Missouri Rewrites Plot, Rehiring Editor in Chief of the University Press

By JOHN ELIGON

Published: October 5, 2012

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Administrators at the University of Missouri completed a reversal of their decision to close the university’s publishing house when they announced on Friday that the longtime editor in chief, Clair Willcox, would be rehired.

Mr. Willcox’s return stoked glee among the hundreds of University of Missouri Press supporters, including dozens of authors who had condemned the university system’s new president, Timothy M. Wolfe, when he announced in May that he would be closing the publishing house. Founded in 1958, it has spawned titles including “The Collected Works of Langston Hughes,” “The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson” and “Mark Twain and His Circle.”

The move also could save the core of the operation — 41 authors who had works published by the university press asked for the rights to their works back unless Mr. Willcox was rehired.

“Victory Is Ours!” declared a post on a Facebook page, Save the University of Missouri Press, created by Ned Stuckey-French, a professor at Florida State University and an author with the press, and Bruce Joshua Miller, a sales representative for university publishers.

“I’m floating,” Mr. Stuckey-French said in an interview.

Mr. Wolfe said in an interview that the university was not changing course. His intention never was to close the press, he said, but rather to reinvent it in a more cost-effective technological model.

“We’re down this path and we’re continuing to move toward our goal of having a more adaptive, innovative press which attracts the best scholarly work on a global basis and publishes both physical print books as well as electronic,” he said.

When Mr. Wolfe announced that he would pull the $400,000 annual subsidy that the university system, which includes four campuses around the state, provides the press, the outrage pressured the administration into hastily announcing a new operation that it said would be more efficient. But that announcement sparked even more criticism. The announcement was short on details, and critics said it did not offer a bold, new, innovative system that the administration had promised.
The controversy highlighted a broader challenge that university presses are grappling with nationwide. Publishing scholarly works directed toward a niche audience, most do not generate profits, and they are finding it difficult to survive amid shrinking campus budgets and a digital publishing landscape.

Under the intense scrutiny, the Missouri administration, in late August, pulled back from its new model and announced that the university press would continue to operate with its current staff in its current location in Columbia. Administrators also announced that the Columbia campus would take over responsibility for the press from the system, and they created an advisory committee to examine ways to grow and innovate the press.

But the outrage did not spur this decision to change course, Mr. Wolfe said; rather it was the result of further discussions that helped administrators find a more effective model.

While press supporters saw the decision as a win, they remained unhappy that Mr. Willcox had not been given back his job. So they continued to lobby.

Mr. Wolfe conceded missteps had been made early in the process of deciding what to do about the press.

“‘There’s more people that should have been brought into this conversation,’” he said, like authors, other university publishers and the staff of the Missouri press.

In a statement released by the university, Mr. Willcox said, “One of my first priorities is to contact our authors and work to re-engage them as we move forward and become a part of M.U.”
Clair Willcox Is Rehired as Editor in Chief at U. of Missouri Press

October 6, 2012, 7:00 pm

By Peter Monaghan

After a long squabble, the University of Missouri has rehired Clair Willcox, whom it laid off in July as editor in chief of the University of Missouri Press.

Willcox now holds that position again, and will also be associate director of the press. He will take a lead role in trying to restore a press much damaged by the events of the last several months.

Late in May, University of Missouri system administrators said they would shut down the 54-year-old press, citing its continuing inability to close its budget deficit. They would, they said, end annual subsidies of about $400,000 a year—the kind of support that almost all 134 members of the Association of American University Presses rely on.

A large protest movement arose, organized on social-media platforms and fueled by allegations that the Missouri system had mishandled the press, in the present and past. It also appeared that the press had, in the past, been mismanaged, in part due to confused direction from the system, and that the deficit had in fact shrunk from a high of $360,000 to almost nothing.

Many of the press’s authors protested the changes, and most of those on forthcoming lists took back their books, saying they would end their associations with the press. About 40 authors whose books the press was already distributing demanded that publishing rights be returned to them, and some threatened lawsuits.

Over the summer, the system announced the press would not close after all, and on Friday, Willcox was rehired. “We’re very excited to have Clair returning to the press as we move forward with this transition,” the Columbia campus’s provost, Brian L. Foster, said in a written statement. “He will provide continuity and help maintain the foundation that the press has built throughout its strong history. This is an important step in getting the press fully up to speed in the new campus environment.”

As one part of the plan it announced in the summer, the Missouri system shifted control of the press from the four-campus system office to the flagship Columbia campus.
While administrators have finally bowed to pressure to rehire Willcox, he inherits a daunting task in trying to lure back authors and produce lists from the rubble.

He says the challenge is to get a much-depleted press up and running again. Interviewed on the day he was reappointed, he said he had already begun phoning former authors.

“1 started making calls to authors today. Our first priority is to make sure that they understand the current situation and are still willing to continue working with us,” he said. “It may be that there are some who are not. So far I’ve been successful. Those I’ve been in contact with are willing.”

But the immediate prospects for future lists are not promising, he said. Unlikely is any Spring 2013 list, at all; authors of the books that had been on it before the summer turmoil are now under contract with other university presses, several of which eagerly snapped up books as authors looked about for homes.

“The next step will be our Fall 2013 list.” Willcox said. “There isn’t much time, so it’s a tough road ahead.

“But I’m optimistic,” he continued, “that the UM campus is fully behind us having a good university press, and one that we would recognize as a university press.” Nonetheless, he added, the press may attempt innovations of the kind campus administrators contemplated when they announced in mid-July that they would reopen on the Columbia campus the press they had shut in May. They said possible changes included expanding digital and multimedia publishing and revising the positions of senior press staff to include teaching and research roles.

Under that original plan, Speer Morgan, a professor of English, novelist, and editor of The Missouri Review, a respected literary journal, would lead the press. But he had no experience running a publishing house. University of Missouri officials touted the plan as a bold way forward for academic publishing.

Morgan has been overseeing the transition of the press to the Columbia campus, but could not be reached to say what his role would now be.

Willcox said that the jobs of press staff may still include teaching—of, say, a graduate certificate program in university-press publishing. “I don’t know what form a teaching role will take,” he said. “We’ve had internship programs, so I don’t know if now that will involve classroom teaching or less-formal, hands-on teaching.” Administrators have not yet finalized details, he said.

Also in the cards is more alignment of the press’s output with areas of strength in the Missouri system, and particularly with those of the Columbia campus. “We already do some of that,” he said. “For example, we have a list in journalism studies. But we will look at other programs. In that sense, this is a good move; it ties more closely to research and teaching here, as opposed to putting us under an entire university system.”
Still, he added, from other campuses the press will continue to mine such specializations as military history on the Rolla campus, enlisting the editing of a historian there.

The press, which opened in 1958, will also continue to focus on past strengths, said Willecox. It has built a large list of academic and regional titles, along with esteemed series on Mark Twain, Harry S. Truman, and the political philosopher Eric Voegelin. With a backlist of 1,000 titles, the press sells more than 100,000 books each year; the current backlist was worth $700,000 a year when the closure was announced in May.

A recently established 22-member editorial board, which includes several faculty members, will continue to advise the press, while Foster, the Columbia provost, told Willecox that he would consider increasing the staff.

“That’s great news for those of us who worked there for four and a half years and seemed to be taking on more and more tasks over time,” said Willecox. He is heartened, he said, that “the provost seems fully behind having a good press.”

Staffing remains a pressing issue, Willecox added. The press is attempting to bring back staff members who left or had been let go, to augment its now skeleton crew. At 10 members the staff was already small, even before the recent events. “A couple have new jobs, and we’re not sure if they’ll be willing to leave those and come back, but they certainly are welcome,” he said. “I’ll try to get them back.”

A high priority, he said, will be to hire a permanent director as soon as possible. Dwight Browne, who began at the press as a student employee in 1981 and has been its interim director for more than four years, said by e-mail: “I will be retiring as soon as I can make proper arrangements.”

