trenches.”

That includes the defense. The most impressive statistic about the Tigers may be that they have allowed 13.1 points a game. That ranks them fifth in the country, ahead of programs like Ohio State and Louisiana State.

In the past, Missouri did not have players like Aldon Smith, a 6-foot-5, 260-pound sophomore defensive end who returned an interception 58 yards in the first quarter against Oklahoma. He was the Big 12’s defensive newcomer of the year last season and returned to the team last week after breaking his fibula earlier this season.

“I was there the year he redshirted,” Christensen said. “And we didn’t have anyone who could block him then.”
Christensen credits the Tigers’ success to Pinkel, who he said was so detail-oriented that if a pass route required receivers to make a cut at 12 ½ yards, they had better not do it at 12 or 13.

It is that type of focus that is required for a program to complete such a drastic turnaround.

“He’s not a limelight guy,” Christensen said. “He doesn’t need to be out there in all the articles and on ESPN; he just goes about his business.”

Luckily for Pinkel, there are plenty of Missouri graduates who will gladly chronicle the program’s fabled turnaround for him.
An MU-turn: Tigers stand tall in Big 12

BY VAHE GREGORIAN | vgregorian@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8199 | Posted: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 5:00 am

COLUMBIA, MO. • Mizzou Chancellor Brady Deaton considered the turbulence and uncertainty of the college conference expansion movement last summer that threatened to leave MU unmoored.

"I reflect on ... how quickly it can turn, the kind of work it takes to make it turn," said Deaton, chuckling and adding, "And the irony: I’m here at a Big 12 board meeting, in fact, today" in Dallas.

From that near-chaos has come a new order at MU and perhaps in the Big 12:

With the first win in school history over a team considered No. 1 in the nation on Saturday against Oklahoma, MU became 7-0 for just the third time in school history and first since 1960. The Tigers, now sixth in the BCS standings, are one of only seven teams remaining undefeated in major college football and the only unblemished one left in the Big 12 entering Saturday’s game at No. 14 Nebraska (6-1).

And that game will be oozing with drama both because of the stakes and the fact it represents the end for the foreseeable future of a series that dates to 1892 because of the Cornhuskers’ decision to leave the Big 12. Nebraska’s move to the Big Ten in June threatened the future of the Big 12 as Texas, Oklahoma and others pondered an offer from the Pac-10, while Missouri was left to scramble for a home. The Big 12 held together and will be 10 schools next year, minus Nebraska and Colorado.

Now, Missouri is the national face of the conference.

The impact of it all isn’t tangible yet, but Deaton said the priceless positive exposure from the Oklahoma win and increased exposure for two days on ESPN, should, among other benefits, lead to an increase in applications.

"We’ll be surprised if there’s not, let’s put it that way," he said, adding that the game "can only help" already-strong donor support.

But whatever comes next for MU, the events of the last few days still resonate, will be tough to trump and likely remain indelible for many.
His voice still raspy from the win over Oklahoma, athletics director Mike Alden on Monday was reluctant to pass judgment on where the day might stand in MU lore but called the game "a generational victory."

"We'll have people talk about their experiences over this last week, frankly, for the rest of their lives," he said. "Many people will always come back to where (they were) on Oct. 23 of 2010."

From the wee hours on, in fact, as ESPN College GameDay set up on the quad, framed by Mizzou's historic columns and Jesse Hall ... and overlooked by the chancellor's house.

Around 3:30 a.m., the quad opened to receive fans for the show.

With that, Deaton was up to watch out the window, evoking an image out of "The Night Before Christmas" -- hearing from the lawn such a clatter, moving to the window like a flash, tearing open the shutters and throwing open the sash.

"The bull was going all night long," he said, laughing. "We sleep on that side of the residence, so we could hear it."

In some ways, it was as festive as the holidays for MU. "It was just a glorious day in every way," he said, adding, "I felt like I was on a high from early morning to late at night."

Ultimately, the quad received what ESPN would call a record crowd of more than 18,000 for a show that has come to represent the epicenter of the college football universe on game days.

The scene became what Alden called a daylong "infomercial" for Mizzou and the state.

Yet that backdrop was just one element of a day that also featured a homecoming parade with a crowd estimated by police to be "in excess of 50,000," Alden said, and a game broadcast nationally on ABC.

