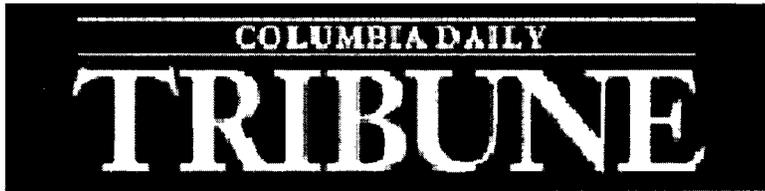


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MU hauls off damaged "Tiger Spot"

By Janese Silvey

Published May 14, 2012 at 11:03 a.m.

The saga of a tiger-themed mosaic on the University of Missouri campus ended today when facility crews unceremoniously hauled away a truckload of tiny pieces of tile.

By 10 a.m., "Tiger Spot," in honor of MU's sports mascot, was nothing more than a circle of concrete in front of Ellis Library. A committee made up of representatives from MU art and artifacts departments, the library and the Missouri Student Association will determine what to do with the site in the future, spokesman Christian Basi said.

Removing what has been a sore spot on campus for years cost more than labor. MU paid artist Paul Jackson \$125,000 to relinquish the rights to the public artwork, giving the university the ability to permanently remove it.

The payment also settles a lawsuit Jackson filed against the university early last year alleging administrators "distorted" and "mutilated" the artwork, which portrayed a tiger's head. Under the Visual Artists Rights Act, artists have the right to protect their reputation from distortion or mutilation of their work.

Jackson was not available this morning but in the past has told the Tribune he has been blacklisted from other public art projects in Columbia because of the "Tiger Spot" fiasco.

Financed with more than \$192,000 in donations, Jackson unveiled the tiger mosaic, made up of some 380,000 thumbnail-size tiles, during MU's Homecoming celebration in 2001.

There are conflicting reports as to what happened in the years that followed. MU administrators have blamed Missouri weather for the cracks that caused it to become so unsightly. A white tarp has covered it since 2007.

Jackson has argued he consulted experts in outdoor mosaics to ensure the mosaic was weather-proof. In a 2010 Tribune commentary piece, he said the materials used were suitable for the local climate. He has blamed vandals and careless campus facility workers for the damage.

In a statement from MU, administrators said they made several attempts to repair the artwork.

Crews also removed bricks around the site bearing names of people who donated money to Tiger Spot. Those bricks will be stored, Basi said, and the university will contact the donors to discuss other options.

“We do want to appropriately recognize their support,” he said.

MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Tiger Spot mosaic removed from Lowry Mall

Monday, May 14, 2012 | 6:35 p.m. CDT; updated 6:48 p.m. CDT, Monday, May 14, 2012



The Tiger Spot mosaic on Lowry Mall was removed Monday morning. A replacement piece will be determined by the MU Art and Artifacts Committee. | [Parker Miles Blohm](#)
BY [Hannah Spaar](#)

COLUMBIA — It's gone.

MU removed the Tiger Spot mosaic on Lowry Mall in front of Ellis Library on Monday morning after reaching an agreement with the mosaic's artist, Paul Jackson.

Instead of the mosaic of a tiger's face or the tarp that had covered it since 2007, there is now a 30-foot patched and partially eroded concrete circle on Lowry Mall.

Few people walking by the spot Monday morning seemed to give much attention to the change. Many current students would have never seen the uncovered mosaic that was originally unveiled on Oct. 21, 2001.

Erika Brown stopped outside the bollards surrounding the site and took a picture with her cellphone camera. Brown, who graduated with her second bachelor's degree Saturday, was sending the picture to a friend now living in Texas who also remembered the mosaic and told Brown to try to get a piece of it before it was removed.

"For years I thought about coming to get a piece of it," Brown said. She was on campus when the mosaic was unveiled in 2001.

