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Maneater editors off hook at MU

By JANESE SILVEY

Friday, April 13, 2012

The University of Missouri has backed away from pursuing disciplinary action against two former campus newspaper editors who have taken responsibility for an April Fool's edition gone wrong.

Abby Spudich, former managing editor of The Maneater, and Travis Cornejo, who resigned as editor in chief, were summoned earlier this week for a pre-disciplinary meeting with the Office of Student Conduct. The notice said the students might have been in violation of two rules prohibiting disruptive activities and lewd or disorderly conduct or expression, Cornejo said.

The Maneater's spoof edition was renamed "The Carpeteater" and laced with slurs against women. Spokesman Christian Basi said administrators looked into the situation after hearing complaints.

Both Cornejo and Spudich said they got a call from the Office of Student Conduct last night telling them to disregard the earlier notice. Neither was given a reason.

A Virginia-based law center might have played a role, though. The Student Press Law Center sent a letter to Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, yesterday warning her that newspaper content is protected by the First Amendment.

"Of all institutions, the University of Missouri should be the last university in America to need reminding that even highly offensive speech is constitutionally protected against disciplinary sanction," wrote Frank LoMonte, executive director. He then cited a 1973 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the expulsion of an MU journalism student who was punished for "indecent" speech in an underground newspaper.

"Your university prides itself on journalism as a 'crown jewel' program," LoMonte wrote. "Imposing discipline on students for making a journalistic misjudgment will — in addition to exposing the University to a costly and embarrassing First Amendment lawsuit — send the unwelcoming message to prospective future journalism recruits that" MU "considers poor editorial judgment to be grounds for suspension or expulsion."

Cornejo said he also was assured by journalism faculty that the content was protected. As editor in chief, he wasn't responsible for planning the paper, but he has taken responsibility for ad placement in the April Fool's edition.

"I'm just glad that this part of it is over," he said.

MU researchers' new biological data analysis tool may help improve medicine

By [Xiaonan Wang](#)

April 13, 2012 | 11:55 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A computer algorithm developed by MU researchers has the potential ability to create more effective medicines and detect side effects of drugs.

The technology can scan all human proteins for sequence regions that are identical among people, said Dmitry Korkin, an MU professor in computer science.

Finding these regions is useful in determining whether a certain drug that targets a region in one protein can target the same region in other proteins, which are otherwise not related, Korkin said.

"If that happens, we can have either a side effect or potentially have another therapeutic effect," Korkin said.

Korkin led interdisciplinary research using this new tool to find identical DNA sequences in plants.

The research compared six plant species: arabidopsis, soybean, rice, cottonwood, sorghum and grape. It was a collaboration among MU, the University of California and the University of Arizona, according to a news release.

The paper has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed science journal.

Previous studies had never been able to compare plants' genomes at such a scale because regions in plant genes are not arranged in the same order, said Gavin Conant, an MU professor in animal sciences who co-authored the paper.

"In plants, genes are scattered around," Conant said. "Even though corn and soybean have many of the same genes, their orders have been scrambled quite a bit."

The newly developed algorithm has the unprecedented power in helping the researchers analyze massive DNA data, Conant said.

"It enables us to study the problems at the multi-genome scale," Korkin said.

The data computing lasted four weeks, with 48 processors running about 32 billion searches, according to the release.

It's like searching for needles in the haystacks of biological data, Korkin said.



Female musicians found to objectify themselves

By JANESE SILVEY

Saturday, April 14, 2012

If there is, indeed, a war on women, some female musicians aren't helping things.

A new University of Missouri study has found that female recording artists are just as guilty of objectifying themselves and other women in their music and videos as their male counterparts.

"It has been known that music videos featuring male artists often sexually objectify women, but our study shows that many female artists are objectifying themselves in their music videos," said Cynthia Frisby, an associate professor of strategic communication at the Missouri School of Journalism.

"However, despite numerous existing sexual stereotypes regarding black women, they don't appear to objectify themselves any more or less than women of other races."

