

OCT 14 2011

**The★Star**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## KC mayor to MU: Stay in Big 12

By Blair Kerkhoff - Posted on 13 October 2011

**Kansas City Mayor Sly James sent this letter to Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton and each member of the Board of Curators last Friday.**

The letter is similar to the one delivered by the Kansas City Sports Commissioner and Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau last week.

The letter:

October 7, 2011

An Open Letter to University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton

Dear Chancellor Deaton:

Considering recent events and conversations about NCAA conference realignment, I would like to highlight the importance of the University of Missouri to the Kansas City region. I am certain you are weighing many factors as you make this decision, but I urge you to put the Kansas City region at the forefront.

Our community has enjoyed a rich sports history over the years — and the University of Missouri athletics program has played a big part in that. Missouri athletics are important to our city, state, and region. Fan support of your institution's participation in the Big 12 Basketball Championships and the annual Border Showdown at Arrowhead Stadium are proof of that.

The University of Missouri fan base is abundant in the Kansas City area. More than 20,000 MU alumni call this area home, and the local chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association has the third-largest membership in the nation.

Keeping Big 12 competition in or near Kansas City makes sense — for you, your fans and the state of Missouri. The Big 12 Basketball Championships at Sprint Center and Municipal Auditorium are prime examples. The Championship is an important economic engine for our region, generating more than \$14 million a year, and scheduled to remain in this state through 2014. It is imperative for that money should remain in the Show-Me State.

We strongly encourage you to weigh this decision with care. Kansas City gains a lot from its affiliation with the University of Missouri. Conversely, we also stand to lose a lot should that change. We believe this region collectively values University of Missouri athletics — has, does and will — to a degree that won't be replicated elsewhere. And that staying here, in the Big 12 Conference, within your home region and among your fans and rivals is the right decision to honor your history, fulfill your present, and secure your future.

With respect and support,

(signed)

Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr.

City of Kansas City, Missouri

Sports Commission and CVB letter

<http://bit.ly/q8Yy76>



## **MU to first lady: Join us to talk nutrition Symposium wants Obama for keynote.**

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, October 13, 2011

### **Hey, Michelle Obama, the University of Missouri wants you to come to a food symposium here in March.**

Organizers of the annual Life Sciences & Society Program are using social media sites to encourage you to make the trip. Expect to start seeing plenty of tweets to @whitehouse about your @letsmove campaign as first lady.

Your staff also might start getting inundated with emails: The symposium's website includes the address of your scheduling department and a form letter to make it easier for people to figure out what to say.

The Life Sciences & Society Program might sound familiar. Organizers sent you a formal invite this summer asking you to give the keynote address at the food-themed symposium in March. Staff members confirmed you received the letter, and organizers are drawing hope from the fact that you've not rejected them yet.

Stefani Engelstein is director of the program and an associate professor of German at MU. She said the Food Sense symposium, set for March 16-18, will address the balance between sensible eating and the gratification of taste, as well as society's sense of a normal diet.

Top leaders on campus also would welcome a visit from the first lady.

"She's so engaged nationally in these issues," Provost Brian Foster said. "She'd be a very compelling presence."

So far, symposium organizers have snagged several food and nutrition authors, including Brian Wansink, Shirley Corriher and William Ian Miller. The keynote slot is still open, though — that's where they're hoping you come in.

Engelstein also said the fact Columbia is a "Let's Move" community sweetens the pot. Columbia has healthy initiatives including a Walking School Bus program, an urban agriculture center and

other partnerships between campus and town that “reflect on Columbia’s enthusiasm about eating right and being healthy,” she said.

The symposium’s logo even brings to mind the MyPlate food chart you helped launch. It’s a circle in colorful slices showing how presentation, comfort, price and convenience play roles in how we decide what to eat.

Symposium organizers are interested in the “Let’s Move” initiative for healthier kids, Engelstein said. “We see that as a great way to intervene in the cultural sense of what foods we should be eating. We’ll be not only talking about what makes sense to eat but also show that it’s possible to intervene in public opinion about food.”

In Columbia, she said, “the university and community are working together to bring awareness about eating and health issues, and we believe that an appearance by the first lady would allow us to do a great job of getting information out to as many people as possible.”

So how about it, Mrs. Obama?

## Homecoming offers plenty of festivities

Ryan C. Henriksen



From left, University of Missouri students Cliff David, Dan O'Connor, Austin Stumpe and Mitch Huntley — members of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity — set up scaffolding Wednesday in preparation for Homecoming celebrations.

