

SEP 24 2012



Reinstate Morgan to modernize press

Sunday, September 23, 2012

Editor, the Tribune: The University of Missouri Press commotion is so ridiculous I'm embarrassed to be a Mizzou alumnus.

We should have stayed with the plan to have Speer Morgan bring the UM Press into the 21st century. Instead, the university reversed itself again, staying mired in a fiscally unsustainable past.

Returning to the status quo in response to the self-serving whining of some complainers indicates the university didn't have any real plan for the press's future or the ability to build a coalition of divergent interests to get there.

The publishing and book distribution business has dramatically changed, and the university should be embracing that.

Questions we should be asking include:

Do the manuscript review and selection procedures guarantee we are disseminating world-class scholarship? A glance at the current backlist doesn't build confidence. Perhaps a tiered publication process with different levels of acceptance and channels of dissemination would help. We should not fear print-on-demand and pay-for-publication if manuscript acceptance and editing standards are met and book marketing processes are set appropriately.

Why does the university insist on holding copyright to books it publishes? In other fields, the control of and benefit from intellectual property rights have been well thought through and have many alternatives. It's time to rethink this.

Are the procedures to select editing, design and printing sources fiscally responsible and supportive of the "media" pillar of university excellence? The UM Press should be mentoring small businesses that do editing, book design and publishing — many of them local.

Reinstate Speer Morgan and give him the support he needs.

Mike Trial

301 N. Route UU



Retired MU journalism educator John Merrill dies at age 88

By Janese Silvey

Published September 21, 2012 at 10:10 a.m.

Updated September 21, 2012 at 2 p.m.

After John Merrill began teaching at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in the 1960s, he decided his doctorate wasn't enough.

"He realized he needed to know more about philosophy to understand the underpinnings of journalism, so he went to the philosophy department and got a master's degree," said Don Ranly, a professor emeritus of journalism. "That really says something about him."

Merrill died yesterday at age 88 in Birmingham, Ala., leaving a legacy as an educator and author.

"Dr. Merrill was a legendarily prolific scholar, one who was known and admired throughout the world," Dean Mills, dean of the journalism school, said in an email. "He was routinely teased by colleagues about his productivity — as in, 'How many books did you write this week, John?'"

Merrill started his career at Northwestern State University in the 1950s. He is a member of the Louisiana State and Iowa journalism halls of fame and received the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

Merrill loved to challenge traditional thought, Ranly said. "He thought that journalism was not challenging the government enough or corporations enough."

Jerry Pierce, vice president of external affairs at Northwestern State, said Merrill was his mentor and had significant influence on his life. "He was an outstanding teacher," Pierce said. "He took a great interest in students. ... As far as the journalism profession, he was an absolute genius."

Merrill started a blog, "John C. Merrill: Curmudgeon" last year from his retirement home in Birmingham, writing in his inaugural entry that his family "believes that this blog business will help me reaffirm my love for communication."

Most of his entries lamented what he viewed as societal breakdowns. In his last entry, posted May 6, Merrill wrote: "Some will say: You're just a old pessimistic grouch, John. And you are probably right. If I were 35 again I might see the world as I do now. But I don't think so. I was

different then, I know, but so was the world. I am different now, but the world is what it is now.
What a shame."

Walgreens remains out of network for UM System Health Plan

By [Hannah Spaar](#)

September 21, 2012 | 7:28 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Despite a July agreement between Walgreens and Express Scripts, Walgreens pharmacy remains out of network for University of Missouri System faculty and staff covered by the myChoice Health Plan.

UM System employees have been unable to fill their prescription drugs at the lower, network cost at Walgreens since the company left the Express Scripts pharmacy benefits network at the beginning of the year. In July, the two companies reconciled to include Walgreens pharmacies into the Express Scripts network once again. However, according to an email addressed to faculty and staff sent by the MU Benefits Office Wednesday, the deal between Walgreens and Express Scripts only applies to a portion of Express Scripts clients that does not include the myChoice plan. The email also warned that Walgreens has been addressing letters and advertisements to former customers.

Jennifer Hollingshead, a spokesperson for the UM System, said Thursday that in the letters, "Walgreens is implying that their pharmacies are now in-network for our plan members, which could lead some members to believe that they will pay in-network prices when filling a prescription at Walgreens."

