



## Brer Alden plays bowl game well

*Costly strings attached to potential alternatives.*

By BOB MARTIN

Sunday, December 25, 2011

**A recent Total Pro Sports article listed the University of Missouri Tigers as among 12 teams who were unfairly ignored by the BCS in the bowl selection process.**

According to the “pecking order” agreed to by all the Big 12 schools and the BCS Committee, Missouri — No. 5 in the Big 12 — should have been selected to play in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 28. Its opponent should have been California — No. 3 in the Pac-10. The payout would have been \$2.2 million per team.

Instead, the Tigers will play in the Independence Bowl and receive about half that amount. It appears they did it to us again, just like Kansas University and the Orange Bowl in 2007. Well, maybe not.

In one of Joel Chandler Harris’ classic stories, penned in 1880, Brer Rabbit pleads with Brer Fox, “Please, please don’t throw me in that Briar Patch.” Maybe MU Athletic Director Mike Alden pleaded with the Big 12, “Please, please let us go to San Diego for the Holiday Bowl, or at least give us the Pinstripe Bowl in New York City, but please, please don’t make us go back to Shreveport and the Independence Bowl.”

Last year, the BCS bowls — Orange, Rose, Fiesta, Sugar and the national championship game in Phoenix — all had payouts of \$17 million per team. It is hard to believe, but Big Lead Sports reported that Auburn, the 2011 national champion, lost \$781,825 in unsold tickets.

Connecticut playing in the Fiesta Bowl, with its \$17 million payout, lost \$1.8 million. How could this be? Ctpost.com reported from information obtained from bowl documents obtained by the University of Connecticut campus newspaper Daily Campus that the athletic department expenses amounted to \$4,280,998.00, and it received a payout from the Fiesta Bowl of \$2,523,200. The university reportedly sold only 2,771 of its allotment of 17,500 tickets. The newspaper reported the unsold tickets had a face value of \$2,924,385 (an average of \$198.55 per ticket). In addition, the travel, food and lodging cost for the 213 members of the team, coaches and administration amounted to \$681,738 for the eight days they were required to be in Glendale, Ariz. The 335 members of the band and cheerleading squad were in Arizona for only three days, but their cost of travel, lodging and food amounted to \$464,287.

Connecticut’s opponent, Oklahoma, lost \$2.2 million.

Ohio State saved its own butt by not limiting its ticket allotment to OSU friends and alumni but by opening tickets sales up to the general public.

The list goes on and on. In 2009, Virginia Tech lost \$2.2 million when it played in the Orange Bowl in Miami against Cincinnati. Another big loser that year was West Virginia, with a loss of \$1 million in its Gator Bowl game against Rutgers.

Why is this? The Nov. 5, 2010, issue of Sports Illustrated pointed out the only winners in the bowl games are the bowls themselves and the communities in which the games are played. The competitors come out on the short end because each team is allotted tickets that are paid for by the schools and resold to alumni and friends. No tickets are "comped," and none can be returned. Members of the band and cheerleaders of each school must have a ticket to attend the game even though each makes up a major portion of the entertainment before, during and after the games. The cost per ticket can vary between \$50 and \$250. By adding the cost of travel and housing during bowl week in Miami, Pasadena, Phoenix, New Orleans or other tourist locations, the universities take a big hit in addition to the tickets they might or might not sell.

So, why is the Independence Bowl a perfect place for the Tigers this year?

First, Shreveport is close enough for many families of players to travel and see their sons play. It is only 595 miles from Columbia, so a trip by the band and cheerleaders can be done almost as an overnight stay, not a week. Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi recruits can watch Missouri play in person without a negative financial impact. These reasons themselves make the Independence Bowl a better destination than San Diego or New York City. In addition, the Tigers get two extra weeks of practice to work with the younger members of the team. Participation in a bowl is almost as valuable for the extra preparation time as it is for the trip itself.