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, October 13, 2011

**The men of Delta Tau Delta fraternity seemed like acrobatic performers yesterday as they scaled 16-foot-high scaffolding to build what will become a backdrop for tomorrow's University of Missouri Homecoming skit.**

The popular Campus Decorations event turns Greek Town into a family-friendly destination every year when fraternity and sorority members build over-the-top decorations and perform mini-plays for the public. Tomorrow, the celebration-themed event runs from 6 to 10 p.m.

"House decs is the most fun," said C.J. Elger, a member of Delta Tau Delta. "We've been working really hard at it. Friday is the big day."

So is Saturday. Some 55,000 people are expected to descend on campus for the centennial celebration. The festivities start with a breakfast at 8 a.m. at Brewer Fieldhouse and continue at 8:30 a.m. with the annual parade. The 1 p.m. football game will conclude official Homecoming events that began Oct. 1.

The parade starts at Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue and winds along Hitt and Ninth streets and Broadway before concluding at Sixth and Elm streets. Parade-goers might want to show up about 8 a.m. to get a good spot, said Carrie Bien, coordinator of student programs for the Mizzou Alumni Association.

CJ's Wings on Broadway is getting in on the action this year, opening for a special breakfast at 8 a.m. The eatery will be selling coffee, hot chocolate and deep-fried doughnuts from the sidewalk and offering a small breakfast menu that will include Bloody Marys and mimosas, owner Ty Moore said. Moore said he recognized the need for a Homecoming breakfast spot two years ago when customers were lined up outside his door by the time he opened at 11 a.m.

The official MU tailgate starts at 10:30 a.m. at Carnahan Quadrangle. The Romp, Chomp and Stomp is a throwback of a 1950s tradition and will include entertainment, a spirit rally, food and drinks. It's \$10 for adults and free for those younger than 10.

MU police aren't anticipating any unusual challenges this weekend, said Capt. Scott Richardson, noting the crowd will be about the same as any other home game. He suggests fans arrive early to the stadium.

Downtown businesses also are gearing up for the influx of visitors. "When Homecoming comes, it's like gas on a bonfire," Kurt Mirtsching of Shakespeare's Pizza said. "I can hardly work with so many former employees and friends of mine here for Homecoming and to party."

Planning to order a pizza this weekend? Call now, he said. "I cannot guarantee any place to sit, but I can plug into the pizza-making queue at the appropriate time."

The Reynolds Alumni Center will serve as Homecoming headquarters from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow, where visitors can pick up maps, buy commemorative items, grab bottles of water or relax at a cash bar, Bien said.

Although this weekend is mostly fun and games, Homecoming also is about service.

Last week, organizers collected 4,839 pints of blood at the four-day blood drive on campus, short of the 5,000-pint goal but a campus record. Blood collected at satellite drives still could push MU over the goal, Bien said. Homecoming organizers also collected 63,555 pounds of food for the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.

## MU Homecoming traditions lost over time

By Zack Lewandowski

October 13, 2011 | 12:00 a.m. CDT

Homecoming traditions used to include such things as bonfires and live tigers



Freshman follow directions from upperclassmen in 1911. ;

### A Homecoming rivalry

The football game is the culmination of the Homecoming celebration. Tigers fans lick their chops, hungry for a victory. The game is an event that features not only football but also an entire student body's passion. Marching Mizzou and spirit squads perform routines to wow the crowd, and the Homecoming king and queen are crowned during halftime. In a sense, there can be no Homecoming without the football game.

The various opponents that face the Tigers make this important game even more exhilarating. Big 12 schools, such as Oklahoma, Texas and Nebraska, have attempted to spoil prior Homecomings by winning at Faurot, and this year, Iowa State stands between MU and Homecoming glory.

Teams such as the Sooners and Longhorns are very familiar adversaries to the Tigers, but only one school can claim the status as MU's biggest rival. The Kansas Jayhawks and the Missouri Tigers share a historic rivalry that dates back to 1891, and only the Minnesota-Wisconsin rivalry has played more Division 1-A football games than Missouri-Kansas.

It was an upcoming game with the Jayhawks that caused Chester Brewer to call on alumni to “come home” in 1911. Back then, Homecoming was scheduled around the week of Thanksgiving. Columbia shop owners showed their Tiger pride by merging the spirit of Thanksgiving with the animosity of playing the Jayhawks. In 1911, Charlie Matthews Hardware Company featured a real tiger head in their show window with a Thanksgiving turkey posed underneath. “Beat Kansas” signs hung over many store doors.

