Mizzou to unveil Norm Stewart statue before season opener

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • Missouri basketball fans will be greeted by a familiar face outside Mizzou Arena this season.

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved the statue of former men’s basketball coach Norm Stewart at Tuesday’s meeting in Columbia. The statue, funded by private donations, will be unveiled Nov. 10, the day of Missouri’s season opener against Iowa State. The statue dedication will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Walsworth Plaza.

Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk formally presented plans for the statue to the board on Tuesday for approval. The statue will be located on the north concourse outside Mizzou Arena. The stadium dedication will be at 1:30 p.m.

“It’s well-deserved,” Mizzou coach Cuonzo Martin said Tuesday.

Construction of the statue cost approximately $190,000, MU athletics spokesman Nick Joos confirmed. The department raised $300,000 for the project, the rest of which will go toward a capital project for the school’s basketball programs.

Stewart, a Mizzou alum who played basketball and baseball for the Tigers in the 1950s, coached his alma mater to a 634-333 record during his 32-year run from 1967-99. His teams captured eight regular-season conference championships and six conference tournament championships and reached the NCAA Tournament 16 times.
Stewart's statue will be just the latest tribute toward Mizzou's greatest living coaching legend. The court inside Mizzou Arena is named in Stewart’s honor, while his retired No. 22 hangs from the rafters. Stewart, 82, also has a 7-foot statue outside the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield.

To read the naming request, click here: http://www.stltoday.com/sports/college/mizzou/eye-on-the-tigers/mizzou-to-unveil-norm-stewart-statue-before-season-opener/article_fcd782ea-07a8-574d-9c4e-b77186ed6fdf.html

MISSOURIAN

Curators approve statue of Norm Stewart outside Mizzou Arena

BY SAMANTHA KOESTER AND WILL JARVIS 19 hrs ago (0)

A statue of Norm Stewart, an MU alum and a longtime basketball coach, will be placed outside Mizzou Arena after a unanimous vote by the University of Missouri Board of Curators Tuesday morning.

The statue will be unveiled on Friday, Nov. 10, before Missouri’s opening game against Iowa State.

MU Athletic Director Jim Sterk, who proposed the statue to curators, said the $196,000 project has already been funded. More than $218,000 has already been raised, and more donors have pledged $76,000.

“Any excess from the leftover cost will go to basketball excellence and our basketball facility improvement,” Sterk said.
Stewart coached basketball at MU for 32 seasons, accumulating 634 wins, Sterk said. He directed the team through eight Big Eight conference championships, with six tournament titles, before retiring in 1999.

“I was going to say it’s long overdue, but somebody would get mad at me for saying that,” Missouri basketball coach Cuonzo Martin said. “I mean, he deserves it. The guy is a legend. He’s a funny guy, too, but he deserves it. He put in a lot of work and put this program on the map.”

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and UM System President Mun Choi also approved the addition of the statue.

“I think it’s a very fitting tribute to an outstanding coach,” Choi said.
Stewart compiled a 634-333 record. His teams won eight Big Eight Conference championships and six conference tournament titles.

**Similar stories ran state wide**

Free speech on campus: Always imperiled there and elsewhere

By HJW III (HANK’S VIEW)

The status of free speech on college campuses evokes legitimate concern. For worthy comments from different perspectives I hope you read two columns by local writers in Sunday’s Editorial/Opinion section.

**Timothy Tai was a student journalist seeking to photograph events during University of Missouri student protests in Columbia in 2015. Professor** Melissa Click’s attempt to interfere became one of the highlights of the confrontation. Recently, Tai was invited to join a panel at the University of California at Berkeley examining free speech rights of conservative speakers and he returns to share what he has learned. He wrote the debate over free speech is “eclipsing” other student concerns. “As thousands of people called for Melissa Click to be fired, few paused to consider whether disenfranchised students might have valid concerns.” With freedom to speak also comes an obligation to listen. “Maybe we should try listening to the voices being drowned out before joining the cacophony of criticism,” he said.

Roper made the same argument in behalf of conservative ideas. His context was the denial at Berkeley and other campuses of conservative speakers shouted down by campus progressives. His points would be equally applicable to the plight of a liberal attempting to speak at a hotbed of conservatism.

In both examples leaders are at the mercy of their constituencies. Missouri citizens vastly overreacted to events on the MU campus. The very idea the campus or the Columbia community are dangerous places was ludicrous, yet politicians punished the university and student enrollment suffered. Citizens wanted leaders to “kick ass” rather than listen to student concerns.

In California, campus leaders no doubt reacted to similar anxiety at the prospect of well-known conservative speakers, when the essence of mind-stretching at a college campus should be encouragement of such diverse ideas.
It’s one thing to list best practices in a manual of free speech policies, quite another to execute real practices in the face of antagonistic constituencies.

