Taking a break from obsessing over the races for U.S. Senate and president, I joined a few dozen colleagues Tuesday afternoon at the fall meeting of the university faculty. Attendance at those semiannual general meetings is never good, but the information that’s shared is always valuable and often depressing. Tuesday was no exception.

Chancellor Brady Deaton began with his usual points of pride. We have 34,748 students this year, he said, with the highest minority enrollment, the best test scores and the highest rates of retention and graduation ever. The retention and graduation rates are both well above the national averages. Enrollment is up by 8,624 from 10 years ago.

(A bit later in the proceedings, budget officer Tim Rooney supplied his standard deflator. Since 2001, he pointed out, enrollment has increased by 47 percent while state support has decreased by 12 percent.)

Even Chancellor Deaton wasn’t completely his usual upbeat self. While he pointed with pride to MU’s continued membership in the most elite group of research universities, the Association of American Universities, he emphasized that we’re lagging behind that peer group.

The AAU has only 59 members in the United States and two in Canada, 34 of them public. We’re near the bottom of the pack in three of the four most important measures that determine eligibility for membership and not much better in the fourth. We’re below the 10th percentile in federal research dollars, memberships in the National Academies of Science and Medicine, and the number of times other scholars cite our work.

We’ve got to do better, he said. He didn’t suggest that we’re in danger of being evicted from this high-prestige and high-dollar neighborhood, but he did remind us that the University of Nebraska was voted out not long ago.
He wants the campus to increase the number of graduate students, who of course do a lot of the grunt work behind the scenes of research productivity. He also wants to increase the number of tenure-track faculty, a number that has been pretty static even as the numbers of undergraduates, and the non-tenure-track faculty who teach them has mushroomed.

By comparison to other AAU universities, our faculty is strongly skewed to the low end of experience and salary. Of our tenure-track faculty, 34 percent are assistant professors, 34 percent associate professors and 32 percent full professors. The average percentages among our peers are, respectively 24 percent, 27 percent and 49 percent.

More and higher-ranked faculty, of course, cost money. Tim Rooney told us that the university system is requesting about $85 million more for general operations from next year’s legislature. We’ll see how that plays out.

Mr. Rooney also said that Proposition B, the cigarette tax increase, would yield $40 to $50 million a year for the system. Much of that would go toward increasing the School of Medicine’s enrollment of future physicians by one-third, in a new partnership with two southwest Missouri hospitals. You’ve noticed, I’m sure, that President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor Deaton have plunged into the campaign to pass that tax.

When the chancellor introduced Tom Hiles, the new campus fundraiser-in-chief, he said private dollars are no substitute for public support. He must have meant that they shouldn’t be. Increasingly, they are.

Mr. Hiles reported that the capital campaign that ended in 2008 had a final take of $1.038 billion, one of only 20 such campaigns by public universities to top the billion-dollar level. That money has produced, among other things, 1,500 endowed scholarships and 91 endowed faculty chairs.

Our university now has a total endowment of more than $600 million, he said. That sounds pretty good until you realize that it leaves us, again, near the bottom of the AAU. For comparison, the University of Florida’s endowment is $1.3 billion. Penn State’s is $1.7 billion.

So the next big campaign will be focused mainly on increasing our endowment. If you wonder why that’s so important, see Tim Rooney’s figures, above.

The next campaign won’t go public for another year or more, Mr. Hiles said. He declined to reveal its goal, saying that won’t be decided for a while. It will be more than $1 billion,
though, and will last seven years. During this planning phase, the counting has already started. So far, he said, the total committed is $168 million.

Reflecting on the meeting, I can’t help concluding that, while it may be true as the Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil, it’s also true that the lack of money is the root of its own evils. And the pursuit of money never ends.

George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism. Questions? Contact Opinion editor Elizabeth Conner.
Azizan-Gardner appointed Chief Diversity Officer

After serving as interim for the past year, Noor Azizan-Gardner was appointed chief diversity officer Monday by Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton.

The position involves coordinating the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative and working to promote diversity goals on campus.

“Our mission for diversity on campus is to initiate diversity and inclusion as a whole,” Azizan-Gardner said. "We continue to want to collaborate and engage with all the divisions and units on campus. The campus diversity initiative is about the whole campus, not just the office."

One of the main priorities of the initiative is to create a diverse faculty, Azizan-Gardner said.

