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Neinas says Big 12 set for 10 teams in 2012

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Interim Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas said Tuesday that the league is set with 10 teams for 2012 with the addition of TCU, even though Missouri is exploring a possible departure to the Southeastern Conference.

"If Missouri was going to change horses, it wouldn't be for 2012 anyway," Neinas said.

The Big 12 has given no deadline for a decision from Missouri, though Neinas said there would need to be some determination by the end of the current academic year. The school has not ruled out remaining part of the Big 12.

Neinas said the Big 12 needs to know what Missouri plans to do before the league can fully evaluate whether to stay at 10 members or expand back to 12.

"We can't address the 10 vs. 12 until we determine that Missouri is going to be one of the 10," he said. "There's no consensus at the present time between the conference members as to 10 or 12."

TCU accepted an invitation Monday to join the Big 12. The Horned Frogs will replace Texas A&M, keeping the league at 10 members when the Aggies leave for the SEC next July.

While TCU will be the first new member since the Big 12 started play in 1996, Texas A&M will be the third school to leave. Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left this year.

There were some indications after Big 12 athletic directors met last month that some might be in favor of staying at nine members. That has apparently changed.

"I don't think anyone is holding that position now. I think the idea would be 10 or 12," Neinas said, adding: "It won't be 16."

A 45-page document presented to Missouri curators earlier this month suggests the school would hope to get as much as \$12 million more each year in additional revenue with a move to the SEC if TV deals are renegotiated. The document, which was obtained by The Associated Press, was shown to the curators after they gave Chancellor Brady Deaton authority to explore a departure from the Big 12.

Asked about the report and the financial projection, Neinas responded, "I don't think that's accurate." Such projections would suggest the SEC would have to redo current deals and increase its annual TV income by \$168 million based on a 14-team league, he said.

Big 12 leaders recently agreed to switch to equal revenue sharing after years in which the schools that made the most television appearances received the most money. The proposal, which would require schools to give their top TV rights to the Big 12 for six years, requires approval from the governing boards of Big 12 schools.

With equal sharing and a 13-year TV deal with Fox Sports worth more than \$1 billion, Neinas indicated that the potential money per team could be similar in the Big 12 and SEC.

"We'll give Missouri time to evaluate its situation, and have an opportunity to look at the Big 12 Conference and perhaps get a better understanding of where we're going," Neinas said. "I think we're on the verge of making some good progress.

"We're in process of solidifying the conference, and I think that's already been proven," he said. "There are a lot of positives the curators of Missouri have a chance to listen to."

Neinas said he recently had a cordial conversation about Missouri with SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who he has known for a long time.

"I said basically, if you're going to extend an invitation to Missouri, let me know," Neinas said.

According to Neinas, Slive said no invitation had been extended to Missouri and that the SEC commissioner "didn't indicate one way or another" if that would happen. SEC leaders met Monday for their regularly scheduled fall meeting but took no action on expansion.

Interim commissioner says Missouri will be in Big 12 in 2012-13

By **BLAIR KERKHOFF**

Frank Haith heard the news, too. Missouri would be in the Big 12 next year, even if it does join the Southeastern Conference, and Haith, the Tigers' basketball coach, didn't know what to make of it.

"I read about it, but I don't have enough information to answer that," said Haith, who was in Kansas City on Tuesday attending the Coaches vs. Cancer Tip-Off Reception at the College Basketball Experience.

Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas said earlier Tuesday that Mizzou would be a Big 12 member in 2012-2013.

"If Missouri were to change horses, it wouldn't be for 2012 anyway," Neinas said.

Neinas didn't elaborate, but timing and exit fees could be an issue.

According to Big 12 bylaws, with the exit fee — which technically isn't a fee but a withholding of conference-generated revenue from television contracts and postseason appearances — Missouri would stand to lose 90 percent of revenues if it gives notice to leave the conference between six months and a year.

The percentage drops incrementally with the length of the notice given, all the way to a 50-percent penalty for a two-year notice.

Estimates for an exit fee have varied. A report prepared for the University of Missouri Curators estimated a penalty of \$25.9 million if Missouri left this year but would be closer to \$10.4 million if the Tigers gave two years' notice.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the report but didn't identify the author of the report.

"I'd like to see the report," Neinas said. "I'd like to know who wrote it."

If Missouri were to announce a departure soon, a possible lame-duck status could endure for three-plus semesters of competition, similar to Boston College's situation in 2003.

That October, the school announced it was leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference, but to avoid an expensive exit fee, Boston College remained in the Big East for an additional full year.

Among other schools that have announced conference switches — Virginia Tech and Miami from the Big East to the ACC in 2003, Nebraska to the Big Ten and Colorado to the Pac-12, Utah to the Pac-12 last year and now TCU to the Big 12 — did not involve an additional full year as a lame duck.

Haith, who was hired from Miami to replace Mike Anderson in April, said conference membership is a constant subject on the recruiting trail.

“Regardless of what league we’re in, we’re going to be in a great league,” Haith described his pitch to prospects.

“The Mizzou brand is an outstanding brand. Whether we’re in the Big 12 or another conference we’re going to be fine.”

Neinas said that the size of the Big 12, which grew to 10 on Monday with the addition of TCU, won’t be determined until Missouri makes its move.