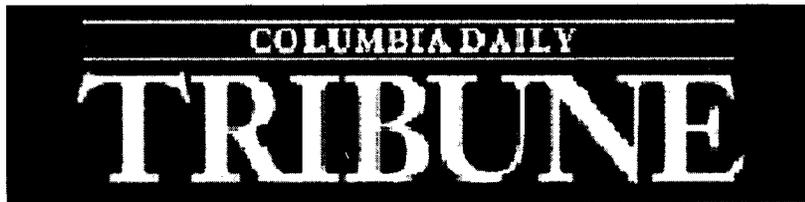
Frisby and Jennifer Aubrey, an associate professor in the College of Arts and Science's Department of Communications, reviewed all "Billboard Top 10" music videos from 2006 through 2010.

They found that out of three main genres — country, pop and hip-hop — females in country music were the least likely to portray sexuality.

Pop music videos were more likely to show female artists engaging in sexual dances. And hip-hop videos were more likely to objectify women by showing artists in more sexually provocative clothing, they found.

"These images coming from these music videos are very powerful and influential," Frisby said. "Young audiences may interpret these sexually objectifying images as important ways to be seen as attractive and valuable to society, especially with how pervasive these videos are throughout our culture."

The study was published in the Howard Journal of Communications.



Legislators rally students to action

Kelly, Schaefer address issues

By JANESE SILVEY

Friday, April 13, 2012

Local lawmakers gave University of Missouri students a crash course in state budgeting, fielded questions about toll roads and city buses and urged them to vote during a forum yesterday on campus.

If one take-away emerged from the legislative panel discussion hosted by the Missouri Students Association, though, it's that students can be more politically powerful than they might think.

"You can own a lot of elections in Columbia and Boone County," Rep. Chris Kelly said, adding students essentially could control three of the city's six wards if they got more involved.

MSA this year became more politically active when student leaders launched a campaign decrying Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed budget cut to university funding. The campaign argues students are paying "More for Less" and has sent letters, petitions and students to the Capitol to make the case.

"It makes an enormous difference," Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said. "Don't let it stop."

Students also have the ability to change the results of a tobacco tax proposal expected to be on the November ballot, Kelly said, blasting lawmakers who shy from any talk of taxes. Missouri's cigarette tax is 17 cents a pack, the lowest in the United States.

The House restored funding to higher education in its budget, and the Senate is poised to do the same next week. But flat funding rather than additional funding won't keep MU from slipping further from the competition in faculty pay, nor will it pay for upgrades to old buildings, Kelly warned.

"If we continue this silliness about taxes being the enemy of economic development, we're going to ruin our ability to compete economically," he said.

Students also quizzed the lawmakers about making Interstate 70 a toll road. In unscientific polling, lawmakers across the state have found Missourians are OK with the idea but would prefer the tolls to be located on interstates they use the least, Kelly said.

"Missouri is nowhere near a decision on this issue," he said.

Schaefer called I-70 upgrades a top priority, saying the road wasn't designed for the weight and traffic it carries today. He supports an open toll option that takes pictures of license plates and bills motorists rather than making them stop at toll booths. He also prefers locating tolls in St. Louis and Kansas City so Mid-Missourians driving close to home wouldn't have to pay.

"I just hope we don't lose more lives on 70 while we're making the decision," Schaefer said.

Both Schaefer and Kelly have sponsored legislation this year that would give a student voting rights on the Board of Curators, and both said the bills are hung up in committees.

Schaefer said he doesn't buy into arguments that students are not stakeholders and that giving them a vote would open up the board to faculty, staff and others seeking representation.

"The university exists because of students," he said, adding that there's a better chance the bill will move forward next year.

Springfield medical project needs push



Mercy's orthopedic hospital under construction on Springfield's southeast corner is among medical projects growing the community. / News-Leader archives, 2012

This editorial is the view
of the News-Leader Editorial Board

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Focus economic development on retention and expansion of current businesses. Capitalize on existing strengths and build Springfield's image as a **college town** to draw and keep young, diverse talent.

We are expecting another block to be added to the growing foundation of Springfield as southwest Missouri's primary destination for medical care and health education. But that block is going to need some heavy lifting from our lawmakers and community.