Last year, Paul Jackson sued the UM System Board of Curators for violating his rights as an artist. The university reached an agreement to pay Jackson \$125,000 "to dismiss the litigation, resolve all claims, relinquish his artist's rights to the mosaic, and give the university the right to permanently remove the mosaic," according to a news release distributed Monday.

Christian Basi, an MU spokesman, was unable to answer how that settlement amount was reached. He said the money will come from the same fund used for settling lawsuits, and no donor money will be part of that total.

Jackson's lawsuit named lack of coverage during installation, improper drainage, the installation of the bollards surrounding the mosaic and vandalism as causes for the deterioration. A phone message left for Jackson was not immediately returned.

However, a 2003 report by a university consultant said that Jackson's "unorthodox" method of creating the mosaic was also a cause to blame, according to a previous Missouriian report. The glass tiles Jackson used were less than half as thick as usual outdoor floor mosaic tiles, and his off-site creation process left the construction weak, according to the report.

Those tiles have now been disposed of as part of the settlement agreement, Basi said. MU considered moving the mosaic indoors in 2006 and 2007, but Basi said that will not happen.

There are signs of erosion in the concrete base where the tiles were. Near one edge there is a small patch of moss growing. The bollards and their chains still circle where the mosaic was.

A long strip drain still stands between where the mosaic had been and the library steps. The drain was an \$11,000 installation in 2004 to defend the mosaic from rain water.

The drain did not prevent runoff from washing downhill onto the mosaic, Brown said. She remembers the mosaic being damaged by the rain before it was covered.

The university removed bricks that held the name of donors who funded the mosaic and its repairs, leaving a circular void around the concrete base. The university is considering how to appropriately recognize the donors, according to the news release.

Sam Hooshmand, an MU student, walked past where the mosaic had been on his way into the library, giving it a long look.

"It was covered with a tarp at first, so I guess it's not that different," Hooshmand said in reaction to the mosaic's removal.

The MU Art and Artifacts Committee will determine the future of the site, according to Basi. The committee has standing representatives from the Museum of Art and Archaeology and MU departments such as art and engineering, Basi said.

In the case of the Tiger Spot there will be representatives from MU Libraries and the Missouri Students Association, Basi said.

"It was a good idea," Brown said as she stood beside where the mosaic had been. "It just didn't work out here."



Standing O

Schaefer's budget is passed

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, May 14, 2012

No doubt Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer deserved the standing ovation he received from colleagues after budget bills finally were concluded and sent to the governor, not least because he had to navigate such a difficult set of rapids. He was in a leaky boat with a short paddle, but one by one he fought over shoals and around boulders and finally brought the treacherous trip to a safe landing.

Now that you have endured an overly creative nautical metaphor, in words more appropriate for the moment, Sen. Schaefer had to beat back too many errant attempts by his own partisan colleagues seeking to capture the process for selfish ends. Senate rules allow individual members enough leverage to threaten the whole process, putting at risk important funding priorities such as money for education.

At the end of the day, Schaefer was able to say he was happy. In a tough economic climate, "every major thing I wanted in this budget is in there," including an end to cuts in money for the University of Missouri System, an additional \$200,000 for the State Historical Society of Missouri, a like amount for the Missouri Scholars and Fine Arts academies and a pay increase of 2 percent for state workers making less than \$70,000 a year.

The budget keeps funding steady for public schools and continues a threatened medical program for the blind. The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life was saved.

In the House of Representatives, members ended up voting on an impossible hodgepodge amendment dealing with disposal of surplus state property, enabling the Rush Limbaugh bust in the Capitol rotunda, barring the use of blight designations in enhanced enterprise zones from being used in eminent domain procedures, and allowing local governments to organize airport authorities.

Rep. Mary Still faced the impossible choice such multifaceted proposals often pose. To support parts of the amendment, she was forced to hold her nose and also support the Limbaugh bust. Rep. Chris Kelly did the same.