But in addition, compelling financial reasons make Shreveport the best place for the Tigers. I am not privy to the financial inner workings of the Independence Bowl, but based on a previous year, competing schools only had to commit to 50 percent of their ticket allotment. Assuming the Tigers' allotment to be 12,000 tickets, the 50 percent guarantee would be 6,000. An average ticket cost of \$50 would yield a guarantee cost of only \$300,000. By adding the additional cost of travel and lodging for the team, the administration and others who participate in this bowl, the projected \$1.5 million payout should cover the bulk of the athletic department's expense.

Congratulations to Alden for positioning the Tigers in a place that will do what a bowl game should do: reward players and their families for a successful football season, help expose the University of Missouri to future players, provide positive exposure of the other activities of student life at MU and do all of this within a reasonable cost to the university.

Maybe this time Brer Alden outfoxed the Big 12 and the BCS to boot.

Bob Martin, a 1959 graduate of the University of Missouri, was a member of the MU golf team.

# MISSOURIAN

## Independence Bowl: Truman the Tiger breaks crystal trophy

By [Harry Plumer](#)

December 26, 2011 | 4:45 p.m. CST



The shattered Independence Bowl trophy sits on a table Monday after Truman the Tiger dropped it while posing for a picture. Missouri faced North Carolina in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. | [Sarah Hoffman](#)

**SHREVEPORT, La. — The Independence Bowl trophy took a tumble during a photo opportunity with Truman the Tiger. The crystal bowl that sits atop it fell to the concrete floor and shattered after the Missouri mascot's fumble.**

It turned out OK — a local jeweler stepped up with a replacement — but it's safe to assume that Missouri running backs coach Brian Jones won't be asking Truman to teach his players about ball security any time soon.

Asked minutes after the incident what happened, Truman confirmed he broke the trophy (by nodding — mascots don't talk), and threw his paws in the air in despair. Then, he covered his eyes with his paws, indicating that he was as sorry as a college student in a Tiger suit could possibly be.

However, there was no truth to the rumor that the Tiger cried felt tears after the game.

His punishment came in the form of pushups. Over 100 of them. The Missouri offense rolled over North Carolina during the game.

Independence Bowl spokesman Patrick Meehan said MU "probably won't have to pay," for the trophy, but could not confirm.

### **Shreveport loves its bowl game**

The Independence Bowl is also Shreveport's only remaining sporting event that is above the high school level. The Shreveport-Bossier Captains, a minor league baseball team, have relocated to Laredo, Texas. The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs hockey team also closed up shop after the 2011 season. On its website, it says, "Thanks for the Memories."

The Independence Bowl is just about all Shreveport has left.

Shreveport natives Brent Sell and Mike Morales took cover from a cold rain under an LSU tent Monday afternoon as they tailgated with their families, and shared that sentiment.

"We've always supported the Independence Bowl," Sell said. "Doesn't matter who plays in it. It's college football; it doesn't get any better."

Of course, the opportunity to get out and have a good time helps bring the local residents out as well.

"Louisiana likes to eat and Louisiana likes to party," Sell said. "Out here we can do both."

The exodus of professional sports from Shreveport had one tailgater very disappointed, though.

"It's sad," Bonsall Sparks said. "People just don't buy tickets, even though the teams are good. At least we still have the bass fishermen classic."

Sparks will follow his teams out of the city in September, when the GM plant that he works at will shut down. He said he's planning on relocating to Arlington, Texas, from Shreveport, where he's lived for 30 years.

### **Tigers welcome Tigers**

There was a smattering of Missouri gold and North Carolina blue around the parking lots of Independence Stadium, but the most common color was LSU purple.

LSU took out an ad in the Shreveport Times saying, "Welcome to the SEC." The text of the ad read "From the LSU Tigers to the Missouri Tigers, good luck in the 2011 AdvoCare Independence Bowl."

"We're looking forward to having Missouri in the SEC," Sell said. "Should be a good time."

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **ANALYSIS: Missouri's higher education loan fund may be raided again**

### **NO MU Mention**

By DAVID A. LIEB/The Associated Press

December 26, 2011 | 10:54 a.m. CST

JEFFERSON CITY — The idea was creative and controversial: Missouri could take money from its student loan authority to help finance the governor's agenda for higher education.