Some faculty and staff have been confused by the letters and advertisements, she said. Jim Graham, a spokesperson for Walgreens, said that after reviewing the letters, Walgreens believes it was accurate.

He quoted from the letter: "You may once again be able to fill your prescriptions at Walgreens," and he noted the use of the word "may." He also said the letters included instructions on how to find out if your health plan was included in the new deal. Graham said the advertisements mirrored this phrasing. Neither the UM System nor Walgreens were able to provide the Missouriian with a copy of a letter or advertisement. Graham said there are signs and handouts at Walgreens explaining the chain's relationship with Express Scripts. Walgreens has two stores in Columbia.

Crews clean up waterway after acid spill



Don Shrubshell

A Columbia Public Works Department employee works to clean up a sulfuric acid spill near East Brandon Road Friday afternoon. The acid was accidentally dumped down a stormwater drain at the University of Missouri's Memorial Union.

By Jacob Barker

Published September 21, 2012 at 3:40 p.m.

Updated September 21, 2012 at 2 a.m.

Several gallons of sulfuric acid accidentally dumped down a stormwater drain at the University of Missouri's Memorial Union had MU and city of Columbia workers pumping water out of a Flat Branch tributary yesterday afternoon.

More than a dozen workers from MU's Environmental Health and Safety Department and the city's Public Works Department were on Brandon Road just north of Stadium Boulevard

containing the spill, which flowed into an unnamed tributary of the creek. A Missouri Department of Natural Resources emergency responder also was at the site inspecting the creek, which is used as a stormwater drain. A strong smell of sulfur was evident on the street near Providence Road but faded as the stream flowed west.

Environmental Health and Safety Associate Director Todd Houts said the incident happened around 11:30 a.m. MU spokesman Christian Basi said an internal water treatment system, which uses sulfuric acid to clean water in Memorial Union, was undergoing maintenance yesterday, and workers dumped several gallons of the chemical into a drain that connected with the stormwater system. They had thought the drain connected with the sanitary sewer system, he said.

"We've traced the chemical to here," Basi said, standing amid hoses running between the creek and sewer manholes on Brandon Road. "It hasn't gone any farther. We are currently pumping the water from this storm drain to a sanitary sewer."

No one was injured, Basi said, and there is not a danger to any of the houses in the neighborhood.

The onsite DNR inspector said he could not confirm that the creek was safe and did not pose a threat to neighbors because he is not allowed to talk to reporters.

DNR spokeswoman Renee Bungart said MU Environmental Health and Safety had placed a dam downstream, and the Missouri Department of Conservation had been contacted regarding any potential fish kill. "It appears that Flat Branch creek will not be affected by that spill," she said.

Bungart said the stream was registering a pH of 3 at 3:30 p.m.; it should normally be in the 5-8 range. The closer the pH reading is to 0, the more acidic the water. DNR will inspect the stream and the site of the accident.

That takes about a week, she said, and then DNR will determine whether any other actions are needed. She would not confirm or deny whether fines could be assessed.

The water treatment tank in Memorial Union had not been used for some time and was being decommissioned, Basi said. The sulfuric acid in the system had been used to minimize calcium buildup in the pipes that use steam from the MU power plant to heat and cool campus buildings. None of the water treated with sulfuric acid is used for human consumption, Basi said.

Basi said MU might flush the creek after it has been pumped into the sanitary sewer system to make sure it is clean.

"It looks like we're going to be able to completely mitigate the situation before it gets to any significant water system," Basi said.

MU will review the situation to see what steps have to be taken to prevent it in the future, he said.

Researchers find autism, stomach problems link

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Many children with autism spectrum disorder also have stomach ailments, which in turn cause anxiety and sensory problems, a University of Missouri researcher has found.

In a first-of-its-kind study, Micah Mazurek, assistant professor of health psychology, discovered that nearly a fourth of the 2,973 autistic children and teens she studied also suffered from constipation, bloating, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal issues. And children with GI problems were more likely to be anxious and have heightened reactions to lights and sounds.

"These problems can have a very real impact on daily life," Mazurek said in a statement. "Children with anxiety may be distressed or reluctant to engage in new activities, and those with sensory problems may have trouble paying attention or participating in over-stimulating environments. These children may also suffer uncomfortable GI problems that they may not be able to communicate about to adults."

