

Nixon emphasizes limits on college tuition

By **RUDI KELLER**

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JEFFERSON CITY — State colleges and universities should be able to hold tuition increases for the coming year to no more than inflation, Gov. Jay Nixon told a gathering of editors and publishers from across the state Thursday.

A short time before Nixon was set to meet with college and university leaders, he said he will emphasize his goal of keeping higher education affordable at a time when student loan debt exceeds credit card debt.

Nixon's budget for the coming year initially envisioned a \$106 million cut to public higher education. He announced Tuesday that he will be able to soften that cut by directing \$40 million expected from a major lawsuit settlement to college funding.

Increasing tuition by more than the general rise in prices creates issues of affordability and access, Nixon said. "You would hope that would be the ceiling," he said.

Nixon was planning to meet with presidents and chancellors of two- and four-year colleges in his office.

Before the announcement of additional funding, the University of Missouri was considering a 6.5 percent increase in tuition and fees, on average, at its four campuses. Inflation was 3.2 percent in 2011, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Under state law, schools that increase tuition by more than the cost of living increase must apply for and receive a waiver from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. If the waiver is not granted, a school's funding can be cut. Even a waiver is not a guarantee, because Nixon withheld money from three schools, including UM, for exceeding inflation last year. All three schools had received waivers.

In addition to asking them to hold the line on tuition, Nixon said he will present college and university presidents with a "new funding opportunity" worth \$10 million.

He said he will ask for schools to develop innovative programs that give students a head start on college, enroll them in targeted courses and apprenticeships and allow them to graduate early. The funding will come from \$10 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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MISSOURIAN

Missouri governor outlines \$10 million in grants for colleges

Thursday, February 9, 2012 | 7:07 p.m. CST; updated 10:34 p.m. CST, Thursday, February 9, 2012

BY DAVID A. LIEB/The Associated Press

MU MENTION PAGE 2

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri will offer \$10 million in competitive grants for public colleges and universities to develop programs that will allow students to graduate more quickly and affordably with skills that can more immediately land jobs, Gov. Jay Nixon said Thursday.

As the governor outlined the new grant program, he also reiterated his admonition to university officials: Avoid increasing tuition by more than the rate of inflation in response to state funding cuts.

"We want to make college education as affordable and accessible as possible, and we also want to make sure we provide a high-quality education for students," Nixon said while hosting reporters at the Governor's Mansion for an annual event sponsored by The Associated Press and Missouri Press Association.

Nixon announced that his administration would use funds from the Community Development Block Grant program to create an incentive for colleges to come up with innovative ways of providing students on-the-job experience while holding down their educational costs.

The grant program will be modeled after an initiative already under way at the University of Central Missouri in which students can take certain college courses in high school and then participate in apprenticeship programs in college that are underwritten by corporate sponsors. The goal is that students could then be hired by those businesses after graduation.

"The feature here that sets this apart is the deliberate planning and investment by the private business to build a workforce," said Mike Nietzel, a senior policy adviser to Nixon who previously was the president of Missouri State University.

Nixon says he hopes to begin soliciting grant applications in March and have the money start flowing in July.

The governor's announcement about the grant program came just two days after Nixon said he would allot \$40 million from a national settlement with mortgage lenders to soften funding cuts he had proposed for higher education institutions during the 2012-13 academic year. In January, Nixon recommended a 12.5 percent funding cut for public colleges and universities; his budget office said the influx of money from the mortgage settlement could lower that to 7.8 percent.

Nixon met with officials from higher education institutions Thursday afternoon to explain his plan for the settlement money and the grant program, as well as to repeat his desire to hold down tuition increases.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators coolly reacted last week to a proposed 7.5 percent tuition increase at its flagship Columbia campus (and higher proposed increases at St. Louis and Rolla campuses) to help offset the potential state budget cuts. The curators said they wanted to see more spending cuts in non-academic programs before approving tuition increases.

Missouri law generally limits tuition increases to the rate of inflation unless schools receive special permission for larger increases from the state higher education commissioner. MU sought and received such permission last year. Nixon deemed the university's tuition hike inappropriate and responded by withholding additional state funding from the university system.