For the next 10 years, MU alternated hosting Homecoming football games with KU. Newspapers and MU’s yearbook, *The Savitar*, captured the scenes of a bitter rivalry. A section from the 1921 *Savitar* details the passionate dialogue that arose from Homecoming that year: “All over town that night, Tiger and Jayhawk rooters yelled defiance at one another or crowded into corners to talk over the dope of the game.”

Despite the bitter rivalry, there was also a deep respect between the two schools. In 1913, the Missouri Theatre invited both KU and MU to view a production of *Bought and Paid For*. That same year, KU’s band serenaded a group of reporters in the offices of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

### **Burning caps and bonfires**

At the beginning of each school year, an influx of freshmen tries to navigate MU’s large campus. These college newcomers adjust to a new way of life, including for some living on their own for the first time in their lives.

A century ago, freshmen had no chance of blending in. They were required to wear caps on their heads, separating them from upperclassmen. When Homecoming arrived, freshmen rejoiced that they would no longer be forced to wear their caps — the inconvenient signs of juvenescence.

The night before the football game, a massive bonfire was held at Rollins Field (now Stankowski Field). Students would dance and jump, “snaking” around the fire and tossing their caps into the engulfing flames. The burning of the caps was a symbolic gesture, indicating that freshmen were no longer unfamiliar students; they were official members of MU.

The fire, on occasion, functioned as a mock funeral service for upcoming opponents. According to an article from the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, Judson Sanderson, an MU Law student, gave a commemorative speech in 1911, which detailed the death of a Jayhawk by a Tiger from the “Columbia Jungles.”

## **The Mass Meeting**

Tailgating has become a nationwide college football tradition; pregame parking lots are packed with fans that are unwilling to wait for kick-off to begin their festivities. A conglomeration of food, games and alcohol precede the collision of football pads on the field. Before the advent of the portable grill and canned beer, MU fans took a different approach to pregame hype.

Along with the first Homecoming game in 1911, "mass meetings," the equivalent of today's pep rallies, were held at Rollins Field in accordance with the bonfire. The meetings lasted up to two hours and often began with a torchlight parade. Speakers stood on stages and screamed into voice amplifiers to rally Missouri's faithful fans. In 1927, a rowdy bunch of students brought a small bear to the rally, gave it gold stripes and declared that the bear had Tiger spirit.



*Photo courtesy of Savitar, 1969*

Several former football players, celebrities and officials spoke at the meetings, such as William Warner, a former senator and a member of the Board of Curators, in 1927.

## **The Romp, Chomp, Stomp**

The 1950s saw the rise of Elvis Presley, Dizzy Gillespie and the Romp, Chomp, Stomp, a collection of skits, food and dancing during MU's Homecoming. Large crowds poured into Brewer Fieldhouse (home of the MU basketball team until 1972) to see performances from groups such as the Hellcats, a pep organization created in 1954.

The Hellcats were in charge of all pep rallies throughout the year, as well as selling mums. They performed skits and plays to entertain students and alumni. They were in charge of organizing Romp, Chomp, Stomp and the Homecoming Frolic, a dance for students the night before the football game. One activity included a tug-of-war between students.

Buffets provided all-you-can-eat food as student groups performed comical skits for alumni. A collection of artists such as Lionel Hampton, Charles Christian and Ella Fitzgerald gave vivacious performances, much to the student's delight. Romp, Chomp, Stomp became an event students anticipated all year. The day of the 1950 Homecoming football game, a *Columbia Daily Tribune* article described the events of the previous night's wild and rowdy Romp, Chomp, Stomp festivities: "A red-hot crew of jazz artists had Brewer Fieldhouse jumpin' last night with a crowd of students that didn't stop their yelling and stomping until the jam session was over."

In 1953, the "chomp" menu included barbecued ham on a bun, baked beans, ice cream and coffee. The Student Union and members of the Sophomore Council, a group of sophomore students in charge of advising freshmen and organizing events, provided the cuisine. Speakers, including Don Faurot, the Tigers' coach at the time, roused students during the anticipatory celebration.