"We want to make sure we have a very diverse faculty body to engage with our increasingly diverse student body," Azizan-Gardner said.

Before serving as interim chief diversity officer, Azizan-Gardner was the director of diversity programming and professional development with the initiative. Azizan-Gardner said her past experiences working with the initiative will aid her as she assumes the new position.

"My role is to be able to provide leadership, resources and advice to my colleagues and to make all these things happen," Azizan-Gardner said. "My role is to capture the energy, passion and momentum of everybody to be agents of change (in diversity)."

Azizan-Gardner emphasized MU's progressive approach to diversity.

"We have a very comprehensive and strategic approach toward diversity," Azizan-Gardner said. "Here at MU, what we do in diversity is ahead of the curve compared to public research universities across the nation. Our diversity office is really interested in the whole spectrum of diversity."

In addition to working with the initiative, Azizan-Gardner has worked on multicultural issues locally and abroad for more than 18 years. She served on many multicultural committees and organizations throughout Columbia in the past and currently is a member of a community committee that works with the Columbia Police Department to address racial profiling issues.

The opportunity to help promote openness in campus diversity is what draws her to this kind of work, Azizan-Gardner said.

"Being a part of (the initiative), I get the chance to help create the kind of university where everyone feels like they are engaged and they feel like 'This is my university. I am a part of this. My voice is heard,'" Azizan-Gardner said.
A University of Missouri professor has resurrected his two-decade-old work in the contested field of cold fusion.

In 1991, Mark Prelas was part of a research team that conducted a fusion experiment that emitted a burst of millions of neutrons. The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/TPLr1t) reports that the work stopped when funding was cut off.

At the time, cold fusion claims had been dismissed as junk science. Prelas shifted to other work.

But his neutron-producing experiment resumed this year, and he presented his findings at a cold fusion conference in August in South Korea.

Prelas, now a professor in the university's Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute, received funding from the Sidney Kimmel Institute for Nuclear Renaissance at MU. It was created with a $5.5 million gift from the institute's namesake, an apparel tycoon who founded The Jones Group.

Five other research teams are working on energy-related studies through the institute.

In the original experiment, the team created an emitted neutron-recording device and expected to count about 10 neutrons a second. The card's storage was used up in less than one-hundredth of a second. Then, the team used a counter with the capacity to track up to 1 million neutrons and timed it again. They reached a million neutrons in a second.

"This was incredible to us," Prelas said in an email. "The neutron production went on for five minutes and then I decided to put the device back into liquid nitrogen to shut the reaction down. We thermal shocked the device two more times and each time we produced large neutron bursts."

Before he could purchase more supplies to continue the work, his research account had been frozen.

With SKINR funding, he re-created the experiment. More technologically advanced equipment has allowed for a better counting system, and in one run, his research team saw neutron emissions at similar levels to the 1991 observation.
Rob Duncan, MU's vice chancellor of research, said a success will "lead to engineering better systems that will benefit humans, but first things first. We've got to understand what this is. The focus clearly has to be on an opportunity to discover new physics and to understand new science. That really is our aim here at SKINR."
MU professor revisits decades-old fusion project

(AP) -- COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) -- A University of Missouri professor is resurrecting his nuclear fusion work from two decades ago.

Mark Prelas was part of a research team in 1991 that conducted a fusion experiment that emitted a burst of millions of neutrons. The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that work stopped when funding was cut off.

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Missouri voters to decide 4 ballot measures

By CHRIS BLANK

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's statewide vote Tuesday will decide the fate of initiatives dealing with tobacco taxes, oversight of police in St. Louis, an online health insurance marketplace and the selection of state appeals court judges.

There has been a full campaign with highway billboards and TV ads over a ballot measure to increase Missouri's tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products. It will be the third time in a decade that voters have considered such a tax increase. Another measure deals with the selection of appellate judges and would amend the Missouri Constitution.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

APPELLATE JUDGES

Constitutional Amendment 3 would change the composition of a state commission responsible for nominating finalists for vacancies on the Missouri Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. It also would increase the number of judicial finalists submitted to the governor from three to four. Currently, the nominating commission has three members from the Missouri Bar, three gubernatorial appointees who cannot be members of the Missouri Bar and a Supreme Court judge. Under the measure, the judge would be replaced with a fourth gubernatorial selectee, and governors would be allowed to appoint lawyers to the commission. In addition, a former appellate judge would serve as a nonvoting commission member.