He has stopped short of threatening to do the same this year, but said Thursday he wants universities to hold tuition increases to the rate of inflation.

"You would hope that would be a ceiling," Nixon said.

After receiving word of the additional money from the mortgage industry settlement, several university officials indicated at Thursday's meeting that "they are going to go back to the drawing board on tuition increases," Nietzel said.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri's take — \$195 million; Illinois' take: \$1 billion

BY KEVIN McDERMOTT • kmcdermott@post-dispatch.com > 217-782-4912 and VIRGINIA YOUNG • vyoung@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Friday, February 10, 2012 12:15 am | [\(20\) Comments](#)

The bank settlement announced Thursday will bring the added bonus of extra money for higher education in Missouri, helping ease the sting of funding cuts for public colleges and universities. State officials estimate that struggling homeowners will get help to the tune of \$155 million, with the bulk going to those who are "underwater" on mortgages. But officials also plan to use \$40 million of their share to ease proposed higher education cuts.

Officials in Illinois touted the estimated benefit to their state — \$1 billion — but said the money would all go to mortgage-related programs, with no plans to use a portion for budget help.

"The dimension of the disaster created by the mortgage industry would quickly eat up that money," said Steve Brown, spokesman for Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago. "The notion that we might be able to set some of it aside (for other purposes), I'm not hearing that."

But in Missouri, Attorney General Chris Koster said he and counterparts across the country had discretion over how to spend some of the money directed to their states.

Koster "clearly wanted to keep the state portion of it as flexible as possible," said Linda Luebbering, budget director for Gov. Jay Nixon. "He made sure, as part of the agreement, that it would be like general revenue," available for any program.

Nixon had previously proposed \$106 million in cuts to four-year and two-year public colleges and universities.

If the Legislature accepts Nixon's plan to use money from the bank settlement, colleges and universities would see a 7.8 percent cut in their state funding instead of 12.5 percent. For example, the windfall would restore \$18.78 million to the University of Missouri and \$452,481 to Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis.

The Missouri House Budget Committee chairman, Rep. Ryan Silvey, said he supported Nixon's proposal.

"I'm glad the governor is finally starting to listen to legislators and the people of this state who make education a priority," Silvey said.

Nixon said he hoped colleges and universities could hold tuition increases to the inflation rate. He noted that state law requires them to get waivers from the Department of Higher Education if they want to exceed that cap, which will be set at 3 percent for the coming year.

Campuses were still digesting the news Thursday, but several schools expressed optimism that tuition increases, while still inevitable, would be less severe.

Missouri State University interim President Clif Smart was on his way to Jefferson City for a Thursday afternoon meeting with the governor. Like other campus chiefs, he was happy with the news but noted that schools still are looking at a steep higher education cut that will have to be offset by some sort of tuition boost.

"It's still a significant chunk of money for us," Smart said.

At Southeast Missouri State University, President Kenneth Dobbins said in a statement that a reduced cut would allow the school to avoid an increase that would exceed 3 percent.

A spokeswoman for the four-campus University of Missouri system, which is now looking at a 6.5 percent increase in tuition and fees, said administrators are evaluating the changing landscape and its impact on the size of an increase.

Illinois' plans

Illinois is expecting more than \$1 billion in payments and services for the state's homeowners under the settlement, according to Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Most of that amount will flow directly from the banks to qualified homeowners, according to Madigan's office.

The settlement will be administered primarily through the attorney general's office and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

The settlement includes \$1 million for the IDFPR to continue its ongoing investigative and enforcement work regarding home mortgages.

"Over the past years, we've seen how the flawed mortgage financial system has hurt Illinois families," Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn said in a prepared statement. "This settlement will help those most affected by the housing crisis, and will establish new rules for mortgage lending that will be easier to understand and enforce."

Lisa Madigan's office said Thursday there were no figures available on how many Illinois homeowners or former homeowners might be affected.

Her office outlined other action that will be taken under the settlement:

- Struggling borrowers will be considered for a loan modification rather than automatically face foreclosure.
- No loan will be referred to foreclosure while a modification is being considered.