### **A very real mascot**

In January 2010, former MSA president Tim Noce was exploring the idea of bringing a live tiger mascot to MU football games. The story garnered national attention and was even discussed on ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption*. Some critics and animal rights activists were absolutely appalled by the idea. Noce pointed out that both Louisiana State and Memphis universities have live tiger mascots, and he could have also referenced MU's history as defense.



*A live tiger is brought to an MU football game in 1926.*

A live tiger was brought to several games throughout the '20s, according to *Mizzou Wire*, but it is unclear for exactly how long. *MIZZOU* magazine says that in 1924, a tiger led the Homecoming parade. The 1925 *Savitar* shows a picture of a live Bengal tiger confined to cage, resting on the sidelines of the Missouri-Kansas Homecoming game. The tiger might have served as a tool of intimidation toward KU players and a reminder of the harsh truth of the food chain.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## Students, businesses jump into Homecoming weekend with Decorate The District

By [Bari Bates](#), [Kate Everson](#)

October 13, 2011 | 4:12 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA -- Should the fur on Truman the Tiger's belly be curly or straight?

**This might not be a question asked every day, but it generated some spirited comments outside Campus Bar & Grill on Thursday morning, when MU students began Decorate The District, a part of the centennial celebration for MU Homecoming. Emily Armstrong, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, quickly answered the question for her group as she scanned the swirls drawn on the window.**

Straight fur. Definitely.

Greek pairings, residence halls and student organizations that opted to participate in the tradition had to decorate the windows and storefronts of their assigned business in The District. Work started at 10 a.m. Thursday, and decorations will stay up until 2 p.m. Sunday. Judging will take place at about 4 p.m. Thursday.

This year, participation increased to 44 from 30 groups.

Carrie Bien, coordinator for student programs for the Mizzou Alumni Association, credits the increase to more residence hall involvement and the fact that this Homecoming tradition is an easy and inexpensive way for any student organization to get involved.

Homecoming and the weeks leading up to it are both stressful and gratifying for student participants. When asked about how many hours they had put toward Homecoming preparation, the collective answer was, simply, "too many."

"The past couple weeks, we've gotten four hours of sleep a night and done stuff during the day. But it's definitely worth it now because all the planning's paying off," said Shelby Jasper,

a member of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, who worked inside Tellers Gallery & Bar.

Organizations attacked the window project with different strategies. Some showed up with stencils and a plan, while others decided to wing it and hope the outcome turned out the way they wanted it to.

"The planning is all necessary, but it's really fun now because everyone can come out and decorate," said Sarah Ely, also in Alpha Kappa Psi.

Students put in the hours decorating, but downtown businesses also play a role in the Decorate The District event.

"We always try to get involved in campus activities. Sororities and fraternities are huge in our store and our business," Brittney Scott, manager of Red Mango, said. "It's just another great way of showing we're part of this community."

Because this year is the centennial, the stakes are higher in the competition.

"I'd say this year's a lot more intense because it's the 100th year. A lot of people want to steal that title for number one," said Caroline Tiske, a sophomore member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Students look forward to the 100-year tradition continuing and are excited to be able to look back on their participation even after graduation.

"It's cool being part of a tradition that's been around for so long. It'll be worth it when we're older and coming back here and we're like, 'Hey, by the way, we were involved in Homecoming,'" said Marie Mandelberg, a leadership adviser from Hawthorn Hall.

Ben Micek, College Avenue hall coordinator, said he felt Decorate The District was a great way to get students involved.

"New students can jump into a tradition that they can (stick) with throughout their tenure as students and beyond," he said.

## MU to live stream Homecoming game online

By [Alexandria Baca](#)

October 13, 2011 | 7:23 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — Saturday, for the first time, live streaming of the MU Homecoming football game will be available for Tiger fans without tickets.**

Online streaming of the game against Iowa State University will begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:07 p.m. The webcast will feature the same TigerVision feed shown to fans at Faurot Field with audio from the Mizzou Radio Network broadcast, according to a news release.

Subscribers of [Mizzou All-Access](#), the official online video network of MU athletics, [can view the game](#) at no additional charge. Nonsubscribers can [view the game for \\$9.95](#), the cost of a one-month subscription to Mizzou All-Access.

MU's Homecoming game was not chosen for the regular Big 12 lineup on television by its television partners, which include ABC, ESPN, Fox Sports Net and FX.