Browne, who won wide praise for his steadying role during difficult times, added: “I was elated when the campus decided to give the press and its employees a new home. After a turbulent summer I can’t imagine a better outcome for everyone involved.”
Ex-Director of Missouri Press Gets Job Back
October 8, 2012 - 3:00am

Clair Willcox was named Friday to his former job as editor-in-chief of the University of Missouri Press, The Columbia Missourian reported. In recent months, the press was slated for elimination and Willcox was laid off. When the press survived, supporters said that they would not be satisfied until Willcox's job was restored.
The University of Missouri has rehired the ousted editor of the academic press it decided not to close.

Clair Willcox is back as editor-in-chief of the University of Missouri Press. He lost his job after school President Tim Wolfe announced in May plans to revamp the money-losing press, which receives a $400,000 annual subsidy.

Industry critics and Missouri faculty members denounced the decision, and dozens of authors threatened to sue the university to return their publishing rights.

The school decided in late August to keep the press intact but under control by the Columbia campus rather than the university system. Press supporters continued to lobby for Willcox's rehiring.

"We're not out of the woods, but I think we've won everything we were trying to win," said Ned Stuckey-French, a Florida State University professor and Missouri press author who led the opposition. "This, to me, seals the deal."

Willcox said his first order of business is reaching out to unhappy authors to convince them to stick around.

"We've got a difficult road ahead," he said. "Right now I have to get in touch with many of the authors to try to make sure that they're ready to come back to the press and that we can renew those relationships."

Willcox will also serve as associate director and manage the press's editorial department and acquisitions. He was the only employee on the 10-person staff who had already been laid off, although several other employees accepted new campus jobs.

He's also been asked to help the press better work with academic programs now that it's part of the campus.
Wolfe's initial decision led to petition efforts and social media campaigns to "Save the University of Missouri Press," but the university in July unveiled plans for a revamped university press led by English professor and literary journal editor Speer Morgan. The new model would emphasize technology and make use of student interns. Instead of appeasing opponents, the change sparked more backlash from disgruntled authors and editors.
The University of Missouri at Columbia announced today that it has rehired the ousted editor of its press, completing the reversal of its May announcement that it would close the press.

After months of protesting the university's decision, Ned Stuckey-French declared by email that "we have won total victory in the University of Missouri Press struggle." Stuckey-French teaches English at the Florida State University; he has published with the Missouri press.

Brian Foster, provost of the Missouri campus in Columbia, announced today that Clair Willcox has been rehired as editor in chief and as associate director.

In a statement released by the university, Willcox said: “One of my first priorities is to contact our authors and work to re-engage them as we move forward and become a part of MU.”

Dozens of authors published by the press had demanded that Willcox be rehired, or that their book rights be returned to them. Sales of backlist titles bring in about $700,000 a year for the press, officials have said.

Stuckey-French said by email that he didn't think a single action led to the rehiring and reinstating of the press:

No one thing, I think, but lots of things: 58 authors representing 138 U of Missouri Press books had asked for their rights back, 5,320 people (including 1,400 citizens of the state of Missouri) signed our online petition, 2,800 people followed our Facebook page, scores of people wrote letters to the editor, the Faculty Council at the U of Missouri condemned the decision to close the Press, and Richard Wallace, the former chancellor of MU, was brought in to negotiate and provide counsel.

Stuckey-French, along with book sales rep Bruce Miller of Chicago, created a Save the University of Missouri Facebook page on May 28, four days after the university system surprised and angered observers with its release that it would stop "subsidizing" the press (a cost of $400,000). That decision came about the same time that the university announced that it would be spending more than a hundred million bucks to boost its athletic facilities, especially its football stadium.
In July, after weeks of criticism, the university system said it was creating a new model for the 54-year-old press and moving it to the Columbia campus. That plan was met with more criticism, and the appointed director for the "new" press eventually stepped aside.

Willcox will now have a 21-person advisory committee that will provide input into the future of the press and its transition back to the Columbia school, where the press originated in 1958. Dwight Browne, interim director of the press, is retiring.

The committee includes Jane Lago, a longtime editor with the press who retired when the university sought to cut costs several years ago. She told the Columbia Daily Tribune that she agreed to serve on the committee in hopes of giving other members insight into operations. "There are so many misconceptions about the press," Lago said. "The committee needs to have somebody on it who's aware of ... what the press has done and hasn't done."
University rehires former UM Press editor-in-chief

By Janese Silvey

Published October 5, 2012 at 10 a.m.
Updated October 5, 2012 at 2 p.m.

Clair Willecox has been rehired as editor-in-chief of the University of Missouri Press and will begin duties immediately.

He also will serve as associate director and will be in charge of managing the press's editorial department and acquisitions. A search to replace interim Director Dwight Browne is ongoing.

Willecox this morning said he is calling series editors who resigned to see whether they'll come back and the authors who have asked for their rights back. "We've got a difficult road ahead," he said. "Right now I have to get in touch with many of the authors to try to make sure that they're ready to come back to the press and that we can renew those relationships."

Willecox's return marks the end of a five-month controversy that began when UM President Tim Wolfe announced in May that the press would be phased out starting in July to save a $400,000 yearly subsidy. Thousands of people protested, signing a petition, writing letters to Wolfe and complaining about the move on a Save the University of Missouri Press Facebook page.

In July, MU announced it would open a new type of university press led by English Professor Speer Morgan that would emphasize technology and make use of student interns. Instead of appeasing opponents, plans for the new model sparked more backlash from authors, who began requesting rights to their books back, and series editors, who resigned.

The pushback prompted university officials to scrap the plans, and in August they announced the press would be shifted from the UM System to MU but that it would remain open at its current location with the remaining staff.

Willecox was the only employee who had already been laid off, although several other employees accepted new jobs on campus.

At one point last month, 56 authors representing 133 books were requesting rights back, with most saying they would nix that request if Willecox were rehired.
The authors have an attorney and planned to move forward with legal action against the university, said Ned Stuckey-French, a Florida State University professor who led opposition to the press's closure.

He said he will no longer be part of that effort but added that "there are a few people who already had offers from other presses" who might continue to request their rights.

In addition to keeping authors, Willcox also will have to begin acquiring new titles for a spring catalog.

Typically, the press would be acquiring books for a fall 2013 catalog at this time. One idea would be to print new editions of books already on the backlist, Stuckey-French said.

Although it's impossible to undo some of the damage caused by the attempt to close the press, Stuckey-French said, he considers Willcox's return a victory. "We're not out of the woods, but I think we've won everything we were trying to win," he said. "This, to me, seals the deal."

Bruce Joshua Miller, a Chicago book representative who co-headed the campaign to save the press, said he was "elated" about Willcox's return. "I think it's a good decision that will benefit everybody."

Willcox also is charged with helping the press better align with academic programs now that it's part of the campus. He said he's looking forward to working with a 21-member advisory committee formed last week to help the press move forward, but he emphasized he also has to focus on repairing the existing press. "The first order of business is to restore what we had before we can move on to something new."
UM Press rehires Clair Willcox as editor-in-chief, pleases authors

By Nassim Benchaabane, Stephanie Ebbs
October 5, 2012 | 7:21 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Clair Willcox was in the middle of calling authors affiliated with the University of Missouri Press on Friday afternoon when he was reached about being rehired there.

"I'm relieved and eager to get things moving again," Willcox said.

He returned to his position as the editor-in-chief of the 54-year-old press right away.

Willcox will also serve as the associate director and will be responsible for forging relationships throughout MU to "strengthen the press's position and integral component of university research and scholarships," according to a statement Friday morning from the MU News Bureau.

The decision has long been awaited by vocal supporters including authors who have published with the press and others.

Willcox was laid off after the University of Missouri System announced in May that the press would be phased out in 2013. On Aug. 28, the system shifted responsibility for the press to MU and announced it would remain open. Remaining staff members were asked to stay, but Willcox was not immediately asked back.

MU Provost Brian Foster, who now directly oversees the press, said the discussions to rehire Willcox have been going on for some time. MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Deborah Noble-Triplett and Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace were part of the discussion, Foster said.

