

AUG 30 2011

**AP** Associated Press

**ESPN**

**The★Star**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## Texas A&M tells Big 12 it is withdrawing from conference

COLLEGE STATION, Texas | Texas A&M has notified the Big 12 it will withdraw from the conference, according to a newspaper report.

The New York Times said in a story posted on its website Monday night that Texas A&M president R. Bowen Loftin sent a letter to Missouri chancellor and Big 12 board chairman Brady Deaton to inform the league it was leaving. The report cited two unidentified college officials with direct knowledge of the decision.

University spokesman Jason Cook did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment late Monday night.

Texas A&M's departure would cast doubt on the future of the Big 12 and could lead to more major changes to college athletics.

The university said earlier Monday it had received a letter from Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe outlining the withdrawal procedure should the Aggies decide to leave the league.

Cook said the letter "outlines the withdrawal procedures according to the financial provisions of the Big 12 bylaws and mutual waivers of legal claims." He wouldn't provide any other details of the letter or comment on what A&M's next step might be.

The Aggies are interested in joining the Southeastern Conference and the dueling letters come less than a week after they formally told Beebe they are exploring their options and asked for the conference to outline the process if they decide to leave. The league's board of directors addressed the possible departure of the Aggies this weekend.

"I certainly appreciate the discussion among the Big 12 presidents/chancellors and the expression of their desire for Texas A&M to remain in the conference," Loftin said in a statement issued before The New York Times report. "We all agree that Texas A&M is an extremely valuable

institution; thus, it is incumbent upon me, as the president of the university, to ensure that we are in a position to enhance our national visibility and future financial opportunity.”

Loftin added this is a “complex and long-term decision,” but “it is not our intent to prolong our conference exploration for an extended period of time.”

The SEC said earlier this month it was happy with its current 12-school membership but left the door open to expansion. Loftin then received authority from the board of regents to take any action he deems necessary in terms of realignment.

There is concern that a departure by the Aggies could jeopardize the future of the Big 12, which is down to 10 teams after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left the league last July. Loftin has said the Aggies would consider how their departure would impact the future of Big 12 before any decision is made.

The Big 12 would need to find a team to replace the Aggies if they exit the conference, and there has been a lot of speculation about possible schools. So far, the only school to publicly express interest in moving to the Big 12 is SMU. Athletic director Steve Orsini said he’s had informal talks with Big 12 officials for some time to inform them of the school’s improvements and growth.

In the letter Loftin sent to the Big 12 last week, he said if the Aggies leave, they would want to do it in a manner that complies with league bylaws. He also has said financial concerns will factor into any decision to leave; the school likely would face an exit fee.

The Big 12, including Texas A&M, agreed to a 13-year television deal with Fox Sports in April worth more than \$1 billion. There is a chance the contract could be voided if the Aggies leave the conference, which could lead to legal issues for Texas A&M and its new league.

The Big 12 declined to comment on Monday’s letter.

# The New York Times

## Texas A&M Closer to Withdrawing From Big 12

By PETE THAMEL Published: August 29, 2011

**Texas A&M's departure from the Big 12 Conference drew closer to reality on Monday when the university's president, R. Bowen Loftin, sent a letter to the Big 12 board chairman, the Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton, notifying the league that the Aggies would formally withdraw — very likely on Tuesday — according to two college officials with direct knowledge of the decision.**

This latest step in the Aggies' effort to join the Southeastern Conference appears to have two stumbling blocks. The first is Texas A&M's exit fee from the Big 12, which it has not negotiated. That amount is expected to be close to \$15 million. The other is the approval of the S.E.C. presidents. Nine of the 12 would have to vote in favor for Texas A&M to become a member of the conference. It is unlikely that Texas A&M would be this far along in the process without adequate S.E.C. presidential support.

Texas A&M hopes to play in the S.E.C. during the 2012 football season, which would appear to leave the conference with a mathematically clunky 13 teams for one year.



## The Tribune's View

### Salvation

#### Win-win for MU, Missouri Theatre

By Henry J. Waters III

Columbia Daily Tribune Monday, August 29, 2011

**Lovers of the Missouri Theatre are happy indeed to learn a deal has been worked out for the University of Missouri to assume responsibility for the historic building on Ninth Street.**

MU will lease the building from the Missouri Symphony Society and obtain an option to buy at the end of three years when federal tax credits expire.

