

MAR 09 2011



Reports of poor sterilization

By Henry J. Waters III

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

On Sunday in these pages we published a piece written by a group of reputable University of Missouri Health Care physicians criticizing the Tribune for articles describing incidents of poor equipment sterilization at university health facilities. The doctors said the stories were “bizarre allegations,” and they took them personally. Care at MU Health is as good as or better than elsewhere, they wrote.

In the news section our reporters did the right thing to tell the public what official inspectors found when they examined conditions at MU facilities. Over here in the editorial section, I support MU Health. I would not hesitate to submit by precious body to its care.

Our reports of sterilization problems relied on 2008 findings of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and inspections in 2010 by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Additional inspections will be made, and we expect to report those updated findings.

The reports were triggered by an on-site whistle-blower, but the insider complaint does not invalidate subsequent discoveries of official agencies. Indeed, this situation shows once again a persistent problem regarding all sorts of important information routinely kept from the public in a number of areas, not only health care.

Using the current health care example, the right system would require routine unannounced inspections of all hospitals followed by mandatory full disclosure of findings to the public. Lacking that sort of routine oversight, some institutions, like MU in this case, will be randomly singled out.

I don't blame people at MU Health for being upset, but they target the wrong foe by concentrating on this newspaper. We would be duly at fault for having misreported the inspections. We would be even more at fault for not reporting them at all.

Our news people reported accurately. Our editorial writer believes MU Health provides good care and prays later reports from official agencies will find sterilization procedures impeccable. Our main job is to let you know the facts as soon as possible.

HJW III



Legislators nix idea of student curator vote

Board makeup bill gets initial approval.

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — In a year when lawmakers must do something to fit the University of Missouri Board of Curators to a new political reality, the perennial attempt to give students a voting voice on the board isn't the solution, the House decided yesterday.

The Missouri Constitution sets the number of curators at nine. State law currently directs that no more than one curator may live in any of the state's congressional districts, which was fine as long as the state had nine or more districts.

But the congressional reapportionment announced in December left Missouri with only eight districts. Rep. Mike Thomson, R-Maryville, won first-round approval yesterday for his bill that continues to distribute seats among the districts, with one at-large member. On a 53-99 vote, mostly along party lines, Republicans defeated an attempt by Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, to give the extra voting seat to a student.

Giving the voting seat to a student could bring demands from faculty, staff, alumni and athletic boosters for a seat, said Thomson, chairman of the House Higher Education Committee.

"There's a lot of different constituencies that would like to be represented," he said.

Students have had a nonvoting seat on the board since the 1980s. During that time, Still said, student representatives have shown they have the maturity to take on a bigger role.

"They have more than demonstrated their ability to deliberate in a serious and responsible manner," Still said.

During debate, Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson and the wife of former curator John Lichtenegger, said the two-year term for a student curator does not give them enough time to develop a full understanding of the university.

"They may not have a vote, but they are listened to," she said. "All the other curators on this board are there for six years." Students "don't know the depth of those problems."

But Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia and a law student, said he thinks students have as much understanding of the issues before the curators as lawmakers who are voting on bills during their first two-year term.

"I find it very interesting, the argument that two years is not enough time," Webber said.

Thomson's bill also changes the makeup of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Missouri State University Board of Governors, also to give each congressional district a seat and designate one at-large position. Still's amendment did not try to give students voting rights on those boards.

The bill needs a final House vote before moving to the Senate.

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MU lecture series to honor Kit Bond

Published March 8, 2011

Former University of Missouri Curator Tom Atkins, left, shakes hands with former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond after the announcement of the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Lecture Series Monday at Reynolds Alumni Center. The series was the brainchild of former Sen. Jack Danforth, right, a Republican colleague who, along with Atkins, helped raise \$1.3 million to create an endowed fund for the series.

The University of Missouri plans to bring some big names to the state after unveiling a lecture series in honor of former Sen. Kit Bond.

The Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Lecture Series, announced yesterday, was the brainchild of former Sen. Jack Danforth, a Republican colleague who, along with former UM Board of Curators Chair Tom Atkins of Columbia, helped raise \$1.3 million to create an endowed fund for the series.