Foster said the decision to transfer responsibility for the press from the UM System to MU was made earlier than had been planned, and that delayed rehiring Willcox. Foster said the
original plan was to transition the press over a long time, but moving oversight to MU right away was much more efficient.

Ned Stuckey-French has been a leading voice among several dozen authors, who were frustrated by how the decisions about the future of the press were made, have asked for return of their publishing rights.

On Friday, Stuckey-French called Willcox's rehiring a "total, complete and unequivocal victory."

Stuckey-French, an assistant professor of English at Florida State University, published "The American Essay in the American Century" with the press. With Willcox's rehiring, he said, he will drop his publishing rights request but can't speak for other authors.

Willcox said every author with whom he had spoken so far was happy with the news and wants to continue working with the press.

John Bird, an English professor at Winthrop University in South Carolina and former author with the press, said its future would have been doubtful had it tried to proceed without Willcox's leadership. He said Willcox has the confidence of his staff.

Bird said he will likely return to the press and hopes some of the authors who withdrew will reconsider.

"I'm really impressed the administration would reverse its decision," Bird said. "It's very uncommon for that to happen. It took courage, and I applaud them."

The move has come too late for Don Spivey. The history professor at the University of Miami said that hiring Willcox is great news but that he's no longer interested in working with the press.

Spivey said that he has not heard anything from university officials after requesting his subsidiary rights back and that he still plans to file a lawsuit on Tuesday.

"How do you put the genie back in the bottle? It's mind-boggling that (UM System President Tim) Wolfe never thought of a closing strategy," Spivey said. "The press lost many good editors, like Sara Davis. Until I see a serious plan with details of the next step and who's in charge and indicates the administration has a long-term commitment to the future of the press, I want out."
It was unclear Friday what books will be coming out in the spring. Some authors planning to publish were given the option to cancel their contracts and publish elsewhere, but some whose works are published were not given the same option.

While Willcox contacts authors he has worked with and writers with manuscripts to submit, he will compile lists for publication in fall 2013 and spring 2014.

"Mr. Willcox will be invaluable in developing those publication lists," Wallace, the emeritus chancellor, said.

The next steps for the press include the first meeting of the Press Advisory Committee in the next couple of weeks. It will search for a permanent director to replace Interim Director Dwight Browne as well as discuss the role the press will serve at MU.

Foster said the committee will explore creating a graduate certificate program for students interested in publishing that could have a relationship with the press.

Willcox said he looks forward to working with the committee as its role becomes more defined.

"We have a difficult road ahead," he said. "But I'm optimistic because the MU administration appears so strongly behind the efforts to rebuild the press and make it even better in the future."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Bixey.*
Willcox to return to UM Press as editor-in-chief

After a five-month controversy, Clair Willcox will return to the University of Missouri Press as the editor-in-chief and an associate director.

Willcox will begin his duties effective immediately, which will include managing the editorial department of the press, serving as acquisitions editor and planning and directing the book publishing program to promote the overall goals of the press, according to an MU statement sent to The Maneater.

“One of my first priorities is to contact our authors and work to reengage them as we move forward and become a part of MU,” Willcox said in the statement.

In May, UM System President Tim Wolfe announced the press would be phased out due to its growing deficit.

Willcox said at an MU Faculty Council meeting in late August that he had been laid off from his position at the press months before that. At the time, the new plan for the press was to redesign it to capitalize on technology and student interns.

In the same meeting, Willcox told The Maneater that the new press the UM System was attempting to establish was a "phony" and "bogus" press that wouldn’t stay afloat.

Since the meeting, university officials have abandoned the plan to redesign the press and instead announced in late August that the press would remain open and responsibility would be transferred to MU.

“We’re very excited to have Clair returning to the press as we move forward with this transition,” Provost Brian Foster said in the statement. “He will provide continuity and help maintain the foundation that the press has built throughout its strong history. This is an important step in getting the press fully up to speed in the new campus environment.”

More than 40 authors sent a letter to Wolfe in early September, saying they would reconsider their requests to have their publication rights returned to them if Willcox was reinstated as editor-in-chief. The authors represented 99 UM Press titles.

Florida State University professor Ned Stuckey-French, who helped draft the letter, said Willcox’s reinstatement was the last domino in this controversy. Stuckey-French was one of the authors who had requested publication rights from the press.
“Clair has a lot of hard work ahead to repair a press that has been battered and abused all summer long,” Stuckey-French said. “But we consider this a total victory. This was the last thing we were asking for.”

Stuckey-French said although he couldn’t speak for the rest of the authors, he would drop his request to have his publication rights returned to him.

“I’m ready to let Clair have my book back, and I’m ready to do what I can to help him,” Stuckey-French said. “This is a signal that the university is serious about rebuilding the press.”

Stuckey-French said this victory took the work of thousands. More than 5,300 people signed an online petition, and there are more than 2,800 likes on the Save the University of Missouri Press Facebook page.

“This shows the strength of support that presses have in their communities,” said Bruce Miller, president of Miller Trade Book Marketing Inc., who partnered with Stuckey-French to lead the campaign for Willcox’s return. “This sends a message to all universities to value their presses.”
UM System commits to increase number of degrees, college completion

By Lizzie Johnson
October 5, 2012 | 5:08 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The four campuses in the University of Missouri System have joined a national effort to boost the number of college degrees by 60 percent by 2025.

The statement, "A Commitment to the Future," is a joint effort by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, according to a UM System news release.

Nearly 500 public universities and colleges have signed the statement with the goal of upping the number of bachelor's degrees nationally by 3.8 million by 2025, according to a background document from the state colleges and universities association.

The proposed increases represent a growth rate of 3 percent in degrees at the public colleges and universities, the document states. The average growth was 2.67 percent in the past decade, according to the document.

Initiatives to increase the number of degrees include:

- Increasing enrollment on the four campuses, in Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis and Kansas City.
- Increasing the number of graduates and six-year graduation rates.
- Preventing large increases in tuition.
- Increasing financial aid.
- Reducing administrative expenses.
- Increasing diversity.

By participating, the four campuses have agreed to do their part to increase college completion.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brikey.
Colleges build to compete in business school ‘arms race’

Today’s students want a school that embraces technology and helps them get their business going.

MU MENTION PAGE 2

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

When it comes to attracting the best business students these days, Ali Mallekzadeh knows what it takes.

“Very astute students walk through the doors of your college with a check list,” said Mallekzadeh, dean of Kansas State University’s College of Business Administration. “They are asking: ‘Do you have an entrepreneurial center, and an international business center, a financial trading center, a place to start a new business? And by the way, do you have an espresso machine?’

“And the answers need to be ‘yes’ if you want to stay competitive.”

Lots of universities are saying “yes” right now, erecting big new buildings for their business schools, facilities filled with 21st-century technology to support the latest teaching methods.

The University of Kansas last week announced plans for a $60 million building for its School of Business, double the size of the current facility.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City already has its new b-school building in the works. K-State expects to put up a $50 million building in the near future.

Call it a “business school building arms race” — that’s how Robert Mittelstaedt, the dean of Arizona State University’s Top 25 business school, puts it. His school’s new building, scheduled to open next year, “is not just to attract more students, but to make room for all the stuff we’ve now got crammed into a five-pound bag,” he said.

A list compiled by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business shows that more than 100 business schools across the country have either completed a new building this year,
renovated or expanded an old one, or are raising money for a new one. Among other regional entries: new buildings for Washington University in St. Louis, to open in 2013, Oklahoma State University (2015) and the University of Nebraska (2016).

In the Kansas City area, no other public or private universities are on the list. The University of Missouri’s Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business opened in 2002.

“My personal survey of the landscape shows that there is an increased emphasis on building new business schools tied to an increased interest in naming opportunities from alumni,” said Douglas Viehland, executive director of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

When UMKC’s new 65,000-square-foot, four-story building opens next fall, it will include a business startup brainstorming area and innovation lab. It’s being built with a $32 million gift UMKC received from Henry W. Bloch in 2011.

