Fraternities and Sexual Assaults

May 6, 2014

BY Cory Weinberg

NO MU MENTION

Only 4 percent of male students at Wesleyan University are in fraternities, but all eyes are on the Greek system. The college has had years of tussles between fraternity brothers and administrators, with two high-profile lawsuits on rapes in fraternity houses, student outcry and media glare.

Now, on the brink of a May Board of Trustees meeting that President Michael Roth says will help decide the future of the Wesleyan Greek system, students are pushing for a radical solution to a sexual assault scourge: integrate women into the male-only fraternities.

“The culture of these houses contribute to the culture of sexual assault in a way we weren’t willing to stand for anymore,” said Nicole Updegrove, a senior who is president of the Wesleyan Student Association.

Updegrove penned the nonbinding proposal that passed the body last month, calling for all Greek chapters to become co-ed by the end of the fall semester or lose their campus houses. About 500 people, including 75 professors, signed a “call to action” backing the fraternity integration.

Nearly half the people who responded to a campuswide survey last month called fraternity spaces “less safe” than the rest of campus. The survey followed a March lawsuit that alleged that a former student was raped in the campus Psi Upsilon house while brothers and pledges watched.

“Nobody on campus is foolish enough to believe that if these all-male fraternities are reformed into coeducational societies we will have solved the challenge of sexual assault,” said Ulrich Pass, a German studies professor who helped rally faculty around the proposal. “However, it will be an important step in the right direction.”

A Wesleyan spokeswoman declined to say what exactly is on the table for a Board of Trustees meeting this month, but students and faculty expect a Greek facelift. Roth wrote on his blog last week: “It’s up to all of us to create the kind of campus climate we value, and it’s become very clear that fraternities, as presently constituted, pose challenges to that ongoing effort.”
Still, if the university takes up the idea, it will likely face a groundswell of opposition from national chapters and alumni, as well as a bevy of unanswered questions on whether integrating fraternities can actually reduce the threat of sexual violence.

The university has three residential, male-only fraternities: Psi Upsilon, Beta Theta Pi, and Delta Kappa Epsilon. The national organizations of Beta and DKE do not allow chapters to admit women, meaning the Wesleyan chapters would likely lose their charters if they were to accept women.

A 2001 report by the National Institute of Justice found that about 10 percent of sexual assaults on campuses take place in fraternity houses. But the idea of integrating fraternities is fairly untested, and “less than a handful of coed chapters, out the 5,600 chapters” are affiliated with the North-American Interfraternity Conference, said the organization’s president Pete Smithhisler.

Christopher Kilmartin, a professor of psychology at University of Mary Washington who studies gender violence, said the move could have the opposite effect from what Wesleyan advocates intend. “If it’s a rape-prone fraternity – and not all fraternities are rape-prone – if you’re going to put women in there, you’re going to create more risk, at least in the short run for them,” he said.

He added that the move would be effective with the right mix of policies that improve sexual assault education and social power structure. “Just throwing them in there is a mistake without doing more,” he said.

Alan D. DeSantis, a professor of communication at the University of Kentucky, added that while “on the surface bringing in a feminine presence would be a good system of checks and balances,” the move would represent an overstep that breaks up valuable single-sex bonds of Greek life.

“I think they’re missing it. If anything, the focus should be on reconstructing and reshaping gender,” said DeSantis, who wrote the 2007 book, *Inside Greek U: Fraternities, Sororities, and the Pursuit of Pleasure, Power, and Prestige.*

Trinity College of Connecticut, which sits a few towns over, is still in the process of requiring its fraternities to admit women -- even after it saw intense alumni pushback, receding donations and a presidential resignation amid criticism of the move after it was announced in 2012. Trinity’s decision is less about sexual assault prevention than about trying to ensure “gender parity” in the college’s social power structure, said Frederick Alford, the dean of students.

The effort has come with several investments in Greek life, such as hiring Timothy Dunn, a new coordinator, to set up a new rush process that eliminates gender restrictions and to negotiate with national fraternity organizations to allow Trinity chapters to keep their charters. Dunn said integration can strengthen fraternities, which can be “scapegoated” as sexual assault enablers. “Fraternities tend to get scapegoated because it’s a situation where there are no adults around. They have parties on Friday and Saturday nights on those campuses, and that just creates the perfect storm for people with predatory tendencies.”

