

## MU vet student helps out humane society

By Janese Silvey

The in-house veterinarian at the Central Missouri Humane Society has a little more time to dedicate to community spay and neuter needs after a team of students agreed to help fix shelter animals.

For a couple of months, the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine students have been spaying and neutering rescue animals on a weekly basis.

The partnership not only helps the shelter but also gives veterinary students more hands-on experience.

"Before this deal, students had a chance to do one or two" spay or neuter operations "before they graduated," MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said. "Now they can do as many as they want."

Students also provide the animals with immunizations to protect them from common diseases, Matthew Prator, a clinical instructor of shelter medicine, said in a statement.

The veterinary clinic takes about five animals on a weekly basis, said Colin LaVaute, spokesman for the CMHS.

The greatest benefit for the shelter is freeing up the in-house veterinarian's time, he said. The shelter vet team offers low-cost spay and neuter services for community residents who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to fix their pets.

"Every day, whenever we open our doors, our lobby fills with people dropping off animals for low-cost spay and neutering," LaVaute said.

He called the partnership "mutually beneficial."

MU is only working with the Central Missouri Humane Society at this time, but administrators are looking to expand the program to more rural areas throughout Missouri.

# The Chronicle of Higher Education

## April Fool's Day Carnage Continues for Campus Journalists

April 11, 2012, 1:40 pm

**Last week we reported that the editor in chief of Boston University's *Daily Free Press* had resigned after overseeing the production of an April Fool's parody issue that offended many readers. Now two editors of *The Maneater*, a student newspaper at the University of Missouri at Columbia, have stepped down under similar circumstances.**

The *Missourian* newspaper reported that Abby Spudich, managing editor of *The Maneater*, resigned Tuesday in response to an outcry over her paper's April 1 issue, which bore the name *The Carpeteater*, an offensive term used to describe lesbians. Ms. Spudich had apologized to readers for that and for articles that contained derogatory names for women. But after receiving a "mixed response" from readers, she decided to resign.

Effective today at noon, Travis Cornejo, *The Maneater*'s editor in chief, also resigned — even though by tradition the newspaper's staff assembles the content of the April Fool's issue "as a sort of surprise" for their boss. He did not see the content before it was published.

Mr. Cornejo wrote in his letter of resignation that while he had tried to "take a backseat" as Ms. Spudich handled the fallout over the issue, he was instead perceived as displaying an "apathetic attitude."

Does the student paper on your campus still publish an April Fool's issue? If so, is it funny, sophomoric, offensive, or all three? Should student journalists be forgiven for their missteps, or should they take their lumps? Let us know in the comments.

—Don Troop



## Maneater editors resign after parody edition flap

By Janese Silvey

The managing editor of the University of Missouri's campus newspaper has resigned and is now thinking about whether to continue to pursue journalism as a career.

Abby Spudich, 20, hoped to stay on and lead The Maneater staff through diversity training and educational programs after fallout over the paper's April Fools' edition, she said in a public letter of resignation. But reaction to her apology wasn't what she expected, so "I have decided resignation is the best option," she wrote.

Spudich has taken the brunt of responsibility for a spoof edition that renamed the April 1 paper The Carpeteater, a derogatory term for a lesbian. The editor-in-chief, Travis Cornejo, resigned today, even though he did not participate in planning the edition. The edition was "filled with articles that were thoughtless, disrespectful and hurtful to many in our community," Chancellor Brady Deaton wrote in a letter to the MU community.

But he also acknowledged the staff for taking responsibility.

The Maneater is a student-run newspaper that has an adviser who is not involved in the content and doesn't see the final paper before it goes to print. The newspaper is not affiliated with the Missouri School of Journalism.

Clyde Bentley, associate journalism professor, doesn't think the paper needs to re-evaluate its structure in light of the controversy. "If the students want an independent voice, that's fine," he said. "I think with independence comes obligation."

Asked whether a set of adult eyes would have prevented the controversy, Bentley rejected the idea that students aren't "adults."

"These aren't high school children," he said. "Once you take a step into adulthood, you are responsible for your adult actions. That's what college is all about."

Bentley doesn't see The Maneater case as particularly unique. For as long as he can remember, he has heard of someone getting in trouble for an April Fools' edition.

"I don't excuse it, but I understand parody has enormous appeal," he said. "Most writers at some point long to try it."

MU journalism courses even warn students that the hardest form of humor is parody.

"It's full of landmines. Done well, it is memorable. Done poorly, it is just tragic," Bentley said.

But spoofs gone wrong are so common, Bentley said he doubts The Maneater situation will cause lasting harm to Spudich's long-term career prospects.

Still, Spudich said she's worried about the implications when she applies for her first job.