KU’s push for a new building started Thursday with a $20 million gift from the Capitol Federal Savings Foundation. The building will allow KU to adopt new methods of teaching business, dean Neeli Bendapudi said.

The professor at the head of a lecture hall or classroom is the way of the past. Students now work in teams, creating their own businesses and taking them from the classroom to the market. They work on mock international trading floors and in simulated business environments.

K-State will soon launch a campus-wide fundraising campaign that will include money for a new business college building on its Manhattan campus.

The existing building is more than 100 years old and not big enough for the school’s 2,600 business students, Mallekzadeh said. The result: 60 percent of business classes are held elsewhere on campus.

Nationally, more students pursue bachelor degrees in business than in any other area of study, said Viehland, whose accreditation council represents 1,100 two- and four-year campuses, public and private. And according to the Business School Journal, the country saw a sharp rise in the volume of business master’s degrees granted, from fewer than 5,000 in 1960 to more than 100,000 in 2000.

Viehland said that pattern of growth has continued over the last decade, albeit slowing some through the recession. But he said it is picking up steam as the economy improves.

With the growth has come increased competition for students — hence the drive to build more innovative business school facilities.

“That has been the history and that is the projection for the future,” Viehland said. “You can say that colleges are bullish on business education.”
They’re bullish back East, where the University at Albany, the State University of New York, is eagerly waiting the completion next fall of a $64 million business school building. The architectural firm that designed the new building has in the last decade designed 18 b-school buildings across the country.

The dean at Albany, Donald Siegel, said his new building is the first major academic facility to be built on the campus since the mid-1960s.

“We need this to be more competitive,” he said. “We need this to catch up to our peers.”

Across the country, at Boise State University in Idaho, the $35 million Micron Business and Economics Building opened this fall with a 14 percent increase in new business majors, said dean Patrick Shannon. “It does matter to business students, just like in athletics, whether a facility is attractive.”

But it’s more than looks, said Evan Kirsch, a UMKC business student.

“We want to follow our passions,” he said. “But we also want to be around people in the field, professionals, business people who are looking at the university we choose. We want to be at a business school that has the latest opportunities.”

It’s also important that the school be connected to the community so that students make contacts, Kirsch said. When he learned that UMKC’s school was named for Bloch, “that was huge for me.”

“I wanted to be at a school built by an entrepreneur who knows how to create jobs.”
MUPD targets minor infractions to prevent future incidents

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 13

MUPD focuses on drug and alcohol violations because of their link to more serious crimes.

Although 2011 crime statistics show no dramatic increase, the MU Police Department is continually enforcing lesser incidents that can lead to more dangerous situations.

MUPD's 2011 Campus Crime and Fire Safety Report showed little fluctuation in comparison to years prior.

"There was no dramatic increase in anything," MU Police Department spokesman Brian Weimer said. "If you look over various years, there's going to be some slight ups and slight downs, but when you're talking about numbers that small it's inevitable."

According to the 2011 crime statistics, there was no significant increase in crime Weimer said.

"The main thing you're going to see is going to be larceny or theft," Weimer said. "It's critical to lower our crime numbers to make sure you don't leave stuff laying around and to make sure you lock your residence hall room when you're not in it. It only takes a second for someone to come in and take something."

Larceny, theft and physical acts are common crimes committed on college campuses. Although the numbers in the annual report do not indicate a rise in forcible sex offenses and assault, a lot of the time these issues go unreported.

"Nationally, it is estimated that only 12-16 percent of all acts of sexual assault and/or rape are ever reported," Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center coordinator Danica Wolf said. "We have no reason to believe that MU is any different."

It is estimated that at least 75 to 80 percent of all sexual assaults and rapes nationwide are committed with one or both parties under the influence of alcohol, Wolf said. On college campuses nationwide, however, that number is believed to be closer to 90 percent or more, she said. In light of these statistics, Weimer said MUPD is doing all it can to prevent these acts of violence.
"It's critical that law enforcement agencies are enforcing underage drinking laws and things like that," Weimer said. "People make the comments that we have other things we need to be worrying about. Well, a contributing cause to serious crimes like rape or assault are due to alcohol and drugs."

According to the report, MUPD arrested 393 people total for liquor law violations in 2009. In 2011, that number increased to 412.

"We're trying to prevent more serious crimes from ever even occurring," Weimer said.

The main purpose of the annual Campus Crime and Fire Safety Report is to inform members of the community.

"We want to make sure, while this is a very safe campus, that the community knows that crimes do occur and specifically what those crimes are so that they can take preventative measures to make themselves safe because clearly our officers cannot be absolutely everywhere at all times, so we have to work with our community," Weimer said.

There are several ways MU students can avoid potentially dangerous situations, Weimer said.

"Always make sure you have a sober person there and that person is going to watch over you to make sure you're not doing something that you wouldn't normally do," Weimer said.

Along with having a sober friend, Wolf said she encourages students to act as a "Green Dot" when needed.

"MU students are always encouraged to look out for their friends, check in on potentially dangerous situations, call the police or get help in some way if they think violence is occurring and do other types of Green Dots when they know something is 'just not right,'" Wolf said.
Columbia Public Schools cancels homecoming parade

By Janese Silvey

Published October 5, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.
Updated October 6, 2012 at 2 a.m.

Six years after it was resurrected, the Columbia high schools' homecoming parade is being canceled this year, partly because the University of Missouri has a Southeastern Conference home game that weekend.

An expected out-of-state game crowd, along with downtown street construction, prompted Columbia Public Schools administrators to cancel the parade, which would have taken place next Friday afternoon.

"It's a terrible weekend," schools spokeswoman Michelle Baumstark said.

"With all the construction going on and being the same weekend as the Alabama game puts too much strain and stress on the police department. The combination of those things makes it difficult for us to have a fun, safe activity for students and families."

The homecoming parade allowed teams, clubs and marching bands from Columbia's high schools to show off school spirit and rev up excitement for the homecoming games.

After a two-year hiatus, the parade started up again in 2006.

In 2004, it was canceled because of game scheduling conflicts: The only time Rock Bridge and Hickman were playing at home during peak homecoming weeks was when they were playing against one another, and neither team wanted to be considered the "away" team in their own hometown, according to Tribune archives.

The homecoming parade has been held on the same weekend as home Missouri football games in the past, but Baumstark said the fact that MU is in the SEC makes a difference because conference games bring in larger out-of-state crowds.

She said she was not sure whether conference home games will prompt the school district to cancel future homecoming parades. Students and families were notified last month about plans to cancel this year's parade.
Companies set pace for United Way

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Friday, October 5, 2012

Pacesetter companies and agencies that Heart of Missouri United Way is banking on for leading the way to a $4 million fundraising target already have brought in one-quarter of the goal in pledges.

A contribution this week of $400,000 from Veterans United Home Loans pushed the Pacesetter total to just more than $1 million. The pledge totals were announced this morning at the Pacesetters' breakfast at Boone Hospital Center, where hospital President Dan Rothery said employees there have pledged just more than $54,000, the fourth-leading Pacesetter total.

"We're well on task," said Mitzi Clayton, 2012 campaign chairwoman and associate athletic director of compliance at the University of Missouri. "We have our work cut out, for sure."

The University of Missouri, however, is not among the Pacesetters, and the most recent online report on the MU website showed that year-to-date campaign pledges of $191,941 are substantially lower than the 2011 year-to-date total of $368,012.

"They got off to a later start," Clayto
Rich said 49 agencies presented a combined 109 programs for Community Impact funding, with a total of $5.2 million requested. In 2010, United Way allocated $1.92 million to its member agencies. The total allocated locally last year was $2.2 million. Last year's fundraising campaign for allocations made this year was $3.47 million.

"We've got to do better than we've done before," Rich said, "because the need is greater." Funding decisions could come at the Oct. 17 United Way board of directors meeting.

