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MISSOURIAN

MU's Patriot Day barbecue honors veterans

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BY LEXIE CARTEE

COLUMBIA — Tears filled Joe Collins' eyes as he remembered the images on TV of the hijacked planes flying into the towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I thought it was a mind game. It wasn't until the drill sergeants turned on the TV that I knew it was true," Collins said.

"I don't try to reflect back on it."

On the day of the attacks, Collins was attending Army basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. Since the attacks, he has served two deployments to Iraq.

Collins now works as a user support analyst for the Missouri School of Journalism. He attended the Patriot Day barbecue on Francis Quadrangle at MU on Tuesday evening with his wife, Melissa Collins, and their 2-year-old daughter, Caitlin.

"I think it's a fun event because it brings not only our most recent vets together but others from other wars. It's a nice camaraderie," Melissa Collins said.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and his wife, Anne Deaton, opened their home for the first ever Patriot Day Barbecue. A group of musicians called Boone County Fire Protection District Pipes and Drums played a medley of military songs.

But 6-year-old Aidan Edmonds' favorite part of the barbecue was getting to see Truman the Tiger.

His father, Matt Edmonds, served in New York City on 9/11. He is now an undergraduate student at MU studying electrical engineering.

"It was really welcoming for my family to see where I am," Matt Edmonds said.

Jazz music and the smell of barbecue made for a relaxed atmosphere as veterans and their families conversed about how the country has progressed in the 11 years since the attacks.

"Over the last few years, it is not quite as much of a focus on the loss as it is a celebration of the heroism," said Nicole Johnson, the wife of a veteran graduate student at MU.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Rehiring UM Press editor is only way to move forward

By Paul Wallace

September 11, 2012 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

Fired University of Missouri Press editor Clair Willcox IS the issue although the MU administration has yet to recognize reality. The financial success of the press depends on the more than 40 authors still demanding the rights to their books reversing their decision. The Save the UM Press Coalition has made Willcox's reinstatement its prime condition as have most of the authors.

Administrators who first eliminated the press now have reversed that decision. Legitimacy has to be reestablished with both the authors who contribute their manuscripts to the UM Press as well as faculty and other interested parties who oppose the action for a number of reasons. Bringing the sacked editor back sends the clearest message to the authors, who are the major assets of the press, that professionalism in publishing and marketing will be maintained. It also will send a message to the faculty that they will be consulted and involved in academic decision making.

I can attest to Willcox's professionalism having served for three years as a faculty member overseeing the press and as chair of the faculty oversight committee in my final year. His interactions with our committee, then representing all four campuses, were sensitively authoritative. He had a deep knowledge of each manuscript as well as the ability to clearly explain the pluses and minuses of each reviewer. These evaluations include the academic quality, its importance to Missouri when that is relevant, and its marketability. Any editor must establish a personal, professional relationship with the authors that enhance the probability that the manuscript will be submitted to the press. These are attributes that necessitate appropriate training, experience and time. Willcox meets these criteria.

A new editor beginning with the fiasco of ending the Press and firing all its employees would be severely handicapped. Can the fired employees be hired back? Could he or she bring back the over 40 authors who asked that their publications or manuscripts be withdrawn from the

press? These are the crucial assets of the press. Without a critical number of publications, a press cannot continue. Finally, restoring the experienced and successful editor also recognizes that the faculty is a significant part of the decision-making process. Rehiring Willcox is not simply a personnel decision; it is an essential part of restoring the legitimacy of all concerned.

Paul Wallace is a professor emeritus of political science at MU and a former member of the faculty oversight committee for the UM Press. Questions? Contact Opinion editor Elizabeth Conner.



MU gets \$254K to study Hinkson cleanup

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The state has awarded the University of Missouri-Columbia nearly \$254,000 to study pollution prevention in a creek that runs through part of the city.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources says the study will focus on the effectiveness of practices for preventing pollution of Hinkson Creek.

The DNR says the university is also providing about \$170,000 for the project, which is expected to be finished by early 2014.

Hinkson Creek has been in violation of federal clean water standards, and has been the subject of ongoing cleanup efforts.

theman eater

Game day arrests down from last year

By Matt Muenzberg

Fears of increased tailgate rowdiness subsided after Saturday's game against the University of Georgia.

Fewer arrests were reported at Missouri's first Southeastern Conference game than at last season's first conference home game versus Iowa State University.

"Tailgating was no different than it was in the Big 12 and for other night games that we've seen in the past," MU Police Department spokesman Brian Weimer said.

There were only seven incidents between noon and kickoff this past Saturday, compared to 10 incidents reported between noon and kickoff Sept. 1 against Southeastern Louisiana University, according to online MUPD records.