“From a realistic standpoint, I don’t think you can evaluate whether you want 10 or 12 until Missouri gives us an indication to their preference,” Neinas said.

Neinas took exception to a media-rights figure in the report that said Mizzou could make as much as \$12 million more in additional television revenue in the SEC.

“I don’t think that’s accurate,” Neinas said. “You can ask ESPN if they want to pay another \$168 million.”

Which is \$12 million multiplied by 14 teams.

Kansas State’s Frank Martin and Kansas’ Bill Self, also part of the program in the building that houses the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, made pitches to keep the Tigers in the Big 12.

“We’re standing here in a building in Missouri, in the history of college basketball, next to (the Sprint Center) that hosts our conference tournament,” Martin said. “There’s not a better atmosphere for a college basketball tournament than the one we have here. I call it a triangle, from Columbia, to Manhattan to Iowa State, all those fans come. I’d like to keep the tournament, keep it exciting, and that means Missouri being part of it.”

Self appealed to the Border War rivalry, one of college basketball’s most intense.

“We’ve played epic games that have impacted college basketball nationally with Texas in recent years,” Self said. “Our players don’t circle the Texas game, and Texas players don’t circle the Kansas game. They circle A&M.

“We circle Missouri and Kansas State. To think you can jump leagues and all of the sudden have those rivalries in intense fashion. I don’t think you can have them.”

Haith stayed away from conference realignment talk as much as he could, but like many, he’s ready to have the issue resolved.

“We all would like to see it come to an end,” Haith said. “I think it’s going to happen shortly. There will be some statements made in the next couple of weeks.”



Neinas says Missouri will be in Big 12 next year

By Joe Walljasper

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Big 12 interim Commissioner Chuck Neinas said today that even if Missouri decides to leave the Big 12, it won't be next year.

"If Missouri were going to change horses, it wouldn't be for 2012," Neinas said this morning on a conference call with reporters.

Neinas added that the Big 12 would be a 10-team league next year, with TCU replacing Texas A&M.

When asked if leaving the Big 12 next year had been ruled out, MU athletic spokesman Chad Moller said, "There haven't been any announcements made regarding decisions by Dr. Deaton." Spokespersons for MU Chancellor Brady Deaton did not respond to requests for comment before the Tribune's deadline.

On Oct. 4, the University of Missouri Board of Curators gave Deaton authority to consider a new conference affiliation for the school. In a press conference after that meeting, there was no mention of what year Missouri would leave the Big 12, if it leaves at all.

Neinas also questioned the math of Missouri's estimate that a move to the Southeastern Conference could be worth up to \$12 million more annually in television revenue than the school would receive from the Big 12.

"I don't think that's accurate," said Neinas, who noted the SEC would have to come up with an additional \$168 million annually to make that much money for 14 schools. "I'd like to see the report. I'd like to know who wrote it."

Neinas was referring to a 45-page document weighing the pros and cons of the Big 12 vs. SEC that was reviewed by the curators at their meeting last week.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

(Posted on the Missouriian's Blog)

Thoughts from Chuck Neinas on Missouri, TCU

Posted on [October 11, 2011](#) by [plimmer](#)

The Big 12 Conference held a teleconference Tuesday morning to discuss the addition of TCU to the league. Interim Commissioner Chuck Neinas and TCU Athletic Director Chris Del Conte were on the call, but Del Conte was mostly silent **while Neinas discussed the future of Missouri and the Big 12 with reporters for the overwhelming majority of the time.**

Here are some of the takeaway points from Neinas' comments:

- **Missouri will be in the Big 12 in 2012 no matter what**

Neinas: "If Missouri was going to change horses, it wouldn't be for 2012 anyway."

- **The Big 12 will not add another team until Missouri decides its future**

Neinas: "From a realistic standpoint, I don't think you can evaluate whether you want 10 or 12 until you determine, until Missouri gives us an indication as to their preference. This is my personal opinion, you remember I work for people, but my personal opinion is that we can't address the 10 vs. 12 until we determine that Missouri is going to be one of the 10."

- **The Big 12 is going to be patient with Missouri and is waiting for it to agree to the granting of television rights**

Neinas: "We will give Missouri time to evaluate its situation and have an opportunity to look at the Big 12 Conference and perhaps get a better understanding as to where we're going."

"I think that by the end of the academic year, there will have to be some type of decision made."

"Each institution has to go through a procedure or protocol (to grant rights), I think that what I'm saying is that if Missouri needs further time to study the situation, we'll allow them to do so."

- **Yesterday's AP report about Missouri making up to \$12 million more in the SEC if it were to join is in question**

Neinas: "Let me say that Missouri, or an institution in the Southeastern Conference is going to make \$12 million more annually and there are 14 members, that means they would have to increase their annual income from TV by \$168 million.

"I don't know, you can ask ESPN, or anybody if they want to pay another \$168 million, I don't think that's in the cards. Number one, I'd like to see the report and number two, I'd like to know who wrote it."

- **The Big 12 may have some moves left on the table**

Neinas: "One thing is that that they'd be able to recognize that we may have a couple of cards to play too. I think there's a possibility of some things happening."