Deaton said he spoke with students and alumni through the day who were "already committed to being totally elated even if we had lost the game. ... Then the win, it was too much to ask for, almost."

Or as Alden put it, "I don't think you could have drawn it up any better."

And Alden noted that the win provided a 'signature" victory with an exclamation point for a football program that has had a dramatic upswing the last few years — and suddenly seems long removed from the tumult of last summer.
Mizzou Mania Continues, May Bring Money To School

If The Team Keeps Winning, The School Could Earn Millions

By Jeff Bernthal

FOX2now.com

5:09 PM CDT, October 25, 2010

COLUMBIA, MO (KTVI-FOX2now.com)

"It was surreal and the atmosphere electric." That’s how Todd McCubbin, executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association, described Saturday’s big win against #1 Oklahoma. He said the University could not have written a script any better than how the weekend unfolded.

"The energy on this campus has just exploded in the last three to four days," said University spokesman Christian Basi.

The celebration could also lead to big money for the university. If the football team continues to win, they will likely be invited to a BCS Championship bowl game.

Last year BCS teams each received $17 million. Other bowl teams received significantly less, more like $2 million.

"The energy on campus is just really high," said Sara Doerhoffer, an education major at Mizzou. "Everyone’s tired from the long weekend, but there is definitely still some energy and everyone is really excited about it."

The University set three attendance records. 18,000 fans turned out for College GameDay. That’s a record. Then 50,000 turned out for homecoming, another record. Then 71,004 fans showed up for the game. That was also a record.

"Homecoming is always fun, but the University of Missouri versus Oklahoma, that’s already big," said Andrew Worrall, student. "GameDay coming here is even bigger and then of course winning is just icing on the cake."

Worrall also is part of a campus group that offers rides to students who need them. He said his group took home more than 200 students after Saturday’s celebrations.
Some students complained the crowd brought out a boost in crime, by campus police reported no significant problems.

If you couldn't make it to Columbia over the weekend, or just want to re-live the excitement, we have you covered. You'll find dozens of pictures from the game and all the Mizzou homecoming festivities in our galleries. Just click on the link to the left.
Triumph and excess for the win

By Rudi Keller

Standing amid a throng of euphoric fans Saturday night — many energized by more than the Homecoming victory over Oklahoma — Sgt. Chris Kelley explained how officers were overlooking many minor violations to be ready in case real trouble broke out.

Many people walked by Kelley, head of the Columbia Police Department’s downtown enforcement unit, holding beers or other beverages. No effort was made to enforce the open-container ordinance.

"After a big win like this, we are just trying to keep the peace," he said.

The official Columbia police tally for the citywide celebration, beginning at 5 p.m. Friday and ending at noon yesterday, included 52 disturbance calls, 30 peace-disturbance calls, eight shots-fired calls and 23 traffic accidents. One of those shots-fired calls was the early Saturday killing of Aaron Hobson, cousin of MU cornerback Trey Hobson. Police had made three arrests in the homicide by this morning and were looking for two more men in connection with the slaying.

Columbia police reported eight arrests for other violations, including four for driving while intoxicated.

In addition, the department took nine residential burglary reports between Saturday afternoon and early yesterday. "It is likely that the suspect or suspects took advantage of so many people being away from their homes for the parade and football game, and this may be a reason so many burglaries occurred yesterday," a police news release said.

Electronics were a top target for the burglars, who took computers, video games and televisions in the break-ins, which were scattered all over the city.

Meanwhile, the University of Missouri Police Department tallied 48 arrests — 38 inside Memorial Stadium and 10 outside, said Capt. Brian Weimer, a spokesman for the department. The list included 30 people taken during the rush to the field that also resulted in a broken leg suffered by one fan caught in the stampede.

Those arrested were the unlucky ones, but Weimer said the arrests send a message.
"Those were the ones the officers could get a hold of," he said. "They were breaking the law. It is printed on the back of the ticket and announced throughout the game to stay off the field, or you will be arrested for trespassing."

Other arrests inside and outside the stadium included those for minors in possession of alcohol, public urination and one incident of assaulting a police officer.

Another 67 people were ejected from the game, Weimer said, with most of those being adults carrying alcohol into the stadium, where it is prohibited.

Downtown, officers sought to keep people moving, prevent fights and ensure safety.

