

## Study adds to evidence against BPA

### **Exposed male mice display female traits.**

By Janesse Silvey

A new study from the University of Missouri found that male deer mice indirectly exposed to bisphenol A in the womb grew up to be less capable of navigation and less attractive to females.

It's the latest of a growing mound of evidence that shows bisphenol A — an industrial chemical common in plastic bottles and food and beverage cans — likely is harmful to humans.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is unique because it tested mice exposed to bisphenol A, or BPA, only through maternal diet. After they were weaned, the animals had no contact with the chemical, said Cheryl Rosenfeld, associate professor in biomedical sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine and investigator in the Bond Life Sciences Center.

Mice exposed to BPA in the womb grew up to be less capable of navigation than non-exposed peers in tests that assessed their ability to find mates in the wild. Researchers also found female mice were twice as likely to be attracted to males not exposed to BPA.

The next step is to confirm the findings in another species, said co-researcher David Geary, curators' professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences. Then researchers would better understand what traits to assess in boys and girls to see how BPA might be affecting behavioral and cognitive patterns that don't show up when looking at more obvious differences, such as DNA mutations.

The American Chemistry Council — which represents the \$720 billion chemical industry — dismissed the study, saying the mice were given a significantly larger dosage than human intake.

But data show BPA levels tested in the animals' blood mirrored BPA levels typically found in human blood, making the study relevant to humans, said Frederick vom Saal, a curators' professor in the Division of Biological Sciences.

Vom Saal was not directly involved in this study but is a pioneer in BPA research, finding the first evidence against the chemical in the 1990s.

There have been numerous studies on BPA's effects on physical and development health. Last week, researchers in China said adult mice exposed to BPA during adolescent years exhibited

opposite-gender behavior. In 2009, a study published in Environmental Health Perspectives said daughters of women exposed to BPA during pregnancy are more likely to be aggressive.

“There are very consistent findings that males and females during development show opposite effects in response to BPA — males are becoming more like females and females more like males,” vom Saal said. “It’s scary.”

The Food and Drug Administration acknowledged having “some concern about the potential effects of BPA ... in fetuses, infants and young children” but has not recommended changes in regulations. Last week, the American Medical Association adopted a policy urging rules that require products containing BPA be labeled if there is potential for human exposure.

Some companies have voluntarily stopped using BPA in products. That consumer demand is likely going to be more effective than trying to change regulations, Rosenfeld said.

“What might happen before government kicks in — which is usually the case — is that we’re becoming a more educated public as a whole,” she said.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail [jsilvey@columbiatribune.com](mailto:jsilvey@columbiatribune.com).

## MU saxophonists killed in car wreck

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS



**Two University of Missouri students killed in an Oklahoma car crash over the weekend were best friends, saxophonists in the Marching Mizzou, and just great kids, friends said.**

Jeremy Porter, 19, of Independence, and Sean Radcliff, 20, of Bloomsdale, Mo., were killed a few miles south of Muskogee, Okla., about 8 p.m. Sunday when the car left the highway and struck a tree. Porter was driving.

A third person in the car, 20-year-old band member Ryan Iadanza of Columbia, suffered head and arm injuries.

The three were coming back from San Antonio, where they had watched a friend graduate from Air Force basic training.

“They were both just great kids,” said Brad Snow, director of the Marching Mizzou. “The kind of people we were proud to have representing the University of Missouri.”

Porter had joined the Marching Mizzou last year, his freshman year. He had played under Tim Herndon, former band director at William Chrisman High School in Independence.

“I told my wife that one of my favorite students had been killed,” Herndon said.

“All the other kids loved him.”

Porter was reserved, “but when he decided to make something funny it would just crack you up.”

Herndon recalled that even though Porter was a section leader, he agreed to sit in the back to help support the weaker players.

At MU, Porter “was kind of a quiet kid until you put him behind the sax.” Snow said. “Then he took on this kind of different personality.

“There was something about that friendship he had with other band members. ... You could tell he was around his kind of people.”

The school will hold a moment of silence for the friends at the first home football game.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## Services announced for Marching Mizzou members killed in car crash

By Bridget Murphy

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Jeremy Porter and Sean Radcliff hold their alto saxophones with Marching Mizzou. ; Photo submitted by Ryan Gavin

**COLUMBIA — Services will be held this week for the two MU students who died from injuries sustained in a car crash Sunday near Muskogee, Okla.**

Visitation for Jeremy Porter will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday at Speaks Family Legacy Chapels, 18020 E. 39th St., in Independence. A memorial service will follow at 10 a.m. at the same location.