The constitutional amendment was approved by the state Legislature and needs approval from voters.

Critics contend the changes would give the governor too much power and inject politics into the process. Supporters are not actively campaigning because they are unhappy with the summary appearing before voters. Instead, they plan a future fight for "meaningful judicial reform." They contend politics remain involved in how appellate judges are picked and that attorneys have too much influence.

ST. LOUIS POLICE

Since the Civil War, a state commission has overseen the St. Louis Police Department. Proposition A would eliminate the five-member state commission that is comprised of four gubernatorial appointees and the city's mayor.
St. Louis officials have pressed to eliminate the state commission in recent years and estimate it could save $4.5 million, mostly by ending duplication of administrative functions. Opponents such as the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union fear that the measure would make it harder to establish a citizen oversight board and make it harder to access police records.

The Kansas City Police Department also is governed by a state commission, but it is not affected by the ballot measure.

TOBACCO TAX

Missouri's lowest-in-the-nation cigarette tax would be increased from 17 cents to 90 cents per pack while state taxes on other tobacco products also would be increased. Proposition B calls for the additional tax revenue to be divvied up among K-12 education, higher education and tobacco prevention and cessation programs. The tax increase is expected to generate between $283 million and $423 million annually in additional revenue.

Voters narrowly defeated proposed tobacco tax increases in 2002 and 2006.

Opponents include the Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association. They argue the tax increase could cost Missouri businesses a competitive advantage against neighboring states and cost local governments tax revenue by reducing sales. Critics also contend there are no guarantees the additional tax revenue will boost funding for education. A TV ad warns money also could go toward the federal health care law.

The American Cancer Society hopes the higher tax will motivate current smokers to stop and persuade children and teens never to start. Supporters also tout the possibility of more money for education. Leaders for the University of Missouri said a plan to expand its medical school with a second campus in Springfield is unlikely to happen without passage of the measure.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The governor could not create an online marketplace called a health insurance exchange without prior approval from state lawmakers or voters. It also would prohibit any state agency or employee from providing "assistance or resources of any kind" to the federal government to implement an insurance exchange unless allowed by a state law or required by a federal law. Lawmakers approved the measure and referred it to the ballot as Proposition E.

The measure targets part of the federal health care law. Under the health overhaul, the federal government will set up exchanges if a state does not create its own.

Missouri is the only state with a ballot measure specifically targeting insurance exchanges, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Voters in four other states are deciding on broader initiatives dealing with the health care law.
Study looks at value placed on apparel

American consumers place a higher value on clothing produced entirely in the U.S. as opposed to products made partially or entirely overseas — and that inflated value could be damaging to the country's apparel manufacturing businesses, a University of Missouri research team has found.

Jung Ha-Brookshire is an assistant professor in textile and apparel management department in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. She surveyed Americans to determine the value they place on apparel produced in different countries. In the experiment, she showed participants a cotton shirt, told them it was made in China and said it sold for $40.

Ha-Brookshire then showed them the same shirt, telling them it was made in the U.S. with U.S. cotton. The participants valued that shirt at $57, more than 42 percent higher than the same shirt when they thought it was produced in China.

"Americans tend to severely overvalue apparel produced entirely in the U.S.," she said in a statement. "This is concerning because if Americans place higher values on these U.S. products, they perceive those products to be too expensive and are less likely to buy them, opting instead to buy similar Chinese-made products perceived to be more in their price range."

To help U.S. clothing companies create and keep jobs at home, American consumers are going to have to be a little more realistic about the value of clothes made here, she said.

The study also showed that American consumers do value apparel made with U.S.-grown cotton, even if the finished products are manufactured overseas. When she showed study participants the shirt again and told them it was made in China from U.S. cotton, they valued the shirt at $47, a value not cost prohibitive.

"U.S. cotton growers can utilize these findings by better indicating what apparel is manufactured from their cotton," Ha-Brookshire said. "Currently, retailers are only required to indicate where the apparel was manufactured or sewn, but if consumers could see that apparel was produced in China made with U.S. cotton, they would probably be more likely to purchase it."

The study was published in "Clothing and Textiles Research Journal."
MU Human Library event gives volunteers chance to share life stories

By Janine Brownridge
November 2, 2012 | 11:44 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — When Ahmed Alawadhi said he had been a victim of a hate crime, his seriousness in participating in the MU Human Library project came through.