Wesleyan advocates are pushing for more than just making fraternities co-ed. The student government proposal calls for the university to hire a Greek life coordinator, offer bystander intervention lessons and allow campus public safety officers to make regular rounds in fraternity houses. Roth, the Wesleyan president, wrote last week that fraternity houses would now get new security patrols, and the campus has bulked up sexual assault education at orientation and support for survivors.
“One thing that gets forgotten in these conversations a lot is just because some people feel safe and empowered in a space can’t compensate for the fact that other students feel very unsafe there,” Updegrove said. “In a small community like this, it’s very important that other students and underprivileged students feel safe everywhere.”

Tax-cut bill will jeopardize education funding

Do you like your child's public school? Does your child go to a Missouri public university? Are you expecting there to be cuts in your child's education next year? If you aren’t, then you don’t know about the bill passed by the Missouri Legislature last month.

Republicans passed SB509, a tax scheme to cut income taxes on the wealthy and thousands of businesses if revenue increases substantially. This will jeopardize funding for public schools and colleges. Fortunately, Gov. Jay Nixon has vetoed it, but the Republicans have promised to override his veto. Let your legislators know you want good schools and you don’t like SB509.

Joan Brannigan • Olivette

Anderson's believers have faith he'll deliver

By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

“Before I introduce your new head coach,” Gary Link told a couple of hundred fans at Mizzou Arena on April 29, “I want you to do something for me. I want you to bend your knees and put your hands in the air.”

The room obeyed because, well, this was Gary Link, the man whose voice has been associated with Mizzou basketball for nearly 20 years and his heart much longer. The program’s radio analyst and most passionate ambassador looked out into his audience, pausing just long enough to set up his punchline.
“You haven’t seen this for a while, but you’re playing defense,” he said. “You’re going to start seeing a lot more of that.”

Link, part stand-up, part prophet, turned to the man looking over his right shoulder.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” he said, “the new head basketball coach at the University of Missouri, Missouri’s own Kim Anderson!”

Missouri advertised the event as a local meet-and-greet, but it represented much more. This was a Mizzou hoops revival. Former Tigers greats John Brown and Jon Sundvold were in the house. Derrick Chievous, too. Anderson — the ink barely dry on his five-year contract — came to speak from the Gospel of Norm.

“We’re going to play basketball the way I was taught,” he said, “and the way many of you are used to seeing.”

A week has passed since athletics director Mike Alden thawed a 15-year chill between Mizzou and the Norm Stewart era by hiring Anderson, the former MU player and assistant, to replace departed coach Frank Haith.

The favorite son of Sedalia, Mo., opened his introductory news conference disarming his strongest critics and picked apart, sometimes playfully, the reasons Mizzou should pass on the 58-year-old coach (reason No. 1) from Division II Central Missouri (No. 2) who couldn’t possibly assemble a Division I staff (No. 3) or recruit at the Division I level (No. 4).

But those who know him best will tell you otherwise. Maybe it wasn’t Kim Anderson’s birthright to coach the Tigers, but for nearly 40 years his life has guided him toward this moment.

“This is his dream job,” said Martin White, longtime friend and former principal at Smith-Cotton High, the school Anderson and his two siblings attended in Sedalia. “And it’s not only neat for his family — but we’ve got one of our own to carry us through.”

Sedalia’s biggest star

The Post-Dispatch once described Sedalia as “the Sodom and Gomorrah of the 19th century” because of its reputation for prostitution amid the flood of railroad workers and travelers who passed through the Pettis County town. Sedalia redeemed itself over time as the launching place for musician Scott Joplin, the Missouri State Fair and basketball stars Kim and Kathy Anderson.

Kim, three years older than his sister and 10 years older than brother Kevin, took up competitive swimming at an early age. But the Anderssons eventually found the hardwood. Their father, Keith, was a P.E. teacher and coach in the Sedalia school system, which meant a special luxury.

“We always had a key to the gym,” said Kathy, who became a three-sport athlete at Central Missouri and an All-American basketball player. “When Mom wanted us out of the house she told our dad to take us to the gym.”
Kim dabbled in baseball — “He was a heck of a target for a first baseman, but let’s just say he couldn’t hit the curveball,” Kathy said — but one summer he realized his true calling.

While attending Stewart’s camp at Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo., Anderson got a personal lesson from Stewart.

“That’s pretty special when you’re 12 years old,” Anderson said.

A few years later, Stewart was making regular appearances at Smith-Cotton. By Anderson’s sophomore year, he was close to 6-7 and starting for the high school varsity.

“Ol’ Norm was scared to death,” said Willie Jenkins, a former Smith-Cotton assistant. “He thought for sure he was going to lose him.”

