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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Burwell: Mizzou owes the NCAA no favors

BY BRYAN BURWELL, Post-Dispatch Sports Columnist | Posted: Wednesday, August 24, 2011 12:05 am

As we all wait for the NCAA to finish up its crack investigation of the University of Miami scandal, which may include unleashing scores of investigators into South Beach, months of intense research, endless hours spent buried in paperwork — or simply reading all the sordid details in the Yahoo! Sports blockbuster — I can't help but wonder why anyone at the University of Missouri should abide by the NCAA's request that they patiently wait until their crack I-team uncovers all the dirt.

The NCAA has done Missouri absolutely no favors in this mess. Unless we're all missing some less than obvious morsel, at the very least it seems like a lot of people misled Missouri officials when they were conducting their due diligence in the hiring of new basketball coach Frank Haith five months ago. According to university chancellor Brady Deaton, members of the basketball coaching search committee talked directly to people from the NCAA and the University of Miami last spring, and no one indicated anything remotely was questionable about Haith, who was then the Miami basketball coach.

The NCAA says it has been conducting an investigation for five months, so that would mean they were buzzing around the Hurricane scandal last March. So it's not unreasonable to assume that Hurricane officials were aware something was up during the NCAA Tournament, too. So somewhere in this process either before or after Haith was hired, several important officials with direct ties to the NCAA and the Miami athletics department possibly misled Mizzou officials or flat-out lied to them, or members of the search committee simply asked all the wrong questions.

"Everything came back very, very clear, very positive and left us reassured that this was an individual that would provide the leadership that we desired at the University of Missouri, so we feel good about the vetting process," Deaton said last week. "The investigation that had begun at some point, was an investigation, as I understand, perhaps of football, and had not reached over into this side at all. No evidence of this came up during the vetting process."

Giving the NCAA and Miami the benefit of the doubt, let's assume Haith wasn't a target of the investigation during Missouri's coaching search. Maybe that's why his name wasn't mentioned. But that still doesn't explain why when Haith's name did surface during their probe, the NCAA didn't feel like it owed his current employer the most basic professional courtesy to inform them immediately that something was happening. And now Mizzou is suffering collateral damage from a flawed investigative process.

The NCAA doesn't want Mizzou to interfere with the ongoing process, which means Deaton, director of athletics Mike Alden, Haith and the entire Tigers basketball team are being forced to wait on somebody else's timetable.

That's not right. That's not fair. That's completely unreasonable.

Deaton said he had been in contact with NCAA president Mark Emmert about the issue and that MU would honor the NCAA's request in an Aug. 16 letter not to conduct its own investigation, but he also said, "That doesn't mean we're just sitting back waiting."

I don't know what that means exactly, but Missouri should have every right to get to the bottom of this on its own timetable. A week ago, Deaton told reporters that he is certain the NCAA is 'sensitive to our concerns, and we'll be closely linked with them as we look ahead.'

From what I've seen, I'm still waiting to see exactly when, where and how the NCAA has been sensitive to Mizzou's concerns.

There is so much wrong with the way this has gone down, and it is just the latest in a long line of nonsensical misadventures that prove the NCAA is hopelessly plodding along with no redeeming value. This is the same organization that could spend six hours interviewing the chancellor of UMSL about a part-time, \$5,000-a-year golf coach running a fantasy sports operation and put the school on a two-year probation for that silliness, but couldn't find a few minutes to spare to give the Mizzou chancellor a heads-up on something far more serious — accusations that a \$1 million-a-year, full-time basketball coach was accused of complicity in a \$10,000 payoff to a player — until after everyone else in the world could read about it on the Internet?

So what sense does this make, and where exactly is that 'sensitivity'?

What's really sad is that none of these foolish and troubling moves are even in column A on the list of reasons the NCAA as it is currently constructed just needs to just go away.