As Alawadhi tells it, a stranger driving by yelled at him, suggesting Alawadhi was hiding a bomb under his jacket.

It's these kind of actions that create internal wounds, Alawadhi said.

"It's my duty as an individual from overseas to try and educate people more about us," he said, referring to Muslims and Arabs.

Alawadhi, a graduate student from Kuwait in the Department of Architectural Studies, is one of more than a dozen students, faculty and staff who volunteered to be a living book at the recent MizzouDiversity Summit.

"It's really easy to have misconceptions and to stereotype people when you don't know someone," said Niki Stanley, multimedia specialist with the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative. "I think some of those misconceptions are broken down when you actually sit down and talk with someone one on one."

The Human Library project started 12 years ago in Denmark as a way for people to have an informal dialogue with others to break stereotypes.

Stanley read about it and wanted to have a dialogue like that at MU. The first one was held Tuesday at the summit and was intended to be a positive way for people from different backgrounds to come together.

The human books sat in a room at Memorial Union and talked with visitors about their lives.
Victoria Chance, fellowship program coordinator in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, volunteered to be a book in the Human Library with the hope of leaving an imprint on the people she talked to that day.

Chance had a daughter at age 15 and did not go through high school with her peers. She grew up relatively poor and went to 28 schools by the time she was in eighth grade. None of these things stopped her from becoming the person she is today, she said.

"My story was interesting for the book project because, statistically, I should not have been a successful outcome," Chance said.

Chance is also a Wiccan high priestess who helps in her church and the community through volunteer services.

"You can't really judge a book by where it started," Chance said. "It's the ending that matters and the journey to get there."

Feedback from the "readers" and the books involved were positive, Stanley said.

"Many of our readers ended up staying longer than they expected," she said. "Once they met with one book, they wanted to go around the room to meet with each of the other books."

For Alawadhi, participating was great and also a learning experience.

"Being a participant has showed me the people's interest in uncovering the stereotypes of both Arabic culture and Muslims," he said. "It was comforting to touch their passion in knowing more about us."

Requests for more from the Human Library have already come in, Stanley said. "We'll definitely be planning more events in the future."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
MU hosts marijuana activists

Ballot measures in six states Tuesday might be the tipping point in the national debate over marijuana legalization, advocates were told yesterday during a daylong conference on the University of Missouri campus.

Voters in Colorado, Oregon and Washington state will vote on marijuana legalization. In Arkansas, Massachusetts and Montana, voters will see proposals to make medical uses of marijuana legal. Supporters abandoned an effort to put a full legalization measure on Missouri's ballot this year when it became clear they could not gather enough signatures to put it before voters.

"No matter what any state does, we are going to have to continue the fight," said Anthony Johnson, executive director of the National Cannabis Coalition.

Johnson, who lives in Oregon, was a student at the University of Missouri when he wrote a proposed marijuana decriminalization ordinance for Columbia. That 2003 measure failed, but a similar one proposed the following year became law.

Supporters of marijuana legalization hope to soon begin a new initiative petition campaign to put a measure before voters in 2014.

The conference — sponsored by the MU chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, the National Cannabis Coalition and Show-Me Cannabis Regulation — drew about 60 people, including Columbia Police Chief Ken Burton.

He said he attended to learn about the issue. "I know how citizens in Columbia feel about it, and it behooves me to remain educated," he said.

Burton, who has said in the past that he hopes legalization efforts succeed, declined to give an opinion yesterday. "As a law enforcement professional, I am obligated to enforce the laws I have on the books."

The keynote speaker was Ethan Nadelmann, founder of the Drug Policy Alliance. He called the war on drugs a failed effort that has led to bulging prison populations, avoidable health problems for addicts and eroding freedoms. "We lock up more people in America for nonviolent violations of a drug law than Western Europe does for everything, and they have 100 million more people," he said.

Most people who use alcohol do so responsibly, and most people who use drugs do so as well, Nadelmann said. Government action on drugs, like alcohol, should deal with regulating the market and people who are not responsible users, he said.

Speakers took on topics ranging from political tactics to the violent mistakes police make in search of drug offenders. At the end of journalist Radley Balko's presentation on the expanding use of SWAT teams.
for drug raids, attorney Dan Viets, the state coordinator for NORML, made sure to tell the audience that Columbia did not overuse or abuse the power of such teams.