There were also 12 arrests for purchase or possession of intoxicants by a minor on Saturday, down from 14 the week before. Violations of liquor laws and driving while intoxicated made up at least half of the reported incidents on both Saturday and Sept. 1, according to MUPD records.

"(The biggest issue was) the exact same thing that it had been in previous years: alcohol and underage drinking," Weimer said.

Issues at tailgates are the same as in previous years, especially when examining night games, Weimer said.

"(Night games are) a long day where people will have the opportunity to do a lot of drinking, so like I said, nothing has changed," Weimer said.

To some students, many Missouri fans were focusing more on impressing their guests than causing trouble.

"I think that people were having a good time, but I don't think that they were reckless," senior Bridget Kelly said. "I think they were trying to show the Georgia fans that we could be in the SEC and that we could be just as good as them, so I don't think that it was necessarily rowdy."

Kelly said she thinks the changes in game day festivities are more mental than physical.

"I don't think that the tailgating necessarily has changed," Kelly said. "I think it's more about the atmosphere being different in the SEC. Everyone is so pumped up about it, so I think it's mostly just the same, but people's attitudes have changed and people are more excited to be here."

Kelly said she believes that some MU students are trying to step up their game when it comes to tailgating.

“You could tell just by walking through the tailgates this past weekend,” Kelly said. “People were flying flags. I think people are definitely trying to step it up.”

The police have had two weeks to see how fans have responded to the conference move. Weimer said the police haven’t seen anything that would cause them to change their strategies for this weekend’s night game against Arizona State University.

“We (will) continue to go out and enforce the laws that are in place,” said Weimer.

theman eater

Gender-neutral housing discussion continues at MU

By Ian Frazer

While a coed residence hall is a familiar concept for the typical MU student, a coed room or suite is not.

Many universities across the U.S., though, have introduced gender-neutral living options in residence halls, where men and women live together in one space.

Eighty-eight institutions provide “gender-inclusive housing,” in which students can have roommates of any gender, according to the Transgender Law & Policy Institute.

Many schools that offer such options are near either the East and West Coasts or are small, private institutions. The specifics vary: Some schools only make the option available to students after their freshman year, and some only offer it in apartment-style halls.

The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., is perhaps the most progressive. The school features the Rainbow Fort, an entire apartment-style hall offering “safe-space housing” for LGBTQ students that is structured “to promote personal growth and community-building within a safe and supportive environment,” The Evergreen State College website stated.

The only schools in Missouri offering gender-neutral housing options are Northwest Missouri State University and Washington University in St. Louis. As of the Fall 2012 semester, no school in the Southeastern Conference does so.

Recently, the issue gained national prominence after the 2010 suicide of Tyler Clementi, a student at Rutgers University whose roommate and another hallmate observed him, via webcam, kissing another man. Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge soon after finding out.

On April 11, 2011, the Residence Halls Association Congress passed a resolution supporting the establishment of gender-neutral housing at MU by the Fall 2012 semester.

“(The resolution supported) almost like a living community-like area that would allow inclusiveness, safety and comfort for those who are part of the LGBTQ community and allow them to have just a better living experience in general,” RHA President Zack Folk said.

While the Department of Residential Life has not formally established gender-neutral spaces, it is still exploring its options and working toward formulating a proposal.

Residential Life is trying to gauge how much of a need MU’s student body has for gender-neutral housing and, in turn, the logistics of implementing the option.

“We certainly see the benefits of doing it for a certain population of our students — the question is, ‘Can we offer that as a standard living option for students?’” Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said.

The situations of those requesting gender-neutral housing can vary. Some students might have concerns about their living situations interfering with their individual gender expressions, and some might wish to live with a person of another gender.

Though some schools require students in gender-neutral housing to identify as transgender, Residential Life is not far along enough in the formulation of a proposal to lean one way or another toward what the options it would present would include.

Residential Life accommodates students’ individual requests on a case-by-case basis.

“(With) students who are transgender or transitioning, there’s an opportunity for them to indicate that they’re requesting an accommodation,” Minor said. “In those situations, we work with those students individually, (asking them) ‘What do you need at this point?’”

Those students often request single rooms or suite-style housing, options which offer more privacy in bathrooms, Minor said.

The deadline set by RHA passed without a concrete proposal by Residential Life, but the department hopes to decide about the feasibility of gender-neutral housing by fall 2013, Minor said.

Another issue complicating the implementation of that option is how the growth of on-campus living space has not kept pace with the recent increase in freshman class size.

Residential Life must take that factor and a multitude of others into account when responding to the demand for gender-neutral housing, but student needs and comfort remain key.

“The one place you want to feel welcome is in your own home,” Minor said.