MUPD, MU spokesman discuss sexual assault reporting

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 | 8:10 p.m. CDT; updated 10:15 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, September 17, 2014
BY SETH KLAMANN

COLUMBIA — In the past eight days, MU Police have sent out two Clery Releases reporting three sexual assaults on or near campus.

All three of the reports were sent to police by MU's Title IX office and are evidence of the university's recent push for increased awareness of sexual assault and Title IX.

Neither MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer nor MU spokesman Christian Basi could say whether the reports came from the victims themselves or mandated reporters. But previously, such reports did not come to MU Police through the Title IX office.

MU's handling of reported Title IX violations changed this year in the aftermath of revelations about former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who took her own life after leaving the university and struggling with mental health problems that might have been exacerbated by a sexual assault. An examination of MU's Title IX procedures and training of employees revealed the need for improvements.

Those included increased awareness, appointing a full-time Title IX coordinator and improving communication between offices including the Title IX office and MU Police, Basi said.

The office, headed by interim coordinator Linda Bennett, is charged with "receiving any complaint or concern of sexual discrimination, assault or harassment, and any other violation of Title IX," Basi said.
Basi and Weimer spoke Wednesday about the increase of Clery Releases, the relationship between the Title IX office and law enforcement and the process of investigating reports of sexual assaults on or near MU’s campus. Neither could say whether the two assaults reported Tuesday, which described the assailants as "unknown males," were acquaintance or stranger crimes.

Q: With the recent Clery Releases, do you believe that there is an increase in sexual assault? Or is it an increase in reporting of sexual assault?

Weimer: Yes, (an increase in reporting). Just because we’ve seen an increase in Clery reporting does not necessarily mean an increase in crimes, because as we know from FBI statistics, statistics from the women’s center, from the (Rape and Sexual Violence Prevention) Center and such, rape and sexual assault is one of the most unreported crimes in the nation. Hopefully, with this new Title IX in place, perhaps victims are feeling more comfortable going to them to get the help they need.

Q: So when someone files a report of sexual assault with the Title IX office, does that office immediately send it to MU Police?

Weimer: It depends. If it’s something that’s near campus and presents an ongoing threat to the campus community, then yes. We can work with them to make that notification to the community.

Basi: It depends on the situation. Title IX has to make a determination to pass it on to MUPD if it’s an immediate threat to campus. There are many different ways to go depending on the situation. Officials from the Title IX office and the MU Police Department are in regular communication with each other.

Q: Is it at the Title IX office’s discretion whether they consider it a threat and to make it known to the MU Police Department?

Weimer: Well, not really. They know what the boundaries and definitions are, but that being said, if a student came into the Title IX office and reported that they were in an apartment by the mall, that would not be in (MU Police’s) area. That’s not to say that they couldn’t call us for advice or thoughts on it because clearly we’re here to help the victim, but that wouldn’t be something we’d send a timely warning out on due to the proximity to campus.

Q: For the two Clery Releases Tuesday night, did the reports come to the Title IX office directly from the victims or were they from mandatory reporters?
**Q:** What's the timeline of the investigation, from when the Title IX office receives the report to when MU Police receive the report from Title IX to when the Clery Release is sent out?

**Basi:** When a report is made to the Title IX office, if it's deemed that there's an immediate threat to campus, then the police are notified immediately. Otherwise, investigators may attempt to gather more information. But it's important to note that other offices may become involved.

**Weimer:** I can just tell you that as soon as we're notified, we start working to see where it is, what the details are of the incident so we can make a timely warning if it's a Clery-reportable offense, or if it's something strictly that would be an ongoing danger to the community. ...

You don't want it to be vague and unhelpful, and you simply won't get anymore information, so you simply have to go with what you have. That being said, it's important because we see different comments and stuff on blogs, on releases that go out that make all kinds of assumptions, and that's not the case. Look at what's being
reported and don't try and overread it. What's critical is that this type of crime has been reported in this type of area, so you may adjust what kind of choices that you make in regards to your safety.