But financial donors shouldn't think that their responsibility ends with a donation, said Chris Walls, field consultant for State Farm Insurance. In an emotional keynote speech, Walls told the breakfast attendees this morning that they won't make lasting change unless they also invest themselves in the lives of others.

"Resources given without time spent has no relevance" to the problems of society, said Walls, the youth director at Urban Empowerment and a former MU football player.
Columbia hospitals don't use drug tied to outbreak

16 hours ago

Columbia hospitals don't use the type of drug that federal officials have linked to recent cases of fungal meningitis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say there are more than 90 confirmed cases of the rare form of fungal meningitis. The outbreak spans nine states and has killed at least seven people. Cases haven't been reported in Missouri.

Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for University of Missouri Health Care, told The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/SVhmY2) that hospital didn't buy any of the steroid vials in question from the pharmacy that's recalling the drug.

Jacob Luecke, media relations manager for Boone Hospital Center, said that hospital is also not impacted by the recall, and Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital says it buys its steroid injectables from another company.
Drug linked to meningitis not used here

Illness is seen in nine states.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Columbia's hospitals do not use the type of steroid injections that federal health officials have linked to a rare form of fungal meningitis that has killed seven people and sickened 64 across nine states.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has reported that a sealed vial of an injectable steroid used as a common treatment for back pain is believed to be the cause of the outbreak of aspergillus meningitis, a rare and deadly infection. The steroid was supplied by a specialty pharmacy in Massachusetts.

"University of Missouri Health Care did not purchase any of the steroid vials in question from the pharmacy ... that is recalling the drug," said Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for MU Health Care. "We purchase this particular drug from another supplier."

Jacob Luecke, media relations manager for Boone Hospital Center, said the hospital has received a number of calls from people concerned about the national news of meningitis cases linked to spinal steroid injections.

"Boone Hospital is not impacted by this," Luecke said.

Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital also purchases its steroid injectables from another company.

Truman Memorial spokesman Stephen Gaither said the hospital's chief of pharmacy explained that part of the problem with the potentially contaminated injectables was related to the drugs being "compounded." FDA officials said "compounding" means combining drugs to create customized medications.

"None of our steroid injectables are manufactured in this manner," Gaither said.

Truman Memorial purchases its steroid injectables from McKesson, a wholesaler and the largest pharmaceutical distributor in North America.
The FDA investigation into the fungal contamination is continuing.

States that had reported cases as of yesterday were Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia.

A statement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that most of the cases occurred in older adults who were healthy aside from back pain.

Patients who are concerned should check with their physicians to find out whether they received an injection from one of three lots of injectables that have since been recalled, CDC officials said.

Federal health officials worry, however, that the number of cases could climb because hundreds of patients in several states have received the drug in the past three months.

Meningitis affects the membranous lining of the brain and spinal cord. Early symptoms of fungal meningitis, such as headache, fever, dizziness, nausea and slurred speech, are subtler than those of bacterial meningitis and can take nearly a month to appear.

Left untreated, the disease can cause permanent neurological damage and death.
Columbia ranks 10th on list of best college towns in the nation

By Sara Naatz

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 13

The American Institute for Economic Research named Columbia the 10th-best college town in the nation in the College Destinations Index for the 2012-2013 school year.

The study divides the top 75 college locations into four main categories: major metros, mid-size metros, small metros and college towns. Columbia ranks among 20 other college towns.

The study bases its rankings off academics, professional opportunities and quality of life, according to the report.

**MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university’s academic programs differ from that of many other universities because of the classroom experiences as well as the real-world skills students learn.**

“We have a strongly integrated academic program that not only gives students tools in the classroom, but also gives them the tools to be successful outside of the classroom,” he said. “We’re constantly looking for faculty who can bring unique but important perspectives into the classrooms.”

Missouri Students Association President Xavier Billingsley said these expert skills learned in the classroom then translate into professional opportunities for students around Columbia.

“Columbia has resources and opportunities for students to be successful,” he said. “We have so many resources for students to discover what they love.”

Basi said the businesses in Columbia as well as graduate opportunities at the university give students a place they can remain even after their first four college years.

“Columbia is a college town, but it’s a big community,” he said. “We have a great arts community. We have a strong health industry. The partnerships built between businesses in the community and the university are beneficial to students.”
One example of this hands-on professional involvement involved atmospheric science students at the university. These students had the opportunity to use a Mobile Weather Tracking System, the same used by the Weather Channel, to track storms.

Basi said this type of familiarity with technologies and tools used in the field allows student to gain more knowledge than those students whose understandings are limited to a traditional school environment.

“To have that experience when they go for job interviews, they can say they’ve had experience with that type of technology, not just in the classroom,” he said. “Those opportunities give them a leg up when they go to apply for jobs.”

Basi also said Columbia’s location in mid-Missouri also provides a prime location for students for internships and networking.

“Columbia is a fantastic town,” he said. “It’s a growing community and there’s a wonderful relationship between the town and the university. We’re also close to the metropolitan areas of St. Louis and Kansas City and we have a lot of partnerships with them.”

Because of Missouri’s location in the central U.S., Billingsley said the university offers a taste of the Midwest.

“The Midwest is the heartland of America,” he said. “It’s all mixed together and that’s here in the University of Missouri. You can’t beat it. I’m from the South, but it’s great to have the Midwest experience. It’s something I will forever be thankful for.”

Billingsley stressed the importance of the relationship between the town and its students.

“Mizzou is built on the connection between Columbia and the university,” he said. “The city of Columbia does a really great job accommodating students. It’s just a really great college town. It’s essentially bustling with awesomeness.”
Halftime

Time for beer at Memorial Stadium?

By Henry J. Waters III

Friday, October 5, 2012

Fans are about to experience their second Southeastern Conference home game under new rules forbidding them to leave and return to the stadium. If you check out anytime during the game, you're out for good.

I suppose this is intended to reduce the amount of tailgate drunkenness fueled by trips to the parking lot during halftime, or maybe it's a way to boost sales of less-lethal consumables inside, but the policy has its own counterproductive drawbacks and gives rise to an ancient notion long dormant but not dead: Why not sell beer inside the stadium like many other places do, including some SEC locations?

First, the unintended consequences. Since fans can't escape the friendly stadium confines to top off their cocktails, many bring main ingredients inside. Despite efforts at the gate to frisk ticketholders, somehow many vials of hard stuff are being smuggled in. Record sales of soda, thought to be simply enhanced by trapped fans who can't get outside, also are enhanced by fans with contraband to add.

If fans are bound to be influenced by alcohol, either by loading up in the parking lots ahead of time or smuggling the stuff inside, why not sell beer in the stadium?

Reports from elsewhere contend alcohol problems are no greater, and the university could make millions. Refusing out-and-in privileges would help on-site sales. Professional sports stadiums sell beer at inflated prices, and the lack of similar vending is about the only thing that distinguishes today's big-time college venues from their for-profit cousins.

To be sure, selling beer inside would require ID checks of student fans, but who checks tailgaters outside? Arguably, selling inside would give university enforcers a better way to dissuade underage consumers.

Admittedly, this is idle conjecture from an outside meddler. If anyone is willing to give serious thought to the idea, the next thing to do is research among the many college sports venues where alcohol is sold. Do these places wish they had never started, or is selling on the premises a good trade-off?
Wellness Resource Center kicks off Alcohol Responsibility Month with annual resource fair

By Sara Naatz

The Wellness Resource Center began its Alcohol Responsibility Month on Tuesday with the 30th annual resource fair. The event took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Stotler Lounge, where different organizations from across campus set up booths to educate students about alcohol safety.

Representatives from STRIPES, the Office of Student Conduct and the Craft Studio were among more than 20 booths set up at the fair.

Director of Alcohol Responsibility Month Danae Fuqua said these stations play an integral role in the education of students attending the fair.

“We can’t teach students about this all alone,” she said. “The more organizations we have helping us with this cause, the more effective it will be. The more we can get the word out there, the more we can change behaviors.”

Fair volunteers handed cards to students entering Stotler Lounge. The students could then stop at stations where they would learn about different aspects of alcohol responsibility.