Stewart recalled making as many trips to Sedalia as the NCAA rules allowed. Stewart was such a frequent visitor, Jenkins said, he’d sometimes operate the scoreboard during practices.

By then, Anderson was already Smith-Cotton’s best player. He could handle the ball with both hands, shoot from anywhere and clean the glass better than anyone on the floor. His only weakness was foul trouble, Jenkins said. (Anderson still holds MU’s single-season and career records for disqualifications.)

“I’d tell him,” Jenkins said, “Hey, Kim, you know how good we are when you’re in the ballgame? When you sit down, we don’t play very good.”

In 1973, Anderson’s senior year, Smith-Cotton advanced to the state semifinals but lost to De Smet, led by future Mizzou teammate Jim Kennedy. By then, Anderson had taken recruiting visits to Missouri, Kansas, Kansas State, Memphis State, Texas and Vanderbilt. But Stewart landed his big catch.

“In our heart of hearts,” Kathy said, “we probably knew that’s where he was leaning.”

‘I don’t think I was ready’

After a quiet freshman season at Mizzou, Anderson became a starter as a sophomore and by his junior year was one of the best players in the Big Eight.

Stewart hadn’t won a conference title his first eight seasons at Missouri, but in 1975 Anderson announced that was about to change.

“Kim walked into my office one day, and I told him, ‘We’ve got to win a championship,’” Stewart said. “He looked at me and said, ‘Coach, we’re going to win it this year.’ And we did.”

In 1976, the Tigers captured the first of Stewart’s eight league titles with Anderson averaging 13.9 points and 7.7 rebounds. The next year he’d earn Big Eight player of the year honors and become a second-round draft pick of the Portland Trail Blazers. He’d play just 21 games in the NBA but spent a few years playing in France and Italy.
“He was making pretty good money playing, and I told him, ‘You need to take advantage of that,’” Stewart said. “But he said, ‘No, I’m coaching.’”

Anderson spent three years on Stewart’s staff as a graduate assistant, then six more coaching under Gene Iba at Baylor. In 1991, Stewart brought him back as a full-time assistant. Often described as the soothing sideline presence alongside the more animated Stewart, Anderson was anything but soft as an assistant, Stewart said.

“He and (former Tiger) Al Eberhard were the same way,” Stewart said. “And I’d always say, ‘Guys who look like that, be careful, because they’ll step on your neck. They’re not loud and all that stuff, but they’re just ready to go.’”

In the spring of 1999, Stewart stepped down from coaching and Anderson believed he was ready to succeed his mentor. Alden, on the job less than a year at the time, went outside the program and hired 32-year-old Duke assistant Quin Snyder.

Anderson “was very disappointed,” said Kathy Anderson, now Central Missouri’s senior associate athletics director. “At the time he thought he was ready. Obviously, in hindsight he probably knows he wasn’t.”

Anderson confessed that much last week.

“As I reflected on it, I don’t think I would have hired me either,” Anderson said. “Not that I couldn’t have done it, I just don’t think I was ready.”

Stewart heard Anderson’s admission last week and said it “proves he’s a gentleman.”

“But I was disappointed in myself” in 1999, Stewart added. “I made my decision (to step down), and maybe had I handled that differently, I might have been able to change it.”

Instead, Anderson headed to the Big 12 to work as the league’s assistant commissioner and serve as a liaison between the conference office in Dallas and the league’s coaches.

Three years later, Central Missouri called to see if Anderson was interested in its head coaching position. His parents, Donna and Keith, were both UCM alums and lived just 30 miles away in Sedalia. His wife Melissa’s family was nearby in Lee’s Summit.

“I’d never been a head coach, so I wanted to see if I could do it,” he said.

By his third year in Warrensburg, Anderson had the Mules in the Division II tournament. In year five, they reached the Final Four — but it was a bittersweet spring. Donna suffered a heart attack and died on Christmas Day. She was 73.

“She was by far Kim’s biggest fan,” Kathy said. “I mean, we’re all fans of his, but believe me, she was a step above all of us.”
Donna and Keith had attended as many Mules games as possible, but the rest of the season it was just Keith. When UCM won the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association tournament that spring, players cut down the net, went into the stands and placed it around Keith's neck.

‘It makes so much sense’

“The University of Missouri’s into producing graduates, right?” said longtime Washburn coach Bob Chipman. “Here’s one of their graduates, one of their best players ever. Don’t they think he should be the best (candidate)? It makes so much sense, but for some reason we don’t go that way anymore.”

