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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Authors leave UM Press amid controversial shakeup

By Janese Silvey

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Don Spivey wants the rights to his book back: The University of Miami professor no longer wants to be associated with the University of Missouri or its new university press model.

After receiving details of a proposed new UM Press, Spivey — author of "If You Were Only White" published by UM Press in mid-May — told UM President Tim Wolfe he wants to move his book to another publishing house.

"After 12 years of research to achieve the definitive biography of the legendary Satchel Paige, I think you can understand why I want the book, in all of its forms, in competent and stable hands for both the short and the long term," Spivey wrote in an email to Wolfe.

That's the real fallout over the decision to shutter the traditional publishing house and replace it with an experimental model on the MU campus, said Clair Willcox, editor-in-chief at the UM Press.

"We've already seen a number of people who have spoken up and said, 'I wouldn't send my manuscript to that organization. I deserve professional treatment,' " he said.

Other authors who expected to see their books in an upcoming UM Press catalog also are turning to publishers elsewhere, including Ike Skelton. Skelton — who served Missouri's Fourth District in the U.S. House for more than 30 years — had been working with the UM Press to publish his memoirs until Wolfe announced in May the press was closing.

"Someone else is going to publish it, someone outside of Missouri, sadly," Skelton said. "There's no question about it, I would prefer that Missouri publish it. It's a Missouri story. ... It's very unfortunate and, I think, shortsighted, frankly, not just for me but for other Missouri authors."

MU administrators yesterday released details of a new press that would be housed in McReynolds Hall next to the Missouri Review literary magazine. Speer Morgan, editor of the magazine, has been tapped to direct the press, which also will include an editor-in-chief, a managing editor and a professional marketing director. Graduate student interns are expected to do much of the work.

Morgan said the positions will require different skill sets than current UM Press employees have. The 10 UM Press workers still are waiting to hear when they're going to be fired.

Administrators have cited various reasons for closing the current press. Wolfe has said it was a move to save the system the \$400,000 subsidy that helps fund the operation, but it's unclear what the new press will cost. MU Provost Brian Foster said there's a draft budget but did not give a dollar amount.

Foster said the move is in response to a changing market and that the new press will take advantage of new technologies.

But the existing UM Press already offers its published works electronically through eight available formats, Willcox said. "One of the immediate reactions here by staff members is we already do all of that and more," he said, referring to details of the new press.

Opponents of the move have collected roughly 4,800 signatures on a petition and are still fighting, said Bruce Joshua Miller, a Chicago-based book representative. They're expected to attend an American Association of University Professors meeting at 11 a.m. next Tuesday in Room 2501 at the MU Student Center to discuss the situation. "If they thought this announcement would put an end to the controversy," Miller said, "I'm afraid it's only thrown gasoline on the fire."



Black Children Who Live in Housing Projects More Likely to Smoke

Easy access to tobacco and stressful and traumatic environment may contribute to lighting up.

Here's an alarming trend in smoking habits and African-American youth: Black children living in housing project communities are more likely to smoke cigarettes than children who don't, say researchers from the University of Missouri.

Mansoo Yu, an assistant professor of social work and public health, and a team of researchers, surveyed 518 African-American young people, ages 11 to 20, who lived in public housing in three large U.S. cities. And they found that these same children were 2.3 times more likely to smoke tobacco than their counterparts who did not live in housing project communities.

So what about the community puts them more at risk?

According to a university press statement, Yu suggests that it's the stressful and traumatic environment along with easy access to tobacco that may make these children more vulnerable to lighting up.

Youths living in public housing might be more likely to be fearful, live around crime problems, have poorer social relationships and have higher levels of psychological strain. These factors could contribute to the increased rates of tobacco use, Yu said.

"Smoking cessation programs for young African Americans living in public housing communities should focus on reversing their positive attitudes toward tobacco use," Yu said. "In addition, programs should help address the youths' depressive symptoms and keep them from getting involved in delinquent behaviors."