When the idea came from Republican Gov. Matt Blunt, it was denounced by then-Attorney General Jay Nixon, a Democrat with his own aspirations for the governor's office.

Now entering his fourth year as governor, Nixon is the one thinking of taking of money from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority to help finance higher education institutions. Perhaps it's no surprise that the idea has been just as controversial when floated by Nixon's administration as it was when he opposed it.

Whereas Blunt forged ahead with his plans to target the treasurers of MOHELA for a college construction boom — and ultimately was successful in enacting legislation — it remains to be seen whether Nixon actually will incorporate the latest idea into his State of the State address in January. If he does, it's likely that some of his own words will be used against him.

Nixon initially remained silent when Blunt outlined a plan in January 2006 to sell MOHELA for a projected \$425 million to finance construction on college campuses, fund scholarships, endow professorships and commercialize university research.

But when the MOHELA board endorsed a revised plan a few days later — offering to sell half its assets to generate \$450 million over several years — Nixon quickly began raising concerns about the "troubling lack of transparency."

He then sued MOHELA, claiming it violated the state's open meetings law in its rush to develop and approve an alternative to Blunt's plan.

Blunt's proposal got bogged down in the Legislature and court and underwent numerous revisions. As the MOHELA board prepared to vote on one of those drafts in September 2006, Nixon sent the agency a letter blasting the "ill-conceived" plan and suggesting it might be illegal for a variety of reasons.

Legislators ultimately passed a bill in May 2007 that directed MOHELA to pay \$350 million to the state over several years to finance dozens of building projects at public colleges and universities. Nixon sent Blunt a letter urging him to veto it.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars are being raided from the state's trust fund for low-cost student loans, and the real needs and concerns of students and their parents have been ignored," Nixon wrote in a letter dated May 22, 2007.

Nixon went to assert that "every penny" MOHELA has "should be used to benefit students in the form of low-cost loans." Yet legislation results in "the confiscation of MOHELA's assets," Nixon said at a later point in the letter.

Blunt disregarded Nixon's concerns, signed the bill into law, and traveled the state promoting it.

A few months later, MOHELA made an initial \$230 million payment to the state. That money has helped repair and construct various buildings on college campuses. But it wasn't long before the loan agency encountered financial strains because of a national credit market crisis and changes in federal student loan policies.

The MOHELA board decided in 2008 to exercise a clause in the new law that allowed it to skip its state payments if making them would put the agency at financial risk.

The student loan agency has continued to postpone its payments on Blunt's college construction plan. Since Nixon took office in January 2009, he has scuttled legislative attempts to direct money toward the building plan, often citing the tight state budget. Nixon has, nonetheless, tapped MOHELA to provide tens of millions of dollars to offset a portion of his budget cuts to college scholarship programs.

All that served as background for Nixon's latest idea, which leaked out in December after it was shared with some university officials. The idea — which Nixon's administration says is not firm enough to be a plan or proposal — would call for five of the state's largest universities to transfer \$106 million from their reserves to the state so that Missouri could avoid making

deep cuts to the core budgets for higher education institutions in the 2013 fiscal year. The university reserves would then be replenished over several years with money from MOHELA.

Nixon's budget director, Linda Luebbering, explained that the \$106 million figure was intended to match the amount MOHELA already owes under Blunt's college construction plan. The money would instead be diverted to Nixon's university financing plan.

Nixon spokesman Sam Murphey said there was a significant difference between Blunt's plan and Nixon's idea. The implication was that Blunt's plan altered MOHELA's mission whereas Nixon's did not.

"This was one preliminary idea being discussed at the staff level to preserve base funding for colleges and universities while also maintaining funding (for) student scholarships," Murphey said. "That is a priority fully consistent with the purpose of MOHELA."

Ken Warren, a political science professor at Saint Louis University, says Nixon's idea to tap into MOHELA's money illustrates a couple of political realities.

One: "It's always been common for politicians to flip-flop," Warren said.