**Q:** What kind of assumptions do people make?
**Weimer:** Sometimes you see people make assumptions about it happening outside because it says '400 block.' Perhaps that's just the best that we had at the time; we didn't have an exact house number that we could put out. So it could be one or the other. So just because it says '400 block' does not mean that it was outside. We've seen over the years where people feel we put too much out. Other times people come through and say, 'You don't give enough to help people understand.' So we're constantly wrestling with this. The most important thing we're doing with the community is make them aware of the type of crime, the location and the basics of the incident so they're aware of those kind of things, so they're making good choices with their safety.

We also put crime tips in there. There’s a link on our website. We always tell people, too, with crime tips, you can do everything right, correct and unfortunately still be the victim of a crime. So those being in there don't imply that the victims have done anything wrong. But it's just more resources for you in the community.

**Q:** With the two reports from Tuesday night, how does the investigation process work? Does MU Police get its information from the Title IX office?
**Basi:** Both offices work very closely with each other and, when appropriate, may share information. However, each will conduct investigations specific to their needs. The investigation may not necessarily be criminal but still go forward with the Title IX office. Or it may be criminal but it may not be a Title IX violation.  
**Weimer:** The last two (Tuesday night), for a specific example, the law enforcement agency that would be investigating those two is not our department. It's the city of Columbia Police Department. Because of statistical reporting and jurisdictional stuff, that would be theirs anyway. What we're doing is, we're a resource for the Title IX office to help inform the community. The one before that (from Sept. 9) would have been ours, but the victim has chosen not to come forward to us. We respect that victim's rights, and we're not pushing them.

**Q:** Even with a Clery Release, there may not necessarily be a criminal investigation?
Weimer: Yes. They may want to handle the whole thing through Title IX, and they may want to handle the whole thing through other student disciplinary processes and things. But yes, it does not mean that there will be a criminal investigation.

Q: Because the two from Tuesday night are being handled by the Columbia Police Department, is there any role for MU Police? Will there be an updated Clery report if suspects are apprehended?
Weimer: Not necessarily, no.

Q: How does the Title IX office bring student conduct charges against someone who may have committed a Title IX violation?
Basi: They wouldn't. The Title IX office would investigate to see if a Title IX violation occurred. Following their investigation, officials would make a decision to forward their findings to the Office of Student Conduct. Keep in mind that they also investigate complaints involving faculty and staff.

Q: If a suspect is identified, is a Clery Release typically sent out?
Weimer: It would depend if an ongoing threat to the community was believed.

McCaskill cites Missouri football program in column on character

By Chuck Raasch craasch@post-dispatch.com 202-298-6880

WASHINGTON • Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., has written a guest column for USA TODAY that calls for "real leaders in the world of big-time sports to do a soul search on character."

McCaskill cited the University of Missouri's dismissal of football player Dorial Green-Beckham as an example, and lauded Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel for that act, while criticizing University of Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops for bringing Green-Beckham to his team.
Oklahoma's athletic director told SI.com this week that Green-Beckham likely would not be on the Sooners' team had the transfer happened after the Ray Rice assault scandal that has rocked the NFL.

McCaskill last week said she called NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and told him the pro league has a "serious problem with the treatment of women."

A Goodell spokesman declined to comment on the call.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Police report: MU basketball players ‘jumped’ three victims in alleged assault

BY TOD PALMER
09/17/2014 10:17 AM

Columbia, Mo. - Missouri freshman forward Jakeenan Gant left his wallet at the scene of an alleged assault that took place in the early-morning hours Sunday, according to a Columbia Police Department report.

Gant and fellow Tigers freshman D'Angelo Allen, who have been suspended from the team, were arrested around 2 a.m. Sunday morning, along with a 22-year-old Michael J. Martin of Lone Jack, on third-degree assault charges.

**Columbia Police were dispatched to Eighth and Elm in reference to a disturbance and found three victims, who had been “walking east on Elm when they were jumped by three to four black males,” according to the police report.**

One male victim, 20, reported being hit two or three times as he tried to help a friend, who was on the ground being assaulted by the suspects.
Another male victim, 20, reported that he was assaulted while walking and saw one of the suspects drop his wallet.

The third male victim, 21, also reported being assaulted on the ground.

Shortly afterward, MU police stopped three males, near 404 Kentucky Ave., who matched the description given by the victims.

Witnesses identified all three as suspects in the assault and they were arrested for third-degree assault, which is a misdemeanor under Missouri statutes, and released on a signature summons.

