

Five leading candidates express
their views on higher education

The Governor's race

By MARTY OETTING

The future of the University will largely be determined by the outcome of the November 1992 elections, says Dr. David Leuthold, professor of political science at MU. "We will have a new leader, and perhaps a new attitude in the legislature toward education and MU." In addition to overseeing statewide education policy, the next governor will make at least five appointments to the UM System Board of Curators.

This spring, some common educational themes emerged among the top contenders — Democrats Mel Carnahan and Vince Schoemehl, and Republicans Wendell Bailey, Roy Blunt and Bill Webster. All five agree higher education needs more money, but they differ on where the money should come from and how it should be spent. They also cite a need for better statewide coordination between universities and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Interviews with these five frontrunners follow.

Other Democratic candidates who will appear on the August primary ballot include: Sharon Rogers of Wright City, Mary J. Johnson of Kansas City, Elmer Dapron of St. Louis, Cedric Nazee Hawkins of Kansas City and Anthony "Tony" Cox of Brentwood. Additional Republican candidates are Dwight Watts of Joplin and Fred Salmons of Auxvasse.

Packing clout for MU

This summer, MU-PAC, a political action committee of students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and other friends of the University, will let candidates know with a check that their support of higher education and MU is appreciated.

After the August primary, PAC's 12-member board of directors will chose candidates to support. The contributions will be delivered by members of the MU Alumni Association's Legislative Information Network Committee.

In 1989 and 1990, MU-PAC raised \$12,000 to contribute to candidates who were supportive of

higher education and MU. Of 87 candidates receiving PAC funds in 1990, 77 won.

Contributions came from 175 individuals — mostly MU faculty — who donated an average of \$70 each.

PAC Co-chairman Dr. David Leuthold, a political science professor, says the group hopes to bolster campaign chests again this year.

"One of the most effective ways to play a role in electing legislators who support higher education and MU is to make contributions to their campaigns," Leuthold says. "That is what MU-PAC is all about."

For more information, call Leuthold at (314) 882-6510 or Dr. Allen Hahn at (314) 882-3837, or write to MU-PAC at P.O. Box 7081, Columbia, Mo. 65205.

Bailey



State Treasurer Wendell Bailey campaigns from his Checker taxicab in August 1991.

St. Louis Post Dispatch photo

Wendell Bailey drives around the state in an old Checker taxicab and says he accepts no campaign contributions of more than \$100. Serving the average citizen — not special interests — is the purpose of elected officials, the state treasurer says.

His philosophy carries over to higher education, which he says should be available to all Missourians at a reasonable cost.

"I like to speak about higher education in the words of architect Frank Lloyd Wright when he used the term 'form follows function,'" Bailey says. "When I think of the function of higher education, I think of a quality education at a reasonable cost to a broad base of students."

The function of the governor and the legislature, Bailey says, is to provide funds that allow education to meet those needs.

Bailey supports more funding for higher education and says he would consider eliminating certain sales tax exemptions for retailers and large boat owners and earmarking lottery proceeds to provide more revenues.

He is concerned about changes taking place in the University of Missouri System, particularly that there will be fewer students at MU.

"I don't see how 'smaller but better' fits my definition of higher education," he said during a visit to MU in April. "If it means that a student who wants to go to the University of Missouri cannot, then who's that better for? If it means a student doesn't go to college because the fees are so high, who's that better for?"

Bailey also is concerned about a perception that the curators and the University are at odds over mission statements and that recent curator appointments were given to persons who wanted to change drastically the direction of the University.

As governor, Bailey says he would hope to build a new attitude in the state toward education by encouraging partnerships between higher education, business and government. He also favors providing increased research funding for higher education programs related to infrastructure technologies, such as engineering.

Bailey mentions MU's programs in medicine, veterinary medicine and engineering as strengths, but the extension program is what has impressed him most.

"In the part of the state I come from, the only contact we had with the University was through extension," Bailey says. "People from extension helped us with economic development, plant locations and other technical assistance so many times, so I've got a very warm spot for extension."

Bailey says media coverage of changes at the University in past months has led him to believe MU is no longer held in high regard as it once was. As governor he would want to change that.

"Working with the legislature to provide adequate funds is an important first step," Bailey says. "And we must provide quality curators who have a progressive view."

