COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

University Village closes, demolition to begin shortly

By Joe Guszkowski
June 30, 2014 | 12:47 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University Village parking lot was nearly empty, windows were boarded up and, even though it was 80 degrees Monday morning, most of the air conditioning units weren't running.

The MU-owned apartments designed for older students, graduate students and students with families were scheduled to close Monday. Built in 1956, the complex's 14 buildings housed more than 100 residents. The complex was also home to the Student Parent Center day care.

The buildings are set to be demolished once the university works through some last-minute details with a contractor, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. Two or three of the buildings are planned to remain open indefinitely for storage.

Minh Uong, an MU civil engineering student, cleaned the apartment he shared with his wife and two daughters Monday morning so that they could fully move out.

He and his family have lived at University Village for four years. They moved most of their things to MU’s Tara Apartments on Thursday.

"It's good and it's bad," Uong said about moving. "It's good to move to a new house. Everything is new and more clean."

He said after four years, it would be nice to rearrange the furniture at his new place.

Besides the Uongs and some MU Residential Life workers, University Village was quiet.
Devin Matney, Chris Moses and some other workers were taking a break from pulling air conditioners and other appliances out of the apartments.

They said they only had a couple buildings left to do.

"I think we gotta have them all out by Friday," Matney said.

Many of the appliances are new, said Moses, and will be used somewhere else on campus or put into storage.

The structural integrity of the University Village buildings came into question after part of a walkway collapsed at Building 707 on Feb. 22, killing Lt. Bruce Britt of the Columbia Fire Department as he responded to a structural emergency there.

In the wake of that event and because of the cost of renovating the buildings, MU decided to tear them down.

Residential Life was able to accommodate all the residents of University Village who wanted to continue living in university-owned housing, department director Frankie Minor said earlier this month.

**Long-term plans for the site are still being discussed, Basi said. As for the Student Parent Center, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in April that he had tasked Gary Ward, interim vice chancellor for administrative services, with gathering cost estimates for building a new center or re-opening it in another location.**

Religious Liberty Wins the Day

The Hobby Lobby decision is reassuring, but the reach of the government is still too long.
A divided U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the doctrine of religious liberty Monday, holding that “closely-held corporations” could not be forced to offer contraceptive devices as part of their employee’s health plans if such a mandate was in conflict with the moral compass of the owners.

Opponents of Obamacare are cheering the decision. **University of Missouri law professor Joshua Hawley, who is “of counsel” to the Beckett Fund for Religious Liberty, called the ruling “An enormous victory for personal freedom in America.** This decision confirms that people of conscience are welcome in business and that all Americans have the right to follow their moral and social convictions in every walk of life. The right to form one’s own beliefs and live them out peaceably is at the heart of constitutional liberty. That liberty has won out today.”

Kentucky’s Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader of the United States Senate, said in a statement that the Supreme Court’s decision “Makes clear that the Obama administration cannot trample on the religious freedoms that Americans hold dear. Obamacare is the single worst piece of legislation to pass in the last 50 years, and I was glad to see the Supreme Court agree that this particular Obamacare mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.”

House Speaker John Boehner called the ruling “A victory for religious freedom and another defeat for an administration that has repeatedly crossed constitutional lines in pursuit of its Big Government objectives. The mandate overturned today would have required for-profit companies to choose between violating their constitutionally-protected faith or paying crippling fines, which would have forced them to lay off employees or close their doors.”

Somehow, it all seems a bit underwhelming and a real anticlimax. The idea of religious liberty has been upheld, narrowly, based on a statute rather than on essential First Amendment grounds. Indeed, Boehner was one of the few who had it right in calling to mind that Obamacare “remains an unworkable mess and a drag on our economy. We must repeal it and enact better solutions that start with lowering Americans’ health care costs.”

It may be a minority view, but the narrowness of the decision alongside dissents arguing that access to free birth control and sterilization was something of an entitlement do not amount to a stunning rebuke of government overreach. Perhaps we in America only do such things incrementally, laying down markers and slowly walking things back from a point of excess over a period of years, with respect for the rule of law taking precedence over the momentary passions of men and women. Still, the decision could have, and in my judgment should have, been stronger.