- Borrowers will be able to appeal if they are denied a loan modification.
- Mortgage servicers have to provide a point of contact for borrowers and make it easier for them to check on the progress of their loan modification applications.
- Servicers will have to meet strict timelines for dealing with borrowers.

Jake Wagman and Tim Barker of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri House leader backs using mortgage settlement money for higher education

BY BY VIRGINIA YOUNG • vyoung@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 and KEVIN McDERMOTT • kmcdermott@post-dispatch.com > 217-782-4912 | Posted: Thursday, February 9, 2012 12:15 pm | [\(29\) Comments](#)

The Missouri House Budget Committee chairman said today that he supports Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to use \$40 million of a multi-state bank settlement to ease higher education budget cuts. The chairman, Rep. Ryan Silvey, said legislators already had planned to find a way to soften Nixon's proposed \$106 million cut for the state's four-year and two-year public colleges and universities.

"I'm glad the governor is finally starting to listen to legislators and the people of this state who make education a priority," said Silvey, R-Kansas City.

The newfound money will come from a national mortgage settlement with companies that used improper ways to speed foreclosures, such as by putting fake signatures on required documents. The \$25 billion nationwide settlement between the states and the banks (Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank and Ally Financial, formerly known as GMAC) was announced this morning.

In addition to \$155 million to help people who are struggling to pay their mortgages, Missouri is getting \$40 million to spend as it pleases. Illinois is receiving \$1 billion to help homeowners.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster plans a news conference at 3:15 p.m. today in St. Louis to release details of the settlement.

Nixon had already announced Tuesday that he wanted to use \$40 million of the settlement to soften his cuts to higher education.

If the Legislature accepts Nixon's plan, colleges and universities would see a 7.8 percent cut in their state funding instead of 12.5 percent, as Nixon originally proposed.

For example, the windfall would restore \$18.78 million to the University of Missouri and \$452,481 to Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis.

While that could relieve some of the pressure for tuition hikes, Silvey said some students still may be asked to shoulder more of the cost.

"Remember, this governor has cut higher education every year. None of us want to see tuition hikes, but he's hurt them pretty bad," Silvey said.

In Illinois, the Attorney General's office has a helpline and website available for homeowners affected by this morning's announced settlement between the states and five major banks.

The "Homeowner's Helpline" is (866) 544-7151. Information can also be obtained at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/bankforeclosuresettlement.html.

In addition, borrowers in Illinois, Missouri or any other state involved in the settlement can visit www.NationalForeclosureSettlement.com.

Some of the settlement money will be spent directly by the banks on mandated remedies such as refinancing for distress homeowners and reducing principle to keep them in their homes. In addition, some who have already lost their homes due to alleged unfair mortgage practices could be eligible for monetary compensation from the settlement.

In Illinois, the settlement will be administered primarily through the Attorney General's office and the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation.

"If you have your mortgage owned by one of those five banks, they will be responsible for doing the loan modification, reimbursing families who have lost their homes, and working with families on refinancing," said IDFPR spokesperson Sue Hofer.

The refinancing portion, she said, "is especially important for families who are underwater (on their mortgages), because the banks won't touch you."

The settlement includes \$1 million for the state Department of Financial & Professional Regulation to continue its ongoing investigative and enforcement work regarding home mortgages.

"Over the past years, we've seen how the flawed mortgage financial system has hurt Illinois families," Gov. Pat Quinn said in a prepared statement. "This settlement will help those most affected by the housing crisis, and will establish new rules for mortgage lending that will be easier to understand and enforce."

There has been no suggestion from Illinois officials today about using the money for state functions that are unrelated to mortgages, as there is in Missouri.

"While there are no legal restrictions on how the state funds are used, IDFPR intends to use its payment to continue to fight mortgage fraud," Hofer said in a statement.

According to Attorney General Lisa Madigan's website, "Homeowners whose loans were serviced by these banks may also qualify for direct relief in three categories: 1) Borrowers who have lost their homes, 2) Homeowners still in their homes but are at imminent risk of defaulting on their mortgages or are behind on their mortgage payments and 3) Borrowers who are current on payments but underwater."