- **Neinas has been in contact with SEC Commissioner Mike Slive**

Neinas: "I've talked to Mike, yes. It was just very cordial. I've known Mike for years. We just talked about things in general. I said, basically if you're going to extend an invitation to Missouri, please let me know ... He didn't indicate one way or the other."

Also, in case you're interested, here's Neinas' play-by-play on how the TCU situation developed:

Chris and I actually came aboard on Sept. 26, that was the first day I really started working in preparation for the AD's and faculty meetings on the 27th. Chris and I happened to be together at a social gathering the night of the 26th and we talked briefly. The next thing that happened is that the conference had to activate its expansion committee, which was done. The expansion committee and the direction of the board both moved forward to have a meeting and discuss, we had two expansion committee meetings. The first one was of a general nature to take a look at the overall scene in college athletics and identify those that the conference might have interest in. And also we'd received some solicitations of interest from others. Eventually on the second expansion committee call, we discussed the need to establish a 10th member in the conference, and it was quickly identified as TCU. They were voted upon unanimously by the expansion committee. The conference office did its research. We contacted our two television partners, that's true. That's Fox and ESPN/ABC. But we also did additional research and Texas Christian University came up as our number one choice. So, we are very pleased and it was a happy occasion yesterday. In this day and age, when our country has so much uncertainty, and that certainly is true in college athletics, it was nice to be involved in such a happy occasion, so we welcome TCU.

And so we wait to see what Missouri will choose to do. How long it will take, no one is really sure, but don't be surprised if it happens relatively quickly.



TCU officially joins the Big 12

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — In the mid-1990s, TCU was excluded from the Big 12 while its former rivals were invited to the new league.

Instead of hanging their heads, the Horned Frogs — who have since been a part of three conferences — kept building athletic programs and upgrading facilities, culminating in a Rose Bowl victory to cap off a perfect 2010 season.

Then the Big 12 finally came a' calling.

TCU's board of trustees unanimously voted yesterday to accept the Big 12's invitation to join, a move Athletic Director Chris Del Conte compared to arriving at "the promised land" in the wake of the university's disappointments through the years.

"This is living proof that dreams do come true," Del Conte said last night, fighting back tears. "We worked so hard to be here."

Chancellor Victor Boschini Jr. made the expected announcement in front a packed room of more than 200 people.

The move could provide some much-needed stability for the Big 12, which lost Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) over the summer and will lose Texas A&M to the Southeastern Conference next year. Missouri is also exploring a move to the SEC.

Without any further changes, adding TCU will give the conference 10 members going into next season.

Interim Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas told the crowd yesterday that TCU has an outstanding record of academics as well as athletics.

"Chancellor, TCU has traveled a long path, been to different places. Sir, I'd like to welcome you home," Neinas said.

TCU has a strong football background that includes celebrated athletes from the 1930s, including Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien and All-American Sammy Baugh, who both played in the NFL. More recent alums include New York Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson and Cincinnati Bengals rookie quarterback Andy Dalton.

The Horned Frogs went 13-0 last season and also went undefeated in 2009 before losing to Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl.

“It was a challenge winning the Rose Bowl ... and there’s been a lot of people that told us we couldn’t do a lot of different things, and so we’re going to take it one step at a time,” football Coach Gary Patterson said after the announcement. “It’s not going to be easy ... but I do believe that if the Big 12 did not feel like we couldn’t be competitive in the league, then they wouldn’t have asked us.”

TCU currently competes in the Mountain West Conference and was set to join the Big East next July. Instead, the Big 12 went public with its interest in TCU last week and set the stage for the private university to stay closer to home. It officially joins the Big 12 on July 1.

Del Conte said TCU will not be required to give the 27 months’ notice to leave the Big East but must pay the exit fee. He declined to confirm if it was the \$5 million required by Big East policy.

Several Big 12 coaches said having TCU in the league would be great.

“I’ve always thought that if we had teams that exited or departed our league that TCU would be a great addition, with the market right there,” Oklahoma State Coach Mike Gundy said. “They have competed and won as many games in football as just about anybody in the country in the last three or four years. It won’t be an easy opponent for us to have to play them, and they’re obviously sitting right there in a very valuable recruiting market.”

SEC leaders also met yesterday for their regularly scheduled fall session but took no action on expansion. The league will have 13 members once Texas A&M joins in July, leading to speculation about whether Missouri or other schools will be added to balance things out.

STOOPS FIRED – Arizona Coach Mike Stoops had been given some leeway for last season’s collapse. He had, after all, led the Wildcats to three straight bowls for just the second time in school history.

But when the losses continued to pile up this season, including one to a previously winless team, the latitude was gone.

Arizona fired Stoops midway through his eighth season yesterday, ending a run that started off well before ending with a thud in the desert.

“Coach Stoops did a lot of great things for the program, took over a very challenging situation and made us better,” Arizona Athletic Director Greg Byrne said. “I think we certainly want to thank him for all his efforts and staff efforts and appreciate everything he’s done for us, (but) I was concerned about the direction of the program and where we were going, and felt that needed to be addressed.”

Defensive Coordinator Tim Kish will take over on an interim basis for the rest of the season while the school searches for a new coach.

BIG EAST EXPANSION – Big East schools gave a go-ahead yesterday for the conference to expand to as many as 12 teams for football, a move that could involve adding six members.

