

# The★Star

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## Can the team-colored Bud Light cans, MU, KU officials demand

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS  
The Kansas City Star

Cans of Bud Light in college colors have left a bad taste in the mouths of officials at the universities of Kansas and Missouri.

At Kansas State, they're less finicky.

The Jayhawks are squawking about an Anheuser-Busch InBev "Fan Can" campaign that has stocked Lawrence store shelves with Bud Light in crimson-and-blue cans. University of Missouri Tigers are growling about it in Columbia, where the beer is being sold in black-and-gold cans to coincide with football season.

Administrators at both schools and two dozen others across the country want the beer giant to end its marketing ploy on their turf. The campaign prints cans in team colors and urges fans to show their "true colors" on game day. But neither team names nor logos appear on the cans, and the universities have no connection to the campaign.

In Manhattan — Wildcat country — university leaders said they're not worried about the brisk sales of purple-and-white cans there.

"If the cans had a university logo and had a Powercat on them, then obviously we would be concerned," said Pat Bosco, K-State vice president for student life. "We have a commitment to educating our students about underage drinking, but we don't have a trademark on purple and white."

On Tuesday, Anheuser-Busch InBev issued a statement that it would work with colleges "on a case-by-case basis," but offered no details.

"We place great value in the relationships we've built with college administrators and campus communities across the country," said Carol Clark, company vice president.

Jim Marchiony, associate athletics director at KU, says the school wrote the brewer three weeks ago to try to prevent the cans from appearing in Lawrence. So far, the school hasn't heard back from Anheuser-Busch InBev.

KU is meeting with local businesses and asking them not to order any more of the cans, Marchiony said. He said the university, which is struggling with drinking episodes that turned tragic, didn't want anyone to think KU endorsed the promotion.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton complained to the brewer after he learned that some stores in Columbia were displaying the cans beside the university's official logo.

"This is completely unacceptable and conveys the impression to the consumer that the University of Missouri is somehow supportive of this marketing effort," he said in a letter.

Officials said they also worried the cans might appeal to underage drinkers.

The Anheuser-Busch InBev statement emphasized the company's position on college drinking: "If students are 21 or older and choose to drink, we want them to do so responsibly; if they are under 21, we want them to respect the law and not drink."

Mason Heilman, president of the KU Student Senate, said, "I don't think red-and-blue cans are going to have an effect on whether someone chooses to drink or not, but it may have an effect on what brand they choose."

He said that "from a business perspective, the campaign is a good idea. But from a campus perspective, I don't think the campaign is very positive for the university."



## Swine flu advisory asks sick students to stay home

By Janese Heavin

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Some University of Missouri students will have a good reason to skip class this fall. Swine flu has found its way to campus, and those affected are being asked to stay home.

An initial group of MU students tested positive for H1N1, confirming its presence on campus, said Susan Even, director of the Student Health Center. Other students have since complained about flu-like symptoms thought to be H1N1 because it's too early in the year for the seasonal flu.

Some media outlets have reported that 48 MU students have been affected by swine flu, but that's inaccurate, Even said, because not all students are reporting the illness to the health center on campus. "That's an underestimation of the number of students experiencing flu-like symptoms," she said.

In an e-mail announcement yesterday, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton urged students not to go to class if they're sick and to stay away until they've had a temperature of below 100 degrees for at least 24 hours without medicine.

Students suffering from flu symptoms are encouraged to call health professionals for advice on how to treat it and to see whether a doctor's visit is warranted, Even said. Those with more severe symptoms should seek immediate care.

Provost Brian Foster e-mailed faculty asking them to relax attendance policies and to consider using technology to stay in touch with students who are home sick. Faculty members also should have plans in place if they get sick, he wrote.

Swine flu is worse on the University of Kansas campus. The Kansas City Star reported Friday that at least 284 students there have been affected.

College students are especially at risk for swine flu. People younger than 25 are being hit the hardest because they've not been exposed to similar viruses that might have built immunity, Even said. And campuses are high-risk settings because students are in close contact in residential halls and classrooms.

Swine flu first became a concern in April, but MU didn't see much activity because the semester ended soon after and many people left campus for the summer. In May, MU graduate student

Xueyang Bao, 30, was diagnosed with swine flu when he traveled to China. He had felt fatigued before the trip from Columbia, but it was not confirmed whether he had the illness here first.

More residents off campus are also reporting flu-like symptoms thought to be H1N1. "We have seen an uptick, more than we typically see at the end of August," said Geni Alexander, spokeswoman for the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services.

