New press will resolve book rights issues

By Janese Silvey

University of Missouri administrators aren't sure yet what they're going to do about authors who want the rights to their books back after the university announced changes to the UM Press.

The latest is John Shelton Reed, who has written 19 books, five of which were published through the UM Press. Yesterday, he sent a letter to system administrators asking that the rights to all of them be returned.

"It may be that I do not need to ask, since it appears that the press with which I signed contracts will soon no longer exist," he wrote.

UM President Tim Wolfe announced in late May that the UM Press would be phased out starting July 1. MU announced this week the creation of a new press that will combine publishing functions with teaching.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said it will be up to those at the new press to determine whether to relinquish rights but that a decision has not been made. If rights aren't returned, it might become a legal matter, which would send the issue back to the UM System.

Reed told the Tribune he does not want to be associated with the new press because he does not believe it will be an authentic university publishing house.

Author Don Spivey also asked that rights to his biography of Satchel Paige be returned after learning details of the new press.

"Incidentally, I've heard from other authors who are interested in doing the same thing," Reed said. "We may have a whole bunch of us who want to get released from our contracts."

The university also is poised to lose out on what had been a spring 2013 list of books now being snatched up by other publishing houses, including Macmillan Publishers, Oxford University Press and Rutgers University Press, among others, said Clair Willcox, editor-in-chief of the UM Press. Former Missouri Congressman Ike Skelton is taking his memoirs elsewhere as well.

Meanwhile, Speer Morgan, an English professor who has been named director of the new press, has begun the search for an editor-in-chief. In a query letter to potential candidates, he said the backlist of books generates about $800,000 a year, but that figure would decrease if authors are released from their contracts.
Wolfe has said the UM Press needs to close because it requires a $400,000 subsidy from the system. It’s unclear whether the new model will be less expensive, especially if rights are relinquished and book revenue drops.

Ten employees are expected to be fired and replaced by three who will partly serve as faculty members. The new editor-in-chief will be paid $110,000, Morgan said in his letter. Willcox makes $63,579.

The announcement of a new model for the press has fueled an already-angry group of authors, publishers and observers from across the country. A petition calling on Wolfe to reverse the decision had about 5,000 signatures by this morning, and critics plan to meet at the MU Student Center at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

"We are going through a 'perfect storm' of bad publicity at the moment due to the fact that the management of the transition was done so awkwardly," Morgan wrote in his letter. "Aside from that, which I believe is beginning to calm down, it will be a completely renewed operation which will allow the new editor to redefine the press."

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Mixed results for efforts to ban books in Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Recent efforts to restrict Missouri students' classroom or library access to certain books have met with mixed results, new research by the University of Missouri School of Journalism shows.

The Columbia Missourian reports bans or restrictions have been considered on more than 50 books in 32 Missouri school districts since 2008. Graduate journalism students relied on more than 560 public records requests to compile the data.

The banned books include Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse-Five" in Republic, though the district later reversed its decision. In another case, a parent in the Jackson school district unsuccessfully sought a ban on "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. And in Camdenton, Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" was removed as required reading in an honors English class but remained on the school's library shelves.

Twelve of the 53 documented challenges resulted in a book's removal, with another 11 challenges resulting in restrictions. Twenty-nine challenges were unsuccessful. The result of one challenge wasn't reported. The North Kansas City school district reported seven challenges, the highest number among districts to respond. Seventy-one of the students' 566 Sunshine Law requests to each of the state's local school districts went unanswered.

The reasons for book challenges include concern over sexual themes and language, violent content, racial slurs and religious references. Other taboo topics involved self-injury, drugs and alcohol.

Nationwide, the American Library Association lists 1,647 book challenges from 2008 through 2011 and more than 6,300 over the past two decades. Most involved K-12 schools, but others involved books in prisons, theaters, museums and university libraries.
Lawmaker slams Gary Pinkel

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- A state lawmaker took Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel to task Thursday for his recent defense of former Penn State coach Joe Paterno as "a great man."

State Rep. Sara Lampe issued a statement Thursday criticizing what she called the "Mizzou coach's defense of a child rapist enabler." Lampe is a Springfield Democrat seeking her party’s nomination for lieutenant governor in an eight-candidate primary election on Aug. 7.

Pinkel defended Paterno on Tuesday while speaking with reporters at the Southeastern Conference's preseason football event. He called the Penn State sex abuse scandal a "tragic situation," but said Paterno's legacy shouldn't be tarnished by the actions of Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno's former top assistant coach is awaiting sentencing after being convicted last month of sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years. Paterno died in January of lung cancer at age 85.