The schools’ presidents and chancellors gave approval for the league to talk with outside schools. The Big East said in a statement that it’s “considering moving to a model that includes 12 football playing schools.”

The Big East has been ravaged in the ongoing conference shuffles, losing longtime members. The move yesterday is the Big East's first formal attempt to make up for its losses.

Syracuse and Pittsburgh started the recent exodus by deciding to leave for the Atlantic Coast Conference. The governor of Connecticut has said UConn also is interested in the ACC, and there has been speculation that Rutgers, too, could leave the Big East.

The league thought it had strengthened its football status by adding Texas Christian. But TCU reversed course and accepted an invitation to join the Big 12 on yesterday.

"Although never having competed as a member of the Big East Conference, we are disappointed with the news that TCU is joining the Big 12," Big East Commissioner John Marinatto said.

Marinatto noted that the school presidents approved expanding the conference earlier yesterday in a teleconference.

"We anticipate taking action in the near future," he said.

Without TCU, the Big East would be down to six football schools: West Virginia, Louisville, Cincinnati, South Florida, Rutgers and Connecticut. The league also includes DePaul, Marquette, St. John's, Seton Hall, Villanova, Georgetown, Providence and Notre Dame for sports other than football.

East Carolina has applied for membership to the Big East. Conference USA members Central Florida and Memphis also have been looking to join a conference with an automatic bid in the Bowl Championship Series.

Former Notre Dame Head Coach Ara Parseghian said over the weekend that Notre Dame could be forced to join a conference for football if the move toward a few super conferences continues.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Family to represent Chester Brewer as posthumous Homecoming grand marshal

By Chelsea Vaccaro

October 11, 2011 | 3:01 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Chester Leland Brewer, the athletics director credited as the father of MU's homecoming, will be honored as the posthumous grand marshal for the centennial Homecoming parade.

Brewer's daughter-in-law, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild will attend the Homecoming parade and game on Saturday to represent him.

Daughter-in-law Martha Brewer knew Chester Brewer while she attended MU in the 1940s and before she met his son.

"I used to stop by and talk to him on my way home from school because I found him so interesting, and he was such a lovely person," Martha Brewer, 87, said. "I'm just sorry that most of his grandchildren didn't have an opportunity to know him."

Chester Brewer died at age 77 in 1953, but his legacy remains strong at MU.

On Nov. 25, 1911, Brewer invited alumni to "come home" to see their old school for the Missouri-Kansas rivalry football game, which was being played on one of the campuses for the first time. To encourage people's excitement, he put together festivities such as a parade and spirit rally.

A record 9,000 fans showed up to the game at Rollins Field, and although the Tigers tied the Jayhawks 3-3, it marked the beginning of a tradition that has been celebrated by alumni and students for a hundred years.

At the time Brewer put together the first homecoming, there were not many hotel accommodations available. To house the alumni, Brewer and other Columbia residents welcomed people into their homes.

"We must have had 10 or 15 at my home," Brewer previously told The Kansas City Star. "They were stretched out on cots in almost every room."

"My mom always remembered that he just had a really big heart," Brewer's granddaughter, Molly Roland, 51, said. "He loved people and was a very warm and wonderful person. The more I learn about him, the more I am very pleased and proud of him, and I think, 'Wow, I wish I would have known him.'"

This past summer, Roland was contacted by Todd McCubbin, executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association. He asked her, along with other family members, to represent Brewer this year as grand marshal.

This family reunion will bring together some who have never met and some who have lost touch throughout the years.

"It will be wonderful," Roland said. "It kind of fills in all of the blanks because when I pull out all of the old photo albums, there were some there I had not met."

Roland would not have learned as much as she has about Brewer and her estranged family if it weren't for him being honored.

"We've lived in different parts of the country, and we are all very excited," said Martha Brewer, whose husband also was named Chester Brewer, after his father. "All of these cousins that are coming together have very interesting and different lives, so it's going to be a lot of fun."

The elder Chester Brewer began his career at MU in 1910 as the athletics director and physical education professor after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout his time at MU, he coached basketball, baseball, football and track.

"He believed everybody should be active; he even taught fly fishing in his later years after coaching," Roland said.

In 1917, Brewer left to serve in World War I as a director for the U.S. Commission on Training Camp Activities. He returned to MU in 1923 and stayed until his retirement in 1947.

On the night of the 1911 game against Kansas, Brewer founded the M Men's Club, which sponsored intramural sport championships. Now known as the Varsity M Association, it supports current and past student athletes while following the mission of athletic excellence. Brewer oversaw the addition of bleachers to Rollins Field, which were the first concrete stands built in the Midwest, a fact backed up by Roland and a 1950 article in the Columbia Missourian.

"He didn't hire some firm," Roland said. "He went back to the engineering department, and the students designed and mixed the cement for the bleachers."

He was also responsible for the creation of Memorial Stadium in 1926 and his namesake, Brewer Fieldhouse, in 1930.

"Chester L. Brewer is probably the most outstanding man in Missouri's athletic history," Don Faurot is quoted as saying in the 1950 *Missourian* article.

Roland recalled going to Missouri football games when she was a child and hearing stories about Brewer from her mother, MU alumna Jean Brewer, Chester's daughter. But Roland never met him.