The time of the service for Sean Radcliff has not been decided, but Brad Snow, director of Marching Mizzou, said it will be Friday at Basler Funeral Home, 685 Center Drive, in Ste. Genevieve.

Porter and Radcliff, along with Ryan Iadanza, had visited San Antonio to see a friend and Phi Mu Alpha brother's graduation from basic training.

A car accident on U.S. 69, the cause of which is still under investigation, killed Porter, 19, and Radcliff, 20, but Iadanza was taken to the hospital in stable condition and

released the next day. Both Porter and Iadanza were wearing seatbelts; however, Radcliff was not, according to an Oklahoma Highway Patrol report.

An Oklahoma state trooper called a friend of the three students, and the friend began to help inform others. After hearing the news of the car accident Sunday, Phi Mu Alpha brothers gathered together.

“We’ve just been sort of sharing memories and fun stories — talking about that kind of thing,” said Ryan Gavin, 26, a former Phi Mu Alpha chapter president and MU graduate who knew the two men.

Gavin said about 30 people gathered Sunday night and were still together Monday. Other groups of friends have been gathering, too.

“We ended up going online and finding more out that way and were able to get a hold of family members,” Gavin said.

Elliot Naes, Porter’s Phi Mu Alpha pledge father, said he has received a phone call or a text from almost all his phone contacts, lending their support. He was home in St. Louis and unable to gather with his brothers.

“The support has been really nice even though I’m away from it all,” Naes said. “I still feel like everybody is still here with me and stuff; we’re all here to support each other.”

Katelyn Amen, a friend of Porter and Radcliff, is a senior at MU. She is Porter and Radcliff’s former alto saxophone section leader in Marching Mizzou. She said Radcliff was hilarious, though she only heard him laugh out loud about five times.

“He was funny, but his delivery was so straight-faced, and everyone else would be rolling on the ground, but he’s saying things like it’s no big deal,” Amen said.

Both Amen and Gavin mentioned Porter’s signature “smirk.”

“He would say the funniest things and then just sit there and smirk,” Amen said.

“He was very keen on picking up details, and every once in a while he’d sort of catch your eye, and he had this sort of mischievous smirk that he’d give you,” Gavin said.

Gavin and Amen said Porter was introverted, while Radcliff was the extrovert of the pair. Gavin described them as a team.

“Sean would be more extroverted — out talking to people or, on occasion, saying something silly — but Jeremy would look over and catch your eye and you’d just kind of share that moment, smirk,” Gavin said. “It was a really fun dynamic.”

“Sean never met a stranger in his life,” Gavin said, quoting Joey Musterman, a Phi Mu Alpha brother. Gavin said Radcliff was always instantly friendly and talkative with everyone he met.

Radcliff was really passionate about the saxophone and about playing it well, Amen said.

Radcliff often challenged Amen, she said. He spent rehearsals working on riffs from other pieces and really pushed Marching Mizzou members to be better than “just playing the fight song,” Amen said.

She said Porter was also passionate about band. She never had to tell him to practice, stand in his spot, stop talking or memorize his music — he was always on top of it.

“I just know that his heart was just really in Marching Mizzou,” Amen said.

Although no definite plans have been made, Snow said Marching Mizzou plans to honor the students during its first halftime show by having a moment of silence and possibly playing music selections they enjoyed. They will also be remembered on the yearly Marching Mizzou T-shirts.

Porter and Radcliff were good people that others were naturally drawn to, Gavin said. He said the two were friendly to everyone and always welcoming.

“You couldn’t ask for better people to be your brothers,” Gavin said. “They were just very involved in the sense that whenever anyone needed anything, they were some of the first people to volunteer themselves and their time or whatever resources they had that could help out.”

Naes gave Porter a nickname when Porter was interviewing to join the fraternity.

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“He wore a tie-dyed T-shirt and was trying to grow out a beard, and I made the joke that he looked like a dirty hippy and I started calling him Jerms after that,” Naes said.

Radcliff was very enthusiastic about his involvement in Phi Mu Alpha, Naes said. He ran for many offices and was always looking for ways to help his brothers.

The Phi Mu Alpha brothers have not completely decided how to memorialize their friends, but Naes said he thinks there will probably be some kind of memorial scholarship set up for them.