"Joe Paterno's a friend that I got to know professionally, and you can't take away the greatness of this man," Pinkel said. "He was a great man. However you analyze this, you can't erase all that this guy's done. You can't do that. Nobody can do that."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Lampe said she felt compelled to speak out after hearing Pinkel's "revered comments."

"I believe Coach Pinkel was using his public voice to do what's right, and I'm doing the same," said Lampe, a former high school teacher and principal. "I have spent 30 years standing up for children."

Lampe said she read an executive summary of the 267-page report by former FBI director Louis Freeh, which was released on July 12. In it, Freeh concluded that Paterno, ousted Penn State president Graham Spanier, athletic director Tim Curley and other top officials ignored child sex abuse allegations against Sandusky more than a decade ago to avoid bad publicity.

Pinkel said last week that "I don't read a lot about it," and seemingly dismissed the investigation during his remarks Tuesday as a case of people who "are going to point fingers."
"It's so easy in hindsight to go back there and say what it is," Pinkel said. "But don't take away all this guy did, and to sit there and blame him for all this, I think is wrong."

Lampe said that by Thursday afternoon, she already had been excoriated for her strong words. Her statement lumped Pinkel in among "all but the most sycophantic of Paterno worshippers" who still defend the late Penn State coach despite the report's findings.

Freeh and his team, which included lawyers and former law enforcement officials, interviewed more than 430 people and examined more than 3.5 million emails, handwritten notes and other documents. Paterno died before he could be interviewed, but testified before a grand jury.

"Coach Pinkel's defense of the indefensible indicates that he holds the same attitude that allowed the reprehensible situation at Penn State to occur; the attitude that building a successful football program is more important than everything else, including protecting innocent children from rapists," Lampe's statement said.

Missouri football spokesman Chad Moller said that Pinkel and the university would not comment on Lampe's remarks.
State representative chastises Pinkel for Paterno comments

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

Missouri state representative Sara Lampe, a Springfield Democrat who is running for lieutenant governor, criticized Missouri coach Gary Pinkel’s comments about the Penn State scandal in a strongly worded statement Thursday.

Pinkel told reporters Tuesday at SEC Media Days that he counted former Penn State coach Joe Paterno, who died in January, as a friend and wants the good he did to be recalled.

“It’s such a tragedy,” Pinkel said. “... And however you analyze this, you can’t erase all that this guy has done. You can’t do that. Nobody can do that.

“I don’t read a lot about it, but there’s certainly lessons to be learned by everybody.”

That drew a harsh response from Lampe, who cited last week’s report by former FBI director Louis Freeh that said Paterno was among four Penn State administrators who covered up allegations against Jerry Sandusky, who was convicted last month of sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period.

“University of Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel on Tuesday called the late Penn State football coach Joe Paterno a ‘great football coach’ and a ‘great man,’ ” Lampe’s statement read. “Paterno may have been a great coach, but as a man he failed at what mattered — protecting children from a sexual predator.

“... Coach Paterno protected and covered up for a serial child rapist and in doing so enabled him to keep raping children for another decade. A great man never would have done such a foul thing. That a great football coach did should be disturbing to everyone.

“Coach Pinkel’s defense of the indefensible indicates that he holds the same attitude that allowed the reprehensible situation at Penn State to occur; the attitude that building a successful football program is more important than everything else, including protecting innocent children from rapists.”

Later Thursday, Lampe spoke during a contentious 45-minute interview with Kevin Slaten, a radio host on KFNS-AM in St. Louis, who took issue with Lampe’s statement. In the interview, Lampe acknowledged she did not read the Freeh Report in full.

“I read a summary of the report, and I also heard the news reports of that report,” Lampe said. “My conclusion from that is the reason I made the statement I made.”
Slaten said there was nothing in the Freeh’s report that suggested Paterno enabled child molestation and said Lampe issued a statement to curry favor in the upcoming election.

“This has nothing to do with the fact I’m running for public office,” Lampe said. “This has everything to do with me standing up for children.”

Toward the end of the interview, Lampe said she would consider issuing a retraction after numerous requests from Slaten. But Lampe also said she had received some “really great support from people who support children’s rights” because of her statement.

“I’ll think about what you said and let you know,” Lampe told Slaten.
Editorial: Coach Pinkel defends Joe Paterno. What about the victims?