Bailey says he wouldn't feel obligated to contributors when choosing curators. He favors developing a pool of candidates to draw from when vacancies occur. "I'd look for people who are in love with the University, and then pick from that group the person who can do the best job."

He is pleased with Missouri's top treasury ranking and likes to mention the state's AAA credit rating. "We're all very proud of that," he says, "and we should be equally as proud of having a AAA University System. That's what we should be striving for."

Party	Republican
Occupation	Treasurer of Missouri
Age	51
Education	BS BA, Southwest Missouri State University
Birthplace	Willow Springs, Mo.
Experience	Elected Treasurer '84, '88 U.S. Congress, '80 State Representative, '72, '74, '76, '78
Spouse	Jane
Children	Michael, 27 John, Arts '86, 25 Jill, 23

Blunt



History buff Roy Blunt, known for broadcasting Missouri trivia on television, was a candidate for lieutenant governor in 1980.

Columbia Missourian photo

The classroom is a familiar place for Secretary of State Roy Blunt — he has taught history and American government at both high school and college levels. As governor, he says he would foster a “renaissance” of education during the decade of the ’90s.

Blunt recalls a chapter about education in a 1904 Missouri history book.

“It was sad to read through that chapter because we were so proud of what we were doing at that time,” Blunt says. “There was such pride in what those Missourians saw as a university, which was clearly going to become one of the great universities in the world. We really need to recapture that feeling.”

Blunt says his experience as a teacher gives him a different perspective on education, and he sees opportunities for improvement.

“We need to do a better job of utilizing our institutions of higher education to provide people with skills that can help create jobs and also in interfacing our campuses and the assets on those campuses with the private sector,” he says.

He was chairman of Gov. John Ashcroft’s Opportunity 2000 Commission, which set goals to place Missouri at 25th in the nation in spending per pupil on education. It is in the low 30s now. “That is still my goal,” Blunt says.

He supports a constitutional amendment requiring 50 percent of general revenue to go to elementary, secondary and higher education. Education currently receives about 47 percent.

“The best solution is to take the dollar figure out of the hands of the legislature and let the legislature be innovative in how to use those dollars,” he says. “Then we’d be debating how we are going to spend the

education budget, not how big it should be.”

Blunt says Missourians probably wouldn’t support a tax increase for education in the near future, but they would respond to better results in the classroom.

“Missourians need to hear some success stories, and if I’m governor I’m going to find those stories,” he says. “We need to be talking about those successes and letting Missourians know that more resources could provide more successes instead of more business as usual.”

He also supports better statewide coordination among higher education institutions.

“We can’t be the best at things if we try to do them everywhere,” he says. “I think MU should be the best graduate school in the state and should be at the same time the most difficult undergraduate school to get in to.”

About MU’s wide range of programs, he says, “We need to think of what we can be best at. Maybe it’s a unique combination of things that can happen on a campus like MU,” he says, listing as examples medicine, veterinary medicine, agriculture, and arts and science. “You don’t find that in very many places in the country.”

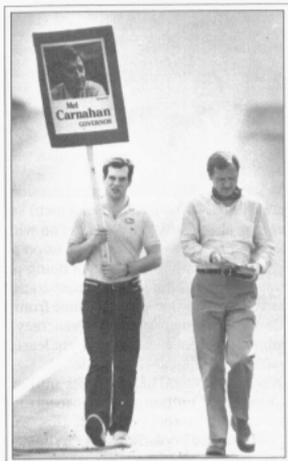
Blunt would look for people of “extraordinary capability” in making curator selections. Running a major university is much like running a large venture of any kind, he says. “And I think to some extent they also need to reflect the diversity of our state in terms of geography.”

His goal is to see pride in education return to the level seen in the 1904 history book.

“There’s nothing I’d like better after being governor in the 1990s than to have the 2004 history of Missouri talk about the ’90s as the decade when we came back to the forefront of education.”

Party	Republican
Occupation	Secretary of State
Age	42
Education	BA, history, Southwest Baptist University MA, history, Southwest Missouri State University
Birthplace	Strafford, Mo.
Experience	Elected Secretary of State '84, '88 Two years as County Official for Greene County
Spouse	Roseann
Children	Matthew, 22 Amy, 19 Andrew, 16

Carnahan



Joined by aide Mark Buxton, Mel Carnahan walks the state in the 1984 gubernatorial campaign.