“I think the thing I will take away the most from Jeremy was that he always had the best attitude about everything that was going on,” Naes said.

Gavin said they are also considering renaming their current Men of Music Scholarships, which are used to bring in guest performers and musical acts, in honor of Porter and Radcliff.

“We’re all so affected by it, and I can’t imagine not doing that for them,” he said.

Friends of the men have gathered together, eating brownies and pizza and watch movies they all loved, remembering their friends in a positive way. Gavin said they plan on staying together until they travel to the services this weekend.

“They are doing Phi Mu Alpha-y stuff – just stuff we would normally do throughout the year with them to cope with each other and be around each other,” Naes said.

“They’re not the types of people that would want you to be sad about something,” Gavin said. “They wanted you to be happy and enjoying yourself and enjoying life.”

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Inquirer Editorial: Violent-games ruling

Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a California law banning the sale of violent video games to minors, it's time for parents to "level up" in their roles as responsible fathers and mothers who make sure their kids don't buy games inappropriate for their age.

The high court's 7-2 decision Monday beefed up free-speech protections. Justice Antonin Scalia, in writing the majority opinion, said the court was unwilling to create a "new category of content-based regulation that is permissible only for speech directed at children."

Scalia properly noted that although states have the power to protect children from harm, that should not include the power to restrict children's exposure to ideas. That is not to say the court has left parents to fend for themselves.

On the contrary, the decision changes surprisingly little about the way violent video games are currently purchased. Most video-game stores already have policies prohibiting the sale of video games rated "Mature" by the Entertainment Software Rating Board to minors without parental approval. Many stores do not carry copies of games rated "Adults Only."

The current video-game purchasing system is almost identical to the generally accepted system used by the motion-picture industry. It is not the law, but company policies, that require movie theaters to prohibit the sale of R-rated film tickets to those under 17 unless they are with an adult.

The California law voided by the court was an unnecessary prohibition, but it does reflect a necessary concern for the effect violent video games can have on young minds. A recent study published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* concluded that violent games desensitize players to violent imagery.

The study also said that young people may behave more aggressively after playing extremely violent games such as "Killzone" and "Grand Theft Auto."

**"A single exposure to a violent video game won't turn someone into a mass murderer," University of Missouri psychology professor Bruce Bartholow told CBS News. "But if someone has repeatedly exposed themselves, these kinds of effects in the short term can turn into long-term changes."**

The American Psychological Association says video-game violence has been linked in some studies to fighting at school and to violent criminal behavior, including assaults and robberies.

Parents need to be fully informed about the potential dangers of their children being caught up in virtual violence and, in the absence of legal restrictions, they should be prepared to say "game over" before their children even get close to purchasing an inappropriate video game.

## Student accused in theft from police car

Early Saturday morning, a Columbia police officer arrested a 21-year-old University of Missouri student found walking along Range Line Street with a police dashboard computer.



### **Drew Decker:**

Arrested with computer terminal

Around 4:30 a.m., the officer observed Drew C. Decker of 907 Huntridge Drive walking northbound near Vandiver Drive holding an object that resembled a Columbia police mobile data terminal, said Officer Latisha Stroer. The officer stopped to investigate further and determined it was police property.

A sergeant at police headquarters searched patrol vehicles in the department's parking garage and found a patrol vehicle missing a mobile data terminal, Stroer said. No damage to the patrol vehicle is included in police notes, she said, which means the patrol vehicle likely was left unlocked.

Decker was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property. He has been released from the Boone County Jail after posting a \$4,500 bond.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Second thoughts for aspiring lawyers

BY TIM BARKER • tbarker@post-dispatch.com • 314-340-8350 | Posted: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 12:00 am | (6) Comments

Something is spooking droves of would-be lawyers.

The region's law schools, like others across the nation, are reporting a steep drop this year in the number of students applying for admission. What's keeping them away, it seems, is the fear that a law degree no longer guarantees a meal ticket.

"The stories about the legal market have certainly dampened some people's enthusiasm," said Paul Pless, assistant dean for admissions and financial aid at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Law.

Gone — for now, at least — are the days when law students could expect to cruise toward graduation with a job offer or two in hand. Instead, a growing number of grads are like Clayton's Melissa Hamilton, 35, who is still searching for a place to use her new University of Missouri-Columbia law degree.

Hamilton has applied for a few government positions, but she is waiting until she passes the bar exam before making a stronger push. She's also looking into jobs for which her master's degree in social work might come into play.