By the Editorial Board | Posted: Friday, July 20, 2012 12:10 am | (0) comments.

The now-controversial statue of Joe Paterno outside Penn State University's stadium. One suggestion has been to turn it so it's looking the other way. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Those who worry that priorities are out of whack at the University of Missouri-Columbia cannot have been reassured by the remarks offered Tuesday by Gary Pinkel, Mizzou's head football coach, in defense of the late Joe Paterno.

That Mr. Pinkel was in Birmingham, Ala., representing the university at its first Southeastern Conference "Media Days" event only adds to the sense of foreboding. Mizzou's decision last fall to join the SEC — where football is king and nobody apologizes for it — was an ominous sign of growing power of the athletic department in Columbia.

Chatting with a small group of reporters on Tuesday, Mr. Pinkel was asked about the release last week of a report by former FBI Director Louis Freeh's law firm into the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State University. Jerry Sandusky, a former assistant coach, was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pa., on June 22 of sexually assaulting 10 boys over a 15-year period.

"It's such a tragedy," Mr. Pinkel said. "Joe Paterno is a friend. I got to know him professionally. You can't take away the greatness of this man. He was a great man. And however you analyze this, you can't erase all that this guy has done. You can't do that. Nobody can do that."

He went on to say, "I'm sure he would maybe, if he did it over again, he'd follow up a few things. But don't take away all this guy did, and sit around blaming him for all this."
The Freeh Report named Mr. Paterno, who coached the Nittany Lions for nearly 46 years before being fired in 2011, as having been one of four university officials who had "failed to protect against a child sexual predator harming children for over a decade. These men concealed Sandusky's activities from the Board of Trustees, the University community and authorities. They exhibited a striking lack of empathy for Sandusky's victims."

The 267-page report notes that time and again, university officials avoided reporting Sandusky's behavior to authorities, as they were obliged to do under the federal Clery Act and the state's child protection law.

The report notes concern for the university's reputation and that of the football team. But at no point did anyone express any concern for the well-being of the children involved.

Neither did Mr. Pinkel. Jerry Sandusky raped little boys. What about them?

Mr. Paterno — who died in January, two months after being fired — was a legend in the coaching profession, more concerned with integrity and the welfare of his players than many coaches.

He had become a god on the Penn State campus. A janitor who witnessed one of Sandusky's assaults was asked by Mr. Freeh's investigators why he didn't inform Mr. Paterno: "I know Paterno had so much power, if he wanted to get rid of someone, I'd be gone," he said, explaining that "football runs this university" and that he feared the university would close ranks to protect the program.

Well, he got that right.

No one is arguing that Mizzou is headed for a Penn State-like scandal. But when college administrators, seduced by television dollars and buffaloes by powerful alumni, surrender institutional authority to tunnel-visioned coaches and ambitious athletic directors, bad things will happen. Count on it.
Sex scenes in movies influence teens' sexual behavior, new research suggests.

In the study, U.S. researchers analyzed the sexual content of hundreds of top-grossing movies released between 1998 and 2004, and then asked more than 1,200 kids, aged 12 to 14, which of the movies they had seen.

Six years later, the participants were surveyed to find out how old they were when they became sexually active and whether they engaged in risky sexual behaviors, such as not using condoms consistently and having multiple partners.

Teens who were exposed to more sexual content in movies started having sex at younger ages, had more sex partners and were less likely to use condoms with casual sex partners, according to the study authors.

In an attempt to determine how sex scenes in movies can affect teens' sexual behavior, the researchers focused on a personality trait called sensation-seeking. This trait, which peaks between the ages of 10 and 15, refers to a tendency to seek new and intense forms of stimulation.

The study, which is scheduled for publication in the journal Psychological Science, found that greater exposure to sexual content in movies at a young age led to a higher peak of sensation-seeking in adolescents. Among kids who are exposed to sex scenes in movies, sensation-seeking sexual behavior can last well into the late teens and even into the early 20s, the investigators found.

"These movies appear to fundamentally influence their personality through changes in sensation-seeking, which has far-reaching implications for all of their risk-taking behaviors," Ross O'Hara, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri, said in a news release from the Association for Psychological Science.