The list is so long and the reasons so plentiful why the NCAA is worse than a joke. The NCAA and its partner in crime, the Bowl Championship Series illegal cartel, do only two things well: rake in billions of dollars for the biggest universities and avoid sharing their revenue with the smaller schools or the players who help generate the big bucks.

If I were Mizzou, I wouldn't wait on the NCAA to do anything. I would handle my own business on my own terms.

The Star's editorial | Haith's credibility problems imperil his future at MU

Frank Haith's credibility as the University of Missouri's men's basketball coach has taken a hit. Combine that problem with Haith's previously unimpressive won-lost record on the court, and his continued employment in Columbia is in doubt.

Haith's problems are tied to the latest scandal to engulf big-time, big-money college sports, which appears uncontrollable by anyone, including university presidents and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

A Yahoo Sports investigation found that a University of Miami booster, Nevin Shapiro, had provided that school's athletes with gifts, cars and sex parties. Among the allegations: Haith, Miami's coach for seven years, knew that one of his players had inappropriately received \$10,000 to attend that school.

An NCAA investigation into this mess could take months, putting Missouri officials in an uncomfortable position with Haith, who gets \$1.5 million a year.

Ease Haith out now, and he could collect millions in severance before ever coaching a game at MU.

Stick with Haith, and the university could get a black eye if an NCAA probe confirms the Yahoo Sports allegations.

Earlier this month, Haith basically told his bosses at MU that he didn't know Shapiro.

But Yahoo Sports published two photos of Haith with Shapiro, including one event where Shapiro reportedly gave \$50,000 to Miami's basketball program. And then there were the 85 phone calls or text messages over five years between Haith and Shapiro that the website found.

Haith's apparent attempt to mislead MU officials will give athletic director Mike Alden more reasons to give up on his new coach.

Another option remains: Haith could resign, take a small payout and let Missouri try again to get a good basketball coach. In the sordid world of college sports, of course, that's probably a pipe dream.

Why boys bottle it up and girls can't keep quiet: The different ways the sexes deal with problems

By [Claire Bates](#) Last updated at 5:14 PM on 23rd August 2011

Boys are notorious for refusing to talk about their feelings. Now researchers say it's not because they are embarrassed but because they view the activity as a waste of their time.

A team from the University of Missouri conducted four different studies that included surveys and observations of nearly 2,000 children and teenagers.

They found that girls had positive expectations for how talking about problems would make them feel, such as expecting to feel cared for, understood and less alone.

However, boys had far more neutral reactions to talking. While they didn't express any worry about it they clearly felt it would be unproductive.

Study leader Professor Amanda Rose, said it overturned many traditional views about the differences between boys and girls.

She said: 'For years, popular psychologists have insisted that boys and men would like to talk about their problems but are held back by fears of embarrassment or appearing weak.'

'However, when we asked young people how talking about their problems would make them feel, boys didn't express angst or distress about discussing problems any more than girls.'

'Instead, boys' responses suggest that they just don't see talking about problems to be a particularly useful activity.'

Professor Rose said the findings could be reflected in future romantic relationships, where women often wanted to talk about their problems, while men withdrew instead.

She said: 'Women may really push their partners to share pent-up worries and concerns because they hold expectations that talking makes people feel better.'

'But their partners may just not be interested and expect that other coping mechanisms will make them feel better.'

'Men may be more likely to think talking about problems will make the problems feel bigger, and engaging in different activities will take their minds off of the problem. Men may just not be coming from the same place as their partners.'

She added that the findings could help parents use a different approach when talking to their children.

'An implication is that parents should encourage their children to adopt a middle ground when discussing problems,' Professor Rose said.

'For boys, it would be helpful to explain that, at least for some problems, some of the time, talking about their problems is not a waste of time.

'On the other hand, many girls are at risk for excessive problem talk, which is linked with depression and anxiety, so girls should know that talking about problems isn't the only way to cope.'