University officials say access to the theater will allow them to book a number of shows they currently turn away for lack of auditorium space. The theater also will be preserved for local events like True/False films, Hot Summer Nights and MOSS concerts.

MU plans to build a new School of Music building at Hitt Street and University Avenue will continue but on a smaller scale. Availability of the Missouri Theatre will avoid the need for a concert hall at the new building, reducing its projected cost.

This collaboration makes utter sense, providing essential stability for the community theater and also a needed new facility for the university. Everybody wins.

Missouri Theatre finances had gotten into quite a pickle. Local banks and donors had provided capital funding, but operations failed to provide cash flow for retiring debt. Moreover, federal tax credits require continuing operations, precluding a premature sale. Banks want their money back, or most of it, but the operation had to fulfill tax credit terms, putting everyone in a bind. Give credit to all parties who worked on the MU-MOSS deal.

Of course, the incentive was great. Renovation of the theater is one of our community's stellar achievements, begun with the hopes and dreams of Hugo Vianello and other Missouri Symphony founders who blessedly forged ahead with purchase of the building when continued success was by no means guaranteed.

Then, more recently, former Executive Director David White and his board of directors dived into deep water to do an expensive, credible renovation. White & Co. deserve criticism for less-than-careful accounting that led to unexpected debts, but their work was good and nobody stole money. An

outstanding facility was built. Had a half-baked project been done with somewhat smaller capital costs, operating challenges would have been the same. As the smoke clears, a superior public facility will emerge under sound management, the best outcome anyone could have imagined.

Are we lucky or smart? Mainly we have a lot of civic faith and imagination. It makes no sense to squander these attributes on undeserving efforts. The Missouri Theatre is deserving.



## Talk to focus on university's role in economy, job creation

Columbia Daily Tribune Monday, August 29, 2011

**The vice president of research and economic development for the University of Missouri System will discuss how a healthy research environment is key to creating jobs and economic prosperity in Missouri during a free public breakfast Wednesday.**

Michael Nichols will discuss the role universities play in building a robust research environment and creating jobs and economic opportunities in the greater community. His talk is titled "The University of Missouri System: An Engine for Economic Development."

The breakfast and presentation, which is sponsored by Missouri Cures, is from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Stadium Grill, 1219 Fellows Place.

Dena Ladd, executive director of Missouri Cures, also will discuss how the education activities of the not-for-profit organization support a pro-research, pro-science environment in Missouri.

Attendees are asked to RSVP by tomorrow by contacting Debbie Davis at [ddavis@missouricures.com](mailto:ddavis@missouricures.com) or (800) 829-4133.

## Mom's full-time work can help disrupt abuse cycle, study says

Posted: Tuesday, August 30, 2011 1:45 am

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | [0 comments](#)

The domestic violence cycle is tough to break.

Abused children may abuse a partner in the future or be more likely to commit a violent crime as a grown-up. Youngsters see mothers abused, and it traumatizes them for life, shaping their views of future relationships and increasing their likelihood of depression. Women subjected to violence can often seem unable, or unwilling, to leave their abuser.

One factor can help mitigate the far-reaching effects of domestic violence: a steady job for the mother. The job provides financial stability for the family, which naturally lessens the woman's economic dependence on her abuser. It also may improve the chances of her children breaking the cycle.

**Abused women and mothers are likely to be more resilient if the mothers are employed full time, University of Missouri researchers reported in a July paper.**

"Gainful employment," the paper claims, "has a positive influence on their children's recovery from witnessing domestic violence."

"Mothers who work full time, even in adverse situations, create economic stability and model a strong work ethic, independence and competence," said Kim Anderson, study author and associate professor in Missouri's School of Social Work.

The benefits of a gainfully employed father don't correlate as strongly, Anderson said.

But it's hard for an abuse victim to hold a job. In a May survey by the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, 64 percent of respondents who were domestic violence victims said their "ability to work" was affected by the abuse. And 33 percent said their employer provided no support or programs to identify abuse victims.

Groups like the alliance hope to change that.

You can't keep partner abuse out of the workplace, because "it's already there," said Kim Wells, executive director of the alliance, in Bloomington, Ill. "It's at any workplace. It's at yours. If you have people, you have victims and you have batterers."

Victims often have higher absenteeism rates, lower productivity and make more errors than they normally would. They also can be harassed while at work, bringing additional distractions into the office.