O'Hara conducted the study with other psychological researchers while at Dartmouth College.
Sensation-seeking alone does not entirely explain how sexual content in movies influences teens' sexual behavior, according to O'Hara and colleagues. They suggested that teens learn specific behaviors from sex scenes in movies. For example, many teens use movies to acquire "sexual scripts" that provide them with examples of how to behave when dealing with complicated emotional situations.

While the study authors pointed out that the research does not prove a direct causal effect of movies on sexual behavior, the study "strongly suggests that parents need to restrict their children from seeing sexual content in movies at young ages," O'Hara concluded in the news release.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

New section of Hospital Drive opens at 5:30 p.m. Thursday

By Leah Beane
July 19, 2012 | 5:09 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The section of Hospital Drive between College Avenue and Monk Drive will open at 5:30 p.m. Thursday after being closed for construction. Traffic lights have been installed at College Avenue.

The next phase of the project will close Hospital Drive between the University Hospital ambulance exit and Monk Drive on Friday. This section is scheduled to reopen Aug. 7. Visitors to University Hospital can use Monk Drive to reach the Patient and Visitor Parking Garage and the front circle drive, according to an MU release.

Construction at the intersection of College Avenue with the old Hospital Drive and Ashland Road is scheduled to be finished Nov. 15 after the installation of chilled water lines, according to MU Campus Facilities’ Campus Construction Projects map. The stoplights at the intersection will be flashing yellow.

Supervising editor is Jake Kreinberg.
Weird & Wild: Train the Scat-Sniffing Dog

Like lots of other dogs, Train the Chesapeake Bay retriever sniffs poop. But unlike most canines, Train has a special reason for seeking out scat—helping scientists figure out populations and movements of Argentine animals.

National Geographic grantee Karen DeMatteo helped train the dog on command to repeatedly and reliably locate the scents of several species of forest predators, many of which are declining in number due to fragmented habitats, illegal hunting, and roadkills.

DeMatteo, a biologist at the University of Missouri at Columbia, brought Train to National Geographic headquarters last week to talk about her research—and, of course, give us office workers a bit of a pet pick-me-up.

As Train trotted around the room panting, bell jingling, DeMatteo told us how habitats in Misiones, Argentina have become fragmented due to changes in land use, especially agricultural practices such as pine plantations.

That’s not good for some species—such as jaguars, pumas, ocelots, bush dogs, and little spotted cats—which depend on large swaths of territory to locate mates and prey. So biologists like DeMatteo want to figure out both how the carnivores are negotiating these “islands” of habitat, and also identify possible corridors that could allow them to move freely and minimize contact with people and roads.

Where’s the Poop?

For her research, DeMatteo could’ve used standard survey technology, such as radio telemetry, camera traps, or hair traps, to get information on the species, but all of those have weaknesses, she said. For example, an animal could avoid the part of the forest where the camera is set up. A better option, DeMatteo said, would be to find what the animals leave behind in the forest—their scat.

“The question becomes, how do you find it? That’s a really big forest, and scat’s not always really visible,” she told us.
The answer is detection dogs like Train, which “takes advantage of a domestic dog’s incredibly extraordinary sense of smell,” she said.

Scat-sniffing dogs are like drug-sniffing dogs trained for law enforcement, except “instead of presenting cocaine and marijuana, we present jaguar and puma—not just the animal,” DeMatteo quipped.

**Forest Predators Revealed**

So far, DeMatteo has taken Train into Argentina for two research trips—one in 2009, which surveyed nine regions and identified 192 scat samples, and most recently in 2011, when the duo searched 14 protected areas and found 289 scats.

The key findings of the 2011 study reveal where certain species roam. For instance, the scat revealed that shy jaguars never stray outside protected areas, but that puma and little spotted cats live in both altered habitat—such as farmland—and protected areas, suggesting they’re more flexible in their habitat choices.

DeMatteo also got some of the first data on the “notoriously difficult to study” bush dog. She discovered the small, bear-like predator is also flexible in its habitat, living in environments as diverse as the Amazon rain forest and grasslands.

DeMatteo will also take the scat data, combine it with GPS and spatial mapping locations of where the scat was found, and figure out each species’ habitat use and movement patterns. This, in turn, should tell her which areas would be best to create corridors between the isolated sections of habitat.

During the visit, we were treated to a scat-sniffing demonstration. DeMatteo brought some small sachets of puma scat and asked a few of us to hide them throughout the auditorium, and then let an excited Train loose. When he found a sachet, he’d sit and stare with his ears up and tail wagging, waiting for his reward—a friendly tug-of-war with a tennis ball.