The study will be published in an upcoming edition of the journal Child Development.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

Usefulness of Grim Anti-Smoking Warnings Doubted

By IB Times Staff Reporter | August 24, 2011 1:04 AM EDT

Mandatory anti-smoking warnings on U.S. cigarette packs are being challenged, this time by researchers who say the combination of grotesque images and explicit messages may not be effective in curbing smoking.

As health communicators search for the best strategy to help smokers quit their addiction, four of America's top tobacco companies have staged a legal campaign to overturn the Food and Drug Administration's new labeling regulations, slated to take effect Sept. 22, 2012.

The new study, published in the Journal of Media Psychology and conducted by faculty at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, aims to shed some light on the effectiveness of such graphic labeling on the smoker's psyche.

The study says the campaign seems to rely on smokers' discretion alone to interpret the grim images, and they could backfire.

Glenn Leshner, Paul Bolls and Kevin Wise, co-directors of the Psychological Research on Information and Media Effects Lab, write that television public service announcements that included either a threatening message or a disgusting image resulted in greater attention, better memory and a heightened emotional response.

But PSAs that included both threatening and disgusting images caused participants to have defensive responses, where reactions were so strong that the participants unconsciously shut down processing the messages. They also had poorer memories and lower emotional responses when the threatening PSAs included disgusting images.

Leshner said, "When a disgusting image is included in a threatening PSA, the ad becomes too noxious for the viewer. ... We noticed in our collection of anti-tobacco public service announcements a number of ads that contained very disturbing images, such as cholesterol being squeezed from a human artery, a diseased lung, or a cancer-riddled tongue. Presumably, these messages are designed to scare people so that they don't smoke. It appears that this strategy may backfire."

Bolls explained, "Simply trying to encourage smokers to quit by exposing them to combined threatening and disgusting visual images is not an effective way to change attitudes and behaviors. Effective communication is more complicated than simply showing a disgusting picture. That kind of communication will usually result in a defensive avoidance response where the smoker will try to avoid the disgusting images, not the cigarettes."

Bolls added, "You have to talk to smokers in a meaningful and encouraging way that outlines the consequences of smoking, but also have messages designed to minimize the defensive avoidance responses."

But another study at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa., found, in contrast, that graphic images on cigarette packs did reduce demand.

In the study, a sample size of around 400 adult smokers from the U.S. participated in an experimental auction of cigarette packs that had four different types of warning labels; all packs, however had the same message details on "Smoking causes mouth cancer." The displayed message varied on each of the pack in terms of the text, placement of the message and the imagery.

Study co-author Matthew Rousu, a professor of economics, said, "Demand was significantly lower for packs with grotesque images, with the lowest demand associated with the plain, unbranded pack. ... The bids for cigarette packs that had a grotesque photo and no brand imagery received bids that were 17 percent lower than the bids for the package with the current U.S. warning label."

"Results from our study suggest that the new health warnings with graphic pictures will reduce demand for cigarettes," he said. He added that regulators should consider health warnings with graphic images, but also plain packaging policies for tobacco products.

Bloomberg reported on Michael Siegel, a professor of community health sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health, who suggests that a better approach for the U.S. could be to follow the law being proposed in Australia.

Beginning July next year, cigarette packs in Australia will be required to carry graphic warnings. But, in Australia, the law would require for the rest of the pack to be blank, with only the brand name written in a small, plain font. No logos, no color. Siegel writes, "Because the pack's design plays such a critical role in establishing the brand's identity, the empty half could, over the long term, erode the cigarette makers' ability to make their brand appealing."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Law School professor Greg Scott dies

By Kelly Cohen

August 23, 2011 | 7:11 p.m. CDT

The MU School of Law lost a “force of nature” Monday, according to the dean of the law school, R. Lawrence Dessem.

Greg Scott, professor of legal research and writing, collapsed as he walked into Cornell Hall Monday afternoon to teach a class, Dessem said. Despite efforts to resuscitate him before the ambulance arrived, he died.

Scott graduated summa cum laude in 1985 with a bachelor's degree from Columbia College and a law degree from MU in 1988.