"My mom was a school teacher, so we couldn't always get away, but she listened to every game on the radio. Our mom didn't really yell very much, and all of a sudden she was very fired up," Roland said. "My mom was a very humble and modest person, so I don't think she ever got across to us what a big deal her dad was."

Brewer made an impact not only on the university, but also on the city of Columbia and the outside sports world.

In 1923, he sponsored the first Boy Scout troop in Columbia and was president of the organization for seven years, Roland said. He received the highest award in scouting, the Beaver, which recognized him for long service, she said.

He was also a part of the NCAA, serving on the rules committee, executive council, panel board and as vice president, according to the 1950 *Missourian* article.

"The world was a lot smaller back then, and we had someone from our town helping shape the world of sports and way it evolved," Roland said.

"You know he was a competitor, but he was a gentlemen," Martha Brewer said. "He was a dear person, and I just think it's wonderful that he is being honored and that I'm around to know about it."



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU partners with institution in India

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, October 11, 2011

The University of Missouri has entered into a five-year agreement with an institution in India in hopes of advancing research in nanomedicine and nanotechnology.

K.S.R. Educational Institutes is an affiliation of 16 higher education institutes in Tamil Nadu, India. Through the agreement, MU and K.S.R. will exchange scientists for joint teaching, training and research programs, and qualified students will be encouraged to enroll in the other institution's academic program.

K.S.R. brings to the table "an excellent facility for the development of new research materials," said Raghuraman Kanna, an assistant professor of radiology and distinguished professor of cancer research at MU. "In turn, K.S.R. does not have a medical school, so they can send their best students here to learn about our nanomedicine discovery and application efforts."

No money is exchanged under the agreement, and any costs that arise will be picked up by whichever entity incurs the expense.

Missourinet

Drug used for heart, blood-pressure patients might help in autism

October 11, 2011 By Jessica Machetta

A study at the University of Missouri shows a drug used to treat high blood pressure, control heart rate and to reduce test anxiety might improve language and social skills in patients with autism.

Researchers say propranolol might also reduce difficulty with repetitive behaviors and eye contact ... it might just come down to reducing stress, it might have to do with navigating the hard-wired functions in the brain.

“We can clearly say [the drug] has the potential to benefit language and may help people with autism function appropriately in social situations...” said David Beversdorf, associate professor and chair at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. “Enhancing both language and social function is significant because those are two of the three main features of autism. Clinical trials will assess the drug’s effect on all three features, including repetitive behavior.”

The drug reduces the effect of norepinephrine brought on by stress to allow the brain to function as if there is no stress. Beversdorf says this worked in healthy individuals, and he’s ready to begin clinical trials to see how it might help those with autism. Basically, it squelches the “fight or flight” response so that language and social skills aren’t inhibited.

In previous studies, the researchers found that the drug helped people with autism solve simple anagrams, word unscrambling tasks, increased semantic word fluency, which requires understanding the definition of words and connectivity among different brain regions. Beversdorf says it did *not* help with letter fluency, which involves identifying words that start with specific letters and requires less distributed connectivity among brain regions.

In this study, Beversdorf says, “We’re looking at markers of increased stress reactivity. If we find that those with higher stress reactivity are more sensitive to the effects of propranolol, it might help to identify who will benefit most.”

He points out that the initial studies were done on those over the age of 14; clinical trials would see if it benefits children as well.

When asked about the escalating amount of drug cross-overs, such as anti-psychotics being prescribed to children with hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder, Beversdorf says he thinks there's a large profit margin behind that trend. He says propranolol is a generic drug, so there's obviously no profit margin behind the studies here.



Noodling around in Italy

By Marcia Vanderlip

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, October 11, 2011

This is national pasta month, according to the National Pasta Association. Every month, of course, is pasta month for Italians — and also for many Americans, who appear to love the noodle. According to the National Pasta Association, “the average American consumes 20 pounds of pasta annually.” Based on my own habits, I would have guessed an even higher figure. In any case, this would be a bad month for me to start calculating my annual consumption of pasta — and of Italian food in general — because I’m spending October in Italy.

I am staying this month in Orvieto — a modest city of great art, great food, great wine — with my husband, who is teaching a poetry class.

We shared our first pasta dish of the trip last week at a small osteria — an informal restaurant featuring local food and wine. The house-made fusilli was perfectly cooked and tossed in a fresh tomato and basil sauce. It came to the table topped with a sprinkling of fresh-grated pecorino — simple and delicious.

A teacher friend who lives here told me some American girls who come to study in Orvieto suffer initially from a “fear of pasta.” They think it will make them fat. Most get over it, and when they leave, they look great — lean and rosy-cheeked from having walked everywhere.

A couple days before we flew from St. Louis to Rome, I spoke to Ann Cohen about the Mediterranean diet — which includes pasta, of course. The “diet,” for lack of a better word, also includes walking and incorporating fresh, seasonal ingredients. Cohen is an associate state nutrition specialist in the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at the University of Missouri. For four summers, she has been teaching in a study abroad program in Florence. She traveled all over the continent looking for the right place to set up a program. She found that place when she met Gabriella Ganugi, the president and founder of Palazzi Apicius, a hospitality and culinary school in the city. The two became fast friends and worked together to develop a 13-day program for American students.