After attending eight stations and receiving eight punches on their cards, students would receive a free Alcohol Responsibility T-shirt and pizza.

“Events like this put the idea in people’s minds,” Fuqua said. “The more they’re exposed to it, the more they’ll be aware of how to be responsible. It shows they can have a good time without alcohol and probably even have a better time without it.”

Kelsey Lammy and Cole Nemdenhall, tri-directors of Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol, also volunteered at the event.

“(The fair) is a good way to kick off alcohol responsibility month,” Nemdenhall said. “We educate and it also helps get the word out for future events. It shows you can have a good time without drinking.”

The fair focused on the 12-Hour Alcohol Responsibility Walk, which takes place Friday. The walk will feature more alcohol safety education.

“We want our campus to be as healthy as possible,” Fuqua said. “We want to raise awareness about how to be responsible because alcohol can lead to some issues down the road. Not only that, but (the walk) is a good way to get kids active. It’s a great way to end the week and start the weekend.”
The fair also informed students of other Alcohol Responsibility Month activities such as a keynote and a legal issues panel.

Lammy and Nemdenhall stressed the importance of “harm management” strategy, rather than asking students to abstain from alcohol entirely.

“We understand our audience,” Lammy said. “We want to help them make safe choices. We don’t want to tell them what choices to make, just how to do it in a safe way. And by doing harm reduction, we think we can reach more people.”

Nemdenhall said this approach allows GAMMA and the Wellness Resource Center to help more students during Alcohol Responsibility Month.

“We know staying away from alcohol entirely is not going to reach everyone,” he said. “It’s like eliminating the risk can be impossible, but we can work to reduce the risk.”

This year’s slogan, “With great power comes great responsibility,” inspired a superhero theme. Fuqua said the importance of this theme comes from the necessity for students to act as role models to their peers.

One of her biggest jobs as a peer advocator, she said, is to show others how to act responsibly with alcohol.

“I love educating for the wellness of students,” Fuqua said. “What’s really kept me going is how I and the other peer educators can change people’s lives. Making a difference in people’s lives is really cool.”
DEAR READER: The incident in question involved three letters — DGB

By Tom Warhover
October 5, 2012 | 5:00 p.m. CDT

Dear Reader,

News breaks in the strangest of ways.

At 11:49 a.m. Thursday, sports editor Greg Bowers received a fairly astounding email from an MU Athletics Department spokesman:

“Good afternoon,” Chad Moller wrote, “wanted to try and be as helpful as possible by sending you the following statement that relates to the incident you have either already heard about, or will likely be hearing about soon. Thanks, and as is standard, this will be the extent of our comments...”

And then, the official comment:

“We’re aware of the incident and have addressed it. All individuals involved have been immediately suspended from the program for one game. All other disciplinary measures will be handled internally, and there will be no further comment.”


It appeared that Moller was so out in front of the news as to be beyond the horizon.

Sports editor Greg Bowers called in his beat writers. And community outreach editor Joy Mayer posted to the Missourian’s Facebook page with a plea: “Who can help us fill in the gaps?”

Let me pause for a moment. Many of us who grew up (journalistically speaking) in the pre-Facebook/Twitter/Linked-In era still instinctively shudder at the idea of publishing
questions. We were taught that readers were paying that dime or quarter to get answers. So I was happy to see the speed at which the newsroom jumped to search for help from anyone who might have had information. The first Facebook request went up at 12:04 pm.

At 12:12, the reason for Moller’s preemptive comment and no comment became clear. The Maneater, the campus newspaper, said in a tweet, “Dorial Green-Beckham, two teammates arrested on charges of marijuana possession Wednesday night,” and linked to the full article by Kelsey Maffett and Seth Boster.

Missourian reporters soon confirmed just about everything in The Maneater’s report. By 12:30, a Maneater tweet apologized – not for anything in the story, but for the website’s inability to keep up with the massive surge in traffic. Kudos go to Boster and to Maffett, who received a tip about the arrests at around 10 that morning.

Here’s a piece that shows how the story broke on social media Thursday.

One of the things I liked about the digital Missourian coverage was a piece that pulled together the background and connections of Dorial Green-Beckham to MU. Rather than a series of headlines and links, the article created a kind of mini-timeline in narrative form. It began in January 2012 with head football coach Gary Pinkel’s visit, via helicopter, to Green-Beckham’s high school.

Through a nifty program at storify.com, the timeline included photos and links to original articles. Readers who have bought memberships to the Missourian could read the archived stories, while non-members still received a good dose of information.

It’s not a big legal story: Three freshmen in Green-Beckham’s 2004 Lincoln Navigator got in trouble with the law, although the penalty for possessing small amounts of marijuana is a pittance.

It’s only moderately important as a sports story. In all, five freshmen were suspended for one game. Four of the five weren’t exactly on the top of the depth chart, and it could be argued that Green-Beckham had displayed a total of one flash of greatness, a touchdown catch and run, for the whole season.

But, in the end, the story stayed atop the Missourian’s most read for one reason: celebrity. It’s clear the recruiting of a teenager who is so highly touted creates a mountain of interest.

Tom
When Branches Tangle in a Stepfamily Tree

By ELISSA GOOTMAN

HERE’S a not-so-uncommon predicament: A divorced man with kids marries a woman who also has children. At the wedding, their respective constellations of relatives — siblings, parents — get to know one another. Over the years, they start to bond as an extended family. Homes are shared for weekend and holiday visits. Gifts are exchanged, relationships forged.

Then the couple splits.

Suddenly these step-relatives, unbound by biological or legal ties, are former step-relatives, left to puzzle over the sorts of questions that can require a whiteboard to explain.

Do you invite your ex-stepsister to your wedding, given that you shared a bunk bed with her for seven formative years? How long should you continue texting your ex-stepson if he doesn’t text back? And what, if anything, do you call your ex-stepgrandmother?

For thousands of people, such questions are not hypothetical. While the number of people with former step-relatives is not tracked, researchers agree that it is substantial, with no indications of shrinking.

In a 2010 study by the Pew Research Center, 42 percent of adults surveyed said they had at least one step-relative. Studies have shown that second marriages are more likely to end in divorce than first marriages. And a rise in births among cohabitating couples could lead to more situations in which people are effectively ex-steps, even if their relationships were not legally sealed through marriage.

There are books offering help adjusting to stepfamily life, with optimistic titles like “The Smart Stepdad,” “The Happy Stepmother” and “The Step-Tween Survival Guide.” But when stepdads aren’t smart, stepmothers aren’t happy and the marriages that brought them together do not survive, there are no road maps for the dos and don’ts of ex-step etiquette.

“This is a new area, really on the frontier of American family life and kinship,” said Andrew J. Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins and author of the 2009 book “The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today.” “We don’t really know whether there is enough bonding to make a step-relationship survive the breakup of the family.”
In a recent study, Marilyn Coleman and Lawrence H. Ganong, professors at the University of Missouri, interviewed 29 people ages 18 to 32 who have former stepparents.

They found that relationships fell into three categories: “never claimed” (those who never embraced their stepparent as a family member), “unclaimed” (those who considered the stepparent to be a parent figure during the marriage, but not afterward) and “claimed” (those who continued to consider their ex-stepparent as a family member after the divorce).

But how do the dynamics play out within those categories? Below, an alternative (and thoroughly unscientific) taxonomy, compiled after interviews with researchers, therapists and ex-step-everythings.

PROBLEM SOLVED

When parents divorce for the first time, they often try to reassure their children that they are not responsible for the breakup. When second marriages end, it can be hard to make such assertions with a straight face. “A lot of the tension may have been over the children,” said Mary T. Kelly, a marriage and family therapist in Boulder, Colo., who leads “Married With Baggage” workshops for remarried couples.

When stepfamilies are ravaged by fights over how to discipline the children (fathers tend to be more lenient than their new wives), or between teenagers and their stepparents, those involved may be relieved to go their separate ways.

“It’s the reality we don’t like to talk about,” Ms. Kelly said. “We’re very addicted to happy endings in this culture.”