Changes Burton has imposed since a 2010 raid on the home of Jonathan Whitworth — in which two family dogs were shot and only a small amount of marijuana was found — are effective, Viets said. "Things have gotten a lot better, and we are really lucky to have" Burton around, he said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Marijuana legalization activists meet at MU

By Stephanie Halovanic
November 3, 2012 | 6:20 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Several dozen marijuana legalization activists gathered Saturday at MU to denounce what they call a "marijuana prohibition," and expressed excitement for a march on Washington D.C. planned for April.

"We are winning in the heartland; the public wants reform more than ever before," said Doug Fine, author of "Too High to Fail," which makes an economic case for the legalization of marijuana.

Fine talked to people in Allen Auditorium about obstacles to ending the nation's "war on drugs" and on a lighter note, his appearance on late-night talk show, "Conan."

This issue isn’t divided into left and right; it’s bipartisan, Fine told Conan O’Brien in July.

Fine said on Saturday that law enforcement's profiling tactics are unfair.

"I’ve been told the only way not to be profiled as a marijuana user is to be a woman," Fine said, laughing. "I need to be a 45-year-old woman in a Subaru. No suspicion there."

Carla Mills, a respiratory therapist from Bowling Green and audience member, fit the stereotype.

"Honestly, I have never used marijuana in my life," Mills said. "But as a member of a rural community and the medical profession, I find that there are many benefits."

Mills’ son began doing research on the topic of legalization a few years ago and told his mother about its "positive uses."

"I used to be against marijuana because I just didn’t know enough," Mills said. "I think education and getting the word out there about marijuana’s positive medical use is very important."
The day began with remarks from Missouri’s Coordinator of The National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws and Show-Me Cannabis Regulation’s Board Chair, Dan Viets. Viets is an attorney in Columbia who specializes in cases regarding the defense of marijuana possession and use.

“I could talk about marijuana all day long,” Viets said to the audience in a discussion after a documentary.

Viets said he’s excited about a march on Washington that will take place on April 20, 2013, or "4/20."

Criminal defense lawyer Joseph Welch traveled to Columbia from St. Louis for the event. Welch is a director for the St. Louis branch of The National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws.

He is currently working on a case for a Navy veteran who was arrested for marijuana use, though he said the man was using it for medicinal purposes.

Welch said legalization in Missouri is possible.

“I don’t think it’s going to happen this year, but there’s hope for 2014,” he said.
Monument unearthed on courthouse grounds

November 04, 2012 6:00 am • By Jodie Jackson Columbia Tribune

COLUMBIA, Mo. • It’s a monumental mystery.

Local historians and county government officials have been unable to determine the origin and record of a small granite monument unearthed last month on the Boone County Courthouse grounds as a landscaping crew began renovating the courtyard plaza. A search of county and state historical archives, as well as Tribune archives, has shed no light on the damaged and once-buried monument, which was placed by Boone County Chapter 6 of the American War Mothers.

Google wasn’t even helpful, as there’s apparently no digital record of that chapter.

“What puzzles me is no one missed it, I guess,” said Nelda Bleckler of Farmington, the past president of the American War Mothers’ national organization.

Most of the first line of the six-line tribute on the memorial is missing or illegible. Bleckler suggested that the first line said, “Dedicated to the boys &,” while the rest of the memorial clearly reads, “Girls of Boone County who served their country in World War II. American War Mothers Boone County Chapter 6.”

On Veterans Day last November, Bleckler attended a rededication ceremony in Columbia for a World War I monument originally dedicated in 1930 by the Columbia chapter of American War Mothers, which formed in 1920 at Boone Tavern. But archival news accounts of the restored memorial, intended to honor the 117 University of Missouri students killed in World War I, mention no links to the mysterious World War II monument.

“It was buried,” said Michele Hall, spokeswoman for the Boone County Commission. “I wonder if it just kind of sunk?”

The monument, roughly 2 1/2 feet wide and 2 feet tall, is on the ground, placed vertically against a wall near the other war memorials on the courtyard plaza, which is under construction but will again be open no later than Nov. 11.

“At this point, no decisions have been made regarding the future of the monument,” Hall said, “primary because we are still on the hunt for more information on its history.”
Speculation includes one scenario where the memorial sank into the ground and was presumed stolen, and the memory of the missing monument faded over time — apparently without any mention in a news report or historical document.