"We were told by the league after that happened we could be put on Fox College Sports as an option, a network that doesn't have much reach," MU Athletics Department spokesman Chad Moller said. He added that MU would not have received revenue from an appearance on the network. Moller said the only times available on Fox College Sports for the MU game to be shown were 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

MU wasn't interested in moving the game to 11 a.m. because it would conflict with Homecoming activities, he said. The 6 p.m. time slot seemed too late in the day.

"Since there wouldn't be any revenue from the Fox College Sports appearance, we chose to kick off at the more traditional kickoff time at 1 o'clock," Moller said. MU received permission from its television partners to stream the game online instead.

"It's something we've always wanted to look at doing, and we've never had the opportunity," Moller said. "We really have no idea what to expect."



## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

### Columbia hotels sell out for Missouri homecoming

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - Anyone hoping to book a hotel room in Columbia for the University of Missouri's 100th anniversary homecoming might try looking farther afield.

The Columbia Missourian reports all of the city's 36 hotels and their 3,500 rooms are sold out for this weekend.

Homecoming typically means big business for Columbia hotels and merchants. But bookings for this year's celebration began earlier than usual.

Both the Travelodge on Vandiver Drive and the Days Inn on I-70 Drive Southwest have been full since six months ago. The Gathering Place Bed & Breakfast has been sold out since October of last year.

Hotels are nearly full in neighboring cities, including Jefferson City. But the Best Western in Moberly -about 35 miles away - had a few rooms left early this week.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Off-the-books labor spikes in down-the-tubes economy

by **steve giegerich** [sgiegerich@post-dispatch.com](mailto:sgiegerich@post-dispatch.com) 314.340.8172 | Posted: Friday, October 14, 2011 12:00 am

It's known variously as the underground or shadow economy, getting paid under the table or working off the books.

Call it what you will, Missouri Department of Labor director Larry Rebman calls the practice unfair, illegal and another barometer reflecting the depth of the jobs crisis.

In 2008, the labor agency identified or cited 180 Missouri businesses for inaccurately reporting full-time employees as part-time workers or consultants.

In 2011, the state expects to call out nearly 6,000 companies — an increase that exceeds 3,000 percent.

It's the same nationwide. In a 2009 study, the Austrian economist Friedrich Schneider placed the value of the parallel U.S. economy at \$1 trillion.

Encompassing an estimated 8 percent of the gross domestic product, its an economic sector that extends well beyond the musicians, street vendors, sex trade workers and others fitting the off-the-books stereotype.

Asked to name some of the professions that have recently come to the Labor Department's attention, Rebman stopped short after listing janitorial, trucking, construction, manufacturing and retail.

In a downturn that has seen countless full-time employees rehired as consultants or agents or freelancers, the bottom line is that no business sector is exempt from the practice.

**"People still have to eat, even as firms lay off employees and businesses contract," said Stephen Ferris, a finance professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "So they start their own businesses, work off the books, and they become a kind of force in the entrepreneurship of poverty."**

Ferris points to a pair of factors that generally accelerate activity in the underground economy — a faltering mainstream business climate and tax hikes.

In an effort to address a line often blurred, the Labor Department placed a link on its website — [www.labor.mo.gov/offthebooks](http://www.labor.mo.gov/offthebooks) — to steer employers and employees toward the "gray areas" differentiating full-time workers from independent contractors.

The line, as demonstrated by the definition of employment advanced by the state and Internal Revenue Service, is fairly straightforward.

"Anyone who performs a service for wages is an employee if the employer can control what will be done and how it will be done," it reads. "If an employer/employee relationship exists, it does not matter what the worker or the relationship is called. The employee may be called an agent or contract labor. It does not matter how payments are measured or paid, what the payments are called, or if the employee works full or part time."

The rise in off-the-books Missouri workers can be traced in part to a Labor Department crackdown on businesses and employees working off the books.

Sensing the extent of the problem, Rebman expanded the statewide net by upgrading audits meant to flush out employers and employees working off the books.

The state soon realized it had an unintentional ally: an economy that laid exposed a fair share of violations when employees injured on the job applied for workers' compensation or displaced wage earners showing up at Missouri Career Centers seeking unemployment benefits.

Many a wounded or laid-off worker has come up short the past couple of years, Rebman notes, because a most recent employer company has failed to set aside funds on their behalf for workers' compensation and jobless insurance.

The empathetic Rebman understands how an unforgiving economy can entice a worker to take home \$10 an hour under the table compared with \$7.25 an hour after mandated payroll deductions.