Participants in the study were enrolled in the Autism Treatment Network, a network of 17 autism centers across the U.S. that are focused on best practices for medical treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders.

The study should make doctors and families more aware that anxiety, GI problems and sensory sensitivity often co-occur in autistic individuals, Mazurek said.

"Parents need to be aware that these problems may underlie some of their children's difficulties, so if they notice any symptoms, they should talk to their doctors or therapists about treatment options," she said. "Practitioners who work with children with ASD need to be mindful that there is a pretty high rate of these problems, so if children are treated for one issue, it may" be "helpful to screen for these additional symptoms."

The study was published in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology. Mazurek, who also works as a clinical child psychologist at the MU Thompson Center, was joined in the research by center Director Stephen Kanne and Lee Ann Lowery, director of the MU Pediatric Occupational Therapy Clinic in the Thompson Center.

Students get creative with high-tech pitches

Judges pick HVAC innovation as winner.

By Jacob Barker

Friday, September 21, 2012

In front of a panel of skeptical judges, Benjamin Goldschmidt got their attention with a simple, if somewhat personal, question: How many of you, he asked, used the restroom today?

"What if we could have a cheap and effective biosensor that, if every time you relieved yourself, you'd be checking yourself for cancer?" he said.

Goldschmidt thinks he has a way: the TIRPAS Toilet, a high-tech john equipped with a biosensor that can detect diseases from urine. Information would be sent to your smartphone, allowing people to detect medical conditions before they become critical.

Goldschmidt's idea was one of nine pitches yesterday made by students from universities around the state at the Missouri Technology Expo. In its third year, the tech expo, put on by the Office of Technology Management and Industry Relations, is a daylong event on the University of Missouri campus aimed at linking innovators with business acumen and startup capital.

This year, MU's student entrepreneurship club, CLIMB, organized an idea pitch. A panel of judges with business and investment experience grilled the students on their products' commercial feasibility, giving them a taste of what it's like to try to sell a high-risk startup idea to the moneymen who can make it happen.

It wasn't the high-tech inventions from doctoral student researchers that garnered the most favor from the panel. Simple ideas that didn't need to jump through regulatory approval hoops came out as the winners.

Alex Zheng, an MBA student with a passion for cars, pitched his Parts Finder online advertising vehicle. It would display multiple sellers and prices for a specific product on automotive websites. Although he isn't a Web developer, his research of the market and specific yet conservative revenue outlook wowed the judges, as did the idea's short time to take to market. He took home second place and a prize of \$750 in seed funding.

"Ideas are a dime a dozen," Zheng said after his pitch. "It's all about execution, so I thought it might not hurt to get some feedback on my idea."

The idea the judges liked most was a niche product catering to the heating and cooling industry — the HVAC Strap, which would replace the industry standard of a hook for HVAC monitoring equipment with a magnet that makes it easier for contractors to hang the equipment where they're working. Ray Troy, who pitched the idea, said that although it's a simple solution, he already has received quotes from manufacturers and is ready to take the product to market. The \$1,000 he won yesterday will help.

"We are at the point where literally all we need is money," he said.

And although Goldschmidt's toilet didn't garner the highest scores from the judges, after the competition, a representative from The Incubation Factory, a St. Louis-based startup accelerator, introduced himself to Goldschmidt to express interest in the product.

"Based on the reactions I've gotten from everybody, I think it could have a big impact," he said.

THE DENVER POST

Presidential debate knowns and unknowns

By Curtis Hubbard

Denver Post editorial page editor

The hottest ticket in town is not a seat at next Sunday's Broncos-Raiders matchup or to the upcoming Great American Beer Festival — both of which are sold out.

Nope. The toughest ticket is to the Oct. 3 presidential debate between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney at the University of Denver.

Two things I know for certain 10 days out: The general public has as much chance of getting in as Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, and there are at least as many unknowns as knowns. To wit:

Unknown: How many tickets are available.

An official with the Commission on Presidential Debates — who spoke on background, apparently for fear that his or her friends would call and ask to get on the guest list — said the ticket issue won't be worked out until a day or two before the debate. The official said it depends on what's left after the set is built, the camera platforms erected, the sight lines tested and the fire marshal approves the whole shebang.

Known: The Ritchie Center on the DU campus seats up to 8,000 people, though far fewer will get in.

