KU professor takes aim at religious right

LAWRENCE (AP) — More than anything, Robert Minor views his new book as cultural commentary. But he hopes it serves another role, "It's sort of like an intervention," he says.

The Kansas University professor's book, "When Religion Is an Addiction," may become his most controversial. He suggests that some members of the religious right have become addicted to their church activities that they have to continue advancing their causes to get new "highs."

"It's like any addiction," he says. "At some point, it doesn't do the trick for you, so you need to strengthen it. Religion wasn't enough for them, so they entered politics to get a stronger affirmation of righteousness."

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Minor is expecting to rile people on all sides of the political spectrum.

Minor has been a professor of religious studies at KU since 1977. His areas of study and teaching include religions of south Asia, sexuality and religion and gender.

His previous books include "Scared Straight" and "Gay and Healthy in a Sick Society."

He says he's been thinking about the concept of religious addiction for years, and he admits it's not a new concept. Religious scholars and authors such as John Bradshaw and Leo Booth have written about it before.

But Minor hopes to cast it in terms of the rise of the religious right in the past 20 to 30 years.

He says the high of advancing beliefs through political activism has replaced the highs of church activity.

"Like the family drunk," he writes in the book's introduction, "they are high on a bender, and their current drink is political."

The addiction can manifest itself in other ways, Minor says, including "winning a political battle, doing political work, feeling like you're doing the work of the Lord ... more Bible readings, more studies, more testimonials."

He gives the example of gay unions and marriage as an issue. Passing the federal Marriage Protection Act wasn't enough, he says. Conservatives then decided to work for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, or work so gays can't adopt children.

"The fix never lasts, so you need another issue," he said.

Minor doesn't profess to be a psychologist, so he doesn't know the exact cause of the religious addiction. But he thinks it is connected to low self-esteem issues, because some fundamental Christians believe they "serve eternal child abuse from a heavenly father," and that "you can only be OK if somebody else (God) likes you," he says.

And, he says, the media has helped further the right-wing cause. He notes a study by the watchdog group Media Matters of America that said right-wing religious leaders were interviewed, quoted or mentioned 3.8 times as often as other religious issues.

Minor blames liberals for enabling conservatives in their religious and political changes through the years.

Though the concept of religious addiction has been around for decades, it's "safe to say that field is still in its infancy" in terms of scientific and clinical research, says Steve Ildari, a KU associate professor of psychology.

Ildari says chemical or substance addictions tend to activate the same reward pathways of the brain that "process addictions" — such as gambling or binge eating — also activate.

But, Ildari says, there is "enormous controversy in the literature right now" when it comes to determining what qualifies as a process addiction, which is the area where Minor's idea of religious addiction would fit.

The big factor clinically speaking, Ildari says, is whether there's harm in religious involvement.

"Religious addiction" — what does that mean? he asks. "Does it mean a person who spends hours a week in religious practice at church or at meetings, who reads the Bible daily or prays daily, and it's somewhat rewarding to them? Are they addicted? From a clinical perspective, I would say no, unless it's something that's clearly harmful."
KU Develops System For Issuing Emergency Alerts

LAWRENCE (AP) - More than three months after a gunman killed more than 30 people at Virginia Tech, officials at the University of Kansas have begun testing a system to alert students and faculty to similar on-campus emergencies.

The new system allows police and fire officials to notify the university's public safety dispatchers of potential emergencies and then relay an emergency message to one building or the entire campus.

"That's pretty powerful," said Bob Rombach, the university's fire marshal and architect for Design and Construction Management.

Rombach said officials at Virginia Tech had limited options in April when they tried to issue a campuswide alert between two series of shootings by a student.

He said his school's new system can handle alerts for hazardous spills, terror threats or anything else "that arises in today's crazy world."

Last month, the university approved installation of a $10,000 to $12,000 fire alarm system that builds on the university's past efforts to replace standard warning horns with speakers that also direct people to safety in the event of a tornado.

The speaker alerts will ensure more of the campus is aware of an emergency, said Ralph Oliver, the university's police chief. He said emergency officials now rely on mass e-mailed messages that would miss people not near a computer.