At Tenth and Cherry streets, Officer Robert Sanders spent about 20 minutes steadying and talking to a shoeless woman who had to be stopped from walking in front of a car. As he worked to learn where she lived, onlookers took pictures and video with their phones.

Many discussed her plight, speculated on her condition and chastised police — albeit not loudly enough to be heard — for time spent on a harmless person while serious matters could be in need of attention elsewhere.

In the end, Kelley said later, contact was made with a sober friend of the woman, and she was safely delivered home. By that time, he said, the city holding tank was full.

As the bars emptied, crowds lined up outside Broadway's late-night restaurants. The normal crowds were magnified by the Homecoming partiers. Police keep a presence there every weekend and use a gentle hand until things get too rowdy.

In front of the Field House, just after 1:30 a.m., Glenn Ganaway, 24, learned what that means. Officer Eric Hughes said he was patrolling on foot when he came upon Ganaway in an argument with several people.

"I told everybody to go on," Hughes said. "He continued going after the others but fell because he was intoxicated."

When Ganaway rose and puffed up his chest, Hughes and another officer hit him with a stream of Mace. Some splashed in Hughes' eyes, and he was clearly in distress as they pinned Ganaway against the metal railing on the Field House patio.

Despite Ganaway's friends loudly proclaiming his innocence, Ganaway was charged with a peace disturbance, Hughes said.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.
Sideshow: Celeb gab may be good for your health

By Tirdad Derakhshani

Inquirer Staff Writer

Normally, we here at SideShow write about celebrity news, not about news about celebrity news - least of all, something from academe. But we are nothing if not open-minded and curious, so let us note a new study by coauthors Amanda Hinnant of the University of Missouri and the University of Tennessee's Elizabeth Heudrickson (we know you two just did this study to get your names in boldface), which found that celebrity journalism might be an undersung communication channel for spreading health information. The research pointed to Jade Goody, former housemate of Britain's Big Brother series, whose death in 2009 from cervical cancer caused thousands of women to be screened for the disease. Other celebrities whose conditions have raised awareness include Michael Douglas, who is battling throat cancer.

Taylor and Jake - together or fake?

Multiple online gossip sites report a sighting of singer Taylor Swift and actor Jake Gyllenhaal being all together-ish in New York last weekend. The degree of together-ishness is unclear, but People.com says the pair first attended the broadcast of Saturday Night Live, which was hosted by Swift pal Emma Stone. "They walked around together backstage," a source told People. Ooohh! "But they were careful not to be seen too close." Oh. But would-be fans of Taylor swallow their disappointment upon hearing that Swift, 20, and Gyllenhaal, 29, were seen in Brooklyn both brunching - yes, brunching - with another couple and even - gulp, again! - strolling. Representatives for the two stars had no comment, but were expected to brunch, stroll, and perhaps, breathe, as well.

Notably sad deaths

Get ready to send your donation to fabled WossaMotta U in memory of Rocket "Rocky" J. Squirrel and Bullwinkle J. Moose creator Alex Anderson, who died last week at 90. Entertainment Weekly's Ken Tucker writes that he, like so many others, thought Jay Ward was responsible for the animated comic duo, who along with their other cartoon cronies so masterfully lampooned Cold War politics. Not so, Tucker writes. Anderson, incidentally, also created everyone's favorite Canadian Mountie, Dudley Do-Right. . . . Also recently passed is Jamaican reggae star Gregory Isaacs, known for the 1982 song "Night Nurse," recorded in Kingston, Jamaica, at Bob Marley's studios. His wife reported Monday that Isaacs died at his London home after battling lung cancer."
Get the star treatment: Daily dose of celebrity gossip could be good for your health

By Daily Mail Reporter 25th October 2010

Catching up on the latest showbiz gossip could actually be good for your health.

This is because revelations about the rich and famous help their fans lace up to their own health and social problems, say researchers.

Celebrities suffering from serious illnesses create a huge amount of public interest in the conditions, according to the University of Missouri study.

In Britain, the publicity around Jade Goody's death from cervical cancer last year saw a huge rise in the number of young women having smear tests.

Other prime examples are Cheryl Cole's battle with malaria and Michael Douglas' struggle with throat cancer.