Unknown: Exactly how the tickets will be divvied up between the commission, the campaigns and DU, which will award its allocation to students via a lottery.

Known: Fat cats must be fed.

Unknown: Whether the event can boost the profile of a university that is already held in high regard.

Known: Parking will be a nightmare and there will be other debate-related logistical headaches for the campus.

Mitchell McKinney, a professor of communications at the University of Missouri who has been to several debates, said there may be few students or faculty in the center, but "the campus will be the center of the political world and those students will be right in the middle of it. They should enjoy it."

Unknown: Whether candidates will stand behind podiums or, as the commission recommended, sit at a table with moderator Jim Lehrer.

McKinney, who has studied the issue, said the the sit-down format "creates a dynamic that is less formal." As a result, it discourages bombastic or combative dialogue.

"The communicative dynamics are made harder if you're sitting next to your opponent than compared to standing apart."

He said studies also suggest "a notable increase in what the (television) viewers of that type of sit-down debate say they've learned."

Known: The candidates will be on stage and will be wearing dark suits, American flag lapel pins, white shirts, red or blue ties and black shoes.

Unknown: Who will emerge as the "winner" of the debate.

Known: Conventional wisdom holds that Romney must do well while Obama simply needs to hold serve.

"There's not a lot of votes on the table right now and it's important for Romney to retake the narrative," said Peter Simonson, an associate professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder. "I think it's more important for him than it is for the president."

The president, he said, needs to "not look like an arrogant bully. I think he's got contempt for Romney and he's not always good at reeling that in."

Unknown: Whether any of the audience members will violate rules against cheering, clapping, hissing and, possibly, breathing during the 90-minute affair that is produced for a TV audience.

Known: You'll have more fun if you're not there. You can tweet and visit denverpost.com, which has all sorts of interactive goodies planned for Oct. 3.

And, watching on television or via livestream on the Web, you will be able to cheer and jeer and make all the Jimmy Carter and Gordon Gekko jokes that those who watch alongside you can tolerate.



MU delivered college football at its finest

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Editor, the Tribune: As a graduate and lifelong fan of The University of Georgia who attends every game, home and away, I'd like to say thank you to all the very nice people I met while in town for the Missouri Tigers' historic first game in the SEC.

To a person, every adult I met was gracious and sincerely warm in their greetings and conversation. Every student I spoke to, except one, was rude — almost like they were obligated to "make a statement," I suppose. However, since I've now been to 13 of 14 SEC football stadiums, I've encountered students at every campus who've had much too much to drink, and we know what that oftentimes leads to, so that did nothing to dampen the wonderful experience.

The weather was beautiful. The crowd was loud and enthusiastic. The band sounded great. It was truly college football atmosphere at its best. Mizzou fans will fit right in with the rest of the SEC. I must bring up one question a lady behind me asked: "Are fans in other SEC stadiums as loud as we are?" My response was to invite her to visit Athens when the Tigers play Georgia next year or try to attend the game at Knoxville, Tenn., this year and judge for herself. I think she'll find that we support our teams with the same enthusiasm and excitement as in Columbia.

Welcome to the SEC. I look forward every other season to my visit back to your wonderful city and campus.

Steve Upshaw

1500 Cobble St.,

Marietta, Ga.

THE CHRONICLE

of Higher Education

Sunday, September 23, 2012

Want to Change Academic Publishing? Just Say No

By Hugh Gusterson

NO MU MENTION

When I became a professor, 20 years ago, I received a request from a woman who lived close to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I taught: Could she come and talk to me about a set of interests she was developing, in the area of my own specialty in anthropology, and get my advice on applying to graduate school? We spoke for about 45 minutes in my office, at the end of which she asked, "How much do I owe you?"

This woman was a therapist who billed by the hour, and she assumed that when you got the benefit of someone's professional expertise for 45 minutes, you paid for it. Although I would expect to pay a lawyer or a therapist for a professional consultation, the idea of paying for a conversation with me seemed bizarre. I explained that professors, especially in the humanities and social sciences, get paid an annual salary and, in return, see it as part of our job to share our knowledge and to mentor others. We had a vocation, not a trade. The life of the mind is not billable.