Chipman, a player at Kansas State under Jack Hartman, has been one of the most successful coaches in college basketball, at any level, with 757 career wins. He might as well be speaking for legions of lower-level coaches who haven’t gotten the opportunity Anderson received last week.

“I was just so happy for Kim,” Chipman said. “It just gave me some sanity. It gave me some hope.”

Anderson topped his credentials with a Division II national championship last month — a feat already recognized at a downtown Columbia institution. A framed poster from the tournament hangs behind the bar, with an autographed message reading, “To my friends at Booches, Kim Anderson.”

The Son of Sedalia has come home — again.

White was thinking about his friend’s new job Sunday night. How many states, White wondered, can say the major college program has a former player and former assistant now serving as head coach?

“That’s the Missouri pride,” White said. “I think it’s going to carry over and he’s going to take us to the promised land. There’s no doubt in my mind. If I was talking to Kim like that, he’d say, ‘Come on, Whitey, settle down now.’

“But, no, the people who really know him, that’s what we believe.”

Almost two months later, still no agreement between KOMU, DirecTV

Monday, May 5, 2014 | 5:23 p.m. CDT
BY LAURA COLE

COLUMBIA — After almost two months of negotiations, KOMU/NBC and DirecTV still haven't agreed on a programming contract, leaving the channel dark for DirecTV customers.
KOMU wants more money because it says carrying shows from NBC and CW is getting more expensive, according to previous Missourian reporting. Matt Garrett, KOMU's director of audience development, said the station is only asking for a few cents more a day. DirecTV spokesman Tom Tyrer said the station wanted five-times more than it gets now.

DirecTV has not responded to KOMU's most recent contract offer, which was delivered April 25, Garrett said. The station last heard from DirecTV on April 23, he said, and the two haven't communicated since then.

"DirecTV shows no urgency in responding to us," Garrett said.

Tyrer said negotiations are still active.

"We continue to exchange proposals with KOMU and its owners, the University of Missouri, and hope for a swift resolution," Tyrer said in an email. "We do not feel that these sorts of blackouts are in anyone's interest."

Garrett said he doesn't know how long negotiations could last.

A quick look at the history of Cinco de Mayo
Monday, May 5, 2014 | 4:12 p.m. CDT
BY ADITI SHRIKANT

COLUMBIA — Amidst the Tex-Mex food and margaritas, the origin of Cinco de Mayo seems like less of a focus for many of the holiday's avid celebrants.

Here are a look at a few lesser known facts about the history of the celebration.

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's independence day.
It actually marks the day when Mexico defeated France on The Day of the Battle of Puebla in 1862.
Mexico was in a state of financial ruin and defaulted on its debt payments to Britain, Spain and France, according to the History Channel’s website. Spain and Britain were willing to negotiate a compromise, but France sought to make Mexico a colony. Although Mexican forces did not completely drive out France until 1867, Cinco de Mayo commemorates the victory that bolstered Mexican resistance against French intervention.

**The men who defeated the French forces weren't professional soldiers.** France sent 6,000 troops to attack the small town of Puebla de Los Angeles, where they were met by a ragtag army of 2,000 men, many of whom were not even soldiers, according to the History Channel’s website.

**The Mexican troops included Native Americans, Mestizos, Chinacos and Criollos, said Demetrio Anzaldo, an MU assistant teaching professor of Spanish and a native of Mexico City.**

Approximately 500 French soldiers were killed, while fewer than 100 men fighting for Mexico died, according to the History Channel’s website. The battle lasted a day.

**Mexican Independence Day, Grito de Dolores, happened about 50 years earlier.** The Mexican War of Independence started Sept. 16, 1810, when Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo called the Mexican people to arms against the Spanish colonial government. Mexico celebrates that day, called Grito de Dolores, as Independence Day.

**Cinco de Mayo is not extravagantly celebrated in Mexico.** The state of Puebla celebrates the day most extensively, but Cinco de Mayo is not a federal holiday. Mexican offices, banks and stores all remain open, according to the History Channel’s website. Grito de Dolores is more widely celebrated. Anzaldo said the celebrations he attended in Mexico were "brief, with some music and speeches."
University of Missouri police Sunday night arrested a 32-year-old man after he allegedly was seen masturbating in public on the MU campus, Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Officers were dispatched at 10:30 p.m. to Lowry Mall and spoke with three witnesses who said they saw a man exposing himself and masturbating, Weimer said.

They provided a description to police, and officers found Fulton resident Carl A. Martin near Paquin and Hitt streets. He was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor sexual misconduct. He was released from the Boone County Jail this morning after posting a $500 bond.