St. Louis Post Dispatch photo

Lt. Gov. Mel Carnahan thinks education in Missouri has taken a beating, and if elected governor he says he is ready to do something about it.

Carnahan says he is frustrated with the "all talk and no action" attitude state government has had toward education in recent years. He proposes a "simple" ballot issue to provide more education funding.

"I think the governor ought to be the premier leader in support for education and in promoting that support to the public, and I don't think you do that by beating on teachers, on schools, on colleges and universities, and by berating education," Carnahan says. "These are all negative messages to the kind of positive support we need for education."

Carnahan says he feels close to MU after earning a law degree there in 1959 and sending three children through the School of Law.

As governor, Carnahan says he would create a positive atmosphere for education. "We've got to think in terms of partnerships between higher education, business and government, all working toward a plan for a better economy and better quality of life for the people in Missouri," he says.

He proposes developing a state-wide strategic economic growth plan that would include education. Part of the plan would be developed with input from institutions, students, alumni and business leaders. "It would be a guide for how we spend our public resources on higher education," he says.

Once in place, Carnahan says the plan would ease concerns on the part of Missouri voters about tax changes for education.

"This would be different than Proposition B in that it would be a very clear plan," Carnahan says. "It would literally be a referendum in

support of education."

Carnahan wants to see funding to update laboratory and computer equipment, maintenance and repair, faculty salaries, community college enhancement and student financial aid. MU, he says, would have much to gain.

"I easily think of MU as our premier university," he says. "We need to build on our strengths there and not just let it fade away." He mentions medicine, journalism, law and agriculture as examples of strong programs.

Carnahan says reorganization in the UM System is another example of how any institution must re-evaluate in times of financial crisis.

"Fiscal realities have just dictated the actions that are to be taken, and until there's new support that's the way you have to do it."

Such reallocation from the institutional standpoint is important, he says, but the state must also do its part to provide adequate resources.

"For us to aspire to world-class education and be a leader in so many areas, but be last in our financial support, that is ludicrous," he says. "These two are not going to continue to coexist."

Carnahan says he would seek curators with dedication, knowledge and experience in education. "I don't want people on there with axes to grind in particular areas," he says. "Curator positions are not simply plums to be given to supporters. They are serious, long-term governmental positions."

He says the chance to improve education was a primary incentive for entering the governor race.

"If I knew I could not improve higher education, I wouldn't run," Carnahan says. "There are lots of needs that are important, but there is absolutely no need in the state that is greater than education."

Party Democrat
 Occupation Lieutenant Governor of Missouri
 Age 58
 Education BA, government, George Washington University
 JD '59, MU
 Birthplace Birch Tree, Mo.
 Experience Elected Lieutenant Governor '89
 Treasurer, '80
 State Representative, '62, '64
 Spouse Jean
 Children Roger, JD '80, 36
 Russ, BSPA '79, JD '83, 33
 Robin, 30
 Tom, 23, MU law student

Schoemehl



In 1978, Vince Schoemehl serves as alderman of the 28th Ward in St. Louis.

St. Louis Post Dispatch photo



When St. Louis Mayor Vince Schoemehl talks about higher education, the concept of a high-speed bullet train between Kansas City and St. Louis is likely to come up.

"Suddenly the major research institution is a half-hour train ride away from your two major population centers," he says. "The need for duplicating research materials, libraries and other facilities goes away. Columbia could almost become a commuter campus."

The train would be one of his major goals as governor. In the meantime, he sees a need for better statewide coordination, which includes a focused mission plan for higher education. Such planning would help alleviate what he calls the "annual mudwrestling match" in Jefferson City as institutions compete for funds.

Schoemehl attended MU for one year before moving back to St. Louis to finish his degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He remembers washing dishes at Harris' Cafe in downtown Columbia for \$1.25 an hour and living in Stafford Hall.

Schoemehl has made several trips to MU since then, including a March tour of the Campus. He is promoting the use of alternative fuels in Missouri and says MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources would play a central role in developing new fuel policy.

Schoemehl says he is committed to providing at least \$200 million more for higher education in his first four years in office. He proposes dealing with emergency issues such as maintenance and repair in the first year, and allocating remaining funds based on the education plan.

"I would take 1993 as a year of planning for higher education and then go into the 1994 legislative session with a plan not only for funding

but also for a stated mission for higher education," Schoemehl says. "Then everyone could get on with the business of doing education as opposed to the business of doing politics."