The three men arrested were unavailable for comment. No information about their attorneys was available. The case has not yet been forwarded to the Boone County Prosecutor’s Office for review.

On Tuesday night, first-year Missouri coach Kim Anderson announced that Allen and Gant had been suspended from team activities.

“We have high standards for the conduct of our student-athletes and expect much more from them as members of our program,” Anderson’s release read, in part.

Gant, who is the reigning Mr. Georgia Basketball, was originally signed in November by former coach Frank Haith, who left Missouri for Tulsa in April.

Gant, who had transferred to School of the Osage in Lake Ozark, Mo., after the basketball season, decided to stick with the Tigers after Anderson’s hiring.

Allen, a Dallas native, signed with Missouri during Anderson’s first week.

The MU basketball program had three players arrested last season under Haith.

Sophomore point Wes Clark and former shooting guard Shane Rector, who left Missouri in May and transferred to Miami Dade Community College, were arrested in March on suspicion of marijuana possession.
In early April, former forward Zach Price, a transfer from Louisville who was dismissed by Haith before he ever played for the Tigers, was arrested twice in the same day for assault and domestic assault charges.

Read more here: [http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article2138859.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article2138859.html#storylink=cpy)

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**Ward outlines cost and timeline for Pickard Hall solutions**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 10:30 am** Comments (6)

By Ashley Jost

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 9:30 am**

Gary Ward, chief operating officer at the University of Missouri, spoke to MU’s Faculty Council yesterday for an update on Pickard Hall.

Pickard was decommissioned because the building was found to be contaminated with radiation - specifically radium. Ward’s last update to the council during June indicated that there were three possible options for Pickard moving forward: save the building, demolish the building and take contaminated material to a radioactive landfill and uncontaminated material to a regular landfill or demolish the building and treat it all as radioactive material.

Yesterday, Ward highlighted additional steps to the process of fixing the Pickard problem, and provided cost estimates for each step and possible outcome.

MU owes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a report on how it will deal with the radiation by March. A request for proposal went out last week for a contracted consultant to help prepare that report and conduct what’s called a “characterization” of the building.

The “characterization” process is an invasive look - Ward called it “destructive testing” - of the inside of the innermost beams, under the floors and other crevices of Pickard to analyze how deep the radiation goes. Because the structure is wooden and radon "likes" wood, according to what a consultant told Ward, the fear is the radiation is deep in the structure of the building.
The characterization would cost between $75,000 and $250,000. That information will be transferred on to the NRC in a report. It takes about a year to get approval from the NRC, Ward said. The university plans to hire the consultant for the characterization by Oct. 10, according to Ward’s timeline.

Testing will include the groundwater below the building, though Ward said consultants already hired by the university don’t think there will be an issue with groundwater contamination.

The next phase would be survey implementation, which would show how the results of the characterization could be used to determine which of the three outcomes is best. Survey implementation could cost $1 to $5 million.

Ward outlined the price tag on each of the three possible outcomes: saving Pickard would take 5.3 years and cost about $13.3 million. Demolishing it after remediation and separating materials would take 6.2 years and cost $10.2 million. Demolishing it after remediation without separating materials would take 4.3 years and cost $10.7 million.

“It’s important to know that saving the building doesn’t mean it will be usable,” Ward said. It could cost another $16 to $18 million to remodel, and there will always be a risk that the radiation could come back as long as the building stands.

Former MU first lady Patricia Wallace dies

By Ashley Jost

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 10:45 am Comments (1)

Former University of Missouri first lady Patricia Wallace, an MU advocate well known for her singing and love of children and animals, has died.

Wallace, wife of former Chancellor Richard Wallace for almost 60 years, died Sunday at 78 years old.

Sandra Wallace, the couple’s oldest daughter, remembers her mother and grandfather playing the piano and singing hymns together in Paducah, Ky., her mother’s hometown.

Patricia Wallace’s love of singing was the basis of much of her life, career and volunteer time. She majored in voice at Northwestern University, taught music at an elementary school for many years and ended up singing and directing a local choral group, the Mothersingers.
“They were a tremendous force in her life,” Sandra Wallace said about the musical group. “She wanted to not just sing music kids wanted to hear, but music that enriched them. She would sing old folk songs, things she thought should be part of their heritage.”