Madigan's office outlined other action that will be taken under the settlement:

- Distressed home borrowers will be considered for a loan modification rather than being automatically referred to foreclosure.
- No loan will be referred to foreclosure while a loan modification is being considered.
- Borrowers will be allowed to appeal a denial of a loan modification.
- Mortgage servicers must provide a single point of contact for borrowers as well as easier methods for checking on the progress of their loan modification applications.
- Loan servicers will be held to strict timelines in dealing with distressed borrowers

Harvard professor delivers address at MU on impact of cyberbullying

By Ratko Radojicic

February 9, 2012 | 9:51 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Harvard professor John Palfrey, who spoke about cyberbullying at MU on Thursday, said that kids born after the explosion of digital technology do not see a difference between "their online and offline selves," making the effects of cyberbullying just as strong as the actions that happen face to face.

"There is more harm happening to kids psychologically than a few decades ago," he said. "It's better to think about it just as bullying because it has the same core behavior and the same core effects."

Palfrey delivered the keynote address at Missouri Law Review Symposium "Cyberbullying: Emerging Realities and Legal Challenges" on Thursday evening. Though an illness prevented him from appearing in person, Palfrey was still able to appear — albeit from cyberspace.

Palfrey, faculty co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and professor at Harvard Law School, delivered his address, "How To Address Meanness and Cruelty Toward Youth, by Youth: Regulating Bullying in an Era of Digital Media," via Skype.

Palfrey defined bullying as an act that is purposeful in invoking a power imbalance, and is continual and repetitive. While specific instances of bullying in school corridors and playgrounds can often go unreported, the Internet aids the ability to record cases of bullying while they are happening, as well as after they occur.

Even though the scientific reports on bullying show a wide range of data — some indicates the percentage of children bullied is as low as 4 percent, some say it is as high as 88 percent — Palfrey said the gap is contingent on the variety of definitions of bullying used. "It is a very big issue, and it affects a very large number of kids."

Over the past decade, high-profile cases of school bullying and violence have led to an increase in the extent of legislation relating to bullying. Forty-eight states have implemented

laws, 38 of which have specific cyber bullying statutes. The other 10 have cyber bullying and bullying under the same law.

"The state legislations tend to have one thing in common — they focus on requiring school districts to adopt these new policies, and they emphasize the fact that schools are the places where intervention is necessary," he said.

There is also a trend toward some degree of criminalization of bullying, although Palfrey suggests it would be hard to distinguish between "normal growing-up activities" and criminal activities.

In order for the legislation to succeed, good implementation policies need to be enforced. However, out of the 48 states that have passed legislation on bullying, only 11 offer solutions on how to fund the implementation of the laws.

John Bremer, MU School of Law student, thought Palfrey's lecture raised important questions about funding issues for the implementation of bullying legislation.

"I think that the fact that this topic is researched and studied in a professional setting speaks to its growing importance," he said.

Palfrey said that much of the research at Berkman Center for Internet & Society shows curriculums that train educators can be effective at reducing instances of bullying.

The involvement of teachers, social workers and psychologists over a long period of time is much more effective than the common practice of bringing in an expert for one day to scare kids away from a certain behavior, he said.

Palfrey also talked about the perception of the issue in media and popular culture.

The discourse about Internet use among youth is often dominated by fears for the safety of children, Palfrey said. But he argued that a large percentage of what youth is doing online is positive and dismissed the notion that kids are worse off because the emergence of digital technology.

"The ways in which we think about the negative effects (of technology) are often much more powerful than the truth," he said, referring to his belief that concerns such as the safety of children drown out the positive aspects of the Internet.

He highlighted that the Internet encourages creativity, innovation and activism among youth.

"Podcasts, blogging and similar platforms encourage self-expression and show kids how they can be authors, shaping knowledge in their environments," he said.

He also emphasized that many innovative websites such as Napster, YouTube, Yahoo and Google were all created by young people for young people.

While digital technology isn't necessarily making younger people more active, he said the Arab Spring revolutions and the Obama presidential campaign serve as examples of how the Internet is being used as a tool for political and social activism.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Missouri Law Review and the MU School of Law. It is a two-day event and will continue Friday.

Ian Larson, editor-in-chief of the Missouri Law Review, said it was a privilege to have Palfrey speak at MU.