As usual, it would have been better for members to vote on these issues separately, but how much more convenient, effective for some — and illegal — to attach pet proposals to larger bills deserving passage, a bundling forbidden in the state constitution but seldom enforced, so handy is it for corner-cutting lawmakers.

I will spare readers one more reference to "Hammerschmidt."

Years ago, making the state budget was full of compromises but absent the rancor and narrow-mindedness we see today. Too often a few Republican outliers go off on tangents that disturb many members of their own party and sorely interfere with the best budget-making process.

This year, Schaefer faced this problem as he tried to moderate his way to budget adoption. He had to show stubborn leadership as well as a willingness to cajole. At one point he said "they" could move his chair to the middle of the Missouri River before he would agree to a distasteful proposal put forth in a last-minute budget high-jacking by one of his own partisan colleagues.

Sen. Schaefer had a good but hard year and does deserve an ovation — and a nice cool one.

HJW III

MISSOURIAN

As Facebook prepares to go public, some MU students deactivate accounts

For the young and the Facebook-less, reasons to shun the popular social networking site vary

Monday, May 14, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CDT BY [Jacob Kirn](#)

COLUMBIA — In December, just before parting with her friends at MU for the month-long winter break, Samantha Johnson did the unthinkable.

She quit Facebook.

The "deactivation" was meant to be temporary, a timeout from the Internet that would strengthen family bonds during the holiday season.

Once home in Yellville, Ark., Johnson cut down a Christmas tree with her father, took coffee regularly with her mother and paid visits to her grandmother, with whom she reminisced about their pasts.

Johnson found that she enjoyed her newfound leisure time, previously occupied by the social media website. (She is not on Twitter, either, but she does have an Instagram account.)

So, back at school, Johnson resisted urges to rekindle her uneasy relationship with the most popular social media service on Earth.

After signing up for Facebook in high school, Johnson began to concoct an online persona.

"If I was at home, I didn't want people to know," she said. "I'd write a status that said I was going some extravagant place."

"Nobody can know that because you're on the Internet."

Johnson's Facebook friends piled up after she came to MU to attend the Missouri School of Journalism. (She has since become an art major.)

After class Johnson would log on to Facebook, agog for hours. If she went to an event, a new status and photos would reflect that.

"That's how people know how glorious your life is," she said of her mindset at the time.

Now off the website for four months, Johnson said her life feels more "physical": she invests more in face-to-face time with a smaller number of people.

With Facebook poised to become a publicly-traded company in May, reports have raised questions about the website's slowing financial growth. Also worrisome, though, is a March report from eMarketer, a website that publishes data and analysis on the media, which indicates that Facebook's growth in U.S. users has drastically declined in the past two years.

Still, Facebook says it has 901 million monthly active users, with about 180 million of those in the United States and Canada. And a 2010 study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project said 86 percent of undergrads use social networking sites.

According to Facebook's estimated reach for advertisers, more than 17,000 of the website's users self-identify as an MU or Stephens College student, and it's likely there are many more student users at those schools who do not. But there is dissent even among that tech-savvy demographic.

Interviews with a dozen students indicate it is not uncommon to have a friend or two who, for one reason or another, just won't participate.

A 2009 study by Homero Gil de Zúñiga, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Journalism, found a direct link between extroversion and increased social media use by people age 18 to 29. But de Zúñiga conceded in an interview that little research has been done on the reasons some young people abstain from social media.

Peter Anderson, like Johnson, began a Facebook account in high school. But he said he realized right away it wasn't made for him.

"It didn't really cater to the way that I socialize with people," said Anderson, a junior at MU studying mechanical engineering.

When his friends gathered, Anderson said, no one had a camera. "So I never had that thing where after the event you go on Facebook and look at the pictures from it."

With a barren "wall" and few photos, Anderson said there was little reason to keep his account. "It made me feel pitiful," he said.

Anderson opted out of Facebook during his second semester of college after friends highlighted the hypocrisy of publicly disparaging the site while maintaining an account.