So recognizing the signs of abuse, then referring victims to the proper resources, isn't just the moral thing to do -- it's better for business.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control said employers' health-care-related costs to treat abuse injuries measured in the billions. And violence against women can cost companies hundreds of millions nationally in lost productivity.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **Ticket sales for MU events provide big boost for Columbia's economy**

By Emilie Stigliani

August 29, 2011 | 7:05 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — As Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau board members tore into their rolls at Monday's lunchtime board meeting, bread and butter of a different kind was on the agenda: **the \$118 million generated by the MU Department of Athletics.**

**On Wednesday, a group of graduate students from MU's Trulaske College of Business reported their findings on the economic impact of MU athletics.**

They studied the revenue from corporations, ticket sales, concessions, parking, team merchandise, hotels and restaurants from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

Zack Odem, a team leader for MU's Office of Sponsored Programs, was one of those students. Odem was not surprised by the group's findings.

"It's a huge number," Odem said. "Bottom line, if the athletics department wasn't in Columbia, there wouldn't be approximately \$118 million in the economy."

The study established the value of a ticketed university event, Odem said. These events include NCAA games, state high school athletic competitions, concerts and shows.

Odem said the group used established methodology for its study.

"We didn't try to reinvent the wheel," Odem said.

Kim Trabue, office administrator of Peckham & Wright Architects and a visitors bureau advisory board member, was impressed by the serious nature of the study.

"I feel it's of the quality you would expect of a professional firm," Trabue said.

Odem said the study was conservative. It excluded non-ticketed events, such as the Show-Me State Games, even though those events also bring people to town who eat in restaurants and sleep in hotels.

In the short term, the study provides the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the visitors bureau with information they can reference to answer economic questions. The long-term impact is harder for Odem to predict, but he thinks it may help shape Columbia's economic planning.

Amy Schneider, interim director of the visitors bureau, agreed.

"Any kind of economic benchmark you can find is nothing but an opportunity to build your strategic plan," Schneider said.

Schneider said it was nice to see what MU athletics bring to the community.

Jeremy Brown, co-owner of Sophia's and Addison's restaurants, said he appreciates the boost MU sports bring to his businesses.

"If you're talking about football Saturday weekends — if it's a day game — we see up to a 50 percent increase in sales," Brown said.

Although night games can cause a slight slump in diners, he sees the overall impact of athletic events in a positive way.

Jim Price, manager at C.C.'s City Broiler, also noted an increase in traffic after day games, but night games are problematic for the restaurant, which is only open for dinner.

"If it's a night game, it kind of kills (the evening's business)," Price said.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Remains of former student from Weldon Spring identified

By Steve Pokin > [spokin@yourjournal.com](mailto:spokin@yourjournal.com) | Posted: Monday, August 29, 2011 5:55 pm

**The partial remains of a former University of Missouri student have been identified through dental records as being those of Nicholas Coppola, 25, who had lived in Weldon Spring. He was last seen alive Dec. 12.**

Nellie Coppola, his mother, said Monday the Lincoln County coroner called the family Aug. 24 to ask for dental records for Nicholas. The coroner called back Friday and confirmed the remains were those of her son.

The mother said she believes the remains were found on private property by the property's owner.

"They are treating it like a crime scene," she said.

At this point, she said, there are no obvious signs of foul play.

The parents had not received the remains and had not yet made funeral arrangements.

"We are hoping that we get a little more information and have some closure," she said.

On Dec. 12, Nicholas Coppola left his home in Columbia, where he had dropped out of the University of Missouri. He was driving east on Interstate 70 in his black Subaru, possibly to his parents' home.

He abandoned his car west of the Foristell exit and left his cell phone and wallet.

It was 17 degrees and the windchill was about 5.

A Wright City detective reported that at 3:15 p.m. Coppola hopped a fence and went to the side door of a home and tried to enter. The homeowner asked what he was doing. According to the homeowner, Coppola said, "Trying to get away."

Coppola, a 2004 graduate of Francis Howell High School, seemed scared and left. He was arrested at a nearby service station.

Coppola was taken to the Warren County jail and released at 5:40 p.m., miles from his car. He was not seen after that.

His parents have said their son had gone through several dramatic changes in the year before his disappearance. He dropped about 80 pounds, getting down to 180, and withdrew from family and friends.

His father, Gene Coppola, said his son had never disappeared before, was not depressed, was not suicidal and was not mentally ill.