Although the fund is housed at MU, the goal is to bring nationally and internationally recognized figures to the four UM campuses and cities across the state. Speakers are expected to explore areas of interest to Bond: economics, science, and political and security policy issues.

"We pledge our efforts to be wise stewards of the senator's legacy," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said during a reception at Reynolds Alumni Center announcing the series.

Selecting speakers and locations will be up to a four-member committee composed of Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs, and three deans. That group met for the first time with Bond before yesterday's public reception.

"We have some tentative ideas, none we're ready to announce yet," Bond told reporters afterward.

The first lecture will set the stage for the series, so it's important to snag a top-notch speaker, Scroggs said. Think Winston Churchill, whose 1946 "Iron Curtain" talk at Westminster College in Fulton has brought a host of international and national guests to the Fulton campus over the years.

"From the first one out, we want to make sure he's proud of it and that it reflects his public services and reflects his interest in global issues," Scroggs said.

Danforth joined university leaders at the reception, saying he got the idea of raising money for a public project to recognize Bond's career, which included two non-consecutive terms as governor and 24 years in the U.S. Senate. When he asked Bond how he'd like the money to be used, Bond said it took him a "nanosecond" to direct it to the university.

A "fully resourced" state university is essential to the well-being of citizens and economic growth, Bond said.

Bond has been a longtime supporter of the university. In the Senate, he directed some \$500 million to MU over the years, Deaton said. That included money that established agricultural centers, benefited engineering programs, helped create the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and built the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Life Sciences Center.

Having Bond's name attached to the series helped fundraising move quickly, Danforth said. "It's the easiest thing to raise money for Kit Bond," he said, "because people across Missouri recognize what a gift he is to the state."

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Bond 'definitely not a candidate'

By Janece Silvey

Posted March 8, 2011 at 8:37 a.m.

Former Sen. Kit Bond referred to himself as part of the University of Missouri "team" during a public reception yesterday unveiling the lecture series named after him.

That doesn't mean he wants to be coach.

Bond told me afterwards he is "definitely not a candidate" for UM System president.

You'll recall, Bond's name has cropped up in all three of the last UM president searches, but this time is different because he's not busy securing federal earmarks for MU in the Senate.

Still, even though he left public office, the 72-year-old is adamant that he's not retired. In fact, he's a partner for Thompson Coburn law firm working primarily out Washington, D.C.

So why did he avoid my calls for weeks in January? Turns out, Bond said he took a break from the press for a while. From the coverage of the new lecture series in his name, though, looks like the break's over. Welcome back, Senator.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Local: Panel seeks input on next UM president

Jimmy Myers

St. Joseph News-Press

POSTED: 10:08 pm CST March 8, 2011 UPDATED: 10:09 pm CST March 8, 2011

Representatives from the University of Missouri System are asking Missourians what attributes they think the next system president should possess.

President Gary Forsee left the position earlier this year after announcing in December that his wife was fighting cancer. The search that resulted in Mr. Forsee being hired in 2007 took a year to complete. The former CEO of Sprint is credited with increasing efficiencies in the university system by 30-plus percent.

Representatives from the presidential search committee stopped at Missouri Western State University Tuesday, their fourth of seven statewide public forums. Unfortunately, the late afternoon snow shower kept the community participation to just a handful. According to the Buchanan County Alumni Chapter website, there are more than 900 MU graduates living in the county, and 44 current students of the university system, which includes campuses in Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Rolla.

Betsy Rodriguez, UM's human resources director, said glancing at the proposed list of attributes the public is hoping for in a president — they're looking for "someone between God and Superman." But from the two dozen or so preferences, she highlighted "tireless champion of education" as one of the top selections. The search committee will turn in the results of their wish list to the Board of Curators at a meeting later this month.

Other attributes they're considering include a compelling communicator, high business acumen, a leader with vision, and someone who can assemble and empower a group of proven leaders who work well with the curators.