Paul Hokemeyer, a Manhattan therapist, said he had seen plenty of “situations where the kids say: ‘Get out of here! I don’t want you here!’” to their stepparents.

But haven’t children been known to direct such comments at their own parents? “They don’t mean it,” he said. With stepparents, apparently, they often really do.

FORCED OUT

Not surprisingly, divorcing couples may not agree on the matter of whether certain relationships born of the defunct marriage should continue.

Gretchen, a 39-year-old sales representative (who, like many people interviewed for this article, did not want her last name used), lived with her fiancé and his two sons for a year and a half. She grew close to them, she said, seeing them as the future half-siblings of the children she one day hoped to have. Then the fiancé broke off the engagement, forbidding Gretchen, she said, from having any contact with the boys. “I begged and pleaded and tried to state my case,” she said. “To no avail.”

Even if her ex-fiancé had been an ex-husband, Gretchen’s situation might not have changed.
“You have no legal ties to an ex-stepkid,” Professor Coleman said, adding that the parent “can stop you from seeing that child again.”

But Gretchen’s former fiancé saw things differently than she did. In his view, the breakup was accompanied by such animosity that, he said, “I made a judgment call that it wasn’t in the kids’ best interests” for them to maintain contact with her. The boys “liked her a lot,” he said. “I gave it a lot of thought.”

Denise, 43, a banker, said that when her first marriage dissolved, her parents were distraught over losing her ex-husband’s daughter, whom they treated as a granddaughter. “You know the movie with Tom Hanks, where he goes back and he’s a kid and he goes to F. A. O. Schwarz and dances on one of those keyboards?” she said, referring to a scene in the film “Big.” “My parents bought her one of those.”

Denise has three stepchildren from her current marriage; her parents are kind to them, she said, but “this time around they’ve been a little more cautious.”

**DRIFTING APART**

If you don’t talk to your brother for 20 years, he’s still your brother. Don’t talk to your ex-stepbrother, and he becomes just another former acquaintance.

Former step-relationships take work, planning and juggling. Drop the ball, and there’s no guarantee that anyone else will pick it up.

Many a stepmother would be thrilled to be described the way Graham McCaulley, a graduate student at the University of Missouri, speaks of his: as “one-third of my parents” during the years she was married to his father. “Being in that stepfamily was a really positive experience,” he said.

Post-divorce, Mr. McCaulley and his former stepmother tried to get everyone together: there were monthly sibling dinners, annual family barbecues, holiday reunions.

“It went from every Christmas, every birthday, to a little more sparingly, maybe just a call, and then everybody just kind of doing their own thing,” he said. “With my mom, it was never in question: you’re going to go over there for Christmas. But with this, there were no rules. It was: ‘Oh, I guess we’re going to go over there. We need to talk about this and figure it out.’

“We just kind of separated over time. There were no heated words. You’re talking 10 years later under these ambiguous circumstances.”

Mr. McCaulley’s former stepmother, Sheila Martin-McCaulley, agreed. “I always felt like I didn’t want to interrupt,” she said. “An ex-stepmom — where in the world does that person fit in?”

**STORY CONTINUES...**
Few debates planned for Missouri races

20 hours ago • Associated Press

MU MENTION P. 2

Don't expect Missouri candidates to spend much of their final weeks before Election Day sharing a stage and debating their opponents.

Candidates for the U.S. Senate and Missouri governor debated two weeks ago with the closely watched forum broadcast live on radio and TV. Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill and challenger Republican Congressman Todd Akin plan to debate once more in suburban St. Louis. However, both campaigns blame the other for not having more. And prospects are uncertain if there will be a second debate between Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon and Republican businessman Dave Spence.

Debates offer new details about candidates and their approach while posing relatively little political risk to the campaigns, said Eric Morris, a professor of communication and the debate coach at Missouri State University.

"The debates are very helpful for a voter because you learn a lot more from having the candidates on stage near each other in a situation in which as much as they might prep for and attempt to script for is not completely scriptable," Morris said. "You can gain a lot of insight from them based upon what they say, what they don't say, how they handle certain kinds of questions."

But little risk is not the same as no risk. And discussion over debates is a regular feature of campaigns. Debates put office-seekers on a temporary equal footing, attract free media attention that helps a candidate whose coffers are lagging and can lead to self-inflicted wounds from the possible gaffe. Generally, challengers press for more debates while incumbents and those who think they are winning hold back.

In the governor's race, Spence has accepted offers for five more media-sponsored debates while Nixon has been less eager for an encore. Spence spent much of their first debate attacking Nixon while the governor sought to defend his record on economic issues.
"Gov. Nixon values debates, and in the coming days, we'll be in touch with the different organizations that have invited us and make a determination on the best course forward," Nixon campaign manager Oren Shur said.

Spence's campaign insists it is not looking for a debate about debates but that having fewer than three forums before the Nov. 6 election would be a disservice.

"The public needs unfiltered information about where the candidates stand on the issues," said Spence's campaign manager, Jared Craighead.

During the Republican gubernatorial primary this summer, a lesser-funded candidate pressed for more debates with Spence. There were a couple primary debates and numerous joint candidate appearances.

Farther down the ticket, no debates are scheduled for the lower-profile statewide offices of lieutenant governor, secretary of state and state treasurer.

Republican attorney general candidate Ed Martin has accused incumbent Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster of skipping out on debates. Martin plans "empty chair town hall forums" that were announced with the headline: "Chris Koster Fearfully Refuses to Face Missourians."

The Missouri Bar has invited the attorney general candidates to debate later this month. Koster has agreed to participate, and Martin was checking whether his schedule will allow him to attend. The Bar does not plan to hold a debate if all the candidates cannot come.

Koster campaign manager Rachel Levine said there is an opportunity for an attorney general forum while noting that even the vice president candidates debate a single time.

"So many times these debates are just fodder for zingers and for 'gotcha' moments," Levine said. "And what we're trying to do is have an actual conversation with Missourians about how important the Missouri attorney general's office is."

Debate barbs are not likely to flip a race, but they still get plenty of attention. At one point after this past week's presidential debate, Twitter users were posting up to 17,000 messages per second about Big Bird after Republican candidate Mitt Romney said he would cut federal funds for PBS despite loving the "Sesame Street" character.

How well that attention translates into state races is debatable. Unlike this fall's three presidential debates, forums for Missouri candidates generally are not always broadcast on TV.

"In terms of the media attention and saturation they're not nearly as extensively covered," said Mitchell McKinney, professor of communication at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "So therefore, they don't reach the same audience even at the state level."
Lawmaker, lobbyist debate tobacco tax measure

By Janese Silvey

Friday, October 5, 2012

A lobbyist and a lawmaker spent an hour yesterday trying to convince University of Missouri students how to vote on the upcoming tobacco tax increase.

At a forum sponsored by the Missouri Students Association, state Rep. Chris Kelly at times made it sound like a vote against Proposition B would be a vote against MU.

"You can't be pro-education and anti-B," he told roughly 50 students in the audience. "If you care about the value of your degree and care about this institution, which is desperate for the resources, this is the only game in town."

Ron Leone, executive director of the Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, pooh-poohed that notion, saying there are fairer ways to fund public education. "Proposition B is too big, and it's too dangerous for Missouri," he said.

Missouri's 17-cent tax on a pack of cigarettes is the lowest state tobacco tax in the country. On Nov. 6, Missourians will be asked to increase that rate by 73 cents. If approved, the 90-cent state tax would be on top of a $1.01 federal cigarette tax.

The ballot question would essentially raise taxes on off brands by 760 percent, Leone said. "If you let the tax-and-spend folks raise taxes by 760 percent for something you don't like, don't be surprised if it emboldens them to go after something you do like, like beer."

If approved, half of the revenue from the increase would go to public K-12 schools, 30 percent to higher education and 20 percent would be used for smoking-cessation programs.