# Missourinet

## Allergy season in full swing (AUDIO)

by Jessica Machetta on August 29, 2011

in [Environment & Conservation, Health & Medicine](#)

Itchy, watery eyes, scratchy throat, congestion, sneezing ... it can only mean one thing. Allergy season is back. Fortunately for most, over-the-counter medications and some simple home maintenance can keep the worst symptoms at bay.

**Trees and grass are still producing pollen and allergens, and ragweed has entered the fray. University of Missouri Clinical Professor Shauna Strickland says it's called hayfever because such allergens typically spike during the hay harvesting season ... the hay itself is not causing the problem. She says for most cases, OTC medications provide relief, but it's up to each individual to figure out which one works best for them.**

And she says keeping the allergens out of your house can help, such as keeping bed linens clean, showering before going to bed, and keeping windows closed. Strickland also advises keeping an eye on the weather service, which tracks allergens. Several internet sites post allergen levels and which are highest, she says, so if you know what you're most affected by, you can avoid the outdoors on days they're elevated.

Strickland says people suffering from hayfever can benefit from regularly rinsing their nose, which is where pollen and allergens get trapped, only to get breathed in deeply during sleep. Again, she says there are several OTC saline rinses allergy sufferers can try.

The bad news, she says, is that the air won't be allergen free until plants, trees and grass quit growing for the season, which could be a few months. Trees and plants won't stop growing and producing allergens until it starts to freeze. Recent rains have boosted allergen production for the time being.



## Polling supports stem cell research

By Bill Clark

Columbia Daily Tribune Monday, August 29, 2011

### MU mention p. 2

It has occurred to me that I was born a quarter-century too soon. For whatever reason, I have cartilage that doesn't wear well. In the past 17½ years, I've had both knees, both hips and my right shoulder totally replaced. None of the five joints was ever damaged — the cartilage simply grew thin and then turned to dust, leaving the joints rubbing bone on bone.

Now I'm "blessed" with vanishing cartilage in my left shoulder, neck and lower spine. Maybe, if I had been born a quarter-century later, I wouldn't be overloaded with steel, plastic and ceramic parts. Maybe stem cell research would have solved my problem. Maybe not. But the opportunity exists to find out.

In 2006, Missouri voters very wisely approved a law allowing stem cell research in our state. In our ultra-conservative tea party society, there simmers a desire to overturn such research. Ol' Clark cannot understand why anyone would be opposed to making life better at the expense of nobody. I know the arguments, but I also understand the safeguards.

For your information, here's what the voters approved in 2006:

- Missouri has the right to treatment with any stem cell cures that are allowed by the federal government and are available to all Americans.
- Medical institutions have the right to provide and help find new stem cell cures.
- Clear ethical boundaries and oversight requirements are in place for stem cell research, including a ban on human cloning.

I am a proud member of Missouri Cures, one of 150,000 members who feel stem cell research must continue and expand. In fact, a recent voter poll showed 62 percent of Missouri voters favor stem cell research, and 73 percent of Americans support use of embryonic stem cells left over from in vitro fertilization procedures, according to an October Harris poll.

The Harris poll listed 58 percent of Republicans in favor of stem cell research and 24 percent opposed. The poll also showed 69 percent of Catholics and 58 percent of born-again Christians in favor. Only 28 percent of those polled were against such research because it put the interests of medical science ahead of the preservation of human life — which includes human embryos.

Seems like Americans have spoken.

I recently received a list of stem cell advances and was elated to discover that cartilage damage was on the list of advancements. The list of successes includes Lou Gehrig's disease, spinal cord injuries, macular degeneration, blindness, rare blood duplication for battlefield use, brain damage, multiple sclerosis, cancer, hearing loss, memory loss, both heart disease and damage, lung damage, Parkinson's disease, stroke, tissue damage and diabetes.

Diabetes is the subject of a pair of upcoming Missouri Cures presentations.

**The first is at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Stadium Grill in Columbia. Breakfast is on Missouri Cures. The program is twofold. Michael Nichols will discuss the University of Missouri as an engine for economic development. He will then be followed by Dana Ladd, the executive director of Missouri Cures, who will discuss how MU can work with not-for-profit organizations in supporting a pro-research, pro-science environment in our state.**

To attend, call Debbie Davis at (800) 829-4133 or email [ddavis@missouricures.com](mailto:ddavis@missouricures.com).

