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Obama appoints MO chancellor to farm policy board

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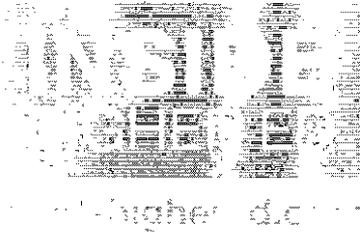
COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - President Barack Obama has appointed the chancellor of the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia to an international food policy panel.

If confirmed by the Senate, Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton would be the new chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. The board advises the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill nominated Deaton.

Deaton has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a master's degree in diplomacy and international commerce, both from the University of Kentucky. He earned a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin and was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

Deaton grew up on a Kentucky farm and has taught agricultural economics.



Edited Video from U. of Missouri Makes Waves

Portions of recorded class discussions in which two labor professors at the University of Missouri appear to advocate violence as a bargaining tactic have been drawing attention, according to the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. The edited snippets of class sessions held at the University of Missouri at Kansas City's Institute for Labor Studies appear to have been taken from a lecture capture system -- and have been amplified by several conservative websites.

Judy Ancel, director of the institute, and Don Giljum, former business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 148, are seen discussing various tactics for organizing and effective bargaining. In the segments of the discussions, they and their students seem to be discussing the virtues of using violence, of hinting in the work place that laborers are planning to sabotage industrial equipment, and of deploying feral cats to short circuit a powerhouse in Peru, where workers were fighting for the right to strike.

A source knowledgeable about the sessions said the videos were so heavily edited that they misrepresented what actually happened in class. The videos appeared on Andrew Breitbart's Big Government website. Breitbart is known for sharing footage that embarrasses figures who are anathema to some conservatives.

Ancel has been an outspoken opponent of efforts to make Missouri a "right to work" state, including an opinion piece that ran in Monday's *Kansas City Star*.

The university system's public relations office repeated an earlier statement given to the *Tribune* that officials at the St. Louis and Kansas City campuses are looking into the situation.

"Obviously, the comments on the video do not reflect the position of the University of Missouri," Jennifer Hollingshead, a system spokeswoman, said in an e-mail. The public relations staff did not respond to repeated requests from *Inside Higher Ed* for further comment, for copies of the full video, or for a description of the larger context in which the conversations took place.



April 26, 2011

University Instructors Call for Union Violence

By Janese Silvey, Columbia Daily Tribune

Videos showing two University of Missouri instructors apparently advocating for union violence don't represent the UM System as a whole, a spokeswoman said.

...The videos capture Judy Ancel, director of UM-Kansas City's Institute for Labor Studies, telling a class "violence is a tactic, and it's to be used when it's the appropriate tactic." She goes on to tell a story of a friend who worked for a utility company in Peru, where it's illegal to strike.

"They couldn't get access to" strike, "but they had a lot of cats and they succeeded in putting cats in powerhouses," she said. "And the cats — now, don't think about the cats, OK? The cats would run around inside and short out the system and cause power blackouts. And that created enough chaos in the system" to get to "a negotiating position."

Plus, she joked, they "got rid of a lot of feral cats." **[Read more at columbiatribune.com.](http://columbiatribune.com)**



Campus Chatter



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FB post brings out anti-gay sentiments

By **JANESE SILVEY**

MU's Faculty Council last week questioned again why the UM System is stalling on action approving domestic partner benefits

I think I have a guess.

UM administrators won't talk to me about whether they fear political pushback if they were to expand benefits to same-sex couples, but a Facebook exchange on MU's page yesterday gives a glimpse at what some Missourians think about the issue.

MU is hosting [E. Patrick Johnson](#) a scholar, performer and activist specializing in African-American and LGBTQ issues. He spoke last night and is talking again tonight

His visit has brought out some vocal critics.

Mizzou posted the event on its Facebook page:

"Mizzou See "Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales" at 7:30 p.m. this evening at the Rhynsburger Theatre. The show's creator, performer and scholar E. Patrick Johnson, also will deliver the lecture "In Search of Countess Vivian: Queerness and the Making of Southern History" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Ellis Auditorium."

Only to receive the following replies:

Ryan Post thats just gay

Jason Berry No thanks

Kathie Conway Really?? This is educational? Just what is the percentage of the population that this could possibly apply? .0001%?

Andrew Koenig ^ Closed minded much ^

Brad Perkins Yes, it is educational. Not everything has to be about what you know about. It's a university. The purpose is to learn about things and people different from you. Why don't you open your mind a little?

Matthew Ryan McCauley I'm willing to bet this guy is going to make it look like homosexuals made everything happen...

Lauren C. Svoboda I would love to be there to see this. Sounds like a wonderful event and piece of American history.

Jordan A. Israel So many jokes so little time, there is no way you could get me to watch this crap.