Kelly argued the increase would require smokers to help pay for some of the tobacco-related medical care the state funds through Medicaid. But none of the revenue would be spent directly on smoking-related health care, Leone pointed out, nor is it likely to decrease Medicaid expenses.

The ballot language does direct the bulk of the higher education portion to health care training. MU Chancellor Brady Deaton has said he would use revenue from the tax hike to expand...
medical school facilities to open more slots for students. "I'd rather have a few more nurses and a few less cigarettes," Kelly said.

Leone warned that the tobacco tax increase would put Missouri's rate higher than four border states, and Missouri would lose out on business from out-of-state residents who now drive across state lines to buy smokes here. Those people also buy gas, food and other goods that generate local sales taxes. He pointed to an economic impact report from an MU economist that says communities could lose $67 million if the tax is approved.

Asked whether the tax would disproportionately hurt poor people, Kelly said "Yes, and I don't mind that." Later, he called tobacco poison and said: "If you're selling something that's poison, it's reasonable for a society to assess taxation at a level different than lemons."

Neither was able to sway freshman Kimberly Hejza. She said both made good points, but she needs to do more research before deciding how to vote.

Sophomore Ana Whitaker said she supports Proposition B. "Definitely," she said. "I really believe in higher education, so it seems logical for me to vote for it."
Missouri to vote on raising lowest tobacco taxes in the US

MU MENTION PAGE 3

Jason Hancock

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Missouri’s cigarette tax is the lowest in the nation, and that has some people doing a slow burn.

At 17 cents per pack, Missouri’s tax is nearly half as much as the next lowest and well below the $1.49 national average. In Kansas, the tax is 79 cents a pack.

All that could change on Nov. 6, however, when voters get another chance to decide whether to raise the tax to 90 cents per pack and make Missouri’s cigarette tax the 33rd highest in the country.

If it wins approval, Proposition B is projected to generate $283 million to $423 million a year in additional tobacco tax revenue, which would be directed to a fund aimed at K-12 schools, higher education and smoking cessation programs.

“Raising the tobacco tax is one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking rates and prevent our youth from ever starting,” said Misty Snodgrass, government relations director for the American Cancer Society. “It’s also a revenue win for our underfunded public schools and universities.”

But opponents argue Proposition B would hurt sales tax revenue for state and local government and drive business to neighboring states.

“This would put small businesses in Kansas City at a disadvantage, which is horrific public policy,” said Ron Leone, who is running the opposition’s campaign for the Missouri Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association PAC.

Voters rejected tobacco tax hikes in 2002 and 2006. Both years, the nation’s biggest tobacco companies spent millions to oppose the increase. But this time around, those same companies have said they are sitting out the campaign.
"Big Tobacco is standing down this year because they support Proposition B. They support it because it reduces their competition," Leone explained.

That’s because in addition to increasing taxes on tobacco products, Proposition B also would eliminate a pricing advantage that off-brand cigarette companies currently have in Missouri.

In 1998, Missouri was one of 46 states that entered into a legal agreement with cigarette makers forcing them to pay into a state fund to help cover the cost of smoking-related diseases. Companies that didn’t sign the agreement still pay into the fund, but through a loophole in the law get their money back at the end of each year.

Missouri is the only state that hasn’t closed the loophole.

"This ballot initiative eliminates a loophole in the law that has created an uneven playing field for cigarette manufacturers and retailers in Missouri," said Bryan Hatchell, a spokesman for Reynolds American Inc., a major manufacturer of tobacco products. "Primarily for this reason, Reynolds American Inc. has no plans to oppose the Missouri ballot initiative."

Leone said the passage of Proposition B would mean off-brand cigarettes could cost customers as much as 57 cents more per pack, in addition to the new increased tax.

"In one fell swoop, Big Tobacco can reduce or eliminate their competition," Leone said.

Money for schools

Snodgrass said the decision to use the additional revenue generated by the proposed tax increase for public schools and higher education is a key difference from previous efforts and a big reason why supporters are so optimistic it will succeed this time.

“We know that Missourians support their local public schools," she said.

If passed, the additional revenue would be put into the Health and Education Trust Fund, where 50 percent would go to K-12 schools, 30 percent to higher education and 20 percent to tobacco use prevention and quit assistance programs.

Supporters estimate that the higher tax could result in millions in additional funding for area school districts, including nearly $3 million for North Kansas City, $2.7 million for Lee’s Summit and $2.3 million for Kansas City.

Leone, however, questions whether the additional revenue will actually translate into higher funding levels. Lawmakers have a history of using new revenue streams to justify cuts in other state appropriations, he said.

“Even if this brought in $300 million for schools, it doesn’t guarantee the money that is currently appropriated for schools is going to stay there," he said. “The budget is a big shell game, and what goes in the front door can just as easily go right out the back door."
Snodgrass said proponents would be vigilant to ensure the additional revenue is spent in line with how voters intended.

"The coalition behind this initiative will be a constant presence in Jefferson City to remind legislators of the voters’ intent and ensure accountability for its implementation," she said.

In addition to new revenue, Snodgrass said fewer Missourians smoking will also save the state millions of dollars a year. Medicaid costs associated with tobacco-related disease cost taxpayers $532 million annually, she said. Each pack of cigarettes sold in Missouri "costs our economy $12.68 in lost productivity and preventable health care expenses," she added.

"The low tobacco tax in Missouri costs the state dearly in state tax dollars, in lost productivity, in preventable disease and in premature deaths."

Impact on local business

Leone called the increased tax “outrageous and unfair.” The real impact of the 90-cent per pack tax would be loss of business, and ultimately jobs, at stores along the state’s borders.

"For some reason we’re embarrassed for being the lowest cigarette tax, even though that brings a tremendous amount of business into this state,” he said.

A study commissioned by Leone’s organization and performed by Joseph Haslag, an economist at the University of Missouri, found that, if estimates are correct, Proposition B would result in 157 million fewer packs of cigarettes sold in Missouri every year. That would mean the amount collected in sales and other state and local taxes would decrease by $67 million.

Haslag’s study predicts that would translate to $1.4 million in lost sales taxes for Kansas City and $824,000 for Jackson County.

"That’s why this isn’t just about smokers,” Leone said. “That’s why everyone has skin in this game. Our state and local governments are going to lose revenue if this measure passes."

Snodgrass called that argument “fatally flawed” She said it presumes that with a decrease in smoking, none of the money currently spent on cigarettes will make its way back into the local economy and countered that tobacco use in the state costs an estimated $565 per household in public expenditures.

"They are trying to convince voters that Missouri’s economy is only competitive because we sell deadly, addictive products cheaper than our neighbors," she said. “That’s just a false argument. The harm caused by tobacco products is currently subsidized by all Missourians.”

Leone said his organization is not opposed to any tax increase on tobacco. He said he spoke in favor of legislation that would have nearly doubled the tax to 33 cents per pack earlier this year, but the bill never gained traction.
“For anyone to say we’re against all tax increases is ridiculous,” he said. “We’re just against any tax increase that puts us at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states.”

Money game

The nation’s biggest tobacco companies may be sitting out the 2012 campaign, but off-brand cigarette companies are spending big in Missouri.

Two of those companies – Cheyenne International LLC of Grover, N.C., and Xcaliber International LTD LLC of Pryor, Okla. – have given more than $1 million combined to the opposition campaign this year.

Several convenience store chains, such as Dallas-based 7-Eleven Inc., also have chipped in to the opposition effort.

The American Cancer Society spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the campaign just getting the measure on the ballot, and last week the organization chipped in another $1.7 million.

A poll released in August by the firm Public Policy Polling showed 47 percent of respondents in favor, 38 percent opposed and 14 percent undecided.

Both sides are optimistic about their chances.

“You’re always fighting an uphill battle when you’re fighting a sin tax,” Leone said. “Our job is to educate voters and pull back the curtain and understand all taxpayers have skin in the game. This is not simply a tax that someone else pays.”

Snodgrass said the campaign is gaining support every day as proponents travel the state to educate voters.

“Once voters see the benefits to their community, we’re going to be successful this November,” she said.