Tai and Roper exemplify the same basic truism. Free speech only needs protection when it expresses unpopular ideas. The more agitated the protest the more likely the target deserves expression.

To fight ISIS, take a closer look at its propaganda

Generated from News Bureau press release: Deeper understanding of ISIS propaganda can help in the fight against terrorism, new study finds

New research argues that ISIS propaganda is a form of strategic communication—and that studying it could aid the military fight against terrorism.

Douglas Wilbur, a retired major in the US Army and a doctoral student in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, is studying the Islamic militant organization’s propaganda texts and communication strategies.

In his article, Wilbur argues that analyzing ISIS materials through a neo-institutional framework (a theory that examines how a group’s cultural norms and rules guide their choices,) can help researchers and military better investigate extreme propagandists’ techniques and develop ways to combat them.

Though most Americans do not have the background knowledge needed to read ISIS propaganda, Wilbur’s time serving in Iraq helped him decipher the text. Wilbur says successfully analyzing ISIS propaganda can reveal the organization’s goals, and then experts can work to combat them.

“Propaganda isn’t just one guy putting together a magazine or a pamphlet; it’s a form of strategic communication, which means the organization is very deliberate about it,” Wilbur says. “Propaganda often is developed to support the goals of the organization at the time.”

As an information operations officer in the Army, Wilbur frequently encountered ISIS propaganda and was well informed of their methods and tactics. Based on his experience in the Army, Wilbur wanted to perform a serious analysis of ISIS propaganda using scholarly scientific methods that he acquired through higher education.
“In the military, I was engaged in anti-propaganda efforts, but I wasn’t doing it from a scientific perspective,” Wilbur says. “So when I came to Mizzou, I came to become a social scientist. We learned the scientific method and how to apply it, and now I have better methods of analysis.”

Currently, Wilbur is working on pieces about contingency theory, which states that the best action for an organization depends on the situation. He has plans to pursue the link between propaganda and strategic communication in his dissertation.

Wilbur’s study appears in the *International Journal of Strategic Communication*.

**Monsanto, BASF Weed Killers Strain U.S. States With Damage Complaints**

By Tom Polansek

CHICAGO (Reuters) - U.S. farmers have overwhelmed state governments with thousands of complaints about crop damage linked to new versions of weed killers, threatening future sales by manufacturers Monsanto Co and BASF SE.

Monsanto is banking on weed killers using a chemical known as dicamba - and seeds engineered to resist it - to dominate soybean production in the United States, the world's second-largest exporter.

The United States has faced a weed-killer crisis this year caused by the new formulations of dicamba-based herbicides, which farmers and weed experts say have harmed crops because they evaporate and drift away from where they are applied.

Monsanto and BASF say the herbicides are safe when properly applied. They need to convince regulators after the flood of complaints to state agriculture departments.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last year approved use of the weed killers on dicamba-resistant crops during the summer growing season. Previously, farmers used dicamba to kill weeds before they planted seeds, and not while the crops were growing.

However, the EPA approved such use only until Nov. 9, 2018, because "extraordinary precautions" are needed to prevent dicamba products from tainting vulnerable crops, a spokesman told Reuters in a statement last week. The agency wanted to be able to step in if there were problems, he said.
Next year, the EPA will determine whether to extend its approval by reviewing damage complaints and consulting with state and industry experts. States are separately considering new restrictions on usage for 2018.

Major soybean-growing states, including Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois, each received roughly four years' worth of complaints about possible pesticide damage to crops this year due to dicamba use, state regulators said.

Now agriculture officials face long backlogs of cases to investigate, which are driving up costs for lab tests and overtime. Several states had to reassign employees to handle the load.

"We don't have the staff to be able to handle 400 investigations in a year plus do all the other required work," said Paul Bailey, director of the Plant Industries division of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

In Missouri, farmers filed about 310 complaints over suspected dicamba damage, on top of the roughly 80 complaints about pesticides the state receives in a typical year, he said.

**Nationwide, states launched 2,708 investigations into dicamba-related plant injury by Oct. 15, according to data compiled by the University of Missouri.**

States investigate such complaints to determine whether applicators followed the rules for using chemicals. Those found to have violated regulations can be fined.

Monsanto has said that U.S. farmers spraying this past summer failed to follow detailed instructions of up to 4,550 words printed on labels.

The companies will change usage instructions in hopes of avoiding a repeat of the past summer's problems.

"With significant adoption and a lot of interest in this new technology, we recognize that many states have received a number of reports of potential off-target application of dicamba in 2017," Monsanto spokeswoman Charla Lord said last month.

**PHOTOGRAPHING DAMAGED SOYBEANS**

State investigators try to visit fields within days after farmers report possible damage to take photos before signs of injury, such as cupped leaves on soybean plants hit by dicamba, disappear. They question farmers and the people who applied the herbicide, and often gather samples from plants to test.