The country has clearly reached the point where it is acceptable – even smart – to argue that because the government pays for something, such as health care, or mandates things like the distribution of free birth control, it automatically acquires a compelling interest in how those programs are administered that trumps our personal liberties and our individual right of conscience. As has been said many times and in many different
ways, a government big enough to give you everything you want is also big enough to take away everything you have.

The Hobby Lobby decision may provide a temporary respite from the ongoing encroachment of government into every sector of our lives under the current administration, or it may just be a bump in the road that the president and his allies will honor more in the breach than the observance. Time will tell but, as a matter of first principles, we are too far down a road we shouldn’t be on to find relief through any means other than a sharp U-Turn.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

U.S. Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team considers itself a family

By Kendra Johnson

June 30, 2014 | 8:50 p.m. CDT

The U.S. Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team scrimmaged Monday at the MU Student Recreation Complex. The team was practicing for the World Championships in Incheon, South Korea, which will be held Saturday through July 14.

COLUMBIA — Wheels scratch against the basketball floor as the clock winds down. The buzzer goes off — that's the end of the scrimmage. Practice is over.

The team gathers together in the center of the court. Players hold hands and form a circle. In unison, they say, "USA!"

On Monday at the MU Student Recreation Complex, the U.S. Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team practiced for the World Championship, which will begin Saturday and continue through July 14 in Incheon, South Korea. Sixteen teams from around the world will be competing.
Many of them knew each other before making the team. Going through two rounds of
cuts and monthly practices have helped the players bond. **As the team looks ahead to future
tournaments in 2015 and 2016, head coach Ron Lykins hopes this group of players will stick around.**

In lulls between the competitive play on the court, smiles and laughter can be seen and
heard. They cheer each other on if they make a good pass or shot — "Attaboy John!"
They help one another up if they fall. A sense of familiarity — camaraderie — binds the
players.

"These are the best players in the United States, and some of them are the best in the
world," Lykins said.

**Lykins is also the head coach of the Mizzou Wheelchair Basketball Team and has coached the U.S. Women's team three times before.**

"I've been through the pressures of international competition, and what I’ve learned
through those competitions with the women, I can bring back for these guys," Lykins said.

The tryouts for the team took place in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Olympic
Training Center in January. According to players Michael Paye and John Gilbert, about
40 athletes showed up for the Colorado Springs tryouts; only 16 were initially selected.
In May, the final squad was narrowed to 12 players.

"We felt like these were the best 12, that make up the best team. They might not be the
best players, but they were the right players," Lykins said. "They were the best fit for our
team to help us reach our goal."

The only difference between coaching this team and coaching the Mizzou Wheelchair
Basketball Team, Lykins said, is that "these guys are older, bigger, stronger, faster, more
experienced, better players."

Although they might be more experienced, Lykins said that the competitiveness and the
willingness to learn is the same across all the teams he has coached.

Gilbert, an MU graduate, who played under Lykins for the Mizzou team, said that it was
an honor to get picked for the team.
"It was a lot of work. Knowing that you're coming in and playing the best of the best and being picked is such a great honor," Gilbert said.

Gilbert has been a part of the U.S. team before, but, until recently, he had gotten away from competitive basketball; life demands, such as a new job and a recent marriage, have kept him busy. He still plays with the Missouri Predators, a wheelchair basketball team based out of Columbia.

He said that one of the main reasons he decided to try out for the U.S. team was because Lykins was the coach.

"Once I heard he was the U.S. coach, I was like 'I want to get back into this,'" Gilbert said.

Many of the players played together on junior teams, college teams and other professional teams.

"A lot of us play overseas, so it's just nice to get back together with the guys," Paye said. Paye made his first U.S. team in 2003 and played in the 2004 and 2008 Paralympics.

The only person Paye did not know before making the team was Carter Arey, a current MU student.

"It is one big family. We would do anything for each other, which I think helps us on the court. It helps us mold into a great team," Gilbert said.