He was an adjunct law professor at MU in 1996 until he joined the full-time faculty in 1999. Before he began his teaching career, he was a litigator with both the state attorney general's office and a Kansas City law firm.

He also was a recipient of the Graduate Professional Council's Gold Chalk Award for Excellence in Teaching at MU. Dessem beamed Tuesday as he described him as a “beloved and extremely accessible man who always had a smile on his face.”

“Most important, he made law school humane for students. Many of the students he taught are practicing law now because of him.”

Scott was also involved as a scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 707 in Columbia.

Laura Sandstedt, troop committee chair, said he was an “extremely charismatic man” who, despite not being a father, was able to treat the kids as if they were his own. After knowing him for two years, Sandstedt said he “had a way about him which encouraged the boys to go above and beyond, even if they didn't believe they could.”

The School of Law will hold a remembrance service at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Room 7 of Hulston Hall.

Columbia Business Times

MU named to national community service honor roll

By MU News Bureau
Aug 19, 2011

The University of Missouri has been named to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency.

"This is a great honor that recognizes the wonderful spirit of community service our campus has embraced broadly and is intentionally embedded in the curriculum through the Office of Service Learning," said Jim Spain, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies at MU.

The honor roll annually recognizes higher education institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to community service. MU also was named to the honor roll in 2009.

The corporation chooses honor roll recipients based on the variety and originality of service projects, percentage of students who participate in service activities, incentives for service and number of service-learning courses offered by the school.

"The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll reflects campus-wide efforts to create the expectation of service to the community as part of the fabric of undergraduate education at MU," said Anne-Marie Foley, director of the university's Office of Service Learning. "We hope to engage our students in service internationally, nationally and locally and to educate future leaders for public service."

The Office of Service Learning works to combine community service and student instruction through academic coursework. During the 2010-2011 academic year, nearly 3,800 MU students participated in about 160,000 hours of service learning throughout the Columbia community.

Columbia Business Times

Missouri Foundation for Medical Research: Helping VA and MU researchers' fight against cancer

By Brian McNeill
Aug 19, 2011

Inside the main floor of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital on a typical afternoon, there's a constant flow of patients — military veterans of all ages — and their families. Some are entering the hospital, and some are leaving after brief or extended stays. Hospital staff members, most wearing white coats, are part of the ebb and flow.

Personal connections are a constant on the main floor. Patients and spouses hold hands. Clinicians shake hands with patients or hug them hello or goodbye.

Just one floor below, the scene is quite different. Staff members wear face shields and gloves. Rooms are sealed and have hazard signs mounted on their doors. The hallways are sterile and quiet. Patients are nowhere to be seen.

This is the Truman VA hospital's research area, more than 30,000 square feet of space devoted to research in nearly every medical discipline from allergies to urology, except pediatrics. The VA research area has approximately 200 staff members, and there are between 40 and 50 ongoing investigations at any one time.

Research varies from basic laboratory to clinical, and research investigators and clinicians from the VA hospital work side by side with colleagues from as many as 11 departments and 19 academic units at the University of Missouri. A tunnel under Hospital Drive provides easy access to the research area for University Hospital.

Less than a dozen vertical feet separate the basement from the main floor of the VA hospital, but their environments are worlds apart. They do, however, share a common goal: to make lives better for America's veterans.

Occupying 9,000 square feet of the VA research area is the Biomolecular Imaging Center, a vital radiopharmaceutical resource for VA and MU research investigators in their efforts to detect and treat cancerous tumors as early in development as possible.

The center is home to three powerful imaging devices. The Micro-MRI imaging and spectroscopy system features a 7 Tesla, 210 mm horizontal bore that can produce high-resolution anatomical and functional images and collect spectroscopic data from tumors in the brain, heart and other organs. The Micro-PET unit allows researchers to track and monitor positron-emitting probes in an in vivo (within a living organism) system. With the Micro-SPECT/CT unit, researchers are able to obtain anatomical data from three-dimensional X-ray computed tomographs and combine that with SPECT data to accurately identify and localize isotopic drugs as they make their way through a live organism.