Today I have less confidence in that answer. When I look at the work I do as an academic social scientist and the remuneration I receive, I see a pattern that makes little sense. This is especially the case with regard to publishing. If I review a book for a newspaper or evaluate a book for a university press, I get paid, but if I referee an article for a journal, I do not. If I publish a book, I get royalties. If I publish an opinion piece in the newspaper, I get a couple of hundred dollars. Once a magazine paid me \$5,000 for an article.

But I get paid nothing directly for the most difficult, time-consuming writing I do: peer-reviewed academic articles. In fact a journal that owned the copyright to one of my articles made me pay \$400 for permission to reprint my own writing in a book of my essays.

When I became an academic, those inconsistencies made a sort of sense: Academic journals, especially in the social sciences, were published by struggling, nonprofit university presses that could ill afford to pay for content, refereeing, or editing. It was expected that, in the vast consortium that our university system constitutes, our own university would pay our salary, and we would donate our writing and critical-reading skills to the system in return.

The system involved a huge exchange of gifted labor that produced little in the way of profit for publishers and a lot in the way of professional solidarity and interdependence for the participants. The fact that academic journals did not compensate the way commercial magazines and newspapers did only made academic publishing seem less vulgar and more valuable.

But in recent years the academic journals have largely been taken over by for-profit publishing behemoths such as Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley-Blackwell. And quite a profit they make, too: In 2010 Elsevier reported profits of 36 percent on revenues of \$3.2-billion. Last year its chief executive, Erik Engstrom, earned \$4.6-million.

One reason those companies make good profits for their shareholders and pay such high salaries to their leaders is that they are in a position to charge high prices. The open-access debate has focused mainly on the exorbitant fees for-profit publishers charge libraries for bundles of journal subscriptions, but I am struck by what they charge ordinary citizens to read my individual articles.

For example, anyone without access to a university library who wants to read a nine-page article I wrote (free) for the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* last year will have to pay Sage \$32 to get electronic access to it for one day—more than it would cost to buy and keep a printed copy of either of my most recent books. Needless to say, Sage passes none of the \$32 on to me.

Another reason the commercial behemoths are so profitable is that their high prices are paired with the free labor of thousands of academic referees like me. Publishers can assure the quality of their products only if highly trained experts examine the articles on the academic production line and pick out the 10 percent to 20 percent that meet the highest standards for excellence. Without this free labor, the publishing companies' entire enterprise would collapse.

When I referee an article for a journal, it usually takes three to four hours of my time. Recently, two Taylor & Francis journals asked me to review article submissions for them. In each case, I was probably one of 20 to 30 people in the world with the expert knowledge to judge whether the articles cited the relevant literature, represented it accurately, addressed important issues in the field, and made an original contribution to knowledge.

If you wanted to know whether that spot on your lung in the X-ray required an operation, whether the deed to the house you were purchasing had been recorded properly, or whether the chimney on your house was in danger of collapsing, you would be willing to pay a hefty fee to specialists who had spent many years acquiring the relevant expertise. Taylor & Francis, however, thinks I should be paid nothing for my expert judgment and for four hours of my time.

So why not try this: If academic work is to be commodified and turned into a source of profit for shareholders and for the 1 percent of the publishing world, then we should give up our archaic notions of unpaid craft labor and insist on professional compensation for our expertise, just as doctors, lawyers, and accountants do.

This does not mean we would never referee articles free. Just as the lawyer who is my neighbor bills corporate clients a hefty fee but represents prisoners in Guantánamo pro bono, so academics

could referee without charge for nonprofit presses but insist on professional rates of compensation from for-profit publishers that expect us to donate our labor while paying mansion salaries to their chief executives and top managers.

We could also insist that these publishers pay a modest fee to acquire our intellectual content if they publish our articles. To prevent chaos, our professional associations could recommend standard fees for refereeing articles and for compensating authors of articles.

Corporate publishers will complain that this suggestion, if adopted, would undermine the profitability of their industry. I will leave this question to the accountants. But I do know that if a factory said it could not be profitable without paying less than minimum wage, decent people would respond that it is indecent to pay people below minimum wage for honest work.

If a for-profit business cannot prosper without demanding huge amounts of free labor, then surely the business model needs reinventing. And if enough professors refuse to referee without compensation, the reinvention will begin.

Hugh Gusterson is a professor of cultural studies and anthropology at George Mason University.