After the World Championships, the next big competition is the Parapan American Games, which will be held in Toronto, Canada, in 2015. Although there will be another tryout for that competition, Lykins said that he hopes to keep the same team he has now.

"Ideally most of these guys will be on that team because we are just looking to build and build," Lykins said. "So we're hoping that no one gets hurt, and we're hoping that no one decides not to play."

If the team does well in the Parapan American Games, they will qualify to go to the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
"The plan is to stay and continue this work, and the end goal is to go to Rio," Gilbert said.

Student-Aid Leaders Call for Alternatives to Obama’s College-Rating System

By Kelly Field

The departing chair of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators offered his alternative on Monday to President Obama’s forthcoming college-rating system, calling for a system based on "social responsibility."

In a session of the association’s annual conference here, Craig Munier, director of financial aid at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, detailed a system that would recognize colleges that are doing a good job of educating low-income students and would shame those that aren’t.

The plan, which is modeled on the LEED ratings of green buildings, would assign institutions ratings of silver, gold, or platinum based on a calculation that would take the percentage of a college’s undergraduate students who are eligible for Pell Grants, multiply the number by a ratio of credit hours earned to credit hours attempted, and divide it by the institution’s cohort-default rate.

Part of the goal, Mr. Munier said, "is to create a little public embarrassment" for institutions that are not fulfilling their duty to educate needy students. He jokingly called the plan "Craig’s LEED certification on social responsibility."
Mr. Munier acknowledged that the plan "isn’t ready for prime time," saying he had crafted it "on the back of a restaurant napkin" with Eileen O’Leary, director of financial aid at Stonehill College and the association’s incoming chair.

"I’m telling you right now, the numbers are wrong, it doesn’t work," he said. Still, he said, "it gets to a social-responsibility indicator."

He argued that some of the criticism of President Obama’s plan is "a little disingenuous"—driven more by colleges’ concerns about their reputations than any doubts about the metrics the plan may use.

"If the pushback is because it will expose them" as poor performers, Mr. Munier said, "that’s wrong."

Another panelist at the session, Marcus D. Szymanoski, manager of regulatory affairs at DeVry University, said he "loved the LEED idea" but argued against a composite score. A better approach, he said, would be multiple metrics that would recognize the varying priorities of students.

Such transparency, he said, would allow students "to make their own value judgment."

The president’s rating plan was originally due out in the spring, but it has been delayed until the fall. On Sunday a top official in the Office of Federal Student Aid cast doubt on even that timeline, saying it might not be done by the end of the year.

"I’m not sure that will hold," Jeff Baker, the office’s policy director, told attendees at a town hall-style meeting here at the conference.
In Sexual-Misconduct Policies, Difficulty Arises in Defining 'Yes'

By Monica Vendituoli

No Mu Mention

Twenty years ago, the "No Means No" campaign, created by a group of Canadian college students to raise awareness about sexual assault, pretty much encompassed the limits of the discussion. Since then, however, ideas about consent have grown more complicated, forcing colleges and students alike to grapple with a tougher issue: Although "no" always means no, "yes" is often murky.

In short, defining consent is difficult.

Many colleges are working on such a definition, however, as federal and state legislators push them to clearly explain the term in their sexual-misconduct policies.

Proposed rules for the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, released in June by the Education Department, do not define consent. Federally appointed negotiators on the rule-making committee have asked the department to provide further guidance on the matter.

NotAlone.gov, a new website created by the White House to help sexual-assault victims, offers several recommendations for what colleges should include in their definitions of consent. For example: "past consent does not imply future consent" and "consent can be withdrawn at any time."

Recently the California State Senate passed a bill that would require colleges to adopt an "affirmative consent" policy, in which each participant must convey his or her intent to
have sex. Clark University and Grinnell College are two of many institutions with such policies. In contrast, the University of Delaware and other institutions, along with some states, define sexual assault as occurring when one party—either incapacitated or forced into sex—does not give consent.