That scenario is plausible, especially if the monument was not erect but laid flush to the ground, said Sheila Winn, sales consultant for Audsley Monument Co. in Columbia.

“Sometimes if a stone has been set or laid and the people didn’t put a foundation under it, it will eventually kind of sink down into the ground,” Winn said.

Bleckler has checked a military museum in Arlington, Va., and has asked the Department of Veterans Affairs for help in identifying the monument, but those inquiries came up blank.

Hall enlisted the help of county and state historical archivists but to no avail. John Konzal, manuscript specialist for the State Historical Society of Missouri, reported searching periodicals on microfilm, American War Mothers newsletters and magazines, and indexes of state documents, “but none of them appear to mention anything about this monument.”

Jenifer Flink, executive director and curator of the Boone County Museum and Galleries, stated in an email to Hall that her organization “would be honored to assist with cleanup and restoration as needed.”

“This would be a great item to preserve and perhaps even exhibit, until such time as a permanent home can be established for the stone,” Flink wrote.

“I’m so happy that somebody is interested in setting it back up,” Bleckler said. “What a shame the history of our great organization wasn’t put in libraries for our young ones to see what all has taken place.”
UMKC decides against changing name

November 02, 2012 5:51 pm

NO MU MENTION

After months of study, officials at the University of Missouri-Kansas City have decided to keep the name the school has been known by for the past half-century.

The Kansas City Star reports (http://bit.ly/VlwR7v) university officials announced the decision Friday.

UMKC was established in 1933 as the University of Kansas City. It gained its current name in 1963 when it became part of what's now the four-campus University of Missouri system.

Consideration of a new name _ possibly Kansas City University _ began earlier this year.

But Chancellor Leo Morton says that while surveys found some groups expressed strong interest in a new name, others _ including alumni, current students, faculty and staff _ don't favor a change.
Marrow registry drive coming to MU on Monday

By Taylor Weatherby
November 4, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU’s Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity chapter will partner with Be the Match Registry on Monday for a marrow donation drive.

Those who register will be entered into the registry, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, which doctors use to search for the best match when a patient needs a transplant. There are two types of donations: bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell. The organization may call on a registered donor to make one of the two types of donations depending on a patient’s needs, said Gail Chism, account executive for Be the Match Registry.

Stem cells comprise about 73 percent of the donations, Chism said. For four or five days prior to donating stem cells, a donor receives daily injections of filgrastim, a medication that increases the number of blood-forming cells. Then, donations are made by drawing a donor’s blood from one arm, extracting the stem cells and returning the remaining blood through the donor’s other arm. The procedure takes about four to six hours over one to two consecutive days. In the less common bone marrow donation procedure, doctors collect liquid marrow from the back of the donor’s pelvic bone. The donor receives anesthesia and the procedure takes about one to two hours.

Both types of donation have possible side effects. Peripheral blood stem cell donation can cause flu-like symptoms such as fatigue and headaches, and the bone marrow procedure can result in bruising and stiffness, according to DKMS Bone Marrow Donor Center. Those who wish to register for marrow donation must be willing to go through either procedure so they can provide the type of donation a patient needs, Chism said. Every year, marrow transplants benefit more than 10,000 people who have life-threatening diseases, according to Be the Match Registry.

The marrow registry drive will be held from 12:45 to 5:45 p.m. Monday in the Walt Disney Room of MU’s Memorial Student Union, North Room 206.

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.
Monsanto keeps close eye on California food labeling issue

As Election Day approaches, the biotechnology and food industries are looking anxiously westward to California, where a ballot measure that would require labels on genetically modified foods will go before voters.

The contentious fight over the measure, Proposition 37, has escalated in recent weeks as chemical, biotechnology and food manufacturing businesses have ponied up more than $45 million in an attempt to sway voters.

Leading the pack is Creve Couer-based Monsanto Co., the world’s largest agricultural biotechnology company, which has spent more than $8 million to defeat the labeling initiative, nearly $3 million more than rival DuPont, according to the California secretary of state’s office.

That spending dwarfs the sum amassed by groups in favor of the measure, which have gathered only $7 million. The influx of cash seems to be having an impact. Previous polls had consistently shown the measure passing, but a poll released last week showed that slightly more than 50 percent of voters are against it.

“It’ll be a miracle if it passes now,” said Gary Hirshberg, chairman of the “Just Label It” campaign, which is spearheading an effort to draft a federal labeling law.