Laura Confer, the student curator for UM, said students want a president who is a good communicator with students, constituents and community. She said they also want a president who will take their opinions seriously, whether the topic ranges from parking to food services. " ... And maybe be able to funnel (students') energy in the correct path, is really important," she said, adding that Mr. Forsee was good about opening his home to students, or scheduling lunches with them at all four campuses.

David Bradley, vice chairman of the Board of Curators, led the public hearing Tuesday. He is also the publisher of the News-Press. Mr. Bradley said they estimate that the search process will take six months.

Public suggestions should be directed to the search firm hired for the task, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, who can be reached at (850) 650-2277.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Student, professor assaulted at Missouri School of Journalism

By Rachel Stinebring

March 8, 2011 | 7:59 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Around 2 p.m. Tuesday, a student assaulted a fellow student and an assistant professor in the Futures Lab of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at MU, according to MU police.

Capt. Brian Weimer, public information officer for the MU Police Department, said the altercation began as a result of the professor confiscating the student's beverage.

Karen Mitchell, assistant professor of convergence journalism at MU, confiscated the beverage from the student in accordance with the rules of the Futures Lab, Weimer said. Mitchell was not teaching a class in the lab.

"She observed a rules violation and corrected it," Weimer said.

At that time, the student rose from his seat and pushed Mitchell into one of the surrounding tables, said David Teeghman, the other victim of the assault.

Teeghman said he immediately got up from his seat after seeing Mitchell fall to the floor.

"I saw this big, 230-pound guy pushing Karen into one of the tables," Teeghman said. "That's when I grabbed him and tried to pull her away from him. ... He grabbed me and had his hands on my neck. Luckily, there was a bunch of students to pull him away from me."

After the incident, Teeghman said he and fellow students ordered the other student out of the lab.

"At first I was absolutely shocked," Teeghman said. "But, then I was furious. I was furious that he put his hands on my teacher. I was furious he put his hands on me. Only after I calmed down I wasn't angry anymore. I was scared."

MU police arrested Jay-Dee Bush on suspicion of simple assault, a misdemeanor, Weimer said.

Although Teeghman said he thinks that Mitchell will not press charges, he said he is "seriously considering" filing charges against the man.

"Today's my birthday," Teeghman said. "And I can honestly say this is the worst birthday I've ever had."

THE MANEATER

Student arrested on charges of assaulting journalism professor in RJI

Posted to On Campus by Kelsey Maffett at 6:45 p.m., March 8, 2011

An MU student was arrested this afternoon after assaulting a professor in the Futures Lab in the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the incident started at about 2 p.m. when Jay Dee Bush, 32, entered the Futures Lab with a drink.

“The teacher asked him to remove it, then she picked it up and started walking toward the trashcan,” Weimer said. “The individual grabbed the teacher from behind, pushing her into a table and the table was knocked over.”

Another student witnessed the event and tried to intervene but was put into a headlock by Bush, Weimer said. Bush released the other student shortly after.

Bush remained in the Futures Lab after the incident and was arrested on simple assault charges when an officer arrived just before 3 p.m. Bush is listed in the student directory as a junior.

Weimer, who had not heard anything about the assault when first contacted by The Maneater, said MUPD should have been alerted right away.

“It’s something we’re a little concerned about,” Weimer said. “We can’t respond to something if we don’t know about it.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Former MU student and ABC reporter opened door for diversity

By Lindsay Roseman

March 8, 2011 | 9:17 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Rehab El-Buri aspired to become a journalist to demonstrate that a person of any faith could make an impact on the profession.

Friends and family say she did far more than that. She broadened their world.

El-Buri, a radio-television graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, died of cancer Sunday, March 6, 2011. She was 26.

Her success, openness and positive attitude at the Journalism School and at ABC News, where she was an investigative reporter, helped many understand her Islamic faith.

Jennifer Reeves, a faculty mentor and friend at the journalism school, said she admired El-Buri's strength. She went through the entire broadcast program wearing her hijab, Reeves said.

Whether it was on TV doing live shots, or hanging out in the newsroom, she never downplayed her identity. Reeves said she particularly remembers El-Buri fitting her hands-free cell phone into her hijab.