Under his administration, the new funding would come from streamlining the state bureaucracy, which he says has grown by at least 20 percent in the last decade.

"There's \$250 million to \$300 million per year in recurring expenses associated with that many extra people," he says. "With computers, it shouldn't take more people to do the same amount of work."

As for curator appointments, Schoemehl says he would select candidates with an "envisionary view" of higher education to serve as long-term planners for the University.

"Now there is a terse, formal, almost distant relationship among the curators and faculty and administration," he says. "That is unfortunate, because in my view they should be collaborating with leadership of the campuses. There needs to be a real intellectual interaction among the curators, faculty and administration."

He sees MU's research and graduate programs as strengths today. MU's biggest problem, he says, is the political struggle between campuses in the University System. "That comes out of a failure to have a strategic plan," he says. "MU has been on the defense for the past 10 years. Columbia needs to be reassured it is going to remain the flagship research institution in the state."

He cited his education as a determining factor in his ability to run for office. "I have a very direct experience that tells me you can in fact create new futures for people by creating an education system that is good, accessible and financially available," he says. "As governor, that is what I intend to do."

Party Democrat

Occupation Mayor of St. Louis

Age 45

Education BA, history, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Birthplace St. Louis

Experience Third term as St. Louis Mayor
Former Alderman

Spouse Lois

Children Tim, 14
Joseph, 12



Attorney General Bill Webster gives the keynote address at the opening of the Fulton (Mo.) Reception and Diagnostic Center in 1987.

St. Louis Post Dispatch photo

Confusion over the state lottery funds and the cost of school desegregation are crippling education in Missouri, says Attorney General Bill Webster, and he plans to tackle both problems head-on if elected governor.

"I felt Proposition B was inadequate to deal with the real needs of higher education. The price tag in my mind was more like \$350 million at a minimum," Webster says. "If it had passed, Proposition B would only have provided half of that, and the needs of higher education have not diminished since, in fact, they've increased."

To provide better education funding, Webster is proposing a streamlined state administration, earmarked lottery revenues and alternatives to funding court-ordered desegregation costs in Kansas City and St. Louis out of education budgets.

Webster wants to be sure dollars allocated to higher education are being spent efficiently by refining mission statements for colleges and universities and developing a statewide plan to avoid duplication.

"The need for coordination and clearly defined missions becomes much more important in the years ahead because we're never going to have enough resources for every institution to be all things to all people," he says.

Webster wants to see universities work closely with industry in creating new jobs and conducting research to help meet state needs.

"We need to define our mission with an eye toward how it fits within the overall goal of the state's economy," he says.

State government should conduct a thorough evaluation of how money is spent as well, Webster says. Requiring periodic reauthorization of state boards, commissions and agen-

cies to determine if they are still needed is an example of how state government could be streamlined.

"That would force the state to address how we are spending our resources and understand that, just as we ask the universities to prioritize departments and programs and personnel from top to bottom, we have to do the same thing," he says.

In his education budget he sees \$70 million in new funding from earmarking lottery revenues, \$150 million in savings by paying desegregation costs through bonds, and savings from a leaner state government.

Webster says he is pleased with what he sees at the state's flagship campus. "MU fulfills both its historical mission as a land-grant institution and also its mission as a teaching and research center," he says. "It has the fundamentals to be a pre-eminent national institution in many areas."

He is concerned, however, about the increasing burden placed on students through tuition hikes and the loss of many high caliber faculty at MU through retirement. Other concerns include the need for funds to repair and maintain buildings at the state's oldest public university.

And he notes the importance of Board of Curator appointments he would make as governor.

"I believe it's useful to have curators who have a personal association with the institution," he says. "For example, one person on the board ought to live in mid-Missouri and have a strong identification with MU as the flagship campus."

He would seek curators who understand the importance of governing large universities. "It's vitally important to the economic survival of our state," he says. "That's too important to be left to people who are just interested in getting good seats at the football game." □

Party Republican

Occupation Attorney General of Missouri

Age 38

Education BA, speech communications, University of Kansas
JD, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Birthplace Carthage, Mo.

Experience Elected Attorney General '84, '88
State Representative, '80, '82

Spouse Susan

Children Jonathan, 9
Mark, 8
David, 2