By the end of the month, workers will have tested the system in 16 buildings on campus. Several other buildings also will receive fire alarm upgrades by the end of the year, in addition to the mass notification system.

University leaders also plan to roll out a new system this fall that would send out emergency text messages to mobile devices.
Ellis schools announce new staff

The Ellis School District is proud to announce the new staff and sponsors who will be joining our system this fall. Each person brings a variety of talents to our team that will be of benefit to our students and our educational community. Individual biographies of each of our new staff members and sponsors follows.

1st Grade Teacher

**Kristi Bittel**

Kristi Bittel will be coming to us from Oklahoma City, OK with 13 years of experience, primarily in 1st grade. She has a background in technology and reading and has served in a number of teacher leadership positions during her career. Bittel was previously awarded Teacher of the Year. She will be moving to Ellis with her husband and three children. She is a native of northwest Kansas and received her Bachelors of Science from Fort Hays State University.

2nd Grade Teacher

**Kelly Hansen**

Kelly Hansen will be coming to us from Topeka, KS, with 3 years of experience, all in 2nd grade. Hansen has a background with diverse learners and has had professional development experiences with classroom management, reading instruction, and technology integration. She has always been actively involved with community service activities and will continue this practice by taking over as sponsor of the KAY program at the high school. She is a native of Hays and received her Bachelors of Science from Fort Hays State University.

3rd Grade Teacher

**Alice James**

Alice James has accepted the 3rd grade teaching opening for the 2007-2008 school year. James is a proven teacher who has been working as a Special Education teacher at WGS the last two years, earning the respect of many of her peers in the Ellis school district. She attended Colby Community College for two years on a volleyball scholarship and then received her Bachelor of Science from Fort Hays State University in May, 2004. Before becoming a special education teacher for Hays USD 489, James was a paraprofessional at WGS. She will be serving as the “C” team volleyball coach at the high school, and resides in Ellis with her husband and two young children.

7th, 8th Grade Social Studies/High School American History Teacher

**Brent Overmiller**

Brent Overmiller will be coming to us from Tabor College as a first year social studies teacher, assistant high school football coach, and junior high quiz bowl sponsor. Academically, he was an honor student in both high school and college. He also has had leadership experiences in activities and athletics throughout high school, college, and his student teaching. Overmiller grew up in Smith Center and is still active in the family farm.

7-12 Communications Technology Teacher

**Craig Amrein** has accepted the position as 7-12 Communications Technology teacher, junior high head football coach, junior high assistant
Craig Amrein

wrestling coach for the 2007-2008 school year. He will be coming to Ellis after teaching two years in LaCrosse, where he taught a number of different business and technology classes and served as an assistant high school football coach and assistant track coach. Amrein graduated from Ellis High School and then attended Dodge City Community College on a football scholarship. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Fort Hays State University. He student taught in Ellis and assisted with the wrestling program before accepting the teaching job in LaCrosse. Amrein and his wife and two young children look forward to their return to the Ellis community.

High School English and Speech

Susan Deges has accepted the position as high school English/Speech teacher and Forensics sponsor for the 2007-2008 school year. Deges graduated from LaCrosse High School and received a B.A. in English, a B.A. in Psychology, and a B.S. in Secondary Education from Fort Hays State University in 2006. She student taught at Ellis High School under Karen Madorin during the 2005-2006 school year. She is currently enrolled in a graduate program at Fort Hays State, serving as a graduate assistant while working towards her Master’s degree in English. With her educational background Ellis will be able to continue offering concurrent FHSU credit for Senior Advanced Composition. Her background in Forensics includes being a state qualifier all four years of high school and a one-time placer. She has stayed actively involved with Forensics since high school, serving as a judge at local events. She currently resides in Ogallalah with her husband and two young children.

Food Service Director

Donna Huff has accepted the position of Food Service Director for the 2007-2008 school year. Huff brings over 15 years of food service experience to this position and currently works as the Food Manager at Ellis Good Samaritan Center. Previously, she served as Food Service Director at St. Mary’s School in Ellis. She received her certification as a Certified Dietary Manager/Certified Food Protection Professional from Barton County Community College. This certification is the highest level of professional competence for dietary managers. She will begin working with Barb King this summer to make this a successful transition process.