"I don't really think I'm going to get a job in journalism after this," she said in an email. "I'm going to take plenty of time to think about it before I decide anything about changing my major, but it's definitely been on my mind."

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**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

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## Mo. campus editor resigns amid April Fools' flap

Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 9:42 am | [\(0\) comments.](#)

**The student editor at a University of Missouri campus newspaper has resigned amid protests over an April Fools' edition intended as humor but which critics called offensive to women.**

The Columbia Missourian reports ( <http://bit.ly/Hu1832>) that The Maneater's managing editor resigned Tuesday.

As part of the joke edition, The Maneater changed its title to a derogatory term for lesbians and included other sexually-oriented profanity.

The decision by sophomore Abby Spudich follows a similar decision by an editor at Boston University after its student newspaper published an April Fools' edition that made light of rape and drug use.

The student papers at both schools are independent publications not directly affiliated with their universities.

## Former editors of The Maneater face possible university repercussions

By Karee Hackel

April 11, 2012 | 6:54 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA – Two student editors for The Maneater, MU's campus newspaper, are facing more than just criticism for the highly controversial April Fools' edition.**

**Abby Spudich, former managing editor, and Travis Cornejo, former editor-in-chief, said they have been notified by the MU Office of Student Conduct to schedule hearings related to possible violations of the university's standards of conduct.**

Spudich resigned from The Maneater staff on Tuesday, and Cornejo stepped down Wednesday afternoon.

"There has been contact, and there will be a hearing in regards to disciplinary action," Spudich said. "I'd like to know my rights before I start any type of hearing."

Cornejo said he has been reviewing the M-Book, a rules and regulations book for MU, in order to prepare himself for a hearing and better understand any violations that could have occurred.

He said he is waiting to learn more during a preliminary meeting with a representative from the MU Office of Student Conduct.

After reading the conduct procedure, Spudich said she is aware that expulsion is a possible outcome.

"I don't know what I would do if I were expelled," Spudich said. "I don't know how I would be able to move forward."

Adam Goldstein, attorney advocate for the Student Press Law Center, said expulsion should not be an option in a matter of free speech.

"The First Amendment gives you a civil right to be derogatory and profane," Goldstein said. "As a public entity, if the university took steps to discipline speech that is protected by the First Amendment, they could open the university up to a lawsuit for civil rights violation."

Goldstein said that although people are allowed to be upset, the state cannot discipline individuals for speech that is legal.

According to the procedure outlined on the Office of Student Conduct website, a hearing would be led by the Student Conduct Committee, the "body on each campus which is authorized to conduct hearings and to make dispositions under these procedures."

During a hearing, students have a defined set of rights, including the right to be present and the opportunity to have an adviser or counselor present for consultation, according to the rules of procedure.

Students also have an opportunity to question any testifying witnesses present and make any statement to the committee or explanation for the conduct in question.

The rules list the following evidence that may be available for examination:

- University evidence: University witnesses are called upon or written reports of evidence are identified. Then, the committee may question any witnesses. With permission, the student or adviser or counselor may question the presented evidence.
- Student evidence: If the student has not chosen to do so earlier, he or she may now elect to make a statement to the committee about the charge. Then, the student may present evidence through witnesses or written memoranda. Questioning of the witness or evidence may occur at any time by the committee.
- Rebuttal evidence: The committee may allow the student or University to offer rebuttal of the other's presentation.

At noon Wednesday, Cornejo posted an apology and letter of resignation on The Maneater's website. Despite being unaware of the content in the April 1 edition, he said he was "not wholly without blame." He said he had been consulted about ad placement inside the issue.

He also said he struggled with making a public statement about the matter to avoid "finger-pointing toward Abby." However, he accepted a measure of responsibility.

"I apologize if my lack of response came across as an apathetic attitude toward the matter of our April Fool's edition and for my actions in regard to the placement of advertisements inside the issue," Cornejo wrote.

In an interview Wednesday, he said his actions were not what his editorial board wanted or expected of him.

"I felt it would be what would be best for myself and the newspaper to resign," he said.

On Tuesday afternoon, the MU Student Publications Committee met with Cornejo to discuss the situation.

According to its web page, the committee is appointed by the chancellor "to recommend to the vice chancellor for Student Affairs policies and regulations regarding the publication of the Maneater."

The committee comprises four faculty members, four Missouri Student Association student members, one Graduate Professional Council member, three ex officio and one support member.

"The meeting was held with various faculty and student members on the board in order to discuss the April Fools' edition and make recommendations as to what should happen," Cornejo said.

Stephen Lombardo, chairman of the committee, did confirm the resignation of Spudich and Cornejo, but he did not discuss the meeting further.