A proposed "clinical campus" would be a first for our city in bringing to CoxHealth and Mercy hospitals 32 medical students during their final two years of school. They would observe and help treat patients. The project would include a new \$30 million medical

education building at the University of Missouri-Columbia, plus \$10 million each year for funding.

This block will join other portions of the foundation already in place such as the Medical Mile, mental health facilities, specialists and a broad range of supportive businesses. Then there are the coming portions such as a satellite site of the University of Missouri-Kansas City PharmD program, and the expansion of Mercy Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and its new orthopedic hospital.

Now cement these blocks with the efforts of our educational facilities such as the health-related degrees offered at Missouri State University and Ozarks Technical Community College. We build even stronger with Cox College and its undergraduate and graduate nursing and health science programs. Add to the supportive mixture our private universities and their offerings.

It's an impressive structure that is still growing. Now, consider these needs:

- We live in the area of the state with a rapidly expanding population.
- Nationally, the number of elderly may double by 2030 while physicians to deal with multiple chronic diseases is declining, according to MU.
- Missouri is among the top 20 states of citizens 65 and older requiring more medical care.
- 90 percent of the state's counties lack access to health professionals.
- The ratio of family practice physicians to patients will increase dramatically with health care reform, according to Jon Swope, president and CEO of Mercy.

These needs require action. The Association of American Medical Colleges has urged medical schools to increase class size by 30 percent. Springfield's clinical campus and the Columbia building are a much-needed response.

Central Missouri creek now has cleanup plan

Associated Press | Posted: Saturday, April 14, 2012 12:00 pm | [\(0\) comments.](#)

State, federal and local officials have agreed on a plan aimed at reducing pollution in Hinkson Creek, an urban waterway in central Missouri that has been a matter of dispute for about 10 years.

Representatives of Boone County, the city of Columbia, the University of Missouri, the state's Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have announced a plan to allow incremental steps toward reducing pollution and restoring aquatic life in the Hinkson, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (<http://bit.ly/HwVgfw>).

Hinkson Creek, which runs through much of east and south Columbia, has been classified as an impaired waterway since 1998. A lawsuit filed against the EPA by the American Canoe Association and the Sierra Club led to a 2002 court order to bring the creek under federal clean water standards.

The EPA established a total maximum daily load, or TMDL, of allowed pollutants for Hinkson Creek early last year. The primary purpose of a TMDL is to help get the targeted creek or stream off the list of "impaired waters" that violate the Clean Water Act.

The new plan focuses on the health of invertebrates _ bugs and other aquatic life that indicate water quality _ rather than a specific reduction of runoff. Other provisions of the 173-page agreement announced in late March require sampling and monitoring by the Department of Natural Resources, establishing a stakeholder process to determine the best and most cost-effective ways to meet water-quality improvement, and outlining conditions for Hinkson Creek to be considered in compliance with water-quality regulations.

The EPA was the last of the five agencies to officially sign off on the new agreement, which includes a commitment from the department to collect new data on the Hinkson's quality.

Boone County stormwater manager Georganne Bowman noted the agreement's significance.

"We have not all been on the same page yet," Bowman said. "Yeah, I think it is pretty monumental."

The Natural Resources Department and EPA worked to develop the total maximum daily load document that spells out the amount of pollution Hinkson could tolerate without violating water-quality standards. Local government officials, however, decried the requirement to reduce by 39 percent the amount of runoff going into the creek.



TEDxMU fosters free flow of ideas

By BRENNAN DAVID

Ideas were plentiful during a local forum yesterday where participants were provided examples of how sharing new strategies of thinking often can result in new techniques for solving problems.

Approximately 100 of Columbia's brightest thinkers attended the first TEDxMU lecture series at the Reynolds Journalism Institute on the University of Missouri campus. The event is an offshoot of the international conference TED, held twice a year in California and Scotland.

Because the event was licensed to instruct only 100 participants, others viewed presentations from three satellite locations across Columbia.

"More people wanted to be here," said Keith Politte, lead organizer and adviser. "You are here because you have the capacity to share ideas."