The students leave with an appreciation for the food, art, the culture — and for walking, Cohen said. “I give them all pedometers. They all get excited about how far they have walked by the end of their stay.” Even so, the experience as a whole is what changes their lives, she said.

Ganugi would agree. On Friday afternoon in Florence, I met with Ganugi and two of her associates, Grace Joh, chair of journalism at Palazzi, and Camilla Carrega, the academic coordinator for the school of food and wine studies. Carrega also lives and works at her family’s nearby winery.

The trio talked about the profound changes they see in the students who come there to study at Apicius. At first, “they miss their boyfriends” or girlfriends — “their peanut butter; but when it is time to go, they don’t want to leave,” Ganugi said. They learn about the culture — and about themselves, Joh said.

“We teach them moderation, in the tasting of the wine” and in eating. “They learn the culture behind all these things,” Ganugi said. In part, because the Apicius approach incorporates all regional cuisines, “Florence is a launching pad for culinary exploration” in other parts of Italy.

One of the first places the teachers send their students is the Mercato di Sant’ Ambrogio, a neighborhood farmers market just a few blocks from the school. They learn what is in season and available from the farms. Equipped with that knowledge, they shop and cook.

Nearby is Ganzo, the not-for-profit Apicius restaurant that is run by and for the students from the school. It is open to the public and also serves as a venue for gastronomic and art events.

On Saturday, we went for brunch to Ganzo, which is on Via De Macci, just one street west of San Ambrogio Market. Executive chef Andrea Trapani runs the restaurant with help from a senior sous chef and a junior sous chef. This team works with culinary students in the kitchen, while hospitality students run the front of the house. Trapani is also the head of the culinary and baking department at Apicius.

On Nov. 2, Trapani, Carrega and Joh will be in Columbia for the “Flavors of Florence” dinner at the University Club. For more information, see this week’s Kitchen Notes.

Just so you know, Ganzo is a Florentine word for “cool.”

And the restaurant was very, very cool. My husband and I enjoyed a hospitable, plentiful, fresh and inexpensive meal there. Then we got back to walking through Florence.

Mobile device security highlighted during Security Awareness Month

By Mayra Cruz

October 11, 2011 | 7:18 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA—Even when your mobile device is securely in your hand, the data on it may still be compromised, said Mike Harris, an MU security analyst.

Consumers' mobile devices are as vulnerable to hacking, spyware and malware as personal computers, he said.

As part of Security Awareness Month, MU's Division of Information Technology is presenting seminars to inform people about securing devices, such as computers and other information devices.

The next seminar the Division of IT will host is scheduled for 2 p.m. Oct. 19.

According to software security company Sophos' Naked Security blog, 70 percent of users don't protect their phones with passwords, while 22 percent report losing their phones.

Securing a smartphone device begins with setting up a password. Mixing up at least eight characters with numbers, symbols, uppercase and lowercase letters to create a strong password is important.

Passwords should not be a string of repetitive numbers or letters. Locking the device after a few minutes also helps to prevent use by other people.

Harris recommended smartphones be password-protected or have a pattern to lock the screen when not in use.

"It's largely just a computer in your pocket," he said of smartphones.

Installing a device-locating application or data-scrubbing program is useful in case a phone is lost or stolen.

Connecting phones to computers or laptops can bypass security despite being locked by a password. Harris said iPhones should use virtual private networks when possible.

Disabling Bluetooth capabilities on Android phones when not in use is also important, since other users' devices can detect it. Consumers need to make sure information backed up from Android phones is in a secure location, especially when transferring data to a personal computer or laptop.

Mobile device users also need to beware of Wi-Fi connections in public places, especially when dealing with sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and other information that can identify individuals or facilitate identity theft, Harris said.

For other mobile devices, such as laptops or iPads, running various programs such as posting up a firewall, installing antivirus and antitheft programs will help secure information. Keeping the most up-to-date versions is also important so that sensitive data is not leaked.

"People don't think (security) applies to mobile devices, but it does," said Kristy White, an MU system security analyst. "It's a first line of defense."

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

End of Ellis Library cleanup still months away

Some asbestos was found during the cleanup.

By Sean Na Published Oct. 11, 2011

Since the fire in Ellis Library on Sept. 10, library staff has been working on renovations.

Although the damage was not as significant as initially expected, MU Libraries spokeswoman Shannon Cary said the restoration will not be completed until the end of fall semester.

“We estimate that it will take most of the fall semester to finish the cleanup, renovate the fire-damaged offices and replace carpet and tile in the water-damaged areas,” she said in an email.

She said the northeast quadrant of the first floor, including the Circulation, Reserve and Interlibrary Loan offices, the first floor men’s restroom, the Government Documents collection and staff offices, the print reference collection, the Cisco TelePresence room and the student computer lab are closed to the public.

Some students said they are especially upset the computer lab is closed.

“I use (the) computer a lot for paper and Tegrity assignments, and it’s harder now that we lost so many computers,” sophomore Katelyn Youmans said.

Students who often use Ellis for studying are likely to step on the noisy tiles lain on the second floor. Many students are concerned about when this disturbance will cease. Cary said the tiles will be out of students’ sight soon.

“Workers are currently removing tiles in the areas of Ellis Library affected by water damage,” she said.