The caveat, he cautions, is the hypothetical \$2.75 per hour dividend evaporating as soon as the job is stripped away or an employment-induced injury prompts a worker to seek benefits.

"At the end of the day, you're worse off," the labor agency director says.

On the business side, any and all monetary gains disappear the moment the illegal dodge comes to the attention of state or federal labor officials.

Rebman said the vast majority of businesses cited by the state have settled the matter by quietly paying restitution plus penalties that can range from \$50 to \$1,000 per day per worker.

So far this year, the state has collected \$837,000 from miscreant businesses.

A continuing pattern of infractions or particularly egregious instances of noncompliance trigger a Class A misdemeanor criminal complaint punishable by up to six months in jail and civil fines that can run as high as \$50,000.

The law notwithstanding, Rebman believes playing by the rules is a matter of basic marketplace fairness.

"When (profit) margins are this tight, how can you compete when someone else is saving 20 percent off the top?" he says. "This levels the playing field for honest Missouri businesses."

## University of Kansas ranks No. 3 in nation for basketball spending

Kansas City Business Journal by James Dornbrook, Reporter

Date: Friday, October 14, 2011, 7:35am CDT

The University of Kansas spends — and brings in — much more money on basketball than other Big 12 Conference teams in the area, according to Equality in Athletics data from the U.S. Department of Education.

The data, assembled by our affiliate, the *Memphis Business Journal*, shows KU spent \$10.98 million on its basketball program during the 2009-2010 season, the third-highest in the nation. KU spent \$1.7 million on game-day expenses (No. 10), or \$97,873 per player (No. 14).

**By comparison, the University of Missouri ranked 41st, spending \$5.3 million on basketball. Mizzou's game-day expenses rang up to \$914,211 (48th), or \$70,324 per player (35th).**

Kansas State University ranked 46th, spending \$5.1 million on basketball. K-State ranked 27th in game-day expenses — \$1.2 million — and spent \$79,917 per player (24th).

As for revenue, the Jayhawks collected \$16.1 million (No. 11). Mizzou was ranked 33rd with \$9.54 million, and K-State ranked 52nd with \$7.26 million.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## Column: Missouri needs to find a conference before the music stops

By Nate Atkins Published Oct. 14, 2011

Not a soul exists within the University of Missouri network that doesn't understand the gravity of the school's current conference alignment issue. Everyone has a dog in the fight; some bark louder than others.

But to take the fullest bite of the grave situation, one must first chew the pre-game food for thought necessary to a making a confident and informed call:

**The Factors:** Academics, money, stability, prestige, competitive outlook. These are the major headliners of breaking down a decision such as this, in a very roughly ranked order.

**The Tip of the Iceberg:** A metaphorical matchup between the Southeastern Conference and the Big 12 is what we can visualize, but Missouri doesn't need to just decipher between the two conferences. It needs to feel confident that where it is going is actually where it wants to be.

In the broad categories of money, athletics and academics, the Big Ten is certainly the ideal destination. Although the league isn't going to expand without Notre Dame's membership, one can't blame Missouri for exploring the possibility a final time (though these discussions need to take place behind closed doors.)

**The Academic Standard:** This publication has voiced many concerns regarding the academic impact of a conference switch, which is an enormous factor considering the foregrounds these athletics programs actually represent. One must also remember that academic revenue will also always outweigh athletics revenue.

In a breakdown of U.S. News & World Report college rankings, the SEC has an average ranking of 95 for 13 schools. The Big 12 boasts an average of 106 for nine schools after TCU joined this week.

Missouri would give the SEC just its fourth Association of American Universities member out of 14 schools. It would give the new Big 12 just as many.

It's clear that a move to the SEC really wouldn't impede Missouri's academic conference standing, but it also doesn't offer much improvement. Missouri has an obligation to search for that improvement.

**Wins over Record:** While contemplating Missouri's potential to win in the SEC is important, it surely cannot be a reason to join or not join. It's about the long-haul.

Programs are granted the opportunity for growth within the confines of the system. Missouri won't be an Alabama, ever, just as it won't be an Oklahoma. The idea is that a program that invests in quality leadership and system can blossom into a quality program to some degree.

**A Safe Seat:** Maybe Missouri can have more success in the Big 12. Maybe the revenue will work itself out. Or maybe the entire league will fold like a house of cards, and the Tigers will be left wondering why they didn't take the opportunities once laid before them.