In mid-October, 300,000 doses of swine flu vaccine are expected to arrive in Boone County. MU and other area colleges plan to provide the vaccines to students.

In the meantime, a few common sense health practices — washing hands often and sneezing into a sleeve instead of a hand — should help minimize the spread.

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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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Keeping kids safe from the swine flu, H1N1 virus

By: Aisha Sultan

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The swine flu has hit the Clayton School District and **the University of Missouri-Columbia**, where sick students are being urged to stay at home. Child care centers and schools are taking precautions. Our gym has posted a sign requiring all children to use antibacterial lotion when they enter and exit the child care facility.

Medical Director of Cinergy Health, Dr. Erika Schwartz offers these tips on preventing swine flu infection.

#### Swine Flu Prevention Tips:

1. Wash your hands as often as you can and certainly before you eat.
2. Do not touch your face and mouth with your hands.
3. Get 8 hours of sleep every night.
4. Eat three meals a day that balance complex carbohydrates, protein and are chock full of fruit and vegetables. Stay away from prepared and preserved foods.
5. Drink 6 glasses of water and 2 cups of green tea a day.
6. Exercise 6 days a week to feel better, not to exhaustion.
7. Stay away from sick people and don't go to work if you are sick. If we care for each other we won't be spreading the flu.
8. Address stressors in your life and limit their impact.

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# theman eater

Actions taken to control H1N1 at MU

*Students are urged to stay home if sick with flu-like symptoms.*

**By The Maneater Staff**

Published Sept. 1, 2009

Forty-eight students were showing flu-like symptoms as of Friday, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

MU has learned from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that any person exhibiting flu-like symptoms should treat the illness as H1N1 influenza, Basi said.

No further cases on campus will be tested and no updated count of how many students with H1N1 symptoms will become available, Chancellor Brady Deaton said in an e-mail to students Monday.

"Novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) is present at MU," Deaton said in his e-mail. "The severity appears to be relatively mild, comparable to the seasonal influenza that occurs every winter, and medical intervention is usually not necessary. Following the recommendations of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MU is no longer testing for novel H1N1 influenza."

Eddie Hedrick, emerging infections coordinator for the department, said because the virus is known to be throughout Missouri, it doesn't matter whether a specific case is the regular seasonal flu or H1N1.

"Treatment is the same for both," Hedrick said. "In fact, H1N1 has basically become the seasonal flu by crowding out the other flu viruses in existence. However, this new strain is more contagious, it can survive the summer temperatures, and it has milder symptoms. Our big concern is that if the virus mutates, it could become more dangerous."

Beginning late October, a vaccine for the virus will be available through the Student Health Center at no cost to students, Basi said.

"When the health center requested the vaccine, they indicated the population of campus, that's what we requested, but we're going to have to wait and see how many they can give to us," Basi said. "That is unknown at this time."

Student Health Center Director Susan Even said the center will hold outreach vaccine clinics in locations on campus to vaccinate a large number of students. The vaccine will require two doses, about three weeks apart, she said.

Whether students will take advantage of the vaccine is another unclear issue. Freshman Allison Becker, who was exposed to swine flu over the summer while working at a children's camp, said she would most likely not get the vaccine.

This is not to say MU students haven't been directly affected by the swine flu. Over the summer, five students were quarantined in South Korea while training to teach at a summer English camp for Korean children. Senior Megan Holly was one of the students quarantined.

"We were quarantined from the first day we got there on July 18," Holly said. "Our first week there, the South Korean government already had it planned out that we were going to be quarantined while we were in training."

Holly said she didn't start feeling sick until the end of the first week and felt like she was coming down with something similar to the common cold. It wasn't until she could tell she had a fever that she knew she had contracted the virus. Having a fever is an essential symptom of H1N1.

The chancellor's e-mail also includes more specifics and information on avoiding and coping with the virus. Students are instructed to only return to work or class once their body temperature has been less than 100 degrees for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU students to pay for previously covered tests at health center

By Andrew C. Jenkins

September 2, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Students will pay this semester for some of the most common lab tests and procedures at the **MU Student Health Center**.

On July 1, the health center began charging for certain tests that had been covered in the \$92.78 health fee all students taking more than six credit hours are required to pay.

About 85 percent of the health center's budget depends on the prepaid fee, said Ann Nadler, manager of the health center. The fee helps cover the center's medical equipment and employees' salaries.

Recent legislation has restricted the student health fee from increasing more than the consumer price index, Nadler said, so the health center made the decision to start charging for lab tests to help cover the increasing operating costs.

"One of the biggest things we're concerned with is that we don't want costs to be a barrier," Nadler said.