Looking back, he said privacy concerns also motivated him to quit. Anderson saw posts about Facebook's tendency to accumulate information from its users on another website, reddit.

"That helped me get over Facebook quicker," Anderson said. "They didn't care about the people that used it that much."

Now Facebook-free for several years, Anderson said he has learned to live in the present, unburdened by old online photo albums.

"People love dwelling on the past," he said. "I don't care to."

Kari Paul, the projects editor at The Maneater, MU's student newspaper, used Facebook to look for sources when she was arts editor last year. But she said it felt unprofessional, and, in an effort to carve out more time for schoolwork, she deactivated her account four months ago.

Now that it's gone and she's had time to reflect, Paul said she sees Mark Zuckerberg's creation as something more sinister than a time-waster.

"It's socially toxic," she said while seated on a bench in Peace Park. "How many times have you gotten on your Facebook and seen social interactions that make you jealous or insecure?"

"Or you see a photo of a party you weren't invited to and you feel shitty about that?"

In order to keep up with friends from high school, Paul used to peruse their Facebook pages. An out-of-town friend, for example, was tagged in some weekend photos at a bar.

"And I didn't interact with her at all to find that out," Paul said. "That's kind of messed up to me."

In another instance, the act of posting a status or photos became filled with anxiety.

If people do not immediately "like" your content, Paul said, it can affect you negatively, even if it's subconscious.

The societal implications of Facebook seemed to weigh on Paul more than anything else.

"It's weird how you can make this construct of what you want people to see you as," Paul said. "It's Orwellian to me. Except instead of the government encroaching on your life and monitoring you, you're voluntarily giving your information up."

For MU junior Taylor Shortal, the decision to sidestep Facebook is less philosophical.

Shortal sat in the back of a 50-person history class during his first year at Moberly Area Community College. Half the students' laptops, he noticed, glowed green with Farmville, a Facebook-based game that challenges players to start and maintain a cyberspace farm.

"I'm really glad I'm not doing this," Shortal said to himself.

In ninth grade, Shortal was obsessed with Xanga, a website that hosts social networking profiles. It went out of vogue in about a year, leaving Shortal without a social media presence.

A friend, Marianna Vasquez, created a Facebook profile for him last year. He got rid of it right away.

"It was a time commitment thing," Shortal said. "I obsessed over Xanga, and I didn't want to do the same thing with Facebook."

Won't he miss out on social gatherings, like an impromptu barbecue or a friend's birthday party?

"If they really want to do something, they can just text, or, God forbid, call me."

To market, to market throughout the Northland

By SU BACON

For those who favor fresh-from-the-farm flavor, Northland farmers markets offer a variety of just-picked produce from the greens of spring to the pumpkins of autumn.

“With the trend to eat healthy, there is a lot more demand now than there was 10 years ago,” said Lanny Frakes of Rushville, past president of the Parkville Farmers Market Association.

The association requires that all produce sold at the Parkville market be grown within a 200-mile radius of the city to retain ripeness and nutritional value.

Most markets have similar geographic requirements and market managers perform site visits and inspections before allowing vendors to sell.

Farmers markets appeal to health-conscious consumers who want their produce locally grown and fresh and who want to know who grew it, as well, said Karen Elliott, nutritionist and health educator for the University of Missouri Extension.

Farmers markets allow consumers to buy directly from the producer. They can find out how the plants were grown, whether they were sprayed with pesticides and how best to cook them.

While fruits and vegetables dominate the marketplace, shoppers also can buy eggs, honey, jams, jellies, herbs, bouquets, perennials, brownies, bread, dog biscuits, jewelry, tie-dyed T-shirts and handcrafted soaps.

Shoppers whose preference for plants runs more to the indoor, inedible variety can find a good deal on houseplants at the Liberty Wednesday market.