"I'm not really sure what The Maneater's next step is now that I've removed myself from the official capacity," Cornejo said. "It's up to the newspaper's staff to decide the remaining steps through the continuation of the year."

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton wrote a letter to the editor, which was published by The Maneater, denouncing the edition and urging the campus to treat others "with respect and dignity."

"The Maneater staff is taking responsibility for its actions. It is our responsibility as a community to work together to become a more civil and respectful Mizzou. My commitment is unwavering," Deaton wrote.



## Grassley: Farm bill must be passed by August

By Christopher Doering, Gannett Washington Bureau

### MU mention page 2

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley said on Wednesday Congress will need to pass a new farm bill by August or else lawmakers will have to delay until next year efforts to undertake the biggest overhaul of farm policy in decades.

Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley expressed confidence the Senate Agriculture Committee will move forward on its own farm bill this year.

The U.S. farm law, which covers everything from food stamps and conservation programs to direct payments, expires on Sept. 30. Without a new law or an extension of the existing farm bill, a 1949 law would automatically go into effect, curbing plantings and forcing the government to increase subsidy payments by tens of billions of dollars. In the past, Congress has chosen to pass an extension rather than revert to the nearly 60-year old act.

"If it doesn't get done by August the 5th I don't think it's going to be done," Grassley said in an interview, adding he was still optimistic a bill could be completed before then. "It has to be done sometime this summer or you're going to have to extend the existing farm bill because farmers need to know what next year's program is."

Congress is in the early stages of rewriting U.S. farm law. But lawmakers, President Obama and farm groups have generally agreed that the \$5 billion a year in direct payments paid out to farmers should be eliminated. Direct payments were created in 1996 as a temporary measure, but they have come under attack as the government seeks a broader cuts in spending amid a soaring budget deficit.

"Direct payments, I think it's a foregone conclusion that they're going to go away. We don't believe they are going to be maintained, at least we can't afford them," said Craig Hill, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

Iowa is the country's largest soybean, corn and hog producing state.

Grassley, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he's confident the panel will move forward on its own farm bill this year. The Butler County, Iowa, corn and soybean farmer said he's encouraged by recent comments from Democratic Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate Majority Leader, who highlighted the U.S. farm law as one of the things he wanted to get done this year.

The hang-up, the Republican Grassley said, could come in the House where the deciding factor on whether a new farm bill is completed this year hinges on the opinions of more than 80 first-term Republicans. Many of the lawmakers were part of the Tea Party initiative two years ago who campaigned on reducing government spending and trimming the national debt. In addition, after Aug. 3, the House will be in session only a week or two a month for the remainder of the year to give lawmakers time to campaign ahead of the election.

**"There are a lot of things that would have to fall right for the bill to get all the way through the process and be signed this year. There are too many things that could go wrong between here and there," said Pat Westhoff with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri.**

"Both of the committees are doing their best to try to put something together but I suspect that especially because of the big gap that there may well be at the end of the day...it may be very difficult to reconcile" the House and Senate bills, he said.

Efforts to craft a new farm bill come as the rural economy has been humming in recent years with high crop prices and a record of \$136.3 billion in farm exports during 2011.

Farmers also are flush with cash after income vaulted past \$100 billion for the first time last year as the rural economy rebounded from the recent global recession. Even if income drops to \$96.3 billion this year, as forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February, farmers and ranchers would still be looking at their second-best year ever.

"Prospects for U.S. Agriculture continue to be strong," Joe Glauber, the USDA's chief economist, said at the agency's annual Agricultural Outlook Forum in February.

While crop prices are impacted by a host of factors and energy costs threaten to squeeze farmer's margins, the mood remains upbeat — and that has diminished at least some interest in a new farm law in rural America.

During a series of recent town hall meetings around Iowa, Grassley was surprised at the limited turn out. Some he attributed to the fact that farmers were out working in their fields, but part of the explanation for the sparse crowds he attributed to the strong economy in rural America.

"Prices are very good so there might be less interest in the farm bill for that, so it's not much of an issue compared to if prices were close to the cost of production or below the cost of production," said Grassley.

"But there is some uniformity of thinking out there among farmers, there's an understanding that direct payments are going to go, and there's a real desire on the part of the farmers if nothing else can be done for a safety net at least keep crop insurance."

Several U.S. farm groups and policy experts support a crop insurance program that would protect a farmer's bottom line from a sizable drop in income while saving the government money under the new law.

## **As race shifts, Biden gets task of scuffing Romney**

### **MU MENTION PAGE 2**

*St. Paul, Minn.* — Want a peek inside the Democratic playbook as the presidential race shifts fully into general election mode? Just listen to Joe Biden.