"She was incredibly brave and so open to people asking her questions about her lifestyle, her religion and her family," Reeves said. "I think she taught so many people so many things that we would never have the opportunity to learn."

El-Buri's family lived in Columbia, and she was a graduate of Rock Bridge High School. She graduated from MU in December 2006 and began working the next summer at ABC News in New York.

She worked as a desk assistant with Bradley Blackburn, now an ABC production assistant at "World News." Although they worked together for just two years, he remembered her fondly.

“When you’re a desk assistant, you’re just starting in the company, and it can be a very competitive job,” Blackburn said.

“But the thing about Rehab was that she was always a kind person, always willing to share advice and her experiences, and she smiled — which people don’t always do in newsrooms.”

After a short period of time, she began working in the investigative unit with chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross.

“She was wise beyond her years,” Ross said. “She was a quiet yet strong force in our newsroom who took an entry-level job and turned it into a pivotal role. It is tragic she did not live to see the day when, I am sure, she would have been a senior management person at ABC News.”

Ross said that El-Buri played a crucial role in helping to shape ABC’s coverage of the Arab world.

“I relied on her heavily to guide me through some of the thorny issues raised during our coverage of al-Qaeda terrorism-connected stories,” Ross said. “She was no friend of the extremists but fought valiantly to make sure we did not paint the Arab world with too broad a brush.”

In addition to her journalistic success, friends say her open, friendly demeanor helped teach others about the Islamic community.

“I think what she taught me was about a community I would have never ever been able to feel like I was a part of without her openness,” Reeves said. “I’m honored that I can say that she was my friend.”

Asa Eslocker, associate producer in the investigative unit with Brian Ross, also worked closely with El-Buri.

“What she taught me was this incredibly beautiful lesson about the way a devout Muslim lives her life in a stressful, past-faced environment like breaking investigative news,” Eslocker said. “She was an incredibly beautiful and professional and graceful human being I’m going to miss so much.”

Joanna* Jennings, another coworker and friend of El-Buri, said they became close while working together. Jennings called herself a strong member of the Christian faith but added that it did not stand in the way of their friendship.

“We were in two jobs that were very stressful, and it’s difficult,” Jennings said. “We both relied on our faith, and we would share that with one another. It didn’t bring out the differences; it really brought out the similarities.”

El-Buri had a prayer rug in the office, and regardless of what was going on in the background, Jennings said she always made time to pray.

Zaied Abbassi, El-Buri’s husband, posted a Facebook note at 7:04 a.m. Monday with words he shared at her service the previous night.

He recalled his memory of a friend who needed a \$16,000 operation. She was unable to come up with the funds on her own, so El-Buri stepped in and planned a bake sale to raise money after Friday prayers.

It raised more than \$20,000.

“You see there was a strange barakah (blessing) in her deeds near the end of her life,” Abbassi said. “Things would just work for her.”

Even near the end of her life, she never lost the commitment to her faith and always remained positive.

“I miss her so much, but take comfort in the fact that she left an important and enduring legacy at ABC News,” Ross said. “It will help shape our reporting for millions of Americans who may never have heard of Rehab but will benefit from her time here nevertheless.”

..A version of this story appeared in several outlets across Canada and the U.S.

Can new ice cream lick health troubles?

By Edward M. Eveld, McClatchy Newspapers March 8, 2011 [Comments \(3\)](#)

Let's admit it: Attempts to make ice cream healthier by deleting fat and sugar didn't work. At least not for true ice cream lovers.

But rather than taking stuff out, what if you could add an array of healthy ingredients to ice cream without wrecking it in the process?

Researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia are in the final throes of taste-testing their "multifunctional ice cream," a name that makes it clear these are food scientists, not marketing wizards.

University food chemist Ingolf Gruen knows he and his team are in touchy territory, this tinkering with ice cream. Americans love ice cream and eat a lot of it. But by adding four components — antioxidants, dietary fibre, probiotics and prebiotics — the scientists think they have hit on something.

Adding probiotics or "good" bacteria to food products is hot right now, although experts caution that some health claims need to be scrutinized.