"I've known for the past year it would be hard to find a job," Hamilton said. "It's making me open my search up to things I wouldn't have considered. I kind of have to get creative."

Industry experts say stories like this are prompting many students to rethink their legal aspirations — not to mention the prospect of paying a tuition bill that will easily top \$120,000 over three years. Yet local schools say the overall quality of applicants — based on test scores — hasn't diminished in the face of declining interest.

And they say it may actually help the profession in the longer term, by weeding out students who lack a passion for law. Hard times are simply forcing fence-sitters to go a different direction.

**"That's not a bad thing, that people are thinking about it on the front end," said Lawrence Dessem, dean of the Mizzou School of Law. "I have a sense it may lead to more satisfied lawyers down the line."**

It's certainly creating less competition for available slots in classes. The Law School Admission Council reports that, as of June 3, applications for the approaching fall semester have fallen by 10.4 percent, compared with last year.

Local law schools mirror the trend, with Washington University dropping 13.3 percent and St. Louis University falling 19.7 percent. Mizzou's applications are down 16.7 percent, while Illinois has fared slightly better with a 7.9 percent drop. All, however, say their class sizes are not suffering because of the decline.

Curiously, this year's fall-off comes after a year in which many schools reported record applications. It's odd because the economic conditions are essentially the same. So no one's really sure why it took so long for interest to taper.

At Washington University, for example, law school applications soared 19 percent in 2010. Mary Ann Clifford, assistant dean for admissions, thinks the economy may still have played a role in last year's surge. It's common, she said, for students to work a few years after finishing their undergraduate studies before applying to law school. But that only works if there are jobs to be had.

"Last year, instead of getting that first job out of college, they may have gone straight to law school," Clifford said.

How long the decline will last is difficult to predict.

Much has been written nationally about how economic turmoil has changed the landscape of the legal profession. There are firms that have developed nonpartner track positions with lower ceilings in terms of pay, benefits and prestige. There's been a rise in the use of so-called contract attorneys — sort of a higher-paying version of the temp worker. And customers are demanding great efficiencies from the firms they employ.

"Obviously, law firms serve clients. As those clients go through economic struggles, you see a change in demand for legal services," said Dan Nelson, partner and hiring chairman for Armstrong Teasdale in St. Louis.

Local law school leaders, however, are optimistic this is not the new normal.

Sandra Johnson, the interim dean of SLU's law school, says she has seen it before during her three decades plus at the university.

"These sorts of cyclical crests and dips are just really common," she said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we rebounded. If you look back, that's what has happened in the past."

And it's not as if there are no jobs to be found.

Ty Harden, 33, of Sedalia, Mo., is a recent Mizzou graduate who found a relatively easy path to employment. He was offered the first job he interviewed for — a position with a small civil litigation firm in Springfield, Mo.

He figures that one advantage he had over some of his still-unemployed classmates was a willingness to consider jobs, regardless of where they might be situated.

"It's probably a matter of flexibility," Harden said.

Even if a full recovery comes in the next couple of years, some of the nation's law schools may not be around to see it.

Industry experts have worried for years over both the rising number of law schools — 18 of them have popped up in the past 10 years — and a surge in enrollment. According to the American Bar Association, in 2009 there were 145,000 students enrolled in law schools, compared with 125,000 a decade earlier.

"Without the recession, there were concerns that there were too many attorneys being graduated," said Thomas Campbell, managing partner with Gallop, Johnson & Neuman in Clayton, where hiring of new graduates has dipped recently.

For the more established schools, these down years are unlikely to cause much more than a case of heartburn. But for newer schools and those without strong endowments, there's a real risk. Some could even be forced to close, said Pless of the University of Illinois.

Schools like his — and others in this region — are dealing only with a decline in applications. But there are schools elsewhere that have much more serious worries.

"This is the first time I've heard concerns about filling classes," Pless said. "They just simply can't get enough bodies through the door."

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Number of applicants down

Posted: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 12:00 am | No Comments Posted

After surging last year, the pace of law school applications has fallen more than 10 percent nationwide this year.

Here's a look at how area law schools have fared.

	2009	2010	2011
Washington University	3,700	4,385	3,800
St. Louis University	2,284	2,305	1,852
University of Missouri-Columbia	903	1,012	843
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	3,299	4,833	4,452

*Source: Individual institutions*

*Note • 2011 numbers could change between now and the start of the fall semester.*