Keita Muhammad Lets pray to God to guide these so called gays and save them from hell, they are far astray. God created men for women and vis versa, not man for men or women for women. Can gays or lesbians make babies with their satanic partners?

You might recognize [Kathie Conway's](#) name. She's a state representative. Later, she quipped on the thread: "When is Sarah Palin invited to speak? How's that for open-minded?"

The latter of the more than 90 comments defended the program and speaker, but not before Mizzou's FB operator had to step in and remind readers to be "respectful in your comments" and the Tribune's [Pete Bland](#) to tweet: "Ugly Facebook comments on tonight's theatre dept. event."

Faculty on MU, UM-Kansas City and UM-St. Louis campuses have all approved resolutions asking administrators to extend retirement and other benefits to same-gendered couples. Missouri S&T in Rolla hasn't but isn't necessarily opposed.

UM VP of HR Betsy Rodriguez tells me the hold up is money. Expanding benefits would cost between \$1 million and \$3 million, she said.

Although she wouldn't elaborate, though, when I asked her if domestic benefits would have political ramifications, she said: "Of course."

UPDATE: Unfortunately, you can no longer click on the link to see all of the comments defending the program and speaker because those behind Mizzou FB decided to delete the discussion.



As Doggie Diabetes Soars, Human Treatment May Help

Just like their human owners, dogs and cats are increasingly likely to be diagnosed with diabetes. And more and more, veterinarians are turning to tools developed for use by diabetic humans to help out our canine and feline companions.

Human drugs have long been used to treat the disease in animals, but now vets are using another human tool, the continuous glucose monitor, to develop treatments for Fido and Mittens. The monitor, which is surgically implanted under the skin, tracks the concentration of a sugar called glucose in the blood. As in humans, pets with high blood glucose levels experience extreme thirst, frequent urination and fatigue. Left untreated, high blood sugar can cause blindness and kidney failure.

Diabetes is on the rise in animals, veterinarian Amy DeClue of the University of Missouri-Columbia wrote in March in the journal Clinics in Laboratory Medicine. Like people with the disease, animals with diabetes have trouble regulating blood sugar on their own, because their bodies do not produce enough insulin, a hormone that lowers blood glucose. Diet and insulin injections can help, but blood sugar levels have to be carefully monitored to make sure the treatments are on track.

Tracking Fido's blood sugar

With a continuous glucose monitor, doctors and their human patients can get a more detailed understanding of how insulin levels respond to drugs, meals and exercise. The same is true of pets, said DeClue and her fellow researchers.

Previously, veterinarians would keep a diabetic dog or cat in the clinic for a day, testing their blood periodically and using the data to determine how much insulin to prescribe. Because veterinary clinics can be stressful for animals, and because insulin levels respond to stress, those numbers were often inaccurate.

"Continuous glucose monitoring [CGM] is much more effective and accurate than previous glucose monitoring techniques and has revolutionized how veterinarians manage diabetes in dogs," DeClue said in a statement. "The CGM gives us a complete view of what is happening in the animal in their natural setting. For example, it can show us if a pet's blood glucose changes when an owner gives treats, when the animal exercises or in response to insulin therapy."

Growing problem for pets

Diagnoses of diabetes have been increasing recently for both cats and dogs, though no firm numbers are available for felines. A 2003 study published in the Veterinary Journal found that dog

diabetes cases comprised 19 of every 10,000 vet hospital admissions in 1970. By 1999, that number had jumped to 64 out of 10,000. However, fatalities from diabetes have dropped in that time period, plummeting from deaths in 37 percent of cases to deaths in only 5 percent of cases.

In cats, the disease is linked to obesity, but the connection is not well-established in dogs, which appear to develop a version of diabetes that looks like human Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas fails to produce insulin. In Type 2, or adult-onset diabetes, the body may produce enough insulin, but the cells fail to recognize the hormone. Cats can get either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. [[Type 1 Diabetes: Symptoms and Treatment](#)]

Miniature poodles, bichon frises, keeshonds, Alaskan malamutes and miniature schnauzers are the breeds most at risk for canine diabetes, the researchers wrote.

**Bloomberg
Businessweek**

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THE DENVER POST

Oakland Tribune
www.oaklandtribune.com

A version of this story appeared in outlets across the country.

Lehrer calls for PBS, NPR to invest more in news

BRETT ZONGKER

PBS anchor Jim Lehrer told public broadcasters Tuesday that they must continue to defend their federal funding and raise more money to meet an increasing need for serious journalism as commercial newspapers and broadcasters see declines.

The heads of PBS, NPR, Minnesota-based American Public Media and others gathered in Washington to discuss the most serious threats in Congress to their federal funding in 44 years.

Lehrer said public media needs to produce more local news and serious journalism because other channels are being used to "tease and to entertain and only to inform across the surface."