Whether their fruit-flavoured, full-fat ice cream concoction ever goes commercial isn't known, but it might be available this summer at Buck's Ice Cream Place, the College of Agriculture's shop famous for its "Tiger Stripe" flavour.

While there are some decent low-fat and no-fat ice creams, Gruen said, they aren't preferred.

"Food is all about taste," he said. "If something doesn't taste good, people don't come back. We do a lot of sensory studies in our department."

Those trials are led by Ting-ning Lin, a doctoral candidate who got hooked more than two years ago on the idea of ice cream with a larger purpose.

Lin is aware of potential criticism, that good-for-you ice cream could promote over-consumption. The other way to look at it: If you're going to occasionally indulge, a treat might as well have healthy additions.

"Ice cream is high-fat compared with other products, so moderate eating is still very important," Lin said.

The challenges of adding function to ice cream have been many. Turns out ice cream is easy to mess up. Besides taste, there's texture and even the way it behaves in your mouth.

"You want a clean melting profile," Gruen said. "It can't be sticky or gummy or gooey. On the flip side, you don't want it to be too watery, to melt too fast."

Adding dietary fibre wasn't too difficult, except to determine how much could be included without altering flavour and texture. The proper amount seemed to be equivalent to 15 per cent of the recommended daily intake. Many Americans consume about half the recommended fibre in a day.

Adding antioxidants was a bit thorny. Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said only Vitamins A, C and E could be called antioxidants, so the ice cream needed a fruit addition that would fit the bill. Acai, a trendy Brazilian fruit, was the choice.

"It's a little bit exotic and has given us some flavour challenges," Gruen said. "It's not a flavour people recognize — chocolaty and woody. It's different."

What about blueberries?

"Good point," he said. "We might, in fact, switch. We're playing around with it."

Adding probiotics proved the toughest challenge. The term refers to "good" bacteria, live microorganisms that have been tested for health benefits, such as countering gastrointestinal problems, diarrhea and irritable bowel syndrome.

The researchers chose *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*. The bacteria couldn't be grown in ice cream, but, after their inclusion, they needed to survive the hard freeze of ice cream storage. Researchers learned they could keep the bacteria alive in frigid temperatures, but then another issue arose. The bacteria like to clump together, which became a texture problem, a little bit crunchy, like biting into ice crystals.

Ice cream add-ins such as candy bar bits and cookie crumbs can have texture, but the ice cream itself must be smooth, Gruen said.

"We had to get those clumps into smaller pieces without destroying the cells," he said.

Besides probiotics, you also can add prebiotics to your diet. Prebiotics are food for the beneficial bacteria living in the colon. Gruen and Lin chose inulin; humans can't digest it, but those beneficial microorganisms love it.

Inulin is a laxative at certain levels, and a laxative is not something most people want in their ice cream. Getting the amount right was crucial.

As for the health effects of probiotics, consumers are getting bombarded with claims. Fermented foods can be good sources of live cultures — everybody knows about yogurt.

"Our native, colonizing microbes play an important role in health," said Mary Ellen Sanders, a probiotics expert and consultant to the food industry. "Recent research has highlighted that humans have an ongoing relationship with them. They talk to us. We talk to them. They talk to each other.

"The question has been, if we add microbes to this already colonized system, can we further promote health?"

Among the reasonable conclusions from research so far: Some probiotics can decrease gastrointestinal side effects from antibiotics. Some can decrease the duration of infectious diarrhea. Some can help with irritable bowel syndrome and intestinal regularity. Some can improve the reaction of your immune system.

But which ones are best? The health effects of one strain can't be presumed to be the same as another strain, Sanders said.

"Without knowing what strain is in a product, and at what level or dose, it is impossible to say what specific benefits that product is likely to have," she said.

Meanwhile, plenty of food scientists and manufacturers are working on healthier treats by adding fibre and probiotics. Some are on the market. But Gruen and Lin don't know of another ice cream product that offers all four of their components: antioxidants, dietary fibre, probiotics and prebiotics. No doubt, the additions would mean higher costs.

"I think consumers are willing to pay more for healthier stuff," Lin said.