In Arkansas, farmers filed about 985 complaints associated with dicamba, the most of any state. Investigators are probing about 1,200 total complaints involving pesticide use, which includes weed killers, said Terry Walker, director of the Arkansas State Plant Board.
Arkansas delayed inspections of animal feed and allowed overtime to handle the dicamba cases, which is not normal practice, Walker said. He was unable to provide a cost estimate for dealing with the complaints.

Among the farmers who reported damage was Reed Storey, who said he wanted to ensure state officials knew dicamba caused damage even when users follow the instructions.

"I'm calling strictly to let y'all know that we have an issue with this product," Storey, who spoke last month, said he told Arkansas regulators.

Illinois received about 421 total pesticide complaints, the most since at least 1989, said Warren Goetsch, acting chief of the Bureau of Environmental Programs at the Illinois Department of Agriculture. That includes at least 245 complaints associated with dicamba, which could take until next year to finish investigating, he said.

"It's frustrating I think for us that we're as behind as we are," Goetsch said.

MONSANTO'S BIG BET

Monsanto is betting on dicamba-tolerant soybeans to replace those that withstand glyphosate, an herbicide used for decades but which is becoming less effective as weeds develop resistance. The company aims for its dicamba-resistant seeds to account for half the U.S. soybeans planted by 2019.

Monsanto, which is in the process of being acquired by Bayer AG for $63.5 billion, said it plans to open a call center to help customers use dicamba next year and is talking with states about the product.

Monsanto's net sales increased $1.1 billion, or 8 percent, in fiscal year 2017 due partly to increased sales of its dicamba-resistant soybean seeds.

The company and BASF already face several lawsuits from farmers alleging damage to plants from dicamba used by neighbors.

ANALYZING PLANT SAMPLES

The EPA provides grants to states that help fund investigations into pesticide damage and this year offered 35 states extra assistance analyzing plant samples for dicamba, according to the agency.

Minnesota and Illinois turned to the EPA for help, with the latter saying the federal agency has better equipment to detect low levels of dicamba.

In Iowa, the state's laboratory bureau received 515 samples to test this year, up 35 percent, as dicamba use helped drive up the total number of pesticide complaints to 270 from a typical range of 70 to 120, according to the state. Each test costs up to $9.
"We are really anxious to flip the page and look ahead to 2018 and try to figure out the things that can be done to improve the situation," said Mike Naig, deputy secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

U.S. News/Aetna Foundation Healthiest Communities FAQ

In this project, U.S. News and Aetna Foundation examine community health across myriad physical and social metrics

1. What is Healthiest Communities? When will this launch?

Location plays a critical role in determining the health, well-being and life expectancy of 325 million Americans. Healthiest Communities, U.S. News's newest rankings and analysis platform, charts how communities across the United States are working to improve the health of their residents. The platform, featuring rankings drawn from examining more than 3,000 counties across 10 categories – community vitality, equity, economy, education, environment, food and nutrition, health, housing, public safety and infrastructure – informs citizens, health care leaders and elected officials about the local policies and practices in place that drive better health outcomes for all.

Healthiest Communities will be unveiled in late March 2018.

2. Why did U.S. News and the Aetna Foundation collaborate on this project?

U.S. News, the publisher of Best Hospitals and Best Children's Hospitals, brings nearly three decades of experience to measuring health care quality in the U.S. in order to improve it. Based on the same principles of in-depth data analysis and credible journalism, Healthiest Communities will evaluate how cities and counties decrease chronic disease, keep people out of the hospital, provide access to health care and lower costs. Ultimately, the new platform allows communities to learn from each other, improve their efforts and create better health systems for their residents.

3. Who is on the U.S. News rankings team?

U.S. News is working with the University of Missouri Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES), a research institution skilled in understanding natural resource systems, public health risks and community health assessment. In addition, U.S.
News assembled a panel of independent experts to help assign weightings for each category, including members of the National Committee on Vital Health and Statistics.

4. How did you rank the Healthiest Communities?

The overall Healthiest Communities ranking is drawn from an evaluation of more than 3,000 counties across 10 categories: community vitality, equity, economy, education, environment, food and nutrition, health, housing, infrastructure and public safety.

5. Are the rankings objective?

The rankings are based on 80 metrics drawn from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Institute for Health Measurement and Evaluation, the U.S. Census, the 5-year American Community Survey, the Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These metrics are selected for their value in assessing community performance in each of the categories and subcategories in our framework. More than a dozen independent experts have advised U.S. News on the appropriate weights to be assigned to each major category. The University of Missouri CARES team identified data sources, acquired the data and carried out the analysis.