The study presented to a prestigious US conference of academics found readers are more deeply affected by issues when there is a celebrity involved.

Lead researcher Professor Amanda Hinnant said celebrity journalism 'may be an underappreciated way to communicate health messages.'

She added: "Some readers of celebrity health stories report that the stories have an impact on their own behavior and how they discuss health issues."

Together with other academics, she conducted a series of focus group studies among regular readers of magazines and newspapers carrying stories about celebrities.

She found that when a famous person suffers with a health issue it was a bigger spur for the reader to change their own behaviour than if it was a family or friend with the problem.

She said: "Based on the discussion of participants, we observed that it is possible for celebrities to serve as surrogate interpersonal contacts for people."

"Therefore, it would be less likely for a consumer of celebrity media to check with a friend or family member before changing a health behavior based on a mass-mediated message."

"The presence of a celebrity in a health story could serve as that interpersonal contact for the reader."
Therefore reading about Robbie Williams or Lily Allen being treated for depression or Amy Winehouse battling alcoholism can help a reader who also has these conditions.

Professor Hinnant said: 'A story about a celebrity experiencing addiction may stimulate a stronger response from consumers who have witnessed a similar circumstance.'

She added that the latest celebrity stories could spark debate among friends and help parents give advice to their children.
UM picks new chief for salary, benefits

The University of Missouri System has tapped Kelley Stuck to be the new associate vice president of total compensation.

Stuck replaces Mike Paden, who retired. She begins duties Nov. 1. In the position, she will oversee salary and benefits of the four-campus system's 37,000 employees.

Before joining UM, Stuck was a vice president for Aon Consulting, where she assisted employers with benefits. She also worked for Heartland Health as a process leader in health and productivity management.

Stuck received a master's degree in administration from the University of Central Michigan and a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Truman State University.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM System hires new associate VP to address future employee benefits

By Walker Moskop
October 25, 2010 | 6:37 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System has appointed a new administrator to develop salary, reward and benefit policies for its 37,000 employees.

Kelley Stuck will begin Nov. 1 as the associate vice president of total compensation for the system. She will be paid $175,000.

A UM news release stated that Stuck “will be responsible for developing a total comprehensive rewards strategy.”

System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said Stuck will be involved in shaping a range of compensation policies for employees, including salaries and benefits. This will include evaluating the possibility of moving away from the system’s current defined benefits plan.

Stuck will be present at the Compensation and Human Resources Committee meeting Nov. 1, where curators will discuss the option of switching from the UM retirement benefits plan to defined contributions, a non-fixed plan in which individual employees assume investment risk and rewards. A new plan wouldn’t apply to current employees and retirees — only future hires.

Although the system is technically in the midst of a hiring freeze, Hollingshead said Stuck is filling a similar position vacated by former Associate Vice President of Benefits Mike Padua, who left the system May 31.

According to the news release, Stuck served as the vice president for Aon Consulting before joining UM.
Social media outlets are mainstays of campaign trail

By JUANA SUMMERS

While candidates are watching the polls, they’re going after different numbers, too — their Twitter followers and Facebook fans.

Just a few years ago, the idea of campaigning in 140 characters or less was unheard of. Now the popular microblogging website Twitter and other social media outlets have become political mainstays.

Just look at the two leading contenders for the U.S. Senate seat from Missouri.

Republican Roy Blunt has more than 7,700 Twitter followers who can see photos from campaign stops, calls for volunteers and shout-outs to the Missouri football team.

On Facebook, Democrat Robin Carnahan posts videos of ads and personal stories from volunteers, with links to her campaign website. She has more than 18,600 Facebook fans.

In the 2010 elections across the country, including Kansas and Missouri, social media are playing an important role — not necessarily to drum up votes but to build coalitions of supporters and bring in donations.

“Social media provides influence and it provides dollars,” said Brent Beshore, founder of the Columbia-based Pure Marketing and Media. “But as far as getting people out to vote, social media’s not a major driving factor right now.”

That doesn’t mean that a campaign tool still in its infancy won’t someday be used to drive much more of the vote. But for now it’s already become the hallmark of a 21st-century campaign.

Nearly all major party candidates running this year have websites, a given for some time. Most now have Facebook and Twitter accounts. They post videos to YouTube and they are starting blogs.
Social media have proved an easy way to integrate supporters into the campaign and make them feel they're making a difference.