The health fee still continues to cover unlimited office visits with physicians or advanced practice nurses in the primary care clinic and unlimited visits to health education professionals. The fee also covers four visits to a psychiatrist and four visits to a psychologist per semester.

"We don't want to change anything more than we have to," Nadler said.

Freshman Alecia Brandenburg, 18, said she has never been to the health center and doesn't have a basis for comparison. Still, she said, "I don't know if paying for them is in people's budgets right now."

The health center's Web site states students will now be charged for lab procedures such as strep tests, mononucleosis tests and complete blood counts. The fees range from \$10 to \$50.

So far, Nadler said, most students have been all right with paying a nominal fee for lab tests.

Lindsay Gilmer, 22, a sophomore transfer student, said that at her previous school, Kentucky Christian University, some lab tests cost \$5.

"I think it's ridiculous that you have to pay for them at all, since it's something you need," Gilmer said.

The health center will also help students process charges to their insurance. However, the health center is "in network" for two insurers: Aetna Student Health, which is the university-sponsored insurer, and TRICARE, a military insurance provider.

As for the other insurance companies not in network for the health center, Nadler said some might pay for services and some might not.

Nadler does not anticipate any other new health charges for this school year.

"We want students to feel welcome to come to us," Nadler said, "but the bottom line is that we do have to cover expenses."

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Shrinking retirement funds put pressure on Missouri to find alternatives

By Virginia Young

POST-DISPATCH JEFFERSON CITY BUREAU

Wednesday, Sep. 02 2009

JEFFERSON CITY — A guaranteed monthly pension check — with annual increases — is a dream in the private sector. But it's a given in state government.

Taxpayers will spend more than \$375 million this year for Missouri's two main state retirement systems. The tab will grow next year — by up to \$85 million, according to one estimate — because more public money will be needed to offset losses in stock market investments held by the pension plans.

Scrutiny of government pension systems has mounted in Missouri, Illinois and across the country as private sector workers lose pensions or see their 401(k)s shrink. Many states, grappling with budget shortfalls caused by the recession, are rolling back benefits or requiring workers to contribute more to their pensions.

For example, the University of Missouri recently began requiring employees on all its campuses to chip in to their retirement fund. And Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed a system in which new state hires would get far less generous benefits than those already on the public payroll or retired.

Now some public officials say it's time for a close look at the cost of the

Missouri State Employees Retirement System, or MOSERS, and the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees Retirement System.

"Are certain benefits too generous?" asks Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, a leader in crafting retirement legislation. "I am very interested in looking at all of our benefit packages, including the fact that right now MOSERS does not have an employee contribution."

Echoing the call for a review is Gov. Jay Nixon's top budget official, Commissioner of Administration Kelvin Simmons. He said eight states commissioned studies of their pension plans last year.

"When you have an economy like we're experiencing, everything should be on the table to discuss," Simmons said. "You want to know the affordability of the system."

#### NO TAB FOR EMPLOYEES

MOSERS covers about 55,000 state workers and 30,000 retirees, ranging from conservation agents to judges. A separate system covers 8,800 workers and 7,500 retirees in the Missouri Highway Patrol and Department of Transportation.

Both systems offer what's called a "defined-benefit" plan. That means retirees receive guaranteed monthly payouts that aren't tied to employee contributions. In fact, employees make no contributions to their pensions. All the money comes from taxpayers and investment income.

Such retirement systems calculate how much they need each year to accumulate

enough money over an employee's working life to pay the promised benefit. If stock prices fall, the government pays more.

"There's an incentive to promise that the future government will honor whatever commitments the current government is making," said **Joe Haslag, an economics professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia**. "If you enjoy being in government and want to get re-elected, the incentive is to provide as many services as you can."

Generally, pensions are based on a percentage of the employee's final salary the last several years, multiplied by the number of years the person worked for the state.

For example, for a 30-year employee in the MOSERS system, the formula guarantees a base benefit equal to 51 percent of the person's average salary the last three years.

Career state workers can retire as early as age 48 under a special incentive called "80 and out" — the person's age and service equals at least 80.

Younger retirees draw an extra incentive payment until they turn 62. That boosts a 30-year employee's initial pension to 75 percent of the person's average salary. The payments rise with inflation.

#### WHO GETS THE MOST

Overall, the biggest check paid by MOSERS as of June 2009 went to a retired university president: former Truman State University President Jack Magruder.

He draws \$151,188 a year.

Magruder, 74, was surprised to learn that he tops the list. He taught high school for two years before spending 39 years at Truman, starting as a chemistry professor in 1964.

