LETTERS: Pollution credits; stolen name; ethical choice

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A stolen name

What do you suppose would happen if the Libertarian Party were to decide: "Let's call ourselves the 'Grand Old Party.' It doesn't matter that we have no historical claim to the name. It doesn't matter that the Republicans sometimes call themselves the 'GOP.' All that matters is we like the name and we think we should have it!"

What would happen if the next Democratic candidate for the Ninth Congressional District were to say: "I want to change my last name to 'Blunt.' Blunt is a fine Missouri name and communicates all of my principles and standards. No one is going to confuse me with the governor. Besides, no other candidate for the Ninth Congressional District is using that name. All that matters is that I want it and I have the power to take it!"

Politicians know the answer to these questions because they know better than most the power of symbols and the value of names. Politicians should also know that we expect them to represent all of the people all of the time, not just some of the people from one corner of the state.

When politicians take the name "Missouri State University" and give it to a school that has no claim to the name except that it wants it, these politicians take something very valuable from the faculty, the students, the alumni and the supporters of "Missouri's Great State University." We are not likely to forget.

Gordon Christensen, M.D.
Columbia, Mo.

Christensen is a professor at the University of Missouri at Columbia.