Researchers suggest that health experts and advocates create anti-smoking prevention interventions for these children early on.

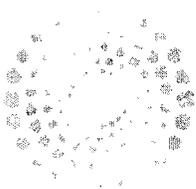
"Early interventions are critical for these individuals since the likelihood of being exposed to risky behaviors dramatically increases as the children age," Yu said. "In public housing communities, adolescents may have easier access to drugs and social activities where drugs are used."

Smoking is a serious problem in our community — in and out of housing projects — that comes with many health consequences. According to the American Lung Association, Black Americans account for

12 percent of the 46 million adult smokers in the U.S. And while Blacks smoke less than whites, African-Americans are more likely to die of lung cancer.

And unfortunately, it's harder for Blacks to quit smoking.

Last November, BET.com reported a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that found while 59 percent of Black smokers tried to quit, only 3.3 percent actually succeeded — the lowest success rate among all races and ethnicities.



REUTERS



Analysis: As corn burns, excess ethanol credits help dampen demand

Oil companies also have a second reason for wanting to maintain a maximum surplus of RINs for 2013: as the fuel blending mandate rises another 5 percent, many fear they won't be able to sell enough ethanol-blended gasoline to meet their target.

Most service stations are already pumping out E10 (10 percent ethanol), and are unwilling to sell a higher blend for fear of lawsuits from car makers or drivers -- despite EPA assurances that E15 blend is safe for most modern cars.

Without some accord to cover engine warranties, a practical "blend wall" at the 10 percent threshold threatens to prevent companies from injecting more ethanol -- in which case stockpiled RINs may be the only way to satisfy the RFS2. Those who don't meet it face penalties of up to \$37,500 per day.

"There's an incentive now for companies to carry forward RINs into the coming years in order to cover themselves when the blend wall comes into play," said Pat Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri.

"The market would not be happy if we ran out of RINs."

But neither can companies cut ethanol use too deeply.

Sean Hill, an economist with the U.S. Energy Information Administration, said he expects demand for ethanol would be about the same as it is now even without the EPA renewable fuel rules, thanks to the Clean Air Act which requires the use of oxygenate to reduce carbon monoxide in gasoline.

After Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether was banned in 2005, ethanol became the cheapest and most widely used oxygenate.

PRODUCER PAIN EQUALS LIVESTOCK GAIN

Now the trick is calculating just how much ethanol the blenders will buy -- or, rather, how much they won't buy, opting instead to draw upon the previous year's RINs.

It is not a simple matter.

For one thing, the surprisingly rapid decline in U.S. gasoline demand has a direct effect on ethanol demand.

Each blender's quota is equivalent to a proportion of its overall fuel sales, not an absolute volume. In 2012, renewable fuel -- primarily ethanol -- must comprise 9.23 percent of a company's gasoline sales. The EPA establishes that percentage by dividing the target volume -- established by law -- by the estimated motor fuel consumption for a given year.

With gasoline demand this year down as much as 5 percent from last year, the oil firms need to buy less ethanol.

The picture is further complicated by ethanol trade. Exports boomed last year and earlier this year, but now look to dry up as Brazil's output of ethanol made from sugar becomes more competitive with the U.S. corn-based fuel.

What is clear to some observers, however, is that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimates on the amount of corn to be used to produce ethanol look too high.

From September 2012 to August 2013, the corn crop year, the USDA estimates that 4.9 billion bushels will be consumed by ethanol plants, enough to make about 13.2 billion gallons -- identical to the minimum quota for this year, in fact.

That figure was revised down from 5 billion bushels last week, but to many it still appears unrealistically high.

"I can't see using more than 4.5 billion," said the RIN trader, who declined to be named.

Others disagree, saying livestock companies and importers are more likely to cut back quickly in the face of corn prices that are just 15 cents away from a record high.

"To me, it will be very hard for them to trim a good 100 million bushels out of new crop corn for ethanol," says Rich Nelson, director of research at Allendale Inc, an agricultural advisory firm. "The real demand destruction comes from exports and corn for feed."