Reservations about the SEC are most certainly justified: in our perfect world, Missouri would join a conference with immense academic prestige in a region defined by more than Saturdays in the fall. Ideally, Missouri is going to continue to foster a growing academic and athletic reputation, and to do so on a bigger stage yields rewards even a stable Big 12 cannot match.

Missouri can continue to play musical chairs if it wishes, but we all know what it's like to be the one without a seat when the music stops. The SEC won't have this chair open for long.

The music might not last for much longer, either.

# Water main break temporarily disrupts services at MU Student Center

By Bari Bates, Kate Everson

October 13, 2011 | 6:44 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — A water main break Thursday evening behind the MU Student Center closed restaurants and restrooms inside the center for about 30 minutes.**

The underground main was struck at about 4:30 p.m. when A-1 Party Perfect Rental was setting up posts for a party tent for an MU Homecoming event for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said Michelle Froese, spokeswoman for the MU Student Center.

“Facilities got over here right away and were able to isolate the problem,” Froese said. “I think considering the time of year and all the events going on, everyone got over here pretty quickly.”

No water made its way into the building, and no damage to the Student Center was evident.

Steven Twidwell, an MU student, was riding his bike past the student center when he noticed “a large amount of water pouring down the sidewalk and water bubbling from the ground.”

Froese said the water came up over her ankles, and Twidwell said he thought there was about 3 inches of water rushing down the sidewalk behind the Student Center.

Karlan Seville, communication manager for Campus Facilities, said repairs were under way Thursday evening and the Taste of CAFNR luncheon scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday will still be held.

Damage estimates for the water main are unknown at this time.

# THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

## Burst water pipe temporarily shuts down student center

*The north side of the student center flooded at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday.*

By Lizzie Johnson Published Oct. 14, 2011



David Wettroth/Staff Photographer

*A water main broke Thursday behind the MU Student Center after a large tent stake ruptured the pipe. Water pipes were shut down, which caused the fire alarms to sound in nearby buildings, including the Student Success Center.*

A water pipe exploded Thursday afternoon, causing a flood on the sidewalk and courtyard on the north side of the MU Student Center.

Water bursting from the pipe created a fountain effect, spewing water 1 to 2 feet in the air. The water from the burst pipe flooded the back exterior of the building and extended into the grassy area behind it. No water entered the building.

The pipe burst as a result of workers setting up stakes in the courtyard behind the MU Student Center.

“They were trying to install some stakes for tents for Homecoming weekend, and they went through one of the water pipes,” Student Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said.

Froese said she believed the tents were for the College of Agriculture's celebration.

The flow of water was stopped in approximately 20 to 30 minutes. The incident caused water pressure within the MU Student Center to drop, causing the fire alarms to go off.

“They were hammering a tarp into the ground and then there was a circle of flags that said, ‘Don’t dig here,’ but I guess they did anyways,” junior Nicki Dabney said. “The water was all the way up to the sidewalk.”

Students, staff and faculty were evacuated.

“I was up in the office doing work when the fire alarm went off,” junior Chi Yao said. “We just kind of ran off. Many of my friends were being kind of fun and making jokes. We waited outside for 10 minutes, maybe, before people started coming back inside.”

Food facilities and plumbing were shut off for about 10 minutes during the incident.

“If we had no water, we wouldn’t want to be open for safety reasons,” Dining Center manager Alan Petersen said. “We shut off our sodas, everything like that, to make sure everything was safe.”

Water pressure was restored and food facilities reopened within the student center by about 5 p.m.

Damages have not yet been determined.

## Occupy Mizzou debuts at Speakers Circle

By Celia Darrough

October 13, 2011 | 9:20 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — About 15 people gathered at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Speakers Circle at MU in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement.**

The demonstration, which was advertised on Facebook, was planned to last until 8:30 p.m. Students and former students held signs, played with hula hoops, handed out fliers and drummed on a bongo to draw attention to their cause.

Occupy Mizzou was one of 90 confirmed student protests that occurred nationwide as part of Occupy Colleges, a branch of the recent movement against the unequal distribution of wealth in the United States.

"I feel responsible to inform other people of things that they might not see on their cable news," Brendan Kadey, an MU senior, said.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there," he said. "And honestly, opening minds to new ideas is one of the only things I foresee helping Americans and the human race in general. And if standing out here with some posters is a start, it's better than not saying anything at all."