"It's a timely and troublesome topic," he said. "The fact that he was able to captivate a room of a hundred people over Skype showed what a great choice he was for this lecture."

AP Associated Press

The★Star
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

MISSOURIAN

Former University of Missouri interim president Gordon Lamb dies

COLUMBIA -- A man who served as an interim chancellor of the University of Missouri system and its Kansas City campus has died.

Current University of Missouri interim president Steve Owens released a statement Thursday night announcing that Gordon Lamb died on Monday. He was 77.

System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said by email that she didn't know where he died or his cause of death.

From 1986 to 1995, Lamb served as president of Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. He was interim leader of the four-campus University of Missouri system in 2007 and 2008. He also served as interim chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.



Former UM interim president Gordon Lamb dies

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Published September 9, 2012

Gordon Lamb, who served as an interim president of the University of Missouri System, died Monday, current interim president Steve Owens said. Lamb was 77.

Lamb took the reins of the system after former President Elson Floyd resigned in April 2007 and served until Gary Forsee was hired in 2008. He then served as executive vice president to help Forsee through the transition. In 2010, he helped the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg through an administrative transition.

Lamb spent more than 40 years in public higher education, serving as the Kansas City campus' interim chancellor from 1999 to 2000. He also served as president of Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and spent nearly 12 years as vice president of academic affairs at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

"Dr. Lamb achieved national recognition as a leader in higher education," Owens wrote in a letter to colleagues. "The University of Missouri System owes a debt of gratitude for his outstanding service. ... Our esteemed colleague's contributions to our university were far-reaching, and continue to stand the test of time."

Lamb is survived by his wife, Nancy, three sons and five grandchildren.

While at the helm of the UM System, Lamb established The Missouri 100, a presidential advisory group promoting the role of the university. He also built a statewide coalition of public universities and community colleges to address the state's growing health care needs — which resulted in the Caring for Missourians initiative.

Lamb also was an ardent and tireless supporter and protector of academic freedom and also publicly advocated for the application of the same principles to academic research, Owens said.

Gordon authored numerous books, articles and musical compositions. As a music professor and choral conductor, he conducted concerts and festivals in 17 states and across Europe. In addition, he received several awards, including the National Award for Teacher Education's Most Supportive President or Chancellor from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education.

"Gordon's passion for quality public higher education translated into a long-lasting legacy of more than 40 years of important contributions for which we are most grateful and appreciative," Owens said. "We will miss him."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

College endowments showing growth

BY TIM BARKER — tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Friday, February 10, 2012
12:00 am | No Comments Posted

Endowments that serve as the backbone of many of the nation's colleges and universities just had one of their strongest years in a decade.

On average, these 823 funds reported a 19.2 percent growth rate during the 2011 fiscal year, according to an annual survey by the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the Commonfund Institute.

College endowments have been striving to recover from substantial losses sustained during the recession. In the 2009 fiscal year, they reported an average decline of 18.7 percent, followed by an 11.9 percent rebound in 2010.

And while 2011 was strong, there's reason to worry that next year's results won't be, said Bill Jarvis, managing director for Commonfund. Jarvis noted the market took a downturn after the fiscal year ended on June 30, with Commonfund estimating that endowments lost an average of 3.5 percent during the following six months. Since then, however, the market has been performing better.

"Absolutely everything is not turned around," Jarvis said. "There's still quite a bit of repair work to be done."

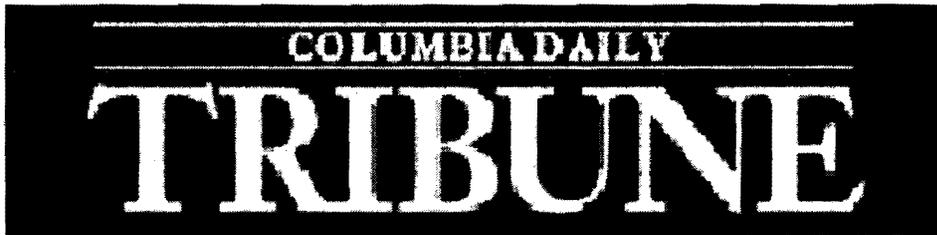
The study includes a variety of factors, including investment returns, donor gifts and payment of management and investment fees.