District Office Secretary/Treasurer

Dava Gehrer

Dava Gehrer will serve as the new district office secretary/treasurer beginning mid-June. Gehrer worked 18 years for Dillons in Wichita as a secretary/bookkeeper and office manager. She has spent the last three years working as a bank teller and new accounts represen

Continued on Page 12
Ellis new staff

tative at Ellis State Bank. She is a graduate of Ellis High School and lives in Ellis with her two children. She has been an active volunteer in Ellis schools, serving on Site Council and as an officer for the Booster Club.

High School Play Sponsors/Directors

LaChelle Fitzmorris & Katy Hayden

LaChelle Fitzmorris will be serving as a co-director of the high school play next year. Fitzmorris received her Bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University, currently serves as the Vice President of Operations for InfiniTec, Inc., and resides in Hays with her husband. Her experience as a high school student included participating as an actress and stage crew in 3 productions at Otis-Bison High School. In addition, she served as an active member of the forensics team for 4 years. Since high school, she has remained active in the forensics/theatre arena as a Forensics Tournament Judge for both Otis-Bison High School and Hays High School. She has also been extensively involved in the annual Soroptimist International of Hays Melodrama since 1997. She has been involved in every aspect of this production over the past 10 years including actress in a leading role in 8 of the 10 productions, stage crew, costumes, and public relations/advertising.

Continued from Page 1

Katy Hayden will also be serving as a co-director of the high school play next year. Hayden received her Bachelor's in Secondary Education/Social Studies and her Master's in Teaching and Leadership from Kansas University. She taught social studies for five years, sponsoring a variety of student activity groups including theater club and currently stays at home with her three children in Ellis. She is active with the local PEQ chapter, which encourages and supports the furthering of education for women and works with the Christian Education committee at a local church. Her experience includes participating as an actress and stage crew in 3 productions at Otis-Bison High School, being an active member of the forensics team for 4 years, and taking theater classes while at KU.
BY TERRY ROMBECK  
Lawrence Journal-World  

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tive, I would say no, unless it’s something that’s clearly harmful."

That would include neglecting other relationships, work or other life responsibilities, Ilardi says.

"Is it impairing a person’s functioning?" Ilardi asks. "That’s the question I would want to see addressed before I’d consider labeling something a religious addiction."

Shaun LePage, pastor at Community Bible Church in Lawrence is among those questioning Minor’s logic.

"The book is just another in our psychobabble-hungry culture to declare something an ‘addiction,’” LePage says. "If it was sarcasm or parody, it might be funny. But I think Dr. Minor is completely serious."

Bill Bump, pastor at Lawrence Free Methodist Church says he doesn’t consider himself part of the "Christian right." But, after reading the online version of Minor’s book, he says he feels uncomfortable with the broad generalizations Minor makes.

"I think he’s writing from his perspective, which is fine,” Bump says. "But it’s not a book I would read or recommend. I think he paints people with too broad a stroke, talking about their personality. I can’t say everybody has the same psychology, whether they’re Democrats, Republicans, liberal or conservative."
Wells News

By Donna Adee and Polly Pearce

The county dump trucks have roared past our place all week. We wondered where they were working. Sunday night we found out. They have overlayed about five or six miles of black top on the Wells (Limestone) road meeting up with what was done coming west from Oakhill. Farmer Ed says this hot weather is great for putting down blacktop since it sinks into the cracks and holes and makes for a good covering. So there is something good that this hot steamy weather is accomplishing - filling holes with black sticky oil and making a good surface for travel this winter. I remember that main road being a gravel road back when I was in high school so having a blacktopped road is a real luxury.

Marnece Schur said Friday when Donna Adee stopped by Transitional Crossroads that she was playing the chicken scratch domino game with two other residents in the evening. She remembers several years of regularly playing chicken scratch with Wells neighbors, Charlotte Crow, Avis Comfort and Beth Hazlett, but said that everyone who plays it makes up different rules. Sunday, Richard Pieschl brought Marnece a bouquet of naked ladies, as Marie Adee used to call the pink surprise lilies.