Carolee Bussjaeger and Angie Geil sell aloe, spider plants, cactuses and other plants for \$1 to \$5, along with printed instructions on the light, fertilizer, water and growing conditions that will work best.

No two farmers markets are alike, and even the same market may vary from week to week. Gladstone, for example, rotates three stalls of vendor space.

“We have traveling vendors who come in once a month,” said market manager Becky Jarrett.

Other markets, like Briarcliff Village, plan special events throughout the growing season. On Thursday, it's “Flower Festival” from 5 to 7 p.m. with seedlings for kids and gardening tips on growing flowers.

Throughout Clay and Platte counties, farmers are hauling in vittles for the dinner table and visuals for window boxes to local markets.

MISSOURIAN

Teacher, students would like to see broader Arabic studies at MU

Monday, May 14, 2012 | 3:44 p.m. CDT; updated 4:52 p.m. CDT, Monday, May 14, 2012



Zaid Mahir's Elementary Arabic II class performed a one-act play and three skits were performed by Zaid Mahir's for the public April 26 at the MU Student Center.

BY [Ryan Finan](#)

COLUMBIA — A bread salesman is tried for bribing patrons by slipping cash into the bread he sold them. A man picks a toy doll over three real women in a satirical version of "The Bachelor." A date, originating online, fails and their friends get together instead.

These were the plots for a series of skits presented recently at MU — in Arabic.

"Elementary Arabic Presents: An Evening of Student Composed Performances" was a one-act play and three skits were performed for the public by Zaid Mahir's Elementary Arabic II class at the MU Student Center.

For Mahir, the performance was not only an accomplishment for the students but also was an example of the merit of Arabic studies.

"I would like it to be seen as a signal to people that Arabic should be a full program," he told the audience before the performance began.

The interest in Arabic courses at MU remains high, but there has been no discussion on the administrative level to expand the current program, Mahir said. As MU's only Arabic instructor, he has taught Elementary Arabic I and II since fall 2007 when the classes were first offered by MU faculty exclusively.

The classes were offered the previous year but were taught by an MU graduate teaching assistant three days a week and a live link-up with a professor at another university the other two.

One section of each class is offered. Elementary Arabic I takes about 20 students and is always full, with a waiting list, Mahir said. The classes are part of the German and Russian Studies Department.

"In spite of the interest and the people who need Arabic, they find themselves at the end of Arabic II with no options besides finding private tutors," he said.

Mahir said MU should begin offering intermediate-level classes and eventually evolve into a full-fledged program with classes on culture and advanced language.

The number of students who want to sign up for Elementary Arabic I would justify having two sections, he said, and between 75 percent and 80 percent of students take Elementary Arabic II after finishing the first course.

Sammie Hill, a student in Elementary Arabic II, is majoring in journalism and peace studies. "I'm currently planning two study abroad trips to supplement the education that I can't get on campus," she said.

Estimates on the number of people who speak some version of Arabic range from about 250 million to 340 million.

Students are attracted to studying Arabic for several reasons, Mahir said. One reason is that the Arabic world is so diverse that there are several versions of the language. There also is a strong global context for learning it.

"We are looking at a decade, if not more, of changes in that part of the world that are going to have a huge impact," Mahir said. "You don't need anyone to tell you how important it is we expand, especially in this historical moment."

This triggers interest among students bound for certain professions, notably anthropology, international studies, linguistics, journalism and literature.

Mahir said other schools in the Midwest that started an Arabic program in the past few years now have full-fledged programs, including Indiana University and Washington University.

"It's amazing that MU in Columbia has not joined the train," he said.

Hill said there are students who don't start the program at all because they know they can't finish it at MU. "I think it's a shame that we strive to be such a global university and we're missing out on that part of the world," she said.

Meanwhile, the recent performance was a point of pride for the students.

"Arabic is a very hard language," said Benjamin Dixon, a political science and philosophy major. "I feel like we have learned a lot to put on a program like this."