In the last couple of months, California voters have been bombarded with ads, fliers and calls from both sides, each claiming that the other is waging a deceptive campaign. Opponents have used the muscle of large corporations and farm groups; proponents have enlisted celebrities and a last-minute press push.

Those in favor of the measure say the matter is simple: Consumers should know whether genetically modified ingredients are in their foods.

“The wording is simple and clear, and it will not cost customers a dime,” said Andrew Kimbrell, of the Center for Food Safety, a Washington-based advocacy group.
Those against it say the measure is badly drafted, will unnecessarily scare consumers and will open the door to lawsuits against retailers, farmers and seed companies, driving up the cost of food. And they worry that other states could follow California’s example.

“It will lead to shakedown lawsuits, higher costs, more state bureaucracy, and there are exemptions that were done for political reasons that make no sense,” said Kathy Fairbanks, of the “No on 37” campaign.

The law would require retailers and manufacturers to label any genetically engineered produce or processed food that contains a genetically modified ingredient. An estimated 60 percent of foods in the typical American grocery store — everything from ketchup to cereal — contain genetically modified ingredients, mostly from corn or soy. Alcohol, dairy products and meat are among the exempted products.

Fairbanks said the measure would allow lawyers to sue for any violations of the law.

“They can be roped into the shakedown,” she said. “It starts with the grocery retailer, but then goes all the way to the farmer and to the seed companies. ... It’s a huge target, and very lucrative.”

Monsanto did not provide a representative for an interview, instead referring questions to Fairbanks. Bunge North America, a grain dealer and processor, and Solae, a soy ingredients company, both based in St. Louis, also contributed to the “No on 37” campaign. Bunge did not reply to a request for comment, and Solae also referred questions to Fairbanks.

There have been a series of allegations against the “No on 37” campaign, which was forced to pull a TV ad that wrongly suggested Stanford University endorsed the anti-labeling view of a professor. Proponents of the measure also say that the “No on 37” campaign made false statements in the official state voters guide.

Meanwhile, similar accusations have been lobbed at the “Yes on 37!” campaign. A University of California, Riverside, professor told the campaign on Friday that it was misrepresenting a National Academy of Sciences report he authored. The report, according to the campaign, concluded that genetic engineering poses health threats. But the professor, Alan McHughen, said the report made that claim for all forms of breeding. “There is no scientific basis for singling out GE (or any other method of breeding) for special treatment,” McHughen wrote in a letter to the campaign.

Labeling, proponents say, goes beyond just sticking a few words on a food package. It is about a consumer’s right to know, they say, and essential given some questions surrounding the safety of genetically modified foods.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has long said genetically modified foods are equivalent to conventionally produced or bred food, and that there is no clear evidence that genetically modified foods cause illness or allergies.
But the agency does not require safety testing, and skeptics of genetically modified foods say they want long-term studies to determine whether the foods are safe, a costly proposition that the industry is unlikely to embark on.

“The industry says we’ve done our homework. But the truth is no one has done the homework,” said Jonathan Emord, a Washington-based lawyer who represents food companies. “This whole circumstance arises from the failure of the FDA to require safety testing.”

In the absence of that testing, many consumers say they want labels. And if they’re required in the nation’s biggest market, the thinking goes, food companies could choose to reformulate their recipes using nongenetically modified ingredients. That could mean a reduction in demand, and a hit to the bottom line for companies such as Monsanto and DuPont.

But some analysts say that could be overstating the matter. While food manufacturers in the European Union, where labels are required, have chosen to reformulate their products rather than label them, in other countries, where companies have chosen to label, consumers don’t seem to care.

“Anywhere in the world where manufacturers have followed that strategy, such as China or Brazil, we have not seen an impact on demand,” said Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes, a University of Missouri economist who has written extensively on the subject. “But in other countries, in Japan and Europe, food manufacturers have chosen to avoid the label, so in that case, they reformulate and pass the cost on to customers.”

Monsanto has said it endorses labeling genetically modified foods in the European Union, where consumers have demanded it. But in the U.S., Monsanto and its competitors have clearly taken a different position.

And if the California measure passes on Tuesday, it will likely be challenged right away.

“The industry trade groups are keenly watching,” Emord said. “They have teams of lawyers here working on this. I’d be flabbergasted if a month goes by without a suit in federal court challenging this.”