Warren Harder said Sunday afternoon that Ila was still recovering from surgery in the hospital in Salina and he didn’t know when she would come home. On Monday, Kent Harder was taking Warren to Wichita for treatment on his eye. Our prayers are that they will be able to save his sight.

Saturday evening while returning from a visit with neighbors, Ellis and Donna Ade had almost met up with a deer. Thankfully they saw each other and missed by a few feet. Sunday evening, the Adee’s visited with Jean and Dennis Lyne of rural Oakhill. Everything is so nice and green that it hardly seems like a Kansas August. The Lynes received three inches of rain last week.

July 27, 1939 Better Way Newspaper (front page article) Launched New Sailboat - Postmaster, L. E. Harvey took a little vacation last week. He and Mrs. Harvey spent the week camping in the Sellers cabin at Lake Goodwyn. Lee said that he got a thrill Sunday when he launched his new sailboat, an outrigger canoe of the Meade Glider type. The Sea Scouts from Salina were at Lake Goodwyn Sunday also with 20 canoes and all the regular boats were out so everyone could imagine they were witnessing a regatta.

Headline: Sociologist finds study of trailer move interesting. Dr. Carroll D. Clark believes that Roger Babson made an overstatement when he predicted in 1936 that one-half of the nation would eventually be on wheels. The University of Kansas sociology department head does foresee an increase in trailer travel when the nation will become definitely mobile.

Sunnyside News: Mr. and Mrs. James Constable and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Geist were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hanes Wednesday evening. They had ice cream, which they shared with Leroy Windhorst and Gilbert Heald who were plowing on the Windhorst land.

Miss Mary McCormick, who has been teaching in Peekskill, NY arrived home Friday, having made a stop-over for visits with friends on the way.

Word from Dale McDonald of Pittsburgh, Penn. states he is back at the Allis-Chalmers factory where he started to work about a year ago. They are building a new plant.

Bible Verse: Psalms 4:7-8 You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased. I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.
155.34

Archeological exploration reveals questions, answers

BY SARAH GOODING

A routine dig as part of a sewer expansion project in Alma turned up questions about past residents of the area.

Independent Archeologist and Researcher Donna Roper, along with students from the University of Kansas and Washburn University, visited the proposed site for the city’s expanded sewer lagoons a second time during the last week of July and first week of August.

“We had surveyed it in April and had found a couple locations on the property where there were some archeological materials eroding out,” Roper said. “There were two locations – they were quite close to one another.”

Following that discovery, she recommended more formal testing be done, and that was what has taken place in the past couple weeks.

“We did test the site and evaluate it,” she said.

Testing included digging 50x50 centimeter plots between the areas previously found, and testing turned up evidence.

“We were finding some things, enough to indicate there was something there,” Roper said.

However, the evidence led her to conclude that much of what was found likely had originated someplace else and moved to the present location through water.

“I finally decided that I think what we have here was material that was somewhere else originally,” she said.

“There probably was originally a small site sitting on top of that terrace,” Roper said “As the terrace has eroded ... I think that has moved the material from its original location and maybe redeposited it on that slope.”

She said it was important for the testing to be done, because her conclusion wasn’t the only one that could have come from the dig.

“There were a couple scenarios I was looking at,” Roper said.

She said the two locations with material were within a few inches of each other in terms of elevation, which could have meant the edge of something buried in the terrace was just being exposed, a fairly frequent occurrence in archeology, and especially along the Mill Creek Valley.

And, if this had been the case, Roper said it would have been important to know.

“Archeology really is not just finding things, but it’s the study of past human behavior,” she said. “To do that we have to not just pull stuff out of the ground, but we have to consider first the context.”

This includes determining if the site is intact, how well things are preserved and how old the artifacts are, among other things.

“At this point we’re evaluating to see if it would provide the information,” she said, adding that if the site formed as she expected, by water carrying the artifacts to their present location, the answer likely is no.

But, she said it always is good to explore before infrastructure is built and that history is lost forever.

“Sewage lagoons were often built in places that were popular places for people to live in the past,” she said.
Area educators honored by KU

LAWRENCE — The School of Education at the University of Kansas has recognized more than 880 Kansas teachers with certificates honoring them for 25 years or more of service in education.