He cites the example of President Barack Obama's pledge as a candidate to close the Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention facility, contrasted with the fact that it remains open today, because Obama was unable to secure support for placing the suspected terrorists anywhere in the U.S.

That leads to Warren's second point: "It's often been said that there's a big difference between being a candidate and being the officeholder."

# Missourinet

## Coupons to save after holiday spending

December 27, 2011 By [Allison Blood](#)

The holidays can leave families with empty wallets after cooking big meals and buying gifts.

**University of Missouri Chair of the Personal Financial Planning department says coupons can sometimes do as much damage as good, if they're not used properly. Robert Weagley says before clipping though the Sunday paper, people need to make a plan for saving.**

He says one way to do that is to make a list of things you buy every time you go to the grocery store, and then search online or in local papers for coupons for those items. He says to also look for local stores that allow "stacking coupons," or using a manufacturer coupon and a store coupon for compound savings.

Weagley says there were 2.6 billion coupons used in 2008, but there were 4.6 used in 1999. He says 2009 was better than that. He says it could be due to people losing their jobs and needing to make ends meet, or it could be due to shows like "Extreme Couponing" that show people getting hundreds of dollars in groceries for almost no money.

## Broken glass in MU dorm leads to lawsuit

By Janese Silvey, Friday, December 23, 2011

**An Illinois man is suing the University of Missouri's Board of Curators after he fell into a glass pane at Laws Residence Hall on the MU campus last spring.**

Adam Stefanek was a freshman at the time of the incident. He's still listed in the campus directory, but attorney Ron Netemeyer said he is not currently enrolled.

Stefanek was on his way to his dorm room April 8 when he leaned his back against a window in the lobby. The glass shattered and fell on him, injuring his head, back and legs, the lawsuit says.

Netemeyer described the window as more of a glassed-in area in a high-traffic entryway, a spot where he said it would seem natural to lean.

"It should stand up to that anticipated type of exposure," he said. "But the biggest problem is it wasn't safety-tempered glass; it was plate glass. And plate glass is a very dangerous thing, especially when you use it architecturally in a glass wall situation."

Stefanek "suffered horrible injuries" and substantial scarring and has undergone surgeries, Netemeyer said.

He also has "been prevented from performing and enjoying his normal tasks, chores and hobbies and will in the future continue to be deprived of his enjoyment of life," the petition says.

University administrators do not comment on pending litigation.

The MU Police Department has the incident on record. According to that report, an officer responded to a group of people who were trying to help Stefanek at 2:50 a.m. April 8, Capt. Brian Weimer said.

"He had a blood-soaked cloth around his head, and his shirt appeared to have blood," Weimer said, reading from the report.

Police at that point called an ambulance and turned the incident over to emergency crews.

Netemeyer filed the suit in Boone County Circuit Court this week. It cites one charge of negligence, accusing MU of failing to properly maintain the window. The university also had "actual and constructive notice that the type of glass in the window is prone to breaking," the petition says.

The suit is asking a judge to award medical expenses and compensate Stefanek for damages, though it does not specify an amount.

## MU student's master's thesis ice cream gets two screams

By ROBERT A. CRONKLETON

As part of her graduate work at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Liz Fenner had to eat a lot of ice cream.

But it wasn't just any ice cream.

Fenner created a dual-flavor version for her master's thesis in food science. It starts out as vanilla and then "you experience a slight burst of cherry," said Fenner, who graduated this month from MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Fenner had to figure out how to encapsulate one flavor to delay its release. She won't go into much detail. "I'm kind of keeping the actual ingredients a secret right now because we are talking about a patent for it," she said.

She chose vanilla because it "doesn't mask other flavors." "We chose cherry — well, cherry happens to be one of my favorite flavors," she said. "Also, it is a very simple flavor."

More complex flavors like chocolate, she said, consist of hundreds of compounds.

Fenner, who is from Weatherby Lake, comes from a family that has been involved in the food industry for at least four generations. Her great-grandfather ran a dairy in St. Joseph. Her grandfather owned a small food ingredient company in St. Joseph. And her father worked in finance for a food ingredient company in Chicago.