"It enables you to feel like you've got the power to influence the future of the country," Beshore said, noting that it was easier to tweet your support — letting all your followers see it — than to go door-to-door in a cold rain.

Still, candidates use social media differently.

One of the signatures of Roy Blunt's Twitter account (@RoyBlunt) is that the candidate is in the driver's seat.

"People who are interested in this campaign want to know that the information they're receiving is coming directly from Roy Blunt," said Blunt spokesman Rich Chrismer.

Carnahan spokesman Linden Zakula said Carnahan (@RobinCarnahan) did not tweet much personally, but the campaign used Twitter to rally supporters.

"Our goal is to be accessible to them and then to get them engaged and invested in the campaign," he said.

Blunt leads in Twitter followers — Carnahan has 2,445. She is closer to Blunt on Facebook, where Blunt has about 22,000 fans.

Blunt has a smartphone application that provides alerts and news updates. Carnahan has a site tailored to mobile browsers.

Both candidates post videos to YouTube, where Blunt's campaign channel has nearly double the views of Carnahan's channel. Blunt's congressional channel adds more views.

"Roy Blunt is broadcasting more loudly and more persistently," said Aaron Weber of Spiral16, an Overland Park Internet monitoring company. "Roy Blunt is doing a better job of talking about Robin Carnahan online than Robin Carnahan is."

But Carnahan staffers said the numbers did not tell the story. Carnahan aims for deeper relationships and more conversation online so that supporters will be moved to work for her, they said.

But online, talk on social media is not limited to just the candidates' official efforts. With the ability to repost messages built into the Facebook and Twitter architecture, anything someone says has the potential to go viral, shaping a candidate's image on the Web.

Take Blunt's political director Dan Centinello — @centinello — a voracious Twitter user. He posted a tweet several months ago labeling Carnahan's campaign as the "worst campaign ever."
The off-the-cuff slogan, not a formal part of Blunt's campaign, has taken hold. Now, supporters and even some other Missouri politicians, are attaching that tag to their criticisms of the Carnahan camp.

But social media users might not be the people Carnahan needs to reach to win, some said.

"You have to target people in ways that they are comfortable and familiar with," said Mitchell McKinney, who teaches courses in political communication at the University of Missouri.

The people comfortable with talking politics online might not be the same people who turn out in a midterm election, McKinney said. Carnahan needs to reach some urban blocs that might not plug into politics online.

But someday that could change.

Twitter and Facebook are not the "right now" of driving votes online, but they will be powerful players in the future — perhaps as soon as the 2012 elections, Beshore said.
State reps to debate issues at Wednesday forum

The forum will include candidates from the 23rd, 24th and 25th districts.

By Steven Dickherber

Published Oct. 26, 2010

MU plans to hold a debate for state House candidates to discuss their opinions on key issues like the economy, state taxes, unemployment and higher education Wednesday.

In the 23rd district, Republican candidate Paul Szopa is taking on incumbent Democrat Stephen Webber; in the 24th district, Republican Laura Nauser is challenging incumbent Democrat Rep. Chris Kelly. Incumbent Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, is running unopposed for the 25th district.

In the 24th District, Kelly said the differentiating philosophies between him and Nauser were their views on how to pay for university funding.

"I believe that it is reasonable to fund the University of Missouri and the research and the education that goes on there," Kelly said in an interview this week. "I believe that is a legitimate investment in our society and our future. The only way to do that is with tax revenue. I don't believe that we can cut our way to an excellent university."

Nauser, who currently represents the Fifth Ward in the Columbia City Council, said she believes there were wasted funds in the state and inefficiencies could be cut out of the budget.

"I believe that the government should be limited," Nauser said, "I will bring the concept of smaller government to the state capitol; I believe that people solve problems, not government."

Kelly would like to use funds from increased taxes on cigarettes to fund MU. He says it is important to note, though, he would put a proposed raise in cigarette taxes up to voters to pass.

"If it's wrong to tax smokers, it's wrong to tax smokers period, and we should abolish cigarette taxes," he said. "But if it's OK to tax them, then the only question becomes what is the appropriate level at which to tax them."