Four teachers from this area were included among the 880 educators. They are:

- USD 365 - Cynthia McGhee, Westphalia Teacher Elementary
- USD 288 - Katherine Austin, Title I Central Heights Elementary; Thomas Horstick, CHHS Principal; Kent Schulte, Counselor Central Heights Elementary.

Two teachers honored this year each have more than 40 years of service in education in Kansas.

Jerry Amos, a secondary school teacher from Kiowa, was recognized for 45 years of service in Kansas. He teaches in the South Barber County District 255.

Robert Runnebaum, secondary school principal from Kansas City, Kan., was honored for a total of 42 years of service in Kansas. He is a principal in the Piper school district 203.

“Teaching is such a vitally important career, that it is our privilege to recognize these individuals who have dedicated their lives to working with students,” said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. “As an educator and parent, I know how significant teachers are in the lives of our children. It is an honor for the School of Education to offer this small gesture of appreciation to the fine teachers across the state of Kansas who have devoted their professional careers to the field.”

Leavenworth’s Richard L. Karnosky, who teaches middle school, was honored for 40 years of teaching service, and three more teachers were honored for 39 years of teaching; Jerry Arthurs of Frontenac, who teaches secondary school in Pittsburg; Harry A. Elder of St. Joseph, Mo., who teaches and serves as an administrative assistant for the Elwood, Kan., district 4801; and Jo Tharp of Liberal, who teaches elementary school.

KU’s School of Education annually asks Kansas school district officials to recommend educators who should receive recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts statewide; some school districts do not participate in the recognition program.
Local pharmacist spends month in Peru

A student pharmacist at the Bonner Springs Price Chopper Pharmacy took part in a clinical rotation that took him to Iquitos, Peru. Bradley J. Newell, a doctoral student at the Kansas University School of Pharmacy, was one of nine KU students who took part in the rotation, which was a summer elective. The program lasted one month and covered a variety of topics, from holistic medications to culture and life in the Amazon Basin.

Students learned how medicine is practiced in South America, and met experts at local hospitals, and attended workshops on medicinal plants and agronomy at the National University of the Peruvian Amazon’s Institute of Research. In addition, the students learn from internationally known shaman Rossana Nascimento about rituals and spiritualism of the Peruvian people. A bonus of the program for students is a five-day journey down the Amazon River to visit tribes of Bora, Huitoto, and Yagua Indians and to lodge at the gallery of internationally renowned artist Francisco Grippa in Pevas, Peru.

The program is hosted by the Global Awareness Institute with founder Dr. Barbara Brodman of Nova Southeastern University, Florida. She illustrates in her lectures that medicinal plants can provide the basis for a wide range of sustainable industries that can create jobs and income for residents of the region while saving the rainforest.
New faces to be in USD 413 halls this fall

New teachers in the USD 413 district gathered at the Alliance room of the Memorial Building on Friday for orientation. The group discussed district policies and each was paired with a mentor who is a district veteran.

Steve Parsons, superintendent of USD 413, said “We believe that we have a very good group of new teachers joining our school district this year. One of the district goals is to attract and retain quality staff. We have worked hard to make our district an attractive place for prospective teachers.”

“The board has tried to make our salaries competitive and we hope that we have a good reputation of being a good place to teach, he continued. “We spend significant time in the process of interviewing and selecting new teachers. We realize that the academic success of our students is directly related to the quality of the teacher in the classroom.”

Shelly Barnow will be a fourth grade teacher at Hutton Elementary. She received her bachelor’s in education from Pittsburg State University. She previously taught third grade at Murray Hill. Barnow is a Chanute native who attended Thayer schools in her youth. She has a husband, Rob; and children Megan, 11; McKayla, 9; and Brady, 5.

Lance Burnett will be the new choir director at Royster Middle School. He received his degree from Missouri Southern State University. He previously taught band to middle and high school students for two years at Mt. Vernon, Mo., and music to middle and high school students in Vienna, Austria for four years. He has a wife, Mendy; and son, Ethan, who is eight months old.

Diana Davidson will teach biology at Chanute High School. She received her bachelor’s degree in science at Pittsburg State University. She previously taught science at Yates Center High School. She is engaged to be married to Darrin Olson.