What is clear to most, however, is that RINs have become a critical new piece of the puzzle.

"In recent years RINs have been viewed as a hassle and transaction cost. It was profitable to blend so the fuel companies generated more than they needed," said the University of Illinois' Paulson. "That's changing. I think RINs are going to be approached in a very different way in the coming months."

CBS NEWS



GE to develop home fueling for natural gas cars

General Electric Co. said Wednesday that it will work to develop a cheap and fast way to refuel natural gas cars at home with the help of government research money.

The price of natural gas has fallen so low that car and truck makers have been exploring ways to expand the market for natural gas-powered vehicles. Vehicles that run on natural gas could save drivers money on fuel and reduce oil imports.

But without a network of natural gas fueling stations, natural gas vehicles have been mainly limited to sanitation companies, utilities, public transit authorities and other groups that operate vehicles refueled at a central location.

GE will team with gas processing company Chart Industries Inc. and the University of Missouri to develop an inexpensive home refueling station that would connect to home gas lines, compress the gas and deliver it to vehicle fuel tanks. The project will receive \$2.3 million through an Energy Department program called the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy.

The goal is to create a home fueling station that could sell for \$500 and fuel a car in less than an hour. Home fueling stations now cost \$5,000 and take five to eight hours to compress natural gas and fill a vehicle's storage tank. The high price of home refueling currently reduces or eliminates any savings a customer might realize from lower fuel costs.

Natural gas drillers have unlocked enormous resources in shale deposits under several states. The newfound gas has pushed prices to record lows, and the amount of gas now within reach leads experts to believe that natural gas prices will stay low for years to come. Oil prices, meanwhile, are expected to stay relatively high. That will keep gasoline prices high as well, since gasoline is made from crude oil.

Natural gas vehicles cost more to build than gasoline powered vehicles, in part because they require a heavy storage tank to hold the compressed gas, and they cannot travel as far as gasoline-powered cars without refueling.

Natural gas engines burn much cleaner, however, and the fuel is far cheaper at today's prices.

Sales of natural gas-powered buses, delivery trucks and garbage trucks are rising, and efforts to create a refueling network for long-haul tractor trailers powered by liquefied natural gas are under way.

Right now only Honda sells a natural gas-powered passenger car, a version of its Civic small sedan. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are beginning to sell more pickup trucks powered by natural gas,

aimed at corporate fleets of natural gas companies and other companies with easy access to natural gas.

GE shares rose 9 cents to \$19.81 in afternoon trading Wednesday. Chart Industry shares rose 88 cents to \$64.

Trees cut down on Lowry Mall as part of beautification project

By Jasmin James

July 18, 2012 | 7:40 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — As of Tuesday, 11 trees have been cut down on Lowry Mall as part of a beautification project. Two of the trees were dead and were removed several months ago. The nine cut down Tuesday were unhealthy and contributing to what Pete Millier, director of the Mizzou Botanic Garden, described as a "disharmonious mismatch of trees."

The red maple trees had succumbed to stress, soil depletion, leaf shedding and dieback — a condition in which a tree will prematurely die due to lack of replenishing resources.

"I don't know what they were thinking, planting these trees 12 or 15 years ago," Millier said. "They don't like heat or a lot of reflective light." To make matters worse, upkeep for these particular trees was difficult in the type of planters used on Lowry Mall.

"Imagine having a cup or a bowl and trying to grow a tree inside of it," Millier said. "There's a limit to how much they can grow."

The project will entail digging out and removing the remaining root masses in the planters, replacing the soil and planting bare root trees that can handle the climate. The project will cost a couple hundred dollars per tree. This time around, Millier hopes to plant trees that will be better suited to the location. What's left of the maple stumps will be replaced with a tree variety known as a green vase zelkova, a large Japanese tree species. Another variety of the zelkova species, known as the green village zelkova, is located at the sidewalk connecting Jesse Hall and Hill Hall.