Then on Sept. 29, physician Camilio Ricordo, one of the world's leading diabetes researchers, will speak at 7:30 p.m. at the Clayton Ritz-Carlton Hotel. He is the scientific director at the University of Miami Diabetes Research Institute. For more information, contact Jim Goodwin at [jgoodwin@missouricures.com](mailto:jgoodwin@missouricures.com) and tell him Ol' Clark sent you.

And to the voters of Missouri, if the question of stem cell research should ever again appear on your ballot, make sure the research goes forward, not backward. There might still be time for such research to find relief for what cartilage I have left.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **Missouri college scholarship amounts near minimum**

### **NO MU Mention**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

August 30, 2011 | 7:57 a.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Students receiving certain scholarships at Missouri colleges and universities this year will be getting near the bare minimum allowed under state law.

The Department of Higher Education says it expects about 60,000 students to receive Access Missouri scholarships this year.

Those at public universities will receive \$1,000, which is the minimum amount set in state law. Students at private universities will be able to get \$2,070. And those at community colleges will receive scholarships of \$300 to \$450 a year.

Because of a tight state budget, the scholarship levels are all well below the maximum allowed under state law.

More than 7,000 students will get merit-based Bright Flight scholarships. But their amount of \$1,750 will only be slightly more than half the maximum of \$3,000 allowed by Missouri law.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## MU Bookstore works to make textbooks affordable

*The bookstore made many more textbooks available for rental this year.*

By Chris Gothner Published Aug. 30, 2011

### **The MU Bookstore and professors are working together to reduce the cost of textbooks for students.**

The bookstore has an ever-expanding array of money-saving options, Student and Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said.

The most popular option by far is to buy books used, Froese said. MU ranks number one in the nation for the amount of used books sold in the bookstore.

"The cost of textbooks has gone up substantially over the years, outpacing increases in the consumer price index," she said.

A fast-growing option is textbook rental. Froese said 17 percent of students purchasing books at the bookstore choose to rent their textbooks. The bookstore launched its book rental program two years ago, beginning with 50 titles available for rental. That number has skyrocketed since then, and the bookstore now has 639 books available for rental, most of them for general education classes.

"Launching the rental program has been very successful from a student standpoint," Froese said.

Renting is a cheaper option for students, and the cost savings show, she said.

"If students rented all of the books that are available instead of buying them, they would save about \$1 million based on the used price," Froese said.

Freshman Annalisse Fontana said she was pleased with the rental process.

"It went pretty easily. It was just like buying the books, and a lot cheaper," she said.

Fontana said the books are in good condition.

"(There are) no rips, drawings or anything in them," Fontana said. "I wasn't expecting them to be this nice. It surprised me."

The MU Bookstore also offers e-books, which are less expensive than hard-copy textbooks, but students have been slow to adopt them.

"Students aren't as interested in e-books because there is no standard platform yet," Froese said.

The bookstore also offers an online price comparison tool, where students can compare a book's new, used and rental prices from the bookstore along with prices from e-commerce sites such as Amazon, Alibris and eBay's Half.com.

Students also have the option of selling books they have purchased either new or used back to the bookstore. Students can sign up for "buyback alerts" through the bookstore's website, which lets them know when they would receive the most money back for their textbook.

Some professors also have students' textbook costs in mind when assigning them for a course. Biology professor Patricia Friedrichsen made her Biology 1010 course book, which costs \$173.30 new, optional for students.

Friedrichsen uses multiple resources for her class aside from the textbook, including online texts and websites.

"Because of the high cost of the text, I wanted to find options for my students," Friedrichsen said.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## Editorial: MU deserves a round of applause for Missouri Theatre deal

Published Aug. 26, 2011

MU deserves a round of applause for its latest deal with downtown Columbia — and now, we have a new auditorium where that applause can take place.

It was announced Thursday that the university struck a deal (and gold) in which for the next three years it will pay \$12,000 a month to lease and manage the Missouri Theatre, located in the heart of downtown Columbia. The money to pay for the Theatre is coming from the campus rental account, rather than straight from our pockets.

What this means is that although the Missouri Symphony Orchestra and others will still have offices within the Theatre, we now have extra space for any events previously held in Jesse Auditorium — think the University Concert Series, Greek Week, commencement and Summer Welcome, to name a few. Jesse Auditorium hosts an average of 230 events per year — more than its schedule can fit.