Located less than a mile away from the center is the MU Research Reactor, a 10-megawatt nuclear reactor from which researchers can create a vast number of isotopic drugs for the detection and treatment of cancers. Some of these isotopes have half-lives so short that they must be transported to the VA hospital within minutes after creation.

“This is what makes this center so unique,” said center Director Dr. Timothy Hoffman, who also serves as a professor of internal medicine at the MU School of Medicine. “We can use isotopes that other research centers couldn’t possibly use because of their short half-lives. It would be like shipping ice cream made here to Seattle without refrigeration. It wouldn’t get there looking anything like ice cream.”

Hoffman said positron-emitting drugs that have been made and are undergoing phase 1 testing in the Biomolecular Imaging Center might be available for human clinical trials in the next 12 to 18 months. These drugs will be used for patients with melanoma or oral or colorectal cancers. “They could represent a whole new way to diagnose and treat malignant tumors that previously couldn’t be detected.”

VA research comes with a sizeable price tag, and the Missouri Foundation for Medical Research has stepped in since it was chartered in 1991, with funds from corporate and private donors to help fund VA research including the center’s continuing efforts.

The foundation’s mission is: “To acquire and administer funds to support and sustain the advancement of health care knowledge and discovery for the benefit of America’s veterans.”

This spring the foundation gave \$258,000 to VA research investigators for major equipment purchases, awards for young investigators and bridge funds that allow the investigators to continue work while applying for other funding. Otherwise, Hoffman said, the center likely wouldn’t be able to afford the equipment upgrades that also were made possible by this donation.

In 2009 and 2010, the foundation provided more than \$1.133 million in support for research and education at the VA hospital, with \$435,198 of that going to VA research partner MU for purchase of lab services, research reactor time and to supplement staff salaries for Ph.D. candidates, post-doctoral staff and others.

“We are extremely proud of our funding efforts for VA research,” said foundation Executive Director Sharon Feltman. “In addition to the leading cancer research that’s being done for our

veterans and the public, the VA research is also good for business in Columbia.” Last year VA research brought \$5.5 million into the local economy.

Feltman urges area businesses to join the Missouri Foundation for Medical Research, either as donors or as members of its board of directors.

Board member Keith McLaughlin, senior vice president of The Bank of Missouri, said the foundation has given him new appreciation for the quality of health care and medical research that the VA hospital and MU provide. “We are so lucky to be living in an area where this level of care is all around us,” he said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board, and I hope that other businesses here will step forward as well.”

Winning teams

Nuclear medicine technology students from the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital received national recognition in June for research projects they presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine in San Antonio. Kelsey L. Richmond and Nicole McLean won first place for presenting “Optimizing a F-18 NaF and FDG Cocktail as a Preclinical Cancer Screening Tool for Molecular Imaging.” Co-authors were Tammy L. Rold, Ashley F. Szczodroski, Thomas P. Dresser and Timothy J. Hoffman. Brieanne E. Weinhoff and Suzanne M. Shaffer received second place for presenting “Development of Site-directed Radiopharmaceuticals for Treatment of Prostate Cancer.” Co-authors were Stephanie R. Doll, Silvia S. Jurisson, Martin W. Brechbiel, Prasanta K. Nanda, Andrew B. Jackson and C. Jeffrey Smith.

Columbia Business Times

Social media aids in veterinary medicine teaching

By Jing Zhao Aug 19, 2011

Professors at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine have built a link between themselves and their students using social media, and they expect to use it as a powerful teaching tool.

In the college's online course for veterinary technicians, professors have posted instructional videos on YouTube that show the right ways and the wrong ways to handle animals. Using social media gives students a convenient way to study outside of the classroom.

"YouTube provides access to videos that have significant teaching value," said professor C. Chastain. "They are short, to the point, and they are well done."