He credited his No. 1 ranking to his lengthy service and final salary of \$200,000 a year.

"There's not many people who had 41 years in the system who ended as president of the institution," said Magruder, who presided over Truman as it built a national reputation as a highly selective school.

Only six Missouri state retirees draw more than \$100,000 a year. In addition to Magruder and longtime Missouri Southern State University President Julio Leon, the top beneficiaries include a retired mental health administrator, a psychiatrist and two judges.

Judges benefit from a lucrative formula that allows them to receive up to half of their salaries as pensions if they have at least 12 years of service.

Likewise, statewide elected officials — the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor and attorney general — can receive up to half of their salaries after 12 years of service.

Five former Missouri governors draw pensions. The amounts range from \$19,596 a year for Democrat Joe Teasdale, who served one four-year term, to the maximum benefit of \$66,900 a year for Democrat Bob Holden and Republican John Ashcroft.

Holden and Ashcroft also served in the Legislature or other statewide offices.

#### TOP LEGISLATIVE PENSIONS

The top legislative pension — \$56,844 a year — goes to former Sen. John Russell, R-Lebanon. Russell, 77, served 42 years in the House and Senate.

"It's \$1,300 and some dollars for each year I served in the Legislature," Russell said. "That is the annual amount. There's probably a lot of people who think that's way too much, but it's not very much per year of service."

A former member of the MOSERS board of trustees, Russell said stable pensions were sometimes viewed as the silver lining for relatively low-paying state jobs.

Russell's pension dwarfs the \$31,351 salary he drew during his last term as a legislator. Russell said he used to joke with another senior legislator about how much money they were losing each year by staying in the Legislature.

However, the system did compensate older retirees for working longer. Russell received retroactive cost-of-living increases for working past age 65. When he retired at age 73, Russell got about eight years of cost-of-living increases added on to his starting benefit.

After Russell, the second-highest legislative pension goes to former House Speaker Bob Griffin, D-Cameron. He draws \$56,436 for 38 years in government.

In 1997, Griffin was sentenced to four years in prison for bribery and mail

fraud. State law was changed in 1999 to require forfeiture of pensions if a legislator or statewide official is convicted of a felony connected with his or her duties.

Current legislators won't get close to Russell's and Griffin's pensions.

Russell and Griffin's amounts were calculated under an old system that awarded legislators \$150 a month for each two-year General Assembly served. Newer legislators' pensions are calculated under a salary-based system that caps amounts at 100 percent of pay.

Also, with term limits, legislators can serve no more than eight years in the House and eight years in the Senate. Eight years results in an annual base pension of \$11,964 when the legislator reaches age 55. Adjustments are pegged to increases in legislative salaries.

#### CHANGES AFOOT

Illinois' shortfall in its five pension systems — currently some \$45 billion — has been an albatross on the state's finances for decades, as it struggles to pay about \$4 billion a year in interest on that debt. This year, the state had to borrow heavily to make that payment.

Scores of other states are grappling with huge investment losses in their retirement systems, according to a report released last month by the Denver-based National Conference of State Legislatures.

The study found that six states already have reduced benefits for new

employees. For example, Texas increased the age and years of service required for retirement and reduced the benefit available to those who take early retirement.

At least four states — Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire and Texas — increased the contributions required from new employees. Typically, states cannot cut benefits promised to those already hired.

"Almost every state will have to address pension funding and security in the near future," said Ron Snell, director of state services for the conference.

Crowell, the senator who often sponsors retirement laws in Missouri, also serves on the MOSERS board of trustees, which will decide this month how much taxpayers must pony up next year. Crowell said early estimates show the increase will be sizable, taking money from other programs.

"You're looking at between a \$65 million and \$85 million increase in a state contribution rate to fund state employee retirement," Crowell said. "Unless we make our retirement systems sustainable in the future, we're not going to be able to afford education or health care."

Similar pressures recently forced the University of Missouri system to begin requiring employees to pay up to 2 percent of their salaries into the pension plan. While most regional colleges belong to MOSERS, the UM system has its own pension plan and is not part of the MOSERS system.

Haslag, the MU economics professor, said public pension systems should consider establishing a hybrid system that combines a defined-benefit plan with a

defined-contribution plan, such as a 401(k).

That way, employees would bear part of the risk. They also would have a portable pension that they could take with them to other jobs or pass on to their heirs.

"There's just no easy solution," said Haslag, who also works as executive vice president of the Show-Me Institute, a free-market think tank in St. Louis County. "Nobody has a plan that everybody's going to be happy with."

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