Now for a bit of history on the Missouri Theatre. Through good and bad financial times, the theater has sat in the same place since 1928. In that time, it has become a symbol of downtown Columbia. It had some major renovations in 2008, only to briefly shut its doors in August 2010 due to financial turmoil. When it reopened in February, financial troubles continued to plague the Missouri Theatre, and its owners were looking for options to save the sinking ship.

We're happy about this deal for two reasons. First, hats off to MU for working with Columbia (maybe a collaborative decision like this could ease the bus route problems?). Second, the deal is going to save us a hell of a lot of money.

A 1,000-seat concert hall is in the plans for the slated Performing Arts Center. The Missouri Theatre's venue seats 1,216. The UM System Board of Curators requested \$80 million from the state to build the center, and let's be frank: That will never happen. Purchasing the Missouri Theatre will only cost \$3.7 million. In a time when state funding is nearly impossible to come by, saving \$76 million doesn't seem too shabby.

A major fundraising campaign began its "quiet phase" July 1, and one of its main benefactors was going to be the Performing Arts Center. Now that the need for the center might have been eliminated, this money can be dispersed elsewhere. What about the 30 other buildings that need some pretty drastic renovations?

So, MU, we hope this is just the first act in the Missouri Theatre production that concludes with the purchase. Don't let the curtains fall on this one.

For now, though, you're getting a standing ovation.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## Student fees not going to waste

By The Maneater Staff

Published Aug. 30, 2011

No tags for this article.

We have had our [fair share of complaints regarding student fee misuse] in the past, but MSA we're going to have to give you a round of applause. You finally have your act together.

The Missouri Students Association took the initiative this past semester to make sure our student fees were not going to waste, which we really appreciate.

The MSA Department of Student Activities made sure students were getting what they paid for this summer by hosting a film series on campus and sponsoring student field trips. The film series featured six different movies and hosted more than 1,175 students total throughout the summer. Tickets for the three DSA summer field trips to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Schlitterbahn Water Park were sold out and very successful.

With the success of these summer events and a positive response in attendance from students, DSA plans to continue their programming during future summer sessions and might even add a few more events such as a summer concert, and we are more than glad to hear that.

Not only is MSA focusing on using student fees for students during the summer, they are also working on expanding their readership program. We pay \$2.31 to fund the Mizzou Readership Program (which fills all of those newsstands you see around campus with publications such as the New York Times and the USA Today) and using the extra money to expand the program is something we like to see (especially since we are a print newspaper and everything).

So students, take advantage of what MSA has to offer you. They are doing you a favor by using your student fees to fund events and programs for you. Don't let your money go to waste! MSA sure isn't.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## Withholding funding twists the knife into higher education

By The Maneater Staff Published Aug. 30, 2011

It's that time of year again — the time to make cuts to higher education.

Oh wait, that's like a year-round thing now. Our mistake.

Missouri State Auditor Tom Schweich sued Gov. Jay Nixon Aug. 26 for unconstitutionally withholding \$170 million of state funding from 45 different programs that money had been allocated to for the year. The issue was not so much a matter of the funds being held, but Schweich claims that the money was not approved by the state legislature, among other infractions he said the governor made disregarding the Missouri Constitution.

The \$170 million in question was withheld from these programs in order to fund disaster clean-up in places like Joplin, in Missouri's catastrophic spring storm season. We are by no means saying those areas do not deserve support; restoring them to their former glory should be one of the state's top priorities.

But that's what the magical idea of a "rainy day fund" is for: random occurrences that are going to cost the state a large sum of money to fix, like natural disaster clean-up. That money should not be taken from places it has been allocated to fund, such as higher education and other state programs.

The rainy day fund had \$527.4 million in 2010, according to a 2011 report by the Missouri Budget Project. It's safe to say taking a \$170 million to fund something as important as disaster response would not have been a problem.

And then come the strings associated with this fund that is meant for the state to fall back on in times of need.

One of the main issues with this fund, which various legislators as well as the Missouri Budget Project have pointed out over the years, is that money removed from the rainy day fund must be repaid within the next three years after it was borrowed, interest and all. It worried state legislators that this would not be possible due to slow state economic growth from the rough economy, so they just decided not to tap into the fund at all to fund disaster clean-up. Instead, they decided to tap into higher education and other statewide programs.

How sweet of them.