Protesters agreed their main reason to gather was their belief that corporations control the U.S. government. Some expanded the idea, saying a hierarchical system is the problem. They said it was not right for a corporation to have more influence on voting outcomes because it has more money.

"To summarize," Kadey said, "get your money out of our government."

David McRae held a sign with statistics saying the top 20 percent of the population control 80 percent of the wealth and the bottom 40 percent of the population have no way to speak up for themselves.

"People today think everyone has equal opportunity to pull themselves up by the bootstraps and make something of themselves, but if you don't have bootstraps to begin with, how are you going to pull yourself up?" McRae said.

Christine Snyder, an MU senior, said some have dismissed the movement as being made up of "homeless, jobless hippies who want the government to pay for their lives. I am not a homeless, jobless hippie."

"Look at the pictures from New York," she said. She said grandparents and even mothers with children were protesting so that their children would have a better future.

Jacob Moor, a former MU student, said it was wrong to generalize the protesters. "It's all lies and slander. It's all to try and keep the people from realizing what's really going on."

Moor, who dropped out of college for financial reasons after two and a half years and now works at Bread Basket Cafe, said he hopes that "real economic change" comes out of the protests.

Although united for a common cause, the group members had different ideas for solutions.

Kadey said because the movement is diverse; some people will believe in communism, some in socialism and some in living more simply and fishing and growing food off the land.

Kadey said he believes people should work and should not have things handed to them.

Snyder suggested taxing corporations as heavily as individuals.

Zack West, an MU sophomore, created an 18-page pamphlet called "Boycott Wall Street Permanently," a guide to creating a better economy.

West said he believes that everyone should be employed and should earn lower wages to make sure there's enough to go around and people should value resources more than they do money. He said his idea is similar to a community garden, where there is enough food for everyone.

Although the demonstrators were passionate about their cause, some passers-by said they didn't see an opportunity for the protesters to make waves because the turnout was small and held at the wrong time.

"I think it's a little silly that they're doing it at a college campus in mid-Missouri," John Lynch, an MU sophomore, said. "It's a lot different (in New York) than it is here."

Some students didn't agree with the message the protesters were trying to convey.

"Capitalism is all right," MU freshman Tim Pufundt said. "We still live in a great country."

But that didn't seem to faze the protesters.

"Deep down, we know something's wrong — people just don't know what," Kadey said. "We all know the government is corrupt. How come no one is doing anything about it?"

## Coal Free Mizzou plans to spread its message at Homecoming

By Alex Baumhardt

October 13, 2011 | 5:07 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The flash mob wearing yellow Beyond Coal shirts leapt into action as the 1991 Euro-pop hit "Get Ready for This" blasted in the background.

**The 20 or so students who converged at 12:21 p.m. Thursday on Lowry Mall wore the matching shirts given to them by the organization Coal Free Mizzou, which hosted the event.**

Sarah Johnson, president of Coal Free Mizzou, said the event was meant to draw attention to the group's Black and Gold Clean Air Initiative for Homecoming. Members also plan to participate in the Homecoming parade Saturday morning.

Coal Free Mizzou puts most of its efforts into securing a promise from MU to stop burning coal in the MU Power Plant by 2020.

Drew Stiehl of Coal Free Mizzou said Webster and Washington universities in St. Louis were transitioning from coal.

According to Webster's newspaper, The Journal, the university gets its power from a coal-powered Ameren Missouri plant. Student representatives have recently proposed that the school commits to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

Washington University and the Missouri University of Science and Technology supplement small amounts of total energy use with solar panels on several campus buildings.

Coal Free Mizzou does not promote an alternative to burning coal at the power plant, but members offered their personal thoughts.

"I'm from Illinois where about 50 percent of the state is powered by wind energy," Emma Heidorn said. "In Missouri, I think it's somewhere around 1 percent of the total energy being used by the state."

According to the American Wind Energy Association, 1 percent of Missouri's energy was provided by wind power in 2010.

A new biomass boiler at the power plant, which is set to replace one of the older coal burners next fall, would reduce MU's coal consumption by 25 percent. Johnson said it was a step in the right direction, "but there are better alternatives for Missouri like wind and solar."

Coal Free Mizzou is part of the national Beyond Coal campaign led by the Sierra Student Coalition. In a November 2010 Missourian article, the Osage chapter of the Sierra Club said it did not think burning wood biomass was a better option than coal.

"We want people to know that we want change, and we have fun," Stiehl said. "We don't just sit around crying over coal."