Stating the obvious, the University of Mary Washington’s sexual-misconduct policy says: "There is a difference between seduction and coercion."

**Setting a Standard**

Proponents of affirmative consent say the policies require accused students to prove consent rather than make the alleged victims prove assault. But the standard may be difficult to meet without a definition of how students should express their intentions.

The California bill defines consent as an "affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity." It does not specify how participants should convey those wishes.

On some campuses, students must use words. In 1991, Antioch College adopted a sexual-misconduct policy requiring students to have verbal consent to progress from kissing to each level of contact beyond that. Today several institutions—including Vassar College, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of North Alabama—have similar policies.

Those standards are impractical, says Brett A. Sokolow, president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, a consulting and law firm that advises colleges. "Verbal consent isn't human nature," he says. In the heat of the moment, willing partners often don’t pause to ask each other questions.

Students, like other people, do not necessarily verbalize consent during sexual encounters, says Kristen N. Jozkowski, an assistant professor of community-health promotion at the University of Arkansas, who has studied college students’ attitudes toward sex.
In one study, she asked students how they sought and granted consent in their own sex lives. Among the responses: "If no one says anything, then it is OK to proceed" and "It just happens."

**Nonverbal Consent**

Colby Bruno, a senior counsel at the Victim Rights Law Center, a legal-support and advocacy group, believes colleges should allow students to communicate consent—or the opposite—through nonverbal means, too. A person who is forced into sex and frozen by fear, she says, might have trouble saying no, or anything at all. Instead, Ms. Bruno says, "they push, they cry."

Many institutions—such as Amherst College, Occidental College, and the University of Connecticut—state that students may give consent either verbally or through their actions. The policy at the California College of the Arts says: "When a woman puts someone's hand on her breast, she gives mutually understandable consent for that person to touch her breast at that time."

But nonverbal communication can lead to misunderstandings. "It actually requires a higher level of communication between partners, so people don’t misinterpret actions," Mr. Sokolow says.

Sometimes those partners do not know each other very well. Students who are mere acquaintances may not be able to interpret each other’s actions, Ms. Jozkowski says.

She has found that men tend to rely on nonverbal clues, such as eye contact and touching, while many women prefer to be asked. So a miscommunication may arise when a man interprets a woman’s silence as "yes," when she is actually waiting for him to ask so she can say "no."

The question of consent is further complicated by the definition of "incapacitation." A person who is incapacitated might say "yes" to sex but really mean "no." NotAlone.gov encourages colleges to define incapacitation as occurring "due to the use of drugs or
alcohol, when a person is asleep or unconscious, or because of an intellectual or other disability that prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent."

As far as some colleges are concerned, any level of intoxication renders a person incapable of giving consent. Arizona State University’s sexual-assault policy states: "Do not have sex with a person who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs which compromise consent." It adds: "The best defense is to not drink. If you drink, limit alcohol intake."

Justin Dillon, a Washington-based lawyer who has represented students accused of sexual assault, describes such definitions as problematic. "People have been having enjoyable, consensual sex while drunk since the beginning of time," he says. "Drunk does not equal incapacitated."

Some colleges, such as the University of Connecticut, list signs for students to look for to determine whether another person is incapacitated; they include slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, and shaky equilibrium.

The University of Virginia’s policy acknowledges that such judgments are tricky. "Incapacitation," it says, "may be difficult to discern."

In her most recent research, Ms. Jozkowski found that many male students interpret a woman’s acceptance of a drink as consent. But a woman who lets a man buy her a cocktail might want to do no more than spend some time with him.

"Consent is happening long before they enter the purview of the bedroom," Ms. Jozkowski says. "There’s a cognitive dissonance going on where no means no, but students may say, ‘She went back to his room, so that meant she consented.’"

**Legal Clarity**

As more colleges reconsider their sexual-assault policies, conversations about how partners should best communicate are bubbling up. This year Harvey Mudd College sponsored "Consent Week," which included a workshop, led by students and faculty
members, on how to ask for, give, and refuse consent. Such discussions might go hand-in-hand with other prevention efforts.