"I really got interested in it (food sciences) in middle school," she said. "My dad would take me up to the company he worked for and I would kind of intern and get to experience food science and labs and stuff during the summers."

She learned a lot about how foods are made and what goes into them — including the ingredients on labels that are just gobbledygook to most people.

I could tell all my friends about that, what they do and why they are added," Fenner said. "It was really fun to learn and it was a very good experience for me." Fenner worked on the dual-flavor ice cream with her adviser, Ingolf Gruen, associate professor of food chemistry.

The idea mostly came from Fenner, Gruen said in an email interview. “The significance is simply that hopefully in the future we may have more interesting flavors for ice cream, i.e. flavors that change while the ice cream is consumed,” he said. “There is not much more significance to it than ‘being fun,’ similar to having pumpkin- or eggnog-flavored ice cream over the holidays.” Gruen said Fenner has what it takes — an understanding of science combined with imagination, creativity and tenacity — to become an excellent product developer.

One of the biggest challenges she faced was timing: When people eat ice cream, it’s only in the mouth for a few seconds.“

It is a very fast ingestion and we had to consider the melting point of ice cream in the mouth and other factors relating to that,” Fenner said. She had to find the right material to encapsulate the second flavor. The capsules had to be a certain thickness and manipulated to release the flavor at the right moment.“

We had to play around with it a little bit before we found one that worked well and didn’t dissolve within the ice cream mix and didn’t dissolve during processing and subsequent storage, but only dissolved in the mouth,” she said.

Taste testers gave the ice cream a thumbs-up, Fenner said.“It still needs a little tweaking, so it is not ready to be mass-produced,” she said. “But at this point, it is a very good product.”

One remaining issue is how to produce the capsules in bulk.

“At the moment it takes about an entire morning to make enough capsules for a half gallon of ice cream,” Gruen said. “Considering labor costs, that would be a very expensive ice cream if we tried to sell it.”

In other words, don’t go looking for it in your grocer’s freezer case just yet.

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# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **ATO fraternity hopes to put disreputable past aside, revive chapter at MU**

By Emily Becker

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COLUMBIA — Creighton Hayes remembers sitting with his father, flipping through the photo album of his dad's years as a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

As they turned the pages, William Hayes would tell his son stories about serving as president of the Pi chapter at the University of Tennessee.

Bill Hayes died when Creighton Hayes was 9, but those three letters – ATO – **were a special part of the boy's alphabet when he started at MU this year.**

**That's when he decided to resurrect some of his father's legacy. He became the president of a new ATO colony on campus. A colony is the first organizational step toward becoming a fraternity chapter. Members participate in meetings, fundraising and other activities but do not have full membership status.**

**The death of MU's old Alpha Tau Omega happened Dec. 15, 2008. The fraternity had been a presence on campus for more than 100 years.**

But after a decade of repeated policy violations and displays of behavior that both MU and ATO's national organization deemed inappropriate and irresponsible, it lost its recognition as a student organization.

This year, after a five-semester absence, echoes of ATO's old reputation are still heard around Greektown, even as 56 young men — the largest colony in ATO's national history — work to restore its name on campus.

Greek organizations are subject to both state and university policies. ATO's attempted return, for example, comes just as a campus policy change allows fraternities to decide if members

who are 21 can consume alcohol in fraternity houses. (National policies of the sororities on campus do not allow alcohol in their houses.)

ATO had run afoul of university policies in the past, including admitted hazing in 1999 and a party in 1997 that ended with members dumping garbage on Presidential Drive.

But the fraternity drew even greater attention in November 2006 during its annual "cornjigger" party, held that year at Lakeview Resort in the Lake of the Ozarks.

The morning after the party, rooms were found vandalized, and barbecue grills were floating in the lake. Damage from the party was estimated at \$11,000.

ATO agreed to pay for the damage and accept other sanctions from the university. But conduct code violations continued. ATO gained a reputation as a house that really liked to party.