"I have a good source on why this is a problem. The source is Thomas Jefferson," Lehrer said. "Thomas Jefferson told the folks back when this country was founded that the only way this democratic society we just created is going to work is if there is an informed electorate."

The National Press Club and the University of Missouri School of Journalism hosted a summit weeks after federal funding for public broadcasting was a prime target for cuts in the long-stalled 2011 budget. The Republican-led House voted to eliminate funding for public broadcasting. Those efforts stalled in the Democratic-controlled Senate, and a budget deal with the White House kept most money intact at \$430 million this year.

Much of the uproar focused on NPR after the controversial firing of analyst Juan Williams over his comments about Muslims, and following the release by a conservative activist of footage that appeared to show an NPR executive condemning the tea party movement.

NPR's chief executive and chief fundraiser were forced out in the scandal.

The budget fight is not over, though, said Patrick Butler, CEO of the Association of Public Television Stations, which lobbies for local stations in Washington. Many in Congress still want to defund public broadcasting in the 2012 budget and beyond, he said.

"This is going to be a continuing battle for us for quite some time," he said. "What we don't want to do is to perpetually be in the position where we're sort of gasping for air."

South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint has pledged to continue efforts to cut off funding, citing federal deficits.

Still, supporters in the latest budget showdown proved to outnumber those who oppose funding for PBS and NPR stations. Butler said there can be broad bipartisan support for public broadcast funding because it's such a small part of the federal budget but is critical for many local stations.

Interim NPR chief executive Joyce Slocum said the Washington-based public radio network has rebounded from the controversy over its management.

"Our journalism has not missed a beat," she said.

Executive Editor Dick Meyer said NPR is working on a project to place two reporters in every state capital across the country through its Impact of Government initiative.

"It's an area where commercial media is retreating with Custer-like force," Meyer said.

Some PBS stations also are starting new local news programs, including WNET-TV in New York, which plans to launch its MetroFocus program online this summer and eventually on television.

Funding threats from Congress can be a chance to rethink priorities and how public broadcasting is structured, said Bill Kling, CEO of American Public Media.

"Public broadcasting is going to be probably the last person standing, in some form, in terms of journalism," he said. "We're here but nowhere near as developed as what we need to be."

A healthy ice cream? Scientist claims he's created version with fiber, probiotics & antioxidants

Alp Relaxnews

Tuesday, April 26th 2011, 12:57 PM

A healthy ice cream that delivers nutritional benefits in addition to instant gratification could be hitting the freezer aisles soon.

After years of development, a US scientist says he's putting the finishing touches on a "functional ice cream" that has added fiber, probiotic bacteria and antioxidants.

Though lighter, fat-free versions of ice cream and frozen yogurt currently exist, food chemist Ingolf Gruen from the University of Missouri has taken a different approach to creating a healthy frozen dessert: instead of taking the fat and sugar content out -- two of the things that make ice cream so decadent -- Gruen is adding nutrients and antioxidants in.

But developing an ice cream that retains its sensory characteristics -- melting point, richness and texture -- was a challenge for Gruen's team, he told industry site DairyReporter.com this week.

The addition of fiber and probiotics gave researchers textural problems like clumping and crunchiness, and the probiotics added an unappetizing, slightly acidic flavor.

Getting the right amount of pre- and probiotics is vital, he added, as inulin, which is used to stimulate the growth of beneficial intestinal microbes, can also be a laxative.

Some research has shown that probiotics can be good for gastrointestinal problems, including diarrhea and irritable bowel syndrome.

For antioxidants, scientists used acai purée.

Despite the textural challenges, ice cream is a good "carrier" because of its low storage temperature, ability to stabilize ingredients, and popularity among consumers.

"We have been working on a 'probiotic processed cheese' product and have not been very successful," he said.

Though some brands like Nestlé's Skinny Cow sell low-fat ice creams with added fiber, Gruen claims theirs is the first to boast antioxidants and probiotics as well.

A 157 ml container of Skinny Cow's Chocolate Fudge Brownie clocks in at 170 calories, 2 g of fat and 4 g of fiber.

Dairy-free, vegan alternatives include Tofutti ice cream, a soy-based dessert, and coconut-based ice creams such as those by Coconut Bliss.

Will natural gas surge mean lights out for nuclear?

by **Kate Springer**

April 26, 2011

MU mention page 2

Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster, utility companies overseas and across the U.S. have halted or cancelled plans to build nuclear power plants, the latest being NRG Energy Inc. in Texas.

But in many cases it's not the disaster that is causing hold-ups. It's the promise of natural gas.

With some of the lowest and most stable natural gas prices in U.S. history, building new nuclear facilities is no longer a viable option in competitive markets, experts say. That's true even for Exelon Corp., operator of the nation's largest fleet of nuclear power plants.