TED started 26 years ago to bring together those involved in technology, engineering and design — thus the acronym. Today, it solicits speakers from a wide range of backgrounds. Accomplishments in science, business and family life were highlighted yesterday, including anecdotes of self-improvement that could be applied to many walks of life. The x denotes an independently organized TED event.

Such was the case of Tim Miles and his story of improvement through adapting to life with an autistic son. The communications specialist said he knew everything there was to the trade, until his son taught him otherwise.

"Clear trumps clever every time," he said of how his son's inability to understand sarcasm taught him to be a better father, husband and professional.

Because his son suffers with processing too much stimulation, Miles said he has learned that some people in society also are overstimulated through the instant gratification of entertainment that television and social media provide today. Only by "unbuzzing" will this generation be able to solve the difficult issues the world faces, he said.

Presiding Judge Gary Oxenhandler of the 13th Judicial Circuit said he enjoyed the different techniques that presenters used and wondered how to implement them into his own.

"I've been a TED fan for some time," Oxenhandler said. "It's incredible to be surrounded by such great minds."

University of Missouri senior Kyle Feaster, a biological sciences major, said he was impressed with Karl Kochendorfer's presentation on encouraging more advances toward creating a search-engine type of personal medical history for doctors to access.

"To provide effective treatment and personalized health care, that's what we need to move toward," he said.

Those who applied but were not permitted to attend the live event were encouraged to view it at one of three satellite locations across Columbia. Jennifer Henderson, a biological sciences graduate student, watched from The Shack restaurant on campus where she spoke highly of astronaut Linda Godwin's presentation of her personal spaceflight experience.

Asked what she had learned from Godwin's presentation, Henderson said, we explore space "because we can, and because we are curious and don't know what we will get out of it."

The event will host more people next year, said Curtis Roller, lead organizer.

Mizzou's new football uniforms are unveiled

BY STU DURANDO • sdurando@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8232 | Posted: Sunday, April 15, 2012 12:20 am | [\(0\) comments.](#)



New University of Missouri football helmet images. Credit: University of Missouri.

COLUMBIA, Mo. • As Missouri's collection of new uniforms was unveiled for select groups last week, precautions had to be taken to keep images from being leaked.

Whether it was athletes, officials from the Southeastern Conference, the chancellor's staff or high-end boosters, everyone who was allowed a peek was asked to turn off or turn over their phones and cameras.

"We wanted to make this special for the fans so there would be no leaks," Mizzou equipment director Don Barnes said. "We did pretty good. There were almost no leaks."

The school unveiled the Nike uniforms for five teams Saturday at halftime of the Black and Gold game. Players-as-models emerged from the locker room engulfed by faux fog and surrounded by dozens of photographers, who documented the beginning of a new fashion era.

One notable difference for football was the elimination of the block 'M' on helmets, replaced by variations of the Tiger emblem.

And while a Nike official hyped the lightweight and flexible materials, football players went straight for design when offering their evaluations.

"They look nice," receiver T.J. Moe said. "I got to see them last night. The gold one is my favorite. I like the helmets. Some guys were complaining about the 'M,' but it doesn't bother me one bit."

The unveiling was 18 months in the making and started well before Missouri knew it was heading to the SEC. The football team will have 24 combinations from which to choose for its first year in a new conference.

Fans also received a first look at uniforms for the men's and women's basketball, women's soccer and volleyball teams. Eventually, every team at the school will receive newly designed Nike products.

"I think they're first class," coach Gary Pinkel said. "It gives us a lot of combinations, and from a marketing standpoint and being able to present Mizzou nationally, we feel they're very nice."

Missouri didn't go for the "wow" factor that some teams, such as Oregon and Baylor, have seized upon in recent years. But Barnes figures if Penn State rates a 1 for flamboyance and Oregon a 10, Mizzou's final product is "maybe a 6 or 7."

"We wanted to get into this but had some stipulations," he said. "We're not going flamboyant. ... Missouri people are not flashy like that. This is representing the state of Missouri. These fans are fun, likeable, hard-working. That's what they told us our brand was."