Obviously there's a problem with the regulations around this fund if it's going to be deemed "untouchable" in times of need, like cleaning up after one of the worst tornadoes in U.S. history.

The state of Missouri has a legal responsibility to fund state programs like higher education. When you run out of money to pay for something, tap your savings account. It's really quite simple. That way, issues that are the top priority of your citizens, like that crazy thing called a college degree, can still be funded. Since, you know, the state of Missouri is legally required to do so.

Of course money desperately needs to go toward disaster relief, so make the fund for that money usable and loosen its regulations and the three-year time limit on paying the money back. That way, we won't have to make cuts to areas like higher education that the state already cut the guts out of this year when it appropriated the funds for them in the first place.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **Social media fuels massive college party in Colorado**

### **NO MU Mention**

By STEVEN K. PAULSON/The Associated Press

August 29, 2011 | 5:49 p.m. CDT

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — An apartment complex near Colorado State University that used Facebook to advertise "the biggest pool party of the year" got more than it bargained for — at least 2,000 people, most of them college students, showed up.

It wasn't long before the police followed.

Four people, including two CSU football players, were arrested at the Fort Collins apartment complex on Saturday. Ten people were taken to the hospital, most of them for overconsumption of alcohol or minor injuries.

"Some people came from as far away as Denver for this back-to-school party," Lt. Hal Dean said Monday.

The party's Facebook page had nearly 3,000 registered people. Dean said police estimated at least 2,000 people showed up at the complex, which is about 65 miles north of Denver. Officers had to shut down surrounding streets while they cleared the complex.

In Fort Collins, firefighters and ambulance crews told police about the out-of-control party at the Ram's Pointe apartment complex.

The apartment complex did not respond to telephone calls seeking comment on Monday. Police said complex management could be cited under the city's nuisance gathering ordinance.

---

Dean said police weren't monitoring the Facebook party site — something some police agencies have begun to do after social media was used by rioters in England to organize looting, and by organizers of so-called flash mobs in several U.S. cities.

Police said Monday that James Skelton, 21, was cited for third-degree assault. The charges were related to a fight. Zachary Tiedgen, 21, was cited for disorderly conduct. Two others were charged.

Skelton and Tiedgen are both on the CSU Rams football team, said assistant athletic director Gary Ozello. Head coach Steve Fairchild refused comment and said the incident is under investigation.

Ozello said the school's athletic department has a strict social media policy that warns players not to post anything to embarrass the team.

The use of social networks such as Twitter and Facebook to spread word of everything from parties to freedom movements has increased exponentially in recent months. In some cases, the events have led to street trouble.

In Los Angeles in July, a simple tweet by DJ Kaskade telling his followers about a free block party lured thousands of raucous ravers to the landmark Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

Things turned rowdy, with revelers hurling bottles at police and some jumping on a squad car.



## Goode not enrolled at MU

### Louisville transfer unlikely to join Tigers this season.

By Steve Walentik Columbia Daily Tribune

Monday, August 29, 2011

#### It's looking like the Missouri basketball team won't be welcoming a new player into its frontcourt this season.

Former Louisville forward George Goode, who gave the Tigers a verbal commitment in June and signed a financial aid agreement with the school, had not enrolled at MU as of Monday, the final day to add courses for the fall semester.

Goode, a 6-foot-8, 230-pound forward from Raytown South in Kansas City, was expected to provide Missouri with more depth along a frontline that bid farewell to senior Justin Safford after last season. The former four-star recruit averaged a career-best 2.9 points and 1.4 rebounds for the Cardinals last season while appearing in 27 games, including two starts. He averaged 8.0 minutes per contest.

"Next year I will be takin my talents to the University of Missouri," he wrote last June in a Twitter message announcing his intentions to transfer closer to home for his final college season.

Goode was completing course work to earn his degree from Louisville this summer and was expected to be eligible to play right away after transferring. It is unclear if academics played a role in his absence at the start of the semester.

A message left for Goode was not immediately returned.

The financial aid agreement he signed with MU was nonbinding.

Goode's absence leaves the Tigers once again thin up front. Seniors Laurence Bowers and Ricardo Ratliffe seem entrenched as starters for the second straight season, and senior forward Steve Moore figures to back them up. Redshirt freshman Kadeem Green is the only other player on the roster taller than 6-6 on the roster. Green missed all of last season while rehabbing from a ruptured Achilles' tendon suffered during his senior high school season.