In the past few weeks, the Democratic vice president has branded presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney "consistently wrong," "uninformed" on foreign policy, someone aiming to "end Medicare as we know it" and an advocate of the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

President Barack Obama largely avoids direct engagement for now; on Tuesday he referred to a candidate "who shall not be named." But Biden is diving into the No. 2's traditional attack-dog role — earlier and more aggressively than usual, some say — with comments designed to singe Romney.

It's not just a casual remark here and there. Most Biden speeches lately contain a fresh poke at Romney, and he's fired up a Twitter account, too. Taken together, the lines showcase how the incumbent administration intends to frame the campaign against an opponent who has just about locked up his party's nomination.

"Mitt Romney has been remarkably consistent as an investor, a businessman, as governor of Massachusetts, and now as a candidate for president. Remarkably consistent. Consistently wrong," Biden said last month in Florida.

A week later at a manufacturing plant in Iowa, he held Romney out as a protector of corporate profits above all else. "Look," Biden said, "Gov. Romney's business practices and his policies have clearly benefited the wealthy and most powerful among us, often at the expense of working and middle-class families."

Where Biden is making the remarks is just as telling. He's spent time in probable November battlegrounds: Florida, Iowa, Ohio and Wisconsin. He heads Thursday to New Hampshire after squeezing in a Minnesota fundraiser Wednesday for Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, during which he argued Republicans are coming off as too strident for their own good.

"They are saying exactly what they believe," Biden said. "As my mother would say, God bless them."

In New Hampshire, Biden will continue the administration's promotion of the "Buffett rule," named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett. It argues that wealthy taxpayers should not pay taxes at a lower rate than middle-class wage-earners.

In an excerpt released early Thursday by the Obama campaign, Biden says, "The Romney Rule says the very wealthy should keep the tax cuts and loopholes they have, and get an additional, new tax cut every year that is worth more than what the average middle-class family makes in an entire year."

The Romney campaign hasn't let Biden's critiques go unchecked, pushing back at specific statements and dredging up past Biden comments that cast Obama in a poor light. Ahead of Biden's trip to New Hampshire, former Gov. John Sununu issued a tongue-in-cheek welcome on behalf of Romney's campaign.

"I don't agree with much of what Joe Biden says, but I completely agreed with him in 2007 when he said Barack Obama wasn't ready to be president. That was true then, and is still true today," Sununu said. "I welcome the vice president to New Hampshire, and I hope he continues to visit our state — because it gives us a very visible opportunity to talk about the failures of this administration."

Ticket mates are typically expected to land the toughest blows in presidential politics. It lets the presidential nominee remain above the fray and focused on loftier goals and grand themes of their campaigns.

Biden had 36 years of Senate experience — and two stunted presidential campaigns of his own — when Obama selected him in 2008. He was seen as the seasoned hand to the relative newcomer Obama and a plain-spoken campaigner who could connect to blue-collar voters.

**"We saw this four years ago, Joe Biden playing off Barack Obama's more cerebral, professorial, contemplative style," said University of Missouri professor Mitchell McKinney, a scholar of political rhetoric and presidential debates. "Biden has had that persona of shoot-from-the-lip and take-it-to-them sort of style."**

Biden mocked Republican presidential nominee John McCain for blanking on how many houses he owned and disputed the Arizona senator's ability to live up to his maverick reputation after tacking right in the race. "I know Halloween is coming, I know Halloween," he said late in the race. "But John McCain dressed up as an agent of change? That costume just doesn't fit, folks."

That year, GOP vice presidential pick Sarah Palin loved to zing Obama's past as a community organizer and contrast him with her running mate, who was a war hero.

"This is a man who can give an entire speech about the wars America is fighting and never use the word 'victory,' except when he's talking about his own campaign," Palin, then the Alaska governor, said in her national convention speech.

But at this stage of this campaign, Biden has no peer who can easily command attention and speak with the full weight of the campaign. Romney, who still lacks the needed delegates to rightfully call himself the GOP nominee, is probably months away from picking his own running mate.

President George W. Bush enjoyed a similar two-on-one advantage for many months of his second-term bid in 2004, with Vice President Dick Cheney at his disposal. Cheney publicly doubted Democratic nominee John Kerry's resolve on national defense, but the vice president didn't play a sustained role in criticizing the rival nominee this early on.

"If you go back and read a lot of the speeches, you will not find (Kerry's) name very much," said Sara Taylor Fagen, a Republican strategist and White House political adviser in Bush's administration. "It's a little surprising that they've gone so hard so fast. To some degree, you want to keep the president and the vice president elevated as long as possible."