There was great anticipation for the uniforms as halftime approached. In fact, the spring game seemed secondary for many fans as half the crowd of 18,614 left after the fashion show.

Barnes said the school had samples of different uniforms for eight months, so keeping the secret was a lengthy process. He had boxes of uniforms in his garage leading up to the big day.

Now that he has succeeded in keeping the secret, Barnes will embark on a new task: determining which combinations of football uniforms will be used for the 12 games in 2012.

"My hope is to sit down before the season and lay it out," he said. "We'll have a rough idea for the season of here's what we'll wear. It will help me get it ready."

St. Baldrick's head-shaving event raises money for pediatric cancer research

By Amber Meatte

April 14, 2012 | 8:05 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The patio outside of Bleu restaurant set the stage for the second annual St. Baldrick's Foundation Fundraiser, an event organized by MU medical students in which participants shave their heads to support pediatric cancer research.

The patio was decorated with green and white balloons. Some participants dyed their hair, and beards, green. A tiger mascot walked around greeting children and adults alike.

The sense of community and family was unmistakable.

St. Baldrick's Foundation began 12 years ago in New York when a couple of students transformed their yearly St. Patrick's Day party — hence the Irish theme — into a head-shaving cancer benefit event. And the foundation has reached impressive heights since its creation.

"They're the leading funder for children's cancer research other than the U.S. government," said Ryan Matthews, a lead organizer for the foundation. "It's important because only 4 percent of the U.S. government funds for all cancer research goes toward pediatric cancer specifically."

Matthews has been involved with the foundation for three years and participated in last year's shaving event.

"It's been really cool to watch the evolution of the foundation itself ... and to watch them get their identity," she said.

Participants in this year's event raised more than \$39,000. A total of 71 MU students and faculty, Columbia residents and family members had their heads shaved.

Additionally, Shot Bar will be donating a portion of sales made Saturday from noon to 10 p.m.

to the foundation. A silent auction was also held.

The first “shavee” of the evening was Jessica VanVactor, whose 14-year-old son, Arion, was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. Queen’s “We Will Rock You” blasted out of the speakers as Arion, with the assistance of one of the barbers, shaved the first chunk of his mother’s hair.

Next up was the energetic Will “Iron Will” Jacobs, 12, who was also diagnosed with brain cancer last summer. His father, Allen Jacobs, did the honors of Will’s shave. Per request, the DJ played AC/DC’s classic “Back in Black” for Iron Will.

Another one of this year’s participants was Barbara Hodges, who heard about the event from a couple of medical students who came to her rotary club. “I said, ‘Well, I needed a haircut,’ so I signed up,” Hodges said. “I was a little (nervous) earlier, but it’ll grow back. And it’s for a good cause.” Hodges’ rotary club raised \$754.

Worldwide, more than 160,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year, and cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Foundations such as St. Baldrick’s are helping the medical community get closer to curing cancer by funding the research — one shaved head at a time.

Photo: Missouri unveils new Nike uniforms

By *Graham Watson* | *Dr. Saturday* – Sat, Apr 14, 2012 4:57 PM EDT



Missouri is moving into the SEC next season and it plans on doing it in style.

The Tigers unveiled new Nike uniforms not only for football, but also men's and women's basketball, volleyball and soccer during the annual Black & Gold Spring game Saturday.

"The University of Missouri brand is one that stands for pride, integrity, social responsibility and hard work but until now, our visual identity has been inconsistent across various sports," Don Barnes, Director of Equipment Operations, said in the release by the school. "With Nike's help we have been able to develop brand guidelines that honor our traditions and also reinforce consistency across all athletics. It was important to keep the Tiger at the forefront while creating consistency across our colors, fonts and numbering and we take great pride in unveiling the first five teams today that embody these important changes."

Missouri fans have been waiting for this unveiling for quite some time and it doesn't seem like they're disappointed. Missouri has done away with the "Block M" and embraced the Tiger logo. I think the helmet with the gold uniform is the best of the trio.

Now Missouri just hopes it looks good while winning and not losing in its new league.

You can check out a slew of pictures and an unveiling video at MUTigers.com.