**UM System supports Gov. Greitens’ Amazon proposal**

By SKYLER ROSSI

**UM System President Mun Choi endorsed Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposal for Amazon to expand its new headquarters to the I-70 corridor of Missouri.**

In September, Amazon announced that it is planning to invest upward of $5 billion in building a second headquarters, called HQ2, away from its current home in Seattle, according to The Seattle Times.

“I know that the 76,000 students, more than 23,000 faculty and staff and the more than 650,000 alumni will support this initiative to create an innovation ecosystem in the state,” Choi said in an email sent to the MU community Oct. 19. “This is an outstanding proposal, and we’re very excited to be a part of the state of Missouri’s proposal to create an innovation corridor from St. Louis to Kansas City by way of Columbia that benefits the entire state of Missouri.”

Amazon requested that states and regions submit proposals on which areas they would like the company to expand to.
“Amazon invites you to submit a response to this Request for Proposal in conjunction with and on behalf of your metropolitan statistical area, state/province, county, city and the relevant localities therein,” according to Amazon’s request for proposals. “Amazon is performing a competitive site selection process and is considering metro regions in North America for its second corporate headquarters.”

Amazon has received 238 proposals from the U.S., Canada and Mexico, according to CNN. Amazon will announce the winner in 2018.

In Greitens’ proposal to Amazon, he offered not only St. Louis and Kansas City, but the whole I-70 corridor between the two metropolitan areas.

“My team fully and equally support the two proposals submitted by our major metropolitan areas, Kansas City and St. Louis,” Greitens said in the proposal to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. “While each proposal stands on its own, I also encourage you to envision what Amazon could achieve by partnering with us to unleash the combined strength of the entire State of Missouri.”

Greitens’ also argued that if the Hyperloop project were to select the I-70 corridor of Missouri, the area would be made even more desirable for HQ2.

“A Hyperloop transportation system between St. Louis and Kansas City would invigorate the region and connect Amazon to a world-class multimodal transportation network and a workforce of nearly three million people,” Greitens said in the proposal.

If Amazon were to select Missouri for its new headquarters, Saku Aura, associate professor of economics, said that it would give MU students a leg up in the Amazon hiring process.

“For the university, it can actually be potentially beneficial for our reputation in the long run because, presumably, there would be a lot of local hiring,” Aura said. “That would mean that, not just the Columbia campus, but universities in this area, would have an insider path to Amazon jobs, and that has to be good for our reputation.”

If the new headquarters were to be built in Missouri, Choi believes that MU would be able to provide workers to fit Amazon’s requests.

“Our campuses are dedicated to preparing future leaders who can meet Amazon’s unique workforce needs,” Choi said in the email.

The UM System communications office could not be reached for a comment on the possible effects it would have on MU.

However, Aura said that while Amazon coming to Missouri would be beneficial for the state, it most likely won’t happen.
“The whole corridor proposal is probably not what they are looking for,” Aura said. “They’re looking for a metropolitan area.”

According to Amazon’s request, they are looking for somewhere with “metropolitan areas with more than one million people, a stable and business-friendly environment, urban or suburban locations with the potential to attract and retain strong technical talent, [and] communities that think big and creatively when considering locations and real estate options.”

Aura said that while St. Louis and Kansas City have relatively cheap housing and land, they don’t likely have the universities or large population that Amazon is looking for.

Even though MU may have the students that Amazon is searching for, Columbia isn’t a metropolitan area.

“While Washington University is world class, it probably isn’t large enough,” Aura said. “It’s not like the University of Washington or the University of Minnesota, so they probably don’t reap enough graduates of, say, engineers or computer scientists to be that attractive.”

If Amazon were to come to Missouri, the state’s economy would benefit overall and bring new, high-paying jobs. However, there are still some downsides to this possibility.

“Overall, it has to be a positive thing for a metropolitan area,” Aura said. “A logical operation pops up and creates a lot of high paying jobs. Unfortunately the downside to that is that a lot of people, traditionally down the income ladder who are not property owners, who rely on rental housing, will actually end up being squeezed from the market, which has clearly happened in Seattle.”

Aura explained that one of the main downsides would be that the Missouri population would not be able to easily handle the large amount of subsidies the new headquarters demands. Taxes would increase for the general population.

“And I think you need a very large state to be able to afford the subsidies because then when you divide those subsidies per taxpayer, that number won’t be that huge,” Aura said. “If they’re looking for something in subsidies for around one billion dollars, that’s going to be much easier to afford for California, New York or Florida than Rhode Island or Vermont or North Dakota.”

Aura also explained that the jobs created by Amazon could possibly attract outside workers and not help lower the unemployment rate.

“The unemployment in Missouri is not concentrated on people who know functional programming or whatever Amazon is right now looking for,” Aura said. “So, I think that it would create jobs, but a lot of those jobs would be for people who are moving to the area and chasing those jobs.”