Patricia’s time with the Mothersingers allowed her to combine her love to music with her love of working with children.

When Richard was brought on to be MU’s chancellor in 1997, Sandra said her mother’s focus was to support him and the school while finding a legacy of her own. Sure enough, she found one in creating an effort to preserve the chancellor’s residence at MU.

When the Wallaces moved into the residence, the building was not handicap-accessible, Sandra recalls. At that point, Sandra said her mother was using a walker to get around because of her arthritis, and she was incapable of getting to the living quarters, which are on the top floor.

“After a year, she decided that maybe she could do something about that,” Sandra said. “She started the idea of establishing a fund and a group that would not only address the accessibility issues but also to restore the house back to its intended look.”

The remodel for accessibility didn’t happen until after the Wallaces were gone from the residence, but Patricia “was very proud to see it’s accessible to anyone who wants to see it or live in it.”

Patricia also advocated for the arts at MU, and an endowment fund has since been set up in her and her husband’s names.

“She loved the university as much as my dad does, and that’s saying something,” Sandra said about her mother.

Former Chancellor Brady Deaton, who served after Richard Wallace’s term, called Patricia Wallace’s death a “tremendous loss.”

“Her indomitable spirit reached out to everyone,” Deaton said. “She’s been the paragon of strength in the community and of the university.”

Sandra Wallace said her mother was the heart of the Wallace family, and while it’s difficult to imagine that heart being gone, “it’s not really.”

“I appreciate so much everyone else seems to appreciate her,” she said. “I always thought she was well-loved, but it seems like there are a lot of people that hold her in high regard and I really love hearing that.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Wireless problems frustrate faculty, staff and students

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 | 9:33 p.m. CDT; updated 10:20 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, September 17, 2014
BY KAYLA PIEDIMONTE, MEGAN BEDFORD

COLUMBIA — If Mizzou Wireless were a student, it would be in trouble for nodding off in class.

According to its website, status.missouri.edu, Mizzou Wireless has been in and out of service repeatedly since the start of the school year on Aug. 25. Two days later, MU’s IT services posted about Mizzou Wireless connection problems. Its Twitter feed has supplied a pretty steady stream of alerts and updates about wireless problems and offers names and a number to call.

To date, there have been 13 updates posted about outages, email problems and other connectivity issues with Mizzou Wireless and Blackboard. That's in the 24 days since the semester began, including weekends.

The MU Division of Information Technology released an update about the problem Wednesday night that seemed to hint at capacity issues: "Providing wireless services at the scale of the Columbia campus is a significant challenge, and the Division of IT is proud to employ many exceptionally talented staff members who focus on this challenge with diligence and professionalism."

The Division of IT went on to say that it was pressing the two companies who provide the wireless network to improve service. In the meantime, the division recommended that those having trouble with wireless access use wired connections.

The wireless problems have not extended to all areas of the university. MU Health Care has has not been affected because it has its own wireless infrastructure, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said.
According to the most recent figures, 34,935 students were enrolled at MU at the beginning of the school year — the largest number in the university’s 175-year history. In addition, there are more than 13,255 full-time employees, including faculty, staff and MU Health Care employees, according to the MU Facts page on the university's website.

“I have never heard so many people complain about it (Mizzou Wireless),” MU senior Andrew Sligar said. “Each year we have a bigger freshman class, and they need to upgrade the system to accommodate everyone.”

Students have had assignment deadlines postponed due to Internet connectivity issues. Not all of them are unhappy about it.

“One of my teachers has actually postponed quizzes for my Nursing 2000 class,” sophomore Kristen Sjobakken said with a smile.

Faculty have had technical difficulties in the classroom that have forced them to quickly adjust lesson plans.

“The Internet outage has definitely affected my teaching in the classroom, as there are many video clips or news articles I want to show students,” said Rebecca Rodriguez Carey, a sociology graduate teaching assistant at MU. “Students do not learn in the same way, so the inability to supplement my lectures with multimedia affects their retention of the course material.”

For faculty and students who are involved in online classes, which depend entirely on the Internet, the problems have been especially vexing.