Nauser said Kelly's plan to allow voters to decide whether to approve of higher taxes on cigarettes is flawed.
“I do believe in people deciding things, but I have a concern: it’s easy for people to pass a tax on somebody else and not themselves,” Nauser said. “They are a minority in a sense, and I don’t think it’s necessarily a bad thing that we are one of the lowest taxing states.”

Webber is running for re-election in the 23rd district against political newcomer Szopa. Webber’s website says he believes in investing in Missouri infrastructure to create jobs and stands for labor unions opposed to the “right-to-work” movement. Webber also supports gaining health care for all Missourians.

“All Missourians should have access to quality and affordable health care so they can care for their families and live a secure life,” he said on his website.

Szopa was campaigning late into the evening and was unavailable for comment.

Though she is running unopposed in the 25th District, Still said she still places importance on connecting with members in her district by going to debates and other public meetings as well as by remaining available via e-mail and telephone.

She believes funding for MU is one of the key issues facing Missouri at this time.

“We have to recognize the importance of education and support for education connected to the overall goal of growing an economy that’s going to be competitive in the future,” Still said.
Police step up enforcement for Homecoming weekend

30 fans were arrested for rushing Faurot Field after the game

By Kelsey Mallett

Published Oct. 26, 2010

The MU Police Department and the Columbia Police Department worked over the Homecoming weekend to keep Columbia under control amidst the frenzied campus-wide celebration.

According to a CPD news release, between 5 p.m. Friday and noon Sunday, the police received a total of 113 calls. The calls ranged from disturbance violations to shots fired and traffic accidents. The busiest time frame for CPD was between 7 p.m. Saturday and midnight, with 34 calls made to the police department.

During the football game, fans were told over the loudspeaker that rushing the field was not allowed and could result in arrest.

MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said MUPD and the Missouri State Highway Patrol were on hand to control the field after the game. Thirty fans were arrested on trespassing charges for storming the field.

"The ones we arrested were the ones we were able to get to and make the arrests safely," Weimer said.

No Tasers or Tripwires were used during the arrests, Weimer said.

Weimer said this is not only a law issue but, more importantly, a safety concern.

"Someone broke their leg coming down to the field," Weimer said. "That's why it's important not to do that. People get trampled, and someone could get hurt even worse next time."

Missouri Student Association Senate Speaker Evan Wood said he understands MUPD's concern for fans' safety, but said he did not agree with the arrests.

"It's understandable that the police don't want us to rush the field, because it's a safety issue," Wood said. "But it's just flat-out wrong that the university is profiting from selling photos of the students rushing the field but still have them arrested and charged for trespassing."
Weimer said this was not the first incident of fans rushing the field, and the police department has made as many as 70 arrests at past games.

CPD, while not as involved with security inside Memorial Stadium, increased presence in the downtown area.

“We had extra patrol officers working downtown along with the Downtown Unit, the Mounted Unit, Street Crimes Unit and the regular beat officers,” CPD spokeswoman Jill Wieneke said in an e-mail.

Eight shots fired calls were reported to CPD, but only two investigations showed evidence of actual gunfire. According to CPD, bullets struck two homes on Jewell Avenue Friday evening, but no injuries were reported.

The other incident was the early morning robbery of the Break Time store on Nifong Boulevard, where Aaron Hobson was shot and killed.

According to CPD, the department received 52 total disturbance calls and 30 peace disturbance calls. In an e-mail, Wieneke said a disturbance call could refer to anything from a physical fight or a loud argument to someone waving a gun. A peace disturbance call, however, refers more specifically to loud music or yelling.

“I don’t have a breakdown of disturbance location but I can tell you they were all over,” CPD spokeswoman Jessie Haden said in an e-mail. “The busiest times were between 11 p.m. and probably 2 a.m.”

There were eight arrests made by CPD over the weekend, half of which were for intoxicated driving. Haden said the weekend’s arrest count could be misleading at first glance.

“Violations (arrests) were low because we had too many people downtown to tie up officers and had to let some things slide,” Haden said.
Access Mizzou pairs with School of Health Professions

The group is attempting to make the school more accessible for students with disabilities.

By Jimnv Hilseh

Published Oct. 26, 2010

In an effort to turn the School of Health Professions into a more welcoming environment for students with disabilities, the Chancellor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities is reinstating its Access Mizzou initiative.