But until 2018, no one but Amazon will know which proposal it will accept.
“I’ve made some predictions and no one knows what’s going to happen,” Aura said. “So it’s going to be interesting to see in the next couple of weeks what they decide.”

Panelists at law school’s free speech symposium share how they handled First Amendment controversies, conflicts

By STEPHI SMITH

Generated from a News Bureau Media Advisory

The MU School of Law hosted a symposium regarding the First Amendment on college campuses and methods for resolving conflicts centered around free speech. The event, titled “The First Amendment on Campus: Identifying Principles for Best Practices for Managing and Resolving Conflict,” was held Friday morning in Hulston Hall.

Law professor Robert Jerry said the law school decided to host the symposium after realizing much of the community at MU, as well as other universities, didn’t have a proper understanding of the First Amendment.

“Free exchange of controversial or sensitive ideas is fundamental to the academic mission to our universities,” Jerry said. “However, as no one in this room needs to be reminded, events on our nation’s campuses, events which have occurred with increasing frequency since 2015, vividly demonstrate that operationalizing the principle of free expression in a university community presents enormous challenges.”

One part of the symposium was a panel led by four panelists from three different universities, who have all worked with their respective communities on issues regarding free speech and expression.

The panelists used protests at MU, Middlebury College and Auburn University as case studies for discussing the issue of free speech on college campuses.

Taffye Benson Clayton, vice president and associate provost for inclusion and diversity, and Julie Huff, director of strategic initiatives and communications for the provost’s office, both work at Auburn University in eastern Alabama.
Last April, student groups organized to have white nationalist Richard Spencer speak at the Auburn campus. Clayton and Huff said there was a lot of backlash from other students, including protests and interruptions of Spencer’s speech.

Originally, administration at Auburn University tried to prevent Spencer from coming to campus. However, a federal judge declared the school had to allow the event on First Amendment grounds.

Auburn University sent out four separate statements to students regarding Spencer and the White Student Union group that invited him on campus. In one, it expressed it did not agree with Spencer’s beliefs but would still allow him to speak.

“We strongly deplore his views, which run counter to those of this institution,” the statement said. “While his event isn’t affiliated with the university, Auburn supports the constitutional right to free speech.”

At the event itself, there were protests from students and even a small fight, Clayton said.

Afterward, Auburn University sent out a campus climate survey to the student body that asked about how welcome students felt on campus. Huff said the survey showed a lot of students don’t feel safe or accepted at the university.

Since the incident was only about five months ago, Clayton said there is still a lot to learn about free speech and expression at a public university like Auburn.

Baishakhi Banerjee Taylor, dean of students at Middlebury College in Vermont, said Middlebury saw a similar situation regarding a public speaker who came to campus.

Last March, author and political scientist Charles Murray was scheduled to speak at the college after he was invited by the American Enterprise Institute Club, of which he is a fellow.

During the event, a crowd of more than 400 filled the auditorium in which Murray was speaking to protest the event, according to the Middlebury website.

The website states that protesters disrupted the event with “20 minutes of loud chanting,” causing Murray and Middlebury College professor Allison Stanger, who was going to interview Murray, to move to a separate room, where they would record the interview and broadcast it live.

Afterward, as Murray and Stanger were walking out, Taylor said they were surrounded by people, including some wearing ski masks. Taylor said Stanger was hit, experienced whiplash and later suffered from a concussion.

The school took disciplinary action against 74 students for their involvement in the incident.
Taylor said that because this situation was also fairly recent, much like the one at Auburn, the college is still reflecting on what happened and how to handle a similar situation in the future.

“We still have a lot of reflecting on where we go from here; we have a lot of work,” she said.

She also said administration needs to communicate more with the student body, especially those who feel discriminated against.

“We really need to listen to our students,” she said. “[Middlebury is] not a really diverse campus so we really need to listen to our students who are being marginalized.”

Graduate student Evonnia Woods was a student at MU when the 2015 protests took place. In 2016, she served as the graduate student representative on the Chancellor’s and Faculty Council’s Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press.

She said she didn’t fully understand much of what the First Amendment entailed and all of its implications when she was first called in to be a member of the committee.

However, as she spent more time working with the committee and learning more about what free speech and expression means, she realized just how complicated it can be.

Woods also said she realized much of how the First Amendment plays a role at a public university is through setting guidelines for what constitutes as free speech.

There had already been guidelines in place, Woods said, and the protests in 2015 were not the first that MU has seen. There had also been campus-wide protests in the 1980s that already had guidelines written up for them.

But what had already been in place was vague and unclear, Woods said. MU needed to specify much of these guidelines, such as what constitutes a “traditional public forum” and allow members of the press and photographers to cover protests.