Locally, the largest foundation belongs to Washington University, which ranks No. 17 nationally. The fund reported an 18 percent growth rate, bringing it to \$5.28 billion, according to the survey. That's still slightly off the \$5.66 billion reported in the summer of 2007.

The school has said the foundation accounts for more than 10 percent of its annual revenue, and the damage done to the fund has been cited by the school as a contributing factor in tuition increases.

Kimberly Walker, the school's chief investment officer, credited a surging market: "We had very strong investment returns in most asset classes."

Among the best gains for local endowments were those belonging to St. Louis University, 24.3 percent, and the University of Illinois, 24.1 percent. The University of Missouri system reported a 14.8 percent increase in its endowment, pushing it to \$1.12 billion.



MU police searching for robbery suspect

By Staff, Columbia Daily Tribune

The University of Missouri Police Department is searching for a suspect in an early-morning armed robbery.

At 2:07 a.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery that happened southwest of Memorial Union, according to a news release. A man reported he was robbed at gunpoint and the suspect ran north along Hitt Street near the Fine Arts Building at Hitt and University Avenue.

The suspect was described as a black man in his late 20s or early 30s with a heavy build and about 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall, the news release said. He was last seen wearing dark blue jeans and a light gray hoodie with "Mizzou" on the front.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Sam Easley at 884-3721 or CrimeStoppers at 875-8477.

MU student robbed at gunpoint near Memorial Union

By Ben Nadler

February 9, 2012 | 1:30 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — An unidentified male student was robbed at gunpoint on campus early Thursday morning, MU police said.

The student was walking southwest of the Memorial Union building around 1:53 a.m. when he was approached by a man wearing a hoodie and carrying a gun.

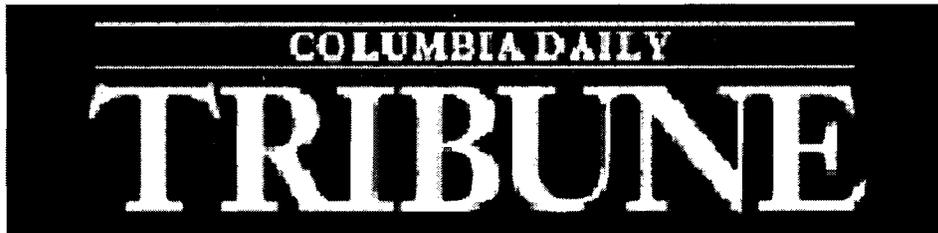
MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said that the gun used was a handgun but not a revolver.

The victim described the suspect as being a black male in his late 20s or early 30s, with a heavy build and between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall. The suspect was reportedly wearing dark blue jeans and a grey hooded sweatshirt with "Mizzou" printed on it.

Eyewitnesses last saw the suspect passing the Fine Arts Building, running north on Hitt Street.

This incident prompted MU police to release its first Clery report of the semester, a report that discloses crimes on or near campus.

While the robbery is believed to be an isolated incident, Weimer said the Clery report was released for the safety of people on campus "so that they can take their own precautions."



Senator denies collusion in blocking Van Matre

By **RUDI KELLER**

Thursday, February 9, 2012

JEFFERSON CITY — Columbia developer Jeffrey Smith and state Sen. Jim Lembke yesterday denied they had worked together to defeat attorney Craig Van Matre's bid for a seat on the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

A St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial published Tuesday implied Smith, who has benefited from low-income housing tax credits, was seeking to influence Lembke against Van Matre. It noted that in December, the Alliance for Elderly Health Care and the Alliance for Special Needs, two political committees Smith controls, each gave \$1,000 to Lembke, an ardent opponent of tax credits.

Smith employed Van Matre as his attorney on several development projects that used the credits. But as a member of the state Tax Credit Review Commission, Van Matre voted with the panel to recommend significant cuts in the credits.

The editorial, under the headline "Money trail raises questions in Senate's blocking of curator," said Smith fired Van Matre over the commission's report. Smith said yesterday that Van Matre stepped aside during the commission's deliberations and that he still employs Van Matre's law firm, with his business handled by another attorney there.