Chastain said he initially wanted to bring a guest lecturer to his class instead of using a video, but he decided that videos were more reliable. He added that using YouTube to present the videos has other advantages as well. "Online presentations are more flexible to fit students' schedules, and the material can be easily previewed by the instructor," he said. "Also, the videos show people actively engage in the profession, which is more engaging than having someone come into class and give a PowerPoint presentation."

Some professors use social media to interact with their students. Charles Wiedmeyer, a professor of veterinary physiology, keeps a Facebook page on which his students can send questions to him about coursework. And students taking an online equine nursing course post videos that demonstrate to the instructor and other members of their class the skills they learn throughout the semester.

In the college's clinical pathology department, a Facebook page was created to post trivia questions about what's happening in the classroom, and students and faculty can post photographs of cell cultures to share with one another.

Although social media is becoming a more popular way for students and professors to interact, the College of Veterinary Medicine doesn't yet recognize it as educational tools for its curricula. "Social media is new and used on a limited basis," said Tracy Berry of the college's public relations department. "It's not used formally for instruction but more to enhance communication outside of the classroom."

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Debt ceiling agreement creates problems for graduate students paying off loans

The changes for graduate student loans will go into effect July 1, 2012.

By Hunter Woodall Published Aug. 23, 2011

During the debt ceiling debate on Capitol Hill, Congress cut \$917 billion in programs and slashed federal funds across the board.

MU graduate students will feel the impact of these cuts almost immediately due to budget restrictions on federal loan programs. Graduate students who have taken out loans may now have to start paying their loans back while they are still in school.

“School is going to become increasingly expensive for many students across the country,” said Luke Russell, MU graduate professional council issues coordinator. “For some that might mean that it no longer remains a viable option. We seem to be living in a time when most everyone is tightening their already tight belts.”

To help reduce the national deficit, Congress made the decision to end funding for certain federal loan programs for graduate students. These federal subsidized loan programs allowed students to take out loans interest-free if they were paid back within six months of graduation.

“Graduate school is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor,” Russell said. “This is incredibly unfortunate because it is also one of the key places where innovation sparks to help keep America on the front-lines of technological development, and help America remain globally competitive.”

The changes for loan subsidies will go into effect July 1, 2012.

“Graduate students who were eligible for subsidized loans will now experience higher costs associated with their student loans,” said Nick Prewett, MU interim director of student financial aid. “The amount of total loan eligibility will not change, so students still have loan options, albeit at a higher cost.”

Though the impact on graduate students will be costly, taxpayers will save \$21.6 billion over the next ten years because of the changes made to federal loans for graduate students, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

“It may cause some people sitting on the fence to rethink attendance, however students' intent on a graduate education will still attend,” Prewett said.

Congress also cut funding that would provide credit for students who repaid their loans within one year of graduation.

“In the short term I don't think it will have much of an effect on students getting loans,” Graduate Professional Council President Kristofferson Culmer said. “The impact will not immediately deter students from taking out loans, or make them think twice about attending grad school.”

Due to budget issues, Congress and the United States Department of Education are utilizing the savings from graduate loan subsidies to reinforce the Pell Grant program, Prewett said.

“Students look at graduate school as a way to improve their employability after college,” Culmer said. “It will be more costly, but it's still a valuable investment to get a graduate degree.”

According to the Kansas City Star, \$644 million in Pell Grants were awarded to Missouri college students in 2010. By cutting federal loan subsidies, Congress achieved its goal of providing additional funding for undergraduates by adding \$17 billion to provide them with additional financial aid until 2013.

With 10 months left until loan subsidies are removed from the federal budget, Russell said he worries that Congress is dealing a significant blow to U.S. education.

“One of the worst things the federal government could do now is to also cut funding for research and grants,” Russell said. “It would not only make it incredibly difficult for American students to choose to continue on to, and remain in, graduate school, but it could also drastically impact our ability to remain premiere producers of research.”