Stephanie Edgerton will teach first grade at Hutton Elementary. She received her bachelor’s degree in education at Pittsburg State University and completed her student teaching in Mound City. She is a native of Kincaid. She has a husband, Zac; and son, Brenton.

Cindy Hager will teach technology at Royster Middle School. She holds a bachelor’s degree in animal science and master’s degree in technology. She has lived in the Thayer/Galesburg area for 24 years. She has a husband, John; a son, T.J.; and daughter, Beth.

Valerie Palmer will teach first grade at Hutton Elementary. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Pittsburg State University. She is a resident of Iola. Palmer has a husband, Don; and children Kaleb, 8; and Kyle, 3. She is the daughter of Mark and Carol Wilson, Iola.

Samantha Reinecke will teach sophomore English at Chanute High School. She received her associate degree from Neosho County Community College in 2005 and a bachelor’s degree from Pittsburg State University in 2007. She completed her student teaching at Pittsburg High School. Reinecke is a Chanute native and a 2004 graduate of Chanute High School. She has a husband, Shawn.

Wendy Wawrzewski will teach social studies at Royster Middle School. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Emporia State University and a teacher certificate at Ottawa University. Previously, Wawrzewski was a program director for the 21st Century Grant in Anderson County. She is a native of Garnett. She has a daughter, Macy Jo; and son, Trey.

Jenni Younger will be a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School. She received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and middle education from the University of Kansas. She completed her student teaching at South Park Elementary School in Merriam. She is a native of Erie. Younger has a husband, Sean, and the couple are expecting their first child.

Cathie Pryor is also new to the district and will teach math at Chanute High School. She was not present during the Friday orientation.
Teachers new to USD 413 gathered Friday for orientation. They include: (front row, from left) Shelly Barnow, Jenni Younger, Lance Burnett, Samantha Reinecke, Diana Davidson and (back row) Cindy Hager, Wendy Wawrzewski, Valerie Palmer and Stephanie Edgerton. Not pictured is Cathie Pryor.
Experience of a lifetime

Internship takes Iolan to Ecuador

By JENELLE JOHNSON
Family Living Editor

Stephen Cunningham got a taste of what it would be like to be a doctor when he traveled to Ecuador this summer to work an internship for Child and Family Health Internationals' (CFHI) Urban and Rural Comparative Health Program.

The 23-year-old is the son of Iolans Glen and Betty Cunningham and is a senior at the University of Kansas majoring in human biology. He plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2008.

Five groups of students from American universities went to Ecuador in July, which is nestled between Colombia and Peru on the Pacific Ocean in South America.

"The majority of the students were from Ivy League universities like Harvard and Stanford and then there was me and another student from Nebraska," Cunningham said.

Cunningham's group was divided into two groups of five, with each group spending two weeks in Quito and two weeks in Chone.

For a third-world country Quito's hospital was quite modern, Cunningham said.

Cunningham's two-week rotation in Quito including observing surgical procedures performed by Dr. Renan Centrano and witnessing Dr. Susana Alvear as she delivered several babies, both naturally and by Caesarian section.

"Unfortunately, many of the births were to girls ranging in ages from 14 to 16," he said.

The facilities in Chone were more rustic than Quito. The people are poorer and less educated than in the city, he said. However, the government does help the citizens with medical expenses.

The biggest problem Cunningham said he saw in Chone was a majority of the population was diabetic. Their diets often consist of foods high in sugars and carbohydrates. Once in a while chicken and fish are added to meals, but meat is an expensive commodity, he said.

Cunningham lived with host families and said, "family is very important in Ecuador and you often see several generations of one family living together."

The country is predominately Catholic and most families have four to five children.

"You should have seen the expression on my host family's faces when I told them I was one of 12 children. They didn't believe me until I got out the school photos," he said.

Cunningham said he was hesitant about going to Ecuador, but it turned out to be a wonderful experience. He not only gained medical experience but was also able to visit the Amazon River and see humpback whales swimming in the Pacific Ocean.
Stephen Cunningham spent July in Ecuador completing an internship before he enters medical school next fall.