Also, during a Feb. 1 fundraiser in Columbia, Lembke received a \$1,000 check. That was the night before Lembke led a filibuster that killed Van Matre's nomination.

"Timing-wise, it was certainly terrible," Lembke said of the fundraiser, noting it was an expression of thanks for his help on behalf of private school students seeking to participate in high school sports.

The Columbia event, which Lembke said had been scheduled for a month, drew 22 people who were parents of students at Columbia Independent School, Lembke said. Among those on hand at the home of Otto Maly was William Markel, executive vice president of Smith's development company, who gave Lembke a \$1,000 check drawn on the Markel Family Trust.

Smith, who did not attend and said he was not invited to the fundraiser at Maly's home, said he played no role in the defeat of Van Matre. "There is no way I could stir that kind of feeling," he said.

During the filibuster last week, Lembke and other Republicans said they were outraged by language Van Matre used in a Tribune opinion article about changing the way judges are chosen. "That's me," Lembke said. "I have been championing that for years."

Van Matre wrote that right-wing activists were trying to take over the courts to impose their moral views and warned the result might resemble Islamic theocracy in Iran. Today, he declined to comment on the editorial and said he wanted "to put this unhappy episode behind me."

"I have nothing against this guy other than I don't think that he should have that position based on the way he handles his differences and expresses them with, first of all, the people he has to come in front of for his confirmation," Lembke said.

Absent Van Matre's opinion article, Lembke said, he might have been one of Van Matre's ardent supporters for his work on the Tax Credit Review Commission. But sometimes, he said, people pay a price for aggressive use of language.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Thousands of photos compete for POYi judges' attention

By Nicole Jones

February 9, 2012 | 7:24 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Nine photos at a time flashed on screen for five to 10 seconds. There were images of widows at the side of a soldier's casket, destroyed homes and starving children with every bone showing.

Several hours later, by the third round of judging in the general news category for Pictures of the Year International, the number of entries had gone from about 1,400 to 38.

The fifth and final round of judging centered on three photos: An image of a protester in Greece with a bloodied face; a black and white photograph with the reflection of a boy looking out a window at a line of Libyan refugees; and a bright photo of the royal wedding kiss.

The judges discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each photo. After nearly five hours, they awarded first place to the photo of the Greek protester, second place to the black and white photo of the Libyan refugees and third place to the image of the royal wedding.

During a span of three weeks, judges for the 69th annual Pictures of the Year International contest in the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism will look at more than 14,000 entries.

The entries include photographs, edit pages and multimedia presentations.

Rick Shaw, director of Pictures of the Year International, estimated the number of photos in the competition is between 47,000 and 50,000.

The judging in the Fred W. Smith Forum is open to the public, and Shaw said the learning experience it provides is one of the main reasons for the competition.

"One of our primary missions is education," Shaw said. "The judging serves as an educational tool for both student and professional photographers."

Contest judge Sujong Song said POYi knows "how to take care of the link between professional and educational at the same time. It's a real great chance for professional and student journalists to be together at the same time."

Song has judged other competitions, but this is the first time she has judged Pictures of the Year International. Unlike other competitions, this one is more open, Song said.

"Normally, during procedure, it's very exclusive or protected," Song said. "Jury members make sensitive arguments so normally what happens stays inside."

In addition to being open to the public, the competition is streamed live on POYi's website.

Shaw said the live streaming contributes to the openness of the judging.

"We pride ourselves on being transparent," Shaw said. "Not only is it open here, anybody can log in and watch it and witness."

"The open forum can be both a good thing and sometimes not a good thing," Shaw said. "We do it in the spirit of learning."

When the judging is complete, POYi puts together a selection of the winning images for a tour of the United States and other nations.

"The purpose of the exhibition is for civilian outreach and public engagement," Shaw said. "Our goal with the public exhibition is to bring awareness to news events and social issues."

The judging will continue through Feb. 28. Judging begins around 8:30 a.m. each weekday and concludes when every category for the day is completed. A complete schedule of the divisions and categories can be found at the bottom of POYi's home page.