Because Exelon's future parallels the power industry's, the Chicago-based company expects natural gas to affect its investments for years to come.

"The problem will be that low natural gas prices will inhibit building new nuclear plants, because low natural gas prices hold down electricity prices," said Judith Rader, Exelon's senior external communications manager. "We were exploring building a nuclear plant in Victoria, Texas, but we have scaled back plans, because it's no longer economical to do so."

Exelon, which has six of its 11 nuclear facilities in Illinois, has not been able to build new nuclear plants in the state for the past 25 years, because of a state moratorium.

Last week an Exelon critic, the Citizens Utility Board, conducted a survey asking residents whether or not the Illinois' moratorium should end. About 59 percent of 1,300 respondents said "yes, it should."

But even if legislation were to change, Exelon has no plans to build.

"If wholesale electricity prices are low," she added, "it makes it hard to justify building a new nuclear plant because you can't sell that electricity at a cost that will recoup our investment."

Exelon isn't shirking modernization of its vast facilities.

For the fourth quarter of 2010, Exelon reported capital expenditures of \$3.46 billion, but analyst Angie Storzynski of Macquarie Group Ltd. ABN said the trajectory is not “particularly good.”

“Exelon has no plans to build more plants—nuclear, gas or otherwise,” said Storzynski. “When you read any single newspaper writing about what Exelon is going to do next, the fact is they aren’t going to do anything.”

Morningstar Inc. analyst Travis Miller believes Exelon will continue to be successful.

“Its ability to produce low-cost electricity with minimal greenhouse gas emissions should produce substantial, sustainable, and growing shareholder value for many years, regardless of what path power prices take,” wrote Miller in an April research note.

Though it is more cost-effective to build a natural gas plant at this point, Rader said that this does not mean Exelon will push into natural gas.

“We don’t generate a lot of power from natural gas, in fact, less than 1 percent comes from oil or natural gas,” she said. “But it’s reshaping our industry.”

According to its website, Exelon generates 93 percent of its owned power from nuclear, 5 percent from coal, 1 percent from natural gas, 1 percent from oil, and 1 percent from renewable energies such as wind, solar and hydro.

Over the past decade, natural gas prices have dropped from approximately \$12 per million British thermal units to \$4 per MMBtu thanks to shale gas reserves discovered across the country.

The most recent discoveries stretch across Pennsylvania and New York’s Marcellus reserve, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The Marcellus reserve, known as the Saudi Arabia of natural gas, underlies more than 95,000 square miles and holds an estimated 1.135 trillion cubic feet of recoverable shale gas, according to IHS Inc., a global information company.

Natural gas is experiencing this upswing thanks to a drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” that breaks through hard rock formations. But scientists and consultants are divided when it comes to natural gas’s role in the future and what its abundance means for nuclear, pollution and fresh water resources.

“The energy is cheap now,” said Mark Prelas, director of research at the University of Missouri’s Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute, “but it will not be cheap forever.”

Prelas predicts that by 2030, fresh water shortages may cause natural gas prices to skyrocket, because

fracking is a water-intensive process.

“In the future, when you start seeing problems with natural gas prices, Exelon’s fleet will most likely still be intact,” he said.

He also warned against potential ground-water pollution from fracking.

“The environmental issues are not being addressed appropriately and this waste water is going to be a continuous problem,” said Prelas. “The more you drill, the more you are going to have to deal with it.”

Other experts don’t view nuclear and renewable energy sources as fuels of the future.

“Natural gas is the only available fuel source that can fill the gap of retiring coal,” said Brian Habacivch, senior vice president of Fellon-McCord & Associates LLC, an energy management firm based in Louisville, Ky.

Habacivch doesn’t view nuclear and renewable energy sources as fuels of the future.

“It looks like the nuclear revolution is falling apart pretty quickly,” said Habacivch. “Constellation [Energy] pulled their plug, so did NRG.”

“If we’re not building more nuclear and we’re going to retire coal, the only thing that can fill that gap in the next five to 10 years is natural gas, but coal will play a part, too,” he said.

According to the Energy Information Administration, electricity use will increase 39 percent by 2030 and natural gas will account for 57 percent of new electricity-generation capacity built by 2025.

Some energy experts argue that nuclear could be priced out of the market and eventually decommissioned.

“The risk, long-term planning, engineering and local opposition make nuclear facilities very challenging to build,” said David Schieren, CEO of EmPower SolarCES LLC and executive committee member of the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition.

Sterling Burnett, lead analyst of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Texas, said natural gas will be the future’s big energy winner, but nuclear will not disappear.

“Natural gas will be the fuel of the future. Everyone predicts that, and I believe they are 100 percent correct,” said Burnett.

Though he expects the natural gas rush will cause nuclear to falter by 2025, Burnett said that in the long

Story Continues . . .