But framing sexual assault as a communication issue alone is a mistake, experts say.

Ms. Bruno, a lawyer who has represented victims of alleged sexual assaults, recalls just one case in the past 10 years in which she believed that the accused person thought the contact in question had been consensual. In her other cases, she was convinced that the alleged perpetrators had known that they lacked consent. Often it’s violence—and not miscommunication—that is the bottom line.

A clear definition of consent in a college’s sexual-misconduct policy sets a standard for judicial boards to use when hearing cases. Colleges can also use the definition to educate students.

But defining consent is just one step in preventing sexual assault.

"Everyone would be happier—college students, administrators, parents—if there was a really clear, concise way of determining whether ... it was a rape," Ms. Bruno says. "But the reality is it is a very difficult thing to decide."

July 1, 2014

What 8 States Are Doing to Build Better Pathways From High School to Careers

By Katherine Mangan

NO MENTION
Eight states are tackling a growing disconnect between the nation’s education system and its economy by exposing more middle-school and high-school students to jobs, making education relevant to careers, and beefing up alternatives to the four-year college degree, according to a new report from the Pathways to Prosperity Network.

The network, which began in 2012, works with 10 states to build pathways that connect the final years of high school with the first few years of career training in fields facing worker shortages, including information technology, health care, and advanced manufacturing. Led by the nonprofit group Jobs for the Future and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the network is trying to increase the number of high-school graduates earning a postsecondary credential that will lead to a decent-paying job.

"There’s a lot of momentum around the idea of providing a much stronger set of career pathways for young people," said Robert Schwartz, a professor emeritus at the Harvard education school.

Mr. Schwartz, one of several experts on work-force training who discussed the new report in a conference call with reporters on Monday, is a co-author of a 2011 report, "Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century."

That report, which he said had galvanized support for a national network, concluded that Americans put too much emphasis on getting a degree from a four-year college, which it said fewer than one-third of young adults accomplish by age 25. It called for more focus on alternative paths that include career-focused education and apprenticeships.

The new report outlines the steps taken so far by California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Tennessee. (Arizona and Delaware joined the network last month.) Their efforts, which include early-college high schools, technology-focused schools, and mentoring partnerships with local businesses, are a response to "the growing
disconnect between our education system and our economy," said Anthony P. Carnevale, a research professor and director of Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce. Mr. Carnevale is a national expert on work-force training whose studies about the economic value of various degrees are widely cited.

The landmark 1983 report "A Nation at Risk" was the impetus for providing solid academic offerings to every public-school student, he said, instead of steering underprepared students into vocational education. "We’re at the point where it’s too much of a good thing," he added. As curricula became more academic and less applied, students were less likely to see the relevance of much of their learning, he said.

Dropping out or opting out of further education has serious consequences for today’s youth, who can’t just head to a factory to get a job the way their parents could have, he said. Automation has eliminated many of those jobs, and the only ones left "are the ones their bosses used to do," said Mr. Carnevale. By integrating academic and skills training, "we’re providing the missing middle in American higher education."

Among 2012 high-school graduates who didn’t enroll in college the following year, only 45 percent found work of any kind, the report notes, and only half of those jobs were full time.

Contributing to the problem is the "disengagement of American businesses" from the task of educating the next generation of workers, said Nancy Hoffman, a vice president and senior adviser at Jobs for the Future and the author of the state-progress report.

Early-college high schools, which allow students to start earning college credits while they’re in high school, are one way to provide momentum, she said.

Companies like IBM are struggling to fill jobs when many applicants come straight from high school and are underqualified, or have Ph.D.’s and are overqualified, said Maura Banta, director of citizenship initiatives in education for IBM. Businesses need to be more actively involved in providing mentors and internships to help cultivate more
qualified workers, said Ms. Banta, who is also chair of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Darrell Steinberg, president pro tempore of the California State Senate, said he had helped secure $500-million over two years for a "career-pathways trust" that seeks to re-engineer the state’s high schools to make education more relevant to the needs of regional businesses.