Access Mizzou is a program committed to going above and beyond for students with disabilities, committee chairwoman Cheryl Shigaki said. Because the program cooperates with the School of Health Professions this year, members are currently referring to it as Access SHP.

“There are a lot of things that we’re required to do from the Americans with Disabilities Act, because we’re such a big institution,” she said. “We have to make the campus accessible, and there are minimum standards for that. What we’ve asked people to do is consider whether they wanted to make things more accessible than the minimum.”

During the summer, Access SHP divided into three focus groups: building and structural, education and awareness and information technology issues. Each is facilitated by a member of the committee and has targeted specific issues within the School of Health Professions.

Lee Henson, who is in charge of the building and structural group, said the School of Health Professions’ facilities, Lewis and Clark halls, are in dire need of accessibility-related improvements.

“I think it would be very difficult, maybe even impossible, to bring the buildings up to the level of quality needed to be welcoming for students, faculty and the large number of visitors who come to the buildings, including people seeking help with health problems,” Henson said. “If you compare those buildings to a modern teaching and health care facility, you’d have bigger rooms, bigger hallways, better lighting, more parking, wider doors, a number of things.”

Although Henson said he is skeptical as to whether major improvements can be made with Access SHP’s limited funding, he said the program is trying.
“There’s really no way that Access Mizzou is going to be able to produce a new building, which is really what the School of Health Professions needs if it wants to significantly improve its accessibility,” Henson said.

Improvements seem to be more feasible for Barbara Hammer’s education and awareness focus group. She said her group is trying to promote awareness and education on disability issues, with the hope of making the School of Health Professions more welcoming to students with disabilities.

“We want the School of Health Professions to look at how their programs emphasize competencies so they are more inclusive in their language rather than exclusive,” she said. “We’re doing this so what we aren’t doing is putting up a barrier to some student who really aspires to be a physical therapist, but looks at the requirements and says, ‘I can’t do this because of my disability,’ when in fact they can.”

Hammer’s group’s goals run in line with Abbie O’Sullivan’s group, which is focusing on IT issues. The School of Health Professions is currently in the process of revamping its website, and this group is attempting to ensure students with disabilities will not be discouraged by its content or inaccessibility, Shigaki said.

“We have met and discussed website accessibility, captioning videos, creating accessible course documents and several other topics, like celebrating the great things that the School of Health Professions is already doing that makes the school accessible and inclusive for all,” O’Sullivan said.

To do this, Access SIIP has provided the School of Health Professions with the “Compliance Sheriff” software, which evaluates software and programs to ensure they are accessible for students with disabilities. Shigaki said another project of the Chancellor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities is to develop an UM system policy that would require a review of accessibility prior to software purchases, though this work is in its infant stages.

“We’re at the very beginning of this policy idea,” she said. “We’ve talked to several people about it, and we’ve gotten very enthusiastic responses, some of which have gotten us thinking.”
Editorial: Arrests on Faurot, photo sales set double standard

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Remember last weekend? Just in case you missed it, you should know it was an epic Homecoming. On top of the usual parade, game and celebration, ESPN was here and MU beat the number one team in the Bowl Championship Series rankings.

Also, MU fans stormed the field for the first time in years, and 30 of those fans were arrested by the MU Police Department and Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Everyone has a different story: some fans said they were waved in by officials, some said trespassers were only arrested on certain sections of the field. Hell, some said there was a trip wire put in place in front of the bleachers.

What exactly took place may be impossible to determine, but what we can say is that those 30 fans were arrested on suspicion of first-degree trespassing.

Fast forward to Monday night: MU sent out an e-mail advertising the sale of photographs of the game, including the massive field rush. As a broadcaster said during the game, there was a lot of “old gold,” or alumni, in the stands that night, and photographs of the field rush are a great promotional sale item for alumni to tout their school spirit. Maybe more importantly, the photographs are also useful advertising tools for prospective students interested in a school with a lot of spirit and enthusiasm.

Although the rush was monumental, the university seems to have set a double standard by setting policies against certain actions, punishing students for violating those policies and then exploiting those same students for positive advertisements and merchandise.

While we think the merchandise and advertisements are great, they become lackluster next to those facing charges. The way we see it: MU can only have one. Either enforce the policies as they stand and stop promoting those broken policies as a good thing, or drop the trespassing charges.