Karlan Seville, Campus Facilities communication manager, said landscapers will temporarily fill the empty planters with colorful foliage and plants until the new trees can be planted in the fall or early winter.

New black iron benches and trash cans as well as new plastic recycling receptacles similar to those in the Francis Quadrangle will be added to the mall as part of the project.

Pinkel speaks of Paterno's 'greatness'

By BLAIR KERKHOFF

HOOVER, Ala. -- Joe Paterno and Penn State will be an oft-mentioned topic at media days throughout college football over the next two weeks, and coaches figure to fall into two camps: Those who want to avoid the subject and those who will have largely positive responses.

The first day of SEC Media Days offered some of both.

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel counted Paterno, who died in January, as a friend and wants the good he did to be recalled.

"It's such a tragedy," Pinkel said to a small group of reporters. "Joe Paterno is a friend. I got to know him professionally. You can't take away the greatness of this man. He was a great man. And however you analyze this, you can't erase all that this guy has done. You can't do that. Nobody can do that."

But that's happened over the past few days in the wake of the report authored by former FBI director Louis Freeh on Penn State and the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case. Paterno was identified as one of four administrators who covered up Sandusky's predatory nature. Sandusky, a former Penn State defensive coordinator, was convicted last month of sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period.

Pinkel said, "I don't read a lot about it, but there's certainly lessons to be learned by everybody."

Those apparently more informed, like NCAA president Mark Emmert and SEC commissioner Mike Slive, expressed little public sympathy.

In a PBS interview on Monday, Emmert said that he had "never seen anything as egregious as this in terms of just overall conduct and behavior inside a university and hope never to see it again."

The NCAA is investigating to determine if Penn State lacked institutional control. Emmert said the process will be deliberate but doesn't want to take "anything off the table" in terms of punishing if the school is found in violation. Some have suggested the football program be shut down.

A NCAA "death penalty" hasn't happened since the SMU football program was shut down in the 1980s because of extra benefit violations. In 2004, Baylor's basketball program was prohibited from playing nonconference games in the wake of the Dave Bliss scandal.

Slive didn't specifically mention Paterno and Penn State in his state-of-the-conference address to open SEC Media Days, but there was no mistaking the target of his warnings.

“Last week’s headlines remind us that we must be every vigilant on issues of integrity and that our primary mission is to educate and protect young people,” Slive said. “No one program, no one person, no matter how popular, no matter how successful, can be allowed to derail the soul of an institution.”

Coaches took a different view of Paterno’s case.

“I’m sure he would maybe, if he did it over again, he’d follow up a few things,” Pinkel said. “But don’t take away all this guy did, and sit around blaming him for all this.”

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier was a little more reserved when asked to comment on Paterno.

“Well, obviously it’s a terrible mess, terrible mess,” Spurrier said. “The only thing I would say about Coach Paterno, when he coached, he did everything right. His teams played fair, fundamentally sound. He was always revered for doing the right things.

“I don’t want to get into the other side of a terrible, terrible situation.”

Others weren’t reluctant to speak up on Tuesday. Brown University, Paterno’s alma mater, said it was taking his name off an annual athletic award. A Penn State student group that manages a rallying spot to the football games changed the spot’s name from “Paternoville” to “Nittanyville.”

Flying over State College was a small airplane with a banner that read “take down the statue or we will,” referring to the Paterno statue that stands outside of Beaver Stadium.

In an interview with WJAC-TV, Penn State president Rodney Erickson said the school is looking into the future of the statue.

“We’re obviously hearing from members of the Penn State community and far beyond,” Erickson said. “Obviously, Joe Paterno was a legend. He had a very important influence on the university for many years, so we need to look at it in a comprehensive kind of fashion, the things that Coach Paterno did that were supportive of our educational efforts and other things.

“Obviously, as the Freeh report indicates, there were clearly very bad judgments that were made along the way with respect to the Sandusky matter that will forever be a mark against Joe’s contributions.”