Some asbestos was found during the cleanup.

“There was no asbestos found on the first floor of Ellis Library,” Cary said. “There was some asbestos found in the State Historical Society.”

The State Historical Society suffered some of the worst damage from the fire, Executive Director Gary Kremer said.

“The State Historical Society of Missouri sustained extensive damage to its administrative and editorial offices as a result of the arson incident,” he said.

He added that no artwork or original documents were destroyed, but about \$10,000 worth of duplicate newspaper microfilm was destroyed. Upgrades to Ellis unrelated to the fire are being discussed but Cary said there has not been specific agenda made.

“There has been discussion, but no concrete plan yet, of reconfiguring the Government Documents and Reference shelving to allow for more study space in that area,” she said.

Since the fire, students have complained about the crowded study areas.

“Since the fire, the study area has become crowded and Ellis has gotten more loud,” junior Dalrae Jin said.

Students hope for more computers to use, more private study rooms, a stronger Wi-Fi connection and comfortable chairs and tables.

“Since Ellis is the only place that is quiet,” senior Emily Corley said. “More tables for students would be nice.”

Although students want more structural upgrades, there has been no definite plan for any major changes.

“No other major changes are currently planned,” Cary said.



Graffiti case delayed as lawyers seek lab results

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, October 11, 2011

A case against the University of Missouri freshman who allegedly painted a racist slur on campus in February was continued in court again today.

Ben Elliott is facing a second-degree felony for property damage motivated by discrimination. MU police arrested him Feb. 12 after officers linked him to graffiti, including the word "nigger," discovered earlier that day painted on a statue outside Hatch Hall.

Attorneys are waiting for lab results from paint samples that might link him to other graffiti incidents that occurred around the same time.

Boone County Circuit Judge Deborah Daniels is overseeing the case.

This morning, she released from probation another former MU student involved in an earlier racial incident.

Daniels approved a request from Sean Fitzgerald to discharge his sentence, which included two years of probation not set to expire until April.

Fitzgerald and Zachary Tucker pleaded guilty to misdemeanor littering charges last year after they admitted to lining cotton balls in front of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center in February 2009 as part of a string of campus pranks.

Fitzgerald needed to be released from that punishment early to allow him to move forward in his military service, his attorney, Kevin O'Brien, said. Fitzgerald had been a member of the ROTC at MU before he was suspended in 2009.

Fitzgerald is back in college, O'Brien told Daniels, but it's unclear where. He is not enrolled at MU. Fitzgerald declined to comment after court.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1933

Report shows increase in drug, decrease in liquor violations on campus

Drug law violations rose from 98 in 2008 to 124 in 2010.

By Lizzie Johnson Published Oct. 11, 2011

Drug violations are on the rise, according to the MU Police Department's annual Campus Crime and Fire Safety report for 2010.

There were 98 drug law violations reported to MUPD in 2008. That number rose to 103 in 2009 and 124 in 2010, according to the report.

The report reveals the number of on-campus drug arrests is growing, which in turn potentially skews the data for on-campus liquor arrests.

Liquor law violations continued to drop from 126 in 2008 to 102 in 2009 and 76 in 2010.

The spike in drug law violations might correlate with the apparent drop in liquor law violations, MUPD spokesman Scott Richardson said.

"It's probably not so much a drop in alcohol use, but there were more drug arrests," he said.

When arrested, only the offender's higher charge is noted in the annual report.

"Let's say someone was in possession of marijuana and also in possession of alcohol. We only count the higher offense, which in this case is marijuana," Richardson said.

The report, which follows the federal law, is required to report only the highest offense, which might account for the apparent downward trend in liquor law violations.

The Wellness Resource Center offers brochures and an anonymous, online survey called e-Token to help educate and provide students with feedback about marijuana use. The majority of the center's funds and main focus continue to lie in alcohol awareness.

"Our data shows us how we should be spending our time," Wellness Resource Center Director Kim Dude said. "I'm sure we will continue to spend most of our time dealing with alcohol, but we still will, in fact, spend time with other drugs as well."

The WRC received national recognition in 2010 by the United States Department of Education for significantly reducing student involvement in risky behavior with alcohol. In addition, the department received a \$130,000 grant.

The statistics showing alcohol arrests going down are not necessarily an indication that use is down, attorney Dan Viets said.

“Arrests may have gone up, but it’s important to understand that arrests don’t necessarily correlate to the number of violations,” Viets said. “It may be an increase in the numbers of people that use prohibited substances or it may be because the police have adopted a policy about being more aggressive about investigating those types of things. It’s one or the other.”

Dude said she believes the rise in drug violation numbers is indicative of marijuana’s ease of access and lax punishment.

“I think it’s because it’s relatively easy to get, and I think our city law does not help because it is a pretty liberal law,” she said. “The problem is if a student gets caught on campus, they are subject to state law, not city law, because it is state property. I think students might naively think they won’t get in very much trouble.”

Under city ordinance, Columbia police are prohibited from arresting anyone for simple marijuana possession. Anyone found with less than an ounce and a quarter is given a summons. The maximum fine is \$250.

MU, which is state property, falls under state laws. Under the law, possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine of \$1,000.