The responsibility to govern fraternities and sororities falls to the Office of Greek Life. When a complaint is filed against a chapter, an investigation is conducted. If the complaint is valid, sanctions are issued against the chapter.

Julie Drury, senior coordinator of MU Greek Life, said that in December 2008, ATO's national organization agreed that the best course of action was to close the MU chapter, hoping it could come back stronger in a few years.

"Unfortunately, sometimes it's necessary to take breaks like that, and the national organization was very much on the same page," Drury said.

Even as the chapter closed its doors, fraternity officials had their sights set on a return as soon it had served its five-semester sanction.

"It was a no-brainer to say we're coming back; it's only going to be a matter of time," said William Filmore, a leadership consultant for the national fraternity.

"We're not in the business to close down a chapter that's been started, but the fraternity does recognize that there are times when there's a chapter that is not doing the things we encourage them to do."

Talks to bring ATO back to MU began in spring semester. This fall, Filmore and a fellow leadership consultant, Jordan Fischette, came to Columbia to begin building an entirely new ATO chapter.

About 2,000 MU students attended informational sessions, received emails and went to lunch with Filmore and Fischette to talk about helping to revive the fraternity.

From there, Filmore and Fischette set up meetings with those who remained interested. Each potential member was evaluated on his involvement on campus or in high school, GPA and plans for the future.

They were scouting for a core group of young men who would focus on moving the fraternity forward.

The hard-partying stereotype of the Greek system on any campus was codified in the 1978 movie, "Animal House," with its defiance of authority and signature yell: "Toga! Toga! Toga!"

So, when a real fraternity participates in similar behavior, the stereotype is reinforced. If a fraternity with a splotchy past hopes to restart a colony, many write the effort off as a joke.

"Everyone that's on campus only knows the past," said Creighton Hayes, who was selected to lead the new ATO.

"We have some work to do, but not total reconstruction. This is a new focus and new guys."

The fraternity will function as a colony until it meets the requirements to apply to be recognized as a full chapter. Now that the national leadership consultants have left, it is up to Hayes, as president, to guide the colony through that process.

Among the requirements: creating a signature philanthropic event and having colony members complete 15 hours of community service every semester. The colony must maintain an average GPA of at least 2.8 out of 4.0.

This process typically takes a year. This past semester, the ATO colony hosted a brotherhood retreat, participated in intramural sports and joined the Intrafraternity Council, the governing council of fraternities on campus. The group plans to participate in Greek Week in the spring.

Hayes wants to complete the requirements for chapter application by the end of the spring semester.

The first verb of the creed of ATO is "to bind." Before signing to ATO, each potential member was asked to read this creed and to decide whether it was something he could live up to – even as they live down the fraternity's past at MU.

“If you look at us as an organization right now, we’re a typical group of guys,” said colony chaplain Kyle Fitzpatrick. “In 30 years from now, when I come back, everything’s going to be different, but I’ll be able to say I was part of this when it started.”

The national fraternity puts a strong focus on leadership development. ATO hosts four national conferences each year; its most popular has grown from an ATO-only workshop to a weeklong co-ed program.

This emphasis and the chance to recreate the organization were two major draws for members.

“I didn’t think (pledging a fraternity) was really for me,” said vice president Zac Revermann. “A lot of it was the opportunity to start something new and base it on our own beliefs instead of what somebody had already set up.”

Without a central gathering place – a physical house – the fraternity lacks the opportunity to create the community that comes from seeing brothers on a daily basis.

The earliest the group can move into a house is a year after becoming a chapter. Until then, ATO must create the atmosphere of a house through other activities, such as watching "Sunday Night Football" together in the Student Center after a colony meeting.

“The people you meet from this are the people that you’re going to know for the rest of your life when you’re looking for a job or he’ll be the best man at your wedding,” Fitzpatrick said.

In Hayes’ closet at home in Pennsylvania hangs a hooded gold-and-blue ATO sweatshirt. It belonged to his father.

When he was little, the younger Hayes would wear it around the house, the sleeves dragging on the ground.

Today, the sweatshirt is a little snug. But for Creighton Hayes, the letters are the right fit.