“Every week there has been connection issues since the beginning of school,” said Kerri McBee-Black, an MU textile and apparel management instructor who teaches traditional and online courses and uses technology in both. “It’s disappointing when I have done everything for class and I can’t present my material.”

Last year, McBee-Black said, the problem was Blackboard. This year, there is a much broader problem with connecting to the Internet. Meanwhile, MU has been pushing teachers to use more technology in classes, she pointed out.

Unreliable wireless access also has had repercussions outside the classroom. One student, Matthew Portugal, tweeted a screenshot showing that it was going to take 17 hours for him to download Apple’s iOS 8 update.
The installation of additional routers in some residence halls this year has helped alleviate the problem for some, said Kevin Good, a community adviser for Gillett Hall.

“I’ve had a lot of freshmen actually tell me they love that they have Wi-Fi in their rooms now, and it is more convenient because of how inconsistent Mizzou Wireless has been on campus,” Good said.

But Good said he’s noticed Gillett residents buying Ethernet cords for a more stable connection.

During an interview with MU junior Amy Field at the MU Student Center, she remarked, “My Internet just went out, and I need to print something. ... That’s just lovely.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Skateboarder injured in collision with cyclist
Wednesday, September 17, 2014 | 3:30 p.m. CDT; updated 6:52 a.m. CDT, Thursday, September 18, 2014
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — An MU freshman was listed as "in good condition" Wednesday afternoon after suffering a head injury from a collision with a bicyclist at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

The accident occurred when freshman Tyler Laudeman and a bicyclist collided near the intersection of Tiger Avenue and Kentucky Boulevard.

According to witnesses, Laudeman was making a left-hand turn on his skateboard from the parking ramp between Crowder Hall and Stankowski Field. The bicyclist was traveling north on Tiger Avenue toward Rollins Street when the skateboard and bicycle collided.

Laudeman was transported to University Hospital via an ambulance.
Since arriving in Columbia on Tuesday night, Dame of the British Empire Jane Goodall has not had any time to see the sights of Columbia. No breakfast at Ernie's. No slice of Shakespeare's pizza for lunch.

Has she had any free time at all? Goodall smiled ruefully amid a break in signing books at The Mizzou Store and formed a big "zero" with her hand. Wednesday morning had been spent in her room at The Tiger Hotel doing interviews. Then there was the book signing and later that evening a lecture at Mizzou Arena where she would face a rapturous crowd.

Goodall travels more than 300 days a year discussing her famous work researching chimpanzees in Gombe National Park and her current activism on environmental issues. It's a relentless schedule, but one that her fans appreciate.

On Wednesday afternoon, the line to meet Goodall snaked around the upper level of The Mizzou Store and at least 85 people had queued before she arrived, said members of the Department of Student Activities.

Cheryl Rosenfeld was one such fan. An associate professor of biomedical sciences in the Bond Life Sciences Center at MU, she arrived at the student center at 9:30 a.m., working on a grant proposal while she waited.

"I'm in tears seeing her. I can't believe she's here. ... She was one of my idols," Rosenfeld said. "You know how kids have superheroes or football players they look up to? Well, she was that for me."
Goodall's lecture at the Mizzou Arena had been sold out since Tuesday, but on Wednesday afternoon, organizers opened up an additional 700 seats after reviewing sight lines. Close to 5,000 seats were occupied, according to the MU Department of Student Activities.

When Goodall arrived on stage, she was greeted with a standing ovation and whoops and cheers.

"Well, thank you for that greeting," she said. "It makes me feel like I should produce a rock band."

During her lecture, Goodall mixed childhood stories — stowing away in a hen house at 4 1/2-years-old for hours until she saw how hens laid eggs — with stories of her research on chimpanzees in Africa, including her famous observation that chimpanzees could make and use tools (tool-making had previously been thought of as singularly human).

She also spoke about her transition into environmental activism, soberly recalling the first time she saw deforestation in Africa in 1986. Now, Goodall spends nearly all of her time promoting conservation and her youth activism program, Roots & Shoots, which is now in more than 130 countries.

She credited her mother for encouraging her love of discovery.

"If I'd had a different sort of mother, I think my curiosity would have been crushed," she said.

Several sets of mothers and children were in attendance.