Having this kind of understanding about the university’s regulations is necessary for protests to remain peaceful and calm because the common student may not know the legal implications of civil disobedience, Woods said.

After the wording was adjusted and made clearer, Woods said there was still work to be done within the university, such as fostering respect among students and faculty.

After each panelist shared what happened at their own colleges, they explained how having this kind of experience can help them, along with other universities, learn about free speech and the First Amendment, along with how to handle any protests on campus.

Clayton and Taylor said both of their colleges are better prepared for new situations and issues that may arise regarding free speech.
Clayton said that even with taking all precautionary measures that she knew of, it still was surprising.

“There’s still a very fresh sense of the experience itself and hopefully a greater degree of comfort and collectiveness of this being the new normal,” she said.

Lyrissa Lidsky, dean of the MU School of Law, said the experiences from the panel were extraordinary in sharing with others how to address free speech controversies and conflicts on a college campus.

“The purpose of this symposium is so that we can learn from each other’s experiences and these really help us to foster civil discourse going forward,” Lidsky said. “We’re so fortunate to have such a wide range of experiences on our campus so that we can learn from each other.”

Martins defends MS-13 mailer against Curran; others cry foul

By Michael Gormley

Updated October 31, 2017 4:07 PM

Mitchel McKinney has been pitched numerous times by the News Bureau as a political communication expert.

ALBANY — The mailer depicts three shirtless, dark-skinned men covered in tattoos sternly staring at the viewer with the headline: “Meet your new neighbors!” and warns that Laura Curran, the Democratic candidate for Nassau County executive, “Will roll out the welcome mat for violent gangs like MS-13!”

The ad referring to the violent gang is from the Republican candidate for Nassau executive, Jack Martins, and is paid for by the New York Republican State Committee. On the flip side of the mailer is a traditional ad for Martins with a woman voter and the headline: “Jack Martins: Protecting our families. Protecting our tax dollars.”

Martins stood by the message, while Curran said it misrepresented her position. And Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-Garden City) decried it as “fearmongering.”
“I approve of the message, I do,” Martins said on Thursday’s “Brian Lehrer Show” on WNYC. “This is the face of MS-13. People may feel shocked about it, but this is what is preying on our communities.”

He faulted Curran for accepting the support of liberal Democratic groups and leaders who support sanctuary cities to protect immigrants from deportation and other hard-line policies on immigration from Donald Trump and Congress.

Later in a statement, Martins said, “We are in a public safety crisis. Nassau County families do not feel safe. This is a time to lead, not a time to put political correctness above public safety.”

Jessica Proud, spokeswoman for the state Republican Committee, said, “Laura Curran has aligned herself with Bill de Blasio and the New York City liberals who support sanctuary policies that protect dangerous criminals like MS-13 gang members who are terrorizing Long Island.”

Curran responded that the mailer criticizes her for positions she doesn’t hold.

“We’ve got to make sure the cops have the resources they need,” Curran said on WNYC. “We also need to strengthen the partnership with our schools . . . so that we can stop these problems before they start . . . so they are not preyed upon by these gangs, so they are not seduced by these gangs.”

And Rice said, “I don’t know who to be more disgusted by — the candidate who endorsed this racist ad or the consultants who produced it. “Republican politicians like Jack Martins are convinced that running racist, fearmongering campaigns is the only way they can win elections.”

An authority on political communication said the mailer hearkens back to the 1988 presidential campaign. Willie Horton was convicted of murder, sentenced to life sentence and was released on a weekend furlough program in Massachusetts, when he committed rape, assault and armed robbery. The incident was used by the Republican Party and its nominee, George H.W. Bush, against Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis, the former Massachusetts governor, trying to portray Dukakis as soft on crime.

“The mailer . . . is a classic fear appeal and the framing of the enemy to fear is certainly based on race,” said Professor Mitchell S. McKinney of the University of Missouri. “This ad does have a Willie Horton look and feel.”

Such ads “have always been with us,” he said. “We’re in a social-political environment with race as a flash point. Therefore, to produce such a message in this environment seems to ignore our current situation at best, or to purposively invoke an image like this to further stoke racial divides and fears.”
Intersection - Path to Supreme Court for Same-Sex Marriage, the Power of Stories with Jim Obergefell

By SARA SHAHRIARI & ABBY IVORY-GANJA

Generated from a News Bureau pitch

This week on Intersection we are joined by Jim Obergefell, who was the plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court case that legalized same-sex marriage. Obergefell visited the University of Missouri earlier this month to present a lecture called “Love Wins” for a symposium on the Science of Love. Timothy Blair also joined the conversation. Blair is an alumnus of the Missouri School of Journalism, and in 2015 he donated $1 million to create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT Coverage in Journalism.