“I don’t think fewer students are drinking,” Richardson said. “The number of liquor law violations would be about the same if you take the increase of drug violations. They are about the same.”

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Editorial: Reporting only highest offense misleads public

Police need to represent all offenses in reports, not just the highest.

Published Oct. 11, 2011

Reports show that liquor law violations reported to the MU Police Department dropped from 126 violations in 2008 to 76 in 2010. On the surface, it looks like MU is becoming a healthier and safer environment.

But simultaneously, drug violations are up, an increase from 98 violations reported to MUPD in 2008 to 124 last year.

Maybe fewer people are violating liquor laws, but with drug arrests on the rise, it's safe to assume that's not true. Under federal law, police are required to report only the highest offense, which means situations in which someone has abused both alcohol and drugs will only be reported as a drug violation.

Who are we kidding to believe that fewer students are drinking?

The police need to stop skewing data, and something needs to be changed so that all violations are reported. We can't skew the data to the point of lying about the decreasing rates of alcohol abuse.

It's not fair to give people a false sense of security. It's not fair to prospective students and their families, who choose MU because they think it is becoming a safer college campus. It's not fair to our law enforcement, who have to work in an environment that is being misreported to appear safer. And it's not fair to us as students, who are suffering as members of the MU community because we can't be accurately informed of the issues that surround the place we live, work and learn.

The Wellness Resource Center and MUPD have both done a great job in keeping our community safe through education and enforcement. But their work would be more effective if it were more obvious that drug and possibly alcohol abuse is on the incline.

Reducing alcohol abuse requires proper knowledge of how to consume responsibly. But that's impossible until we stop masking alcohol under other, greater problems and confront the fact that alcohol consumption is still a serious issue on this campus.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1935

LBC Homecoming raises controversy on campus

The Legion of Black Collegians has been hosting a Black Homecoming since the 1970s.

By Nassim Benchaabane Published Oct. 11, 2011

Although they might not be meant to be separate, there are two homecomings at MU. The Alumni Association hosts one Homecoming celebration, and the Legion of Black Collegians and the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center hosts its own.

“I go to events from both homecomings,” LBC Black Homecoming Committee member Allie Bass said. “I don’t think it’s healthy to limit yourself to one. You should reach out. I do know people who only go to the black Homecoming though.”

Bass and LBC Homecoming chairwoman Micah Smith both said they have heard sentiments that some people do not feel as if they are a part of the Alumni Association’s Homecoming.

“I do agree, for the simple fact that I’ve never received an email, flyer or anything specifying what the general Homecoming’s weeks activities are,” Smith said in an email. “I have however, received many emails, flyers and even invitations to Facebook groups when it comes to LBC events for Homecoming.”

Homecoming Steering Committee Executive Director Todd McCubbin said it’s the first time he’s heard of the conversation at the LBC meeting.

McCubbin said he reached out to the organization and LBC Vice President Kristen Andrews to keep communication on this issue open.

“I am LBC Homecoming chair this year, and I have not received any kind of communication from Mr. McCubbin,” Smith said.

Black Homecoming was first organized in the mid-1970s by LBC and reflected the social tensions of the time, when most minority students didn’t feel welcomed in the campus homecoming.

Both Bass and Smith provided personal criticisms of recent campus homecoming celebrations.

“Last year I think the slogan was about ‘Bringing Back Ole Mizzou,’” Bass said. “Personally, I don’t think that slogan was inclusive because ‘Ole Mizzou’ wasn’t completely inclusive.”

McCubbin said it was the first time he'd ever heard a criticism of last year's homecoming slogan.

"I feel as if a lot of general homecomings activities are geared towards PHA and IFC," Smith said. "I personally am not Greek, therefore am not a part of IFC or PHA. I recommend that instead of doing 'Greek' activities, each event should pertain to the entire campus."

McCubbin said that all student organizations were welcome to enter the parade for no cost as long as they registered by the deadline.

He also said that he does not think black Homecoming separates anyone, but that it might appear to others that there are two separate homecoming royalty courts.

Smith said she disagrees.

"I am not sure if Mr. McCubbin is aware or not, but for years black students weren't allowed to attend the Homecoming game, let alone run for Homecoming Royalty," she said. "While we have made many strides and have come a long way, LBC royalty is a way to honor the past, to highlight black leadership."

Ana Gutierrez-Gamez, president of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, said she has heard members mention that they do not feel like a part of the general homecoming, but HALO has never sought to host its own Homecoming celebration.

"By having a separate Homecoming you're immediately forcing a separation," she said. "In my presidency, I want to unite the campus, and by separating the Hispanic community I'm not doing that."

Victoria Yu, Asian American Association programming chairwoman, said AAA has never sought to host its own Homecoming either.

Both Gutierrez-Gamez and Yu said that they understand the need for a black Homecoming.

"I've been to their events, and I've had a lot of fun," Gutierrez-Gamez said. "They need to make people know that it's not just a black event, that anyone can go."

Bass said she enjoys black Homecoming but feels that it is out of date. She also said the problem is bigger than homecoming.

"It was necessary in the beginning to bring minorities together to celebrate since they didn't feel included otherwise," she said. "In the millennium though, I think we should be working towards unity. I think the real problem is the divide within campus. Focusing on something such as the LBC Homecoming is just a distraction from the real problem."