Melissa Camper was there with her two kids, Jeremy and Patti, both 12. Jeremy and Patti first learned about Goodall in third grade when Jeremy was working on a science report.

"I kind of thought she was crazy at the time," Jeremy said. "Who would want to study chimps for 15 years?"

Melissa Camper was a Peace Corps fellow in Central Africa in 1991, "so there were lots of Jane Goodall stories," she said. "Every once in a while, a chimpanzee would turn up, and it would be a big event, and someone would try to get it to Jane Goodall."

Camper brought her children to the event because she sees Goodall as an important role model.

"I wanted both of my kids to have an opportunity to see a strong, independent woman like (Goodall)," she said.
Another person in attendance was Helen Givan, 79, for whom Goodall is both a contemporary and a long-time inspiration.

"We're the same age," she said. "I was born in December 1934, and (Goodall) was born in April 1934."

Givan has always appreciated the way Goodall broke boundaries through her choice of profession.

"Understand — she made such a change in an era where women didn't do that — they became secretaries or nurses, which are wonderful professions, but she did something so different," she said.

When Goodall finished, she was awarded with an appreciative roar of applause.

"I will always remember that this was the night I got to see Jane Goodall speak," said Libby Cowgill, an assistant professor in anthropology.

'Ban the box' proponents look to clarify misconceptions at forum

By Alan Burdziak

A public forum Wednesday night on a proposal to “ban the box” on job applications in Columbia focused on dispelling common misconceptions about the plan.

The Mayor’s Task Force on Community Violence recently recommended the Columbia City Council enact a ban that would prohibit employers in the city from inquiring about criminal histories on job applications. The idea, said University of Missouri School of Law Associate Professor S. David Mitchell, is to level the playing field for ex-offenders and help them get a job, thereby reducing the chances they will re-offend.
“It’s about giving an individual with a criminal conviction or a criminal background a fair chance” at getting a job, he said.

A ban would in no way force employers to hire people with convictions, said task force member Dan Hanneken, who gave a presentation with Mitchell. Both are members of the Boone County Offender Transition Network that helps people recently released from prison find housing and jobs and contribute to society.

Entitling ex-offenders to a job is the biggest myth he wanted to counter, Hanneken said. Among the others he and Mitchell talked about: the ban would not prohibit employers from conducting criminal background checks but would just put it further down the process; there would be exceptions for certain jobs mandated by federal law, such as statutes that prohibit pedophiles from working with children; and that hiring convicts would not reduce crime. Statistics from the Offender Transition Network show that convicts in Boone County with full-time employment have a 30 percent lower recidivism rate.

The city’s Law Department is currently drafting the legislation. It is unclear when the city council will vote on it or if the ordinance would include private employers and if it will extend to vendors and contractors. The city two years ago dropped the box on its applications, except for police officers and firefighters, when it went to an online application system.

A former cocaine addict, Hanneken, 50, spent about 10 years in prison over three stints, with his last release in 2003. Soon after his release, he came to Columbia, determined to follow the straight path. He said he saw firsthand how difficult it was when he was rejected for a job at McDonald’s because he had checked the box on the application that indicated he had a felony conviction. Most of his convictions are for burglary or robbery to support his former drug habit, he said. Today, he has a master’s degree, is married and works with the transition network and other public service organizations.

"Why I didn't go back to doing what I was doing I don't know, but it would have been the easier choice," Hanneken said.

Mitchell and Hanneken also pointed out that Columbia is not the first place to institute such a ban and is not the product of “bleeding heart liberals” in the city.

“Ban the box” laws are on the books in dozens of cities and counties and more than 10 states across the country from San Francisco to Kansas City to Detroit, Philadelphia and New York City. Illinois was the latest to mandate a statewide ban, with its law applying to public and private employers and set to take effect Jan. 1.

Hanneken and Mitchell also took questions from the dozen people in attendance, which included three members of the public.

“I was surprised” by the low turnout, Hanneken said, adding he had several verbal commitments that didn't pan out. “You never know when you do something like this.
Mitchell said employment that reduces recidivism will have two major public benefits: there would be fewer victims if the convicts don’t commit more crimes, which increases public safety, and there would be fewer people in prison and the court system, therefore reducing costs.

“If the moral argument doesn't win,” Mitchell said, “the economic one should.”