Mizzou Queer Media Association president T.J. Thomson and and vice president Samantha Koester sat down with Obergefell and Blair to talk about their experiences.

- Obergefell’s journey to the Supreme Court began after he married his ailing partner in Maryland. Since the two lived in Ohio, when his husband died, Obergefell wouldn’t be recognized as a surviving spouse.
- Obergefell says he and his husband didn't consider themselves activists. “You know I never wanted to be someone that people recognized that people would see and say oh I know who that is and stop me to talk…John and I were very quiet private people,” he
said. “We certainly weren't activists. And when this started, we started it because it was about the two of us. It was very personal. It was about our relationship and wanting our relationship to matter. And after John died and as the case continued to go forward you know I did become the face of this effort for marriage equality.”

- Obergefell and Blair said that while progress has been made, there is still work to be done to advance LGBT rights. Blair says that for younger generations, it’s important to recognize that LGBT rights activists should “stand shoulder-to-shoulder” with others being discriminated against.

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**Former Mizzou football coach Pinkel reflects on career, cancer, campus protests, more**

By ALEX HEUER

Listen to the story: http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/former-mizzou-football-coach-pinkel-reflects-career-cancer-campus-protests-more#stream/0

**The year 2015 was a busy and challenging one for former University of Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel.**

In April, the winningest football coach in school history was awarded a contract extension that would have kept him with the university through 2021 with a salary in excess of $4 million per year.

In mid-November of that year, however, Pinkel announced his resignation. He had been diagnosed a few months before with non-Hodgkin, B-cell lymphoma, a slow-growing but very treatable blood cancer.
The resignation announcement also came during a time of tumult, when campus protests against racism and a threatened boycott by the football team led to the resignation of the University of Missouri System president and the Columbia campus’ chancellor.

The events in 2015 and much more are detailed in Pinkel’s new memoir, “The 100-Yard Journey: A Life in Coaching and Battling for the Win.”

Along with co-author Dave Matter, the university’s athletics beat writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Pinkel details his successes and takes an honest look at the challenges and controversies.

“My lymphoma is in remission right now,” Pinkel told St. Louis on the Air host Don Marsh on Tuesday. “I’m doing pretty good, prayerfully, and all of those out there battling cancer, God bless you all as you keep fighting.”

Pinkel is keeping busy these days. In addition to authoring the new book, he maintains a public relations role with the University of Missouri and speaks to businesses about leadership. Although he acknowledged he still gets a bit intense when he wakes up on college game days, he takes a nuanced view when speaking about how football has influenced his life.

“At the end of the day, [football] has not defined me as who I am,” he said.

In a wide-ranging interview, Pinkel discussed:

- His time as a student and then coach at Kent State University during the 1970s
- His coaching tenure at Toledo State University and the University of Missouri
- Recent protests by players who take a knee at NFL games during the National Anthem
- Anti-racism protests at the University of Missouri in 2015 and a threatened boycott by his team
- Concussions in football
- Defensive End Michael Sam privately and publicly coming out as gay in 2013 and 2014, respectively.
- His family, including his sister, who he considers his hero
- Communicating with players and the recruitment process
Native American culture scholar to speak at MU Thursday

MATTHEW HALL

Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote, Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will speak at MU at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in room 22 of Tate Hall.

Her lecture is titled, "We’ll Show You Boys How to Dance: Kiowa Dance and Painting, 1928-1940." The speech ties into her larger body of work, where she studies the importance of expressive culture in the Kiowa tribe's history in Oklahoma.

Tone-Pah-Hote will visit numerous classes on the campus, meet with professors, eat meals with students and visit the State Historical Archives and other campus museums.

Tone-Pah-Hote is the inaugural Andrew and Peggy Cherng Distinguished Visiting Scholar, an award presented by the MU Honors College.

Cold and flu season hits mid-Missouri


COLUMBIA, Mo. - It's virus season in mid-Missouri and that means more patients are coming in to see doctors.
Dr. Christelle Ilboudo from MU Health Care tells ABC 17 News people tend to stay inside as it gets colder, clearing the way for viruses.

"Some viruses only come around the fall and winter season, so it's a combination of cold weather, people's habits in general and the fact that we have winter and fall viruses that we see often at this time of the year," Ilboudo said.

To avoid getting ill, the infectious disease specialist recommends that everyone gets a vaccine shot.

You can do that at your local quick care, pharmacy or even schedule an appointment with your doctor.

If you find yourself waking up with a high fever, sore throat, or muscle aches, see your doctor and stay home.

Also, be sure to drink as much fluids as you can to avoid getting dehydrated.

Lastly, if you haven't gotten it yet, make an appointment to get that flu shot.

MU Sustainability Office takes action to raise STARS score

By SKYLER ROSSI

The MU Sustainability Office is preparing its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report for 2018. In this report, the office will report MU data in order to receive a sustainability score.

According to Srinivasan Raghavan, the Sustainability Office manager, sustainability is the equilibrium of the environment, society and economics.

STARS tracks and rates participating universities’ progress toward sustainability in academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration and innovation. The overall numeric scores given to each school are then translated into awards of reporter, bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

Currently, MU has a score of 65.93/100, which is equivalent to a gold standing. This was reported in 2015.
“We have subscribed to STARS because we feel there is substantial student interest in sustainability,” Raghavan said. “One can only manage what one measures. We feel that if we can benchmark are our sustainability metrics we can make progress. Making progress in STARS helps us in responsible stewardship of our resources which is aligned with the mission of the University of Missouri.”

The MU Sustainability Office is taking several small steps in each category to raise MU’s overall score. But with a lot to get done and not enough people to do it all, it’s been tricky.

“STARS has over 60 categories,” Raghavan said. “We are a two-person office at this point. Despite being short staffed we are making gradual progress by prioritizing areas of improvement.”

Currently the office is trying to increase sustainability content within the curriculum, improve outreach, build more efficient buildings and improve recycling programs.

“We’re making what we call gradual progress on all of these things, so we’re looking at all of them and seeing where we can improve,” Raghavan said.

Over the last several months, Raghavan has been meeting and working with several offices on campus to raise awareness and integrate sustainability into MU. These organizations include campus facilities, academic affairs, faculty and even the city of Columbia.

The MU STARS 2015 report showed MU needed the most improvement in curriculum, research, buildings and energy.

The report specifically emphasized the importance of increasing sustainability programs through the curriculum.

“We were unable to claim more than 15 points in Academics, and this will take a considerable amount of time to remedy,” the 2015 report noted. “We are certain that we can improve this score by capturing all of these relevant classes, programs and other sustainable practices by implementing a central reporting system.”

While the MU office is still trying to incorporate sustainability measures in the MU curriculum, the energy section is bound to score higher. This year, MU was named the winner of the IDEA System of the Year Award, which recognizes a school each year that has excelled at energy conservation.

“Energy management at Mizzou has made great progress in spite of budget cuts,” Raghavan said. “For on-site green power generation we are among the top universities in the country.”

With the help from students, faculty and staff, Raghavan and the office of sustainability hope to raise the STARS score for MU.
MU grads working in Manhattan react to New York terror incident

By CAMERON LA FONTAINE

NEW YORK - MU alumni living in New York said they were shocked to learn about the terror attack in Manhattan that killed eight people and injured a dozen more.

2015 graduate Michael Sojka works about five miles from where the suspect drove a truck into a bike lane around 3 p.m.

"I heard like sirens, but I hear sirens here all the time so you’re kind of desensitized to it, so I didn’t think too much of it," he said.

Brenden Clark, a 2008 MU graduate, works inside the World Trade Center and said, initially, he didn't know what to think of the dozen emergency vehicles he saw.

"New York will sometimes do these drill things, so I thought it was maybe one of those dry runs with all of the emergency vehicles there," he said.

Liz Pierson, who graduated from MU in 2013, also works in the World Trade Center, but on the northwest part of the building where there was a perfect view of everything happening.

"When we started hearing sirens, the first siren, we kind of went to the window and we watched maybe a couple dozen emergency vehicles over the course of five to 10 minutes show up and sadly we kind of had a front row view to this," Pierson said.

Sojka said he didn't realize how bad things were until he started to get "tons of texts from people asking me if I was okay."

"Then I looked more into it and then I saw Facebook had the 'mark that you’re safe' button and I was like 'wow this is actually a big thing,'"
Pierson said co-workers began going around asking if people knew family or friends that would be in that part of town.

"I had a friend that went into the subway near that street just two minutes before it happened, someone else had their mother near there at the time of the incident," she said. "Then your family and friends are texting and checking in, which is comforting but also kind of heightens the anxiety a little bit."

Once the news came out that the incident was terror-related, being in the World Trade Center created some more anxiety.

"Being at the World Trade Center, it's sort of an iconic building and you know what happened so many years ago," Clark said. "I think a lot of people started to get real concerned as to what was going to happen for the rest of the day and a lot of us made the decision to start going home early."

The former MU students said they don't often get concerned about living in the highly populated New York City, even with all of the mass terror incidents going on in the world. Clark, however, said his behavior has changed a bit in the last two years.

"As we see these incidents happening with the drivers going through crowds, things like that, it has made me a little bit more cautious or aware of certain areas of the city that are really high density," he said.

Sojka said the high police and security presence around the city has always made him feel more safe.

Pierson said she doesn't like to spend too much thinking about the "what ifs."

"Generally, no, I’m not worried about it," Pierson said. "I think that worry creates fear and I don’t want to be afraid of the place that I live."