Assistant prosecutor makes pitch to be MU's Title IX leader

By ASHLEY JOST
Friday, December 5, 2014 at 11:22 am

A Boone County assistant prosecuting attorney said her background in investigations and her people skills would help her excel if she is chosen as the new leader of the University of Missouri's Title IX office.

Andrea Hayes was the second of four candidates for the Title IX administrator position to interview for the job and participate in an open forum for students, staff and faculty. She was on campus all day Thursday. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sexual discrimination and violence on college campuses.

Though she has prosecuted an array of crimes, including sexual violence, Hayes said at the forum in the General Services Building that she wasn’t very familiar with the federal law until last year when MU Athletic Director Mike Alden asked her to be a part of a committee on Title IX compliance and create programming for MU’s athletes about sexual violence, harassment and other issues the law covers.

Hayes said as she learned about what the job entailed, she found her skills as a prosecutor fit the position.

“It all is kind of the same type of investigation, just different level of offense,” she said. “It requires the same investigative skills and techniques.”

Faculty and staff members asked for Hayes’ ideas for preventing crimes. She discussed educating freshmen about Title IX issues during their orientation, talking to student groups and creating programming on preventing sexual violence and education about alcohol’s effects.

“I don’t know that I’ve received a sexual assault case with students that there wasn’t an intoxication level that wasn’t really, really high.” she said, calling alcohol the “No. 1 problem.”

Engaging willing survivors for programs and a real discussion about statistics and a possible marketing campaign were among Hayes’ other ideas.

Hayes said a successful Title IX administrator should see reports increase because victims feel safer. She said in a few years when sexual assault in higher education no longer dominates headlines, she would continue to make Title IX a priority by focusing on those education efforts.

“If it’s not the hot-topic issue, then we must be doing something right,” she said. Hayes said she hopes to help MU become a model for other schools because of its Title IX procedures.

The next two open forums for the final Title IX candidates will be Dec. 17 and 18 at 3:30 p.m. The location has not been finalized.
9 stories that show how badly colleges handle sexual assault on campus

Updated by Libby Nelson on December 7, 2014, 6:00 p.m. ET @libbyanelson libby@vox.com

An ongoing uproar has consumed Rolling Stone's lengthy article on an alleged rape on the University of Virginia campus. The magazine has apologized for the article after inconsistencies emerged in the victim's story.

But even as other media outlets found the people Rolling Stone didn't talk to and poked at the story's holes, no one has defended or disputed the details of the University of Virginia's response — including the university itself.

It's possible that could happen in the future. And it's also possible that, unfortunately, it hasn't faced blowback because it's all too believable. Eighty-six colleges are currently under Education Department investigation for mishandling sexual assault. The stories below give an idea of what victims have encountered at some of those schools when they have wanted their sexual assaults investigated or punished.

1. A freshman, Anna, was allegedly raped in her second week at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York at a dance hall, allegedly by football players. A college panel cleared the football players in just 12 days and ignored evidence from Anna's rape kit, while Anna faced retaliation from fellow students. (The New York Times)

2. A student at Florida State says she was raped by Florida State's star quarterback. The New York Times found "there was virtually no investigation at all, either by the police or the university."
3. A freshman at Saint Mary's College, Lizzy Seeberg, reported to campus police in 2010 that she was sexually assaulted by a Notre Dame football player. The university didn't begin an investigation for 15 days — and in the interim, Seeberg committed suicide. ([National Catholic Reporter](http://nationalcatholicreporter.com))

4. At the University of Missouri, a sophomore, Menu Corey, told a rape crisis counselor — and later a campus therapist, a campus nurse, and an athletic department administrator — that she had been sexually assaulted. The university never opened an investigation. Corey later killed herself. ([ESPN](http://espn.go.com))

5. Thirty minutes after Amanda Tripp, a student at the University of Indianapolis, reported to campus police that she had been assaulted several weeks earlier, campus police stamped the report with "a crime did not occur." ([Huffington Post](http://www.huffingtonpost.com))

6. Sarah Patten, a student at Patrick Henry College, told administrators that a fellow student had sexually assaulted her and filed a formal complaint. The college responded that she had made an "error in judgment" by being alone in a boy's room, and told her "actions have consequences," according to what Patten told [The New Republic](http://www.thenewrepublic.com). 

7. Sofie Karasek, a student at the University of California-Berkeley, filed a formal complaint saying she was sexually assaulted her freshman year. The university never told her if they were investigating her complaint or if the student involved was punished. ([Al-Jazeera](http://www.aljazeera.com))

8. Silvana Moccia, a student at the University of Connecticut, reported a rape to her hockey coach. In response, she was cut from the team. ([The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com))

9. Camila Quarta, a student at Columbia University, says she was sexually assaulted in the first semester of her freshman year. The student who assaulted her admitted it at a hearing, she says, and was only suspended for a year. ([The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com))
A former University of Missouri student previously accused of two rapes in Columbia, and currently awaiting trial for sexual assault in West Virginia, recently filed a lawsuit against the Columbia Police Department and several officers, the city of Columbia and mayor and the office of the Boone County prosecutor.

The latest suit, filed Nov. 25 in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, is among four Ahmed O. Salau filed the same day in the same court.

They follow a long string of litigation concerning Salau, who is representing himself.

Salau’s suit against local authorities alleges police and prosecutors violated his civil rights by discriminating against him because he is black. Salau contends authorities falsified police reports and court documents connected to an alleged October 2010 rape in which he was the suspect.

In addition, Salau filed federal lawsuits against a woman who accused him of rape in 2012 and two of his former attorneys. Two appellate court cases he filed in 2012 and 2013 over his expulsion from the University of Missouri are pending.

Salau claims one of his former lawyers failed to represent him in an earlier case against MU and accused the other of being negligent in an unrelated case.

Salau, who could not be reached for comment, is on home confinement in his Princeton, W.Va., residence, said Mercer County, W.Va., Prosecutor Scott Ash. Salau’s trial in that state is scheduled for Jan. 13. He is accused of raping his wife in their home.

On top of all the lawsuits, Ash said. Salau has filed three ethics complaints against him and two against John McGinnis, an assistant prosecutor in Ash’s office who previously handled Salau’s case. Another prosecutor is now handling the case.

“This is not uncommon,” Ash said. “Three of them are uncommon, but you get ethics complaints from people occasionally.”

Salau also filed two judicial ethics complaints against Mercer County Circuit Judge Derek Swope, who heard Salau’s case before his indictment, Ash said. Mercer County Circuit Judge Omar Aboulhifn is now presiding over the charges against Salau.

In Missouri, Salau claims former Columbia police detective Bryan Leibhart lied on a probable cause statement and that Boone County Assistant Prosecutor Tracy Gonzalez filed charges even though authorities had evidence the sexual contact with a University of Missouri student was consensual. The woman was impregnated during the sexual encounter. Salau was again accused of raping a student in September 2012 and was held at the Boone County Jail for six months before charges
were dropped. He has sued the accuser in that case in federal court, alleging defamation of character.

Boone County Prosecutor Dan Knight did not return a phone call seeking comment. Columbia police declined to comment because the litigation is pending. A woman in the Columbia legal department said the city had not been served the lawsuit yet.

Two orders of protection were filed in Missouri against Salau, one by his then-wife and one by an accuser. Both have expired. He also sued in Boone County Circuit Court both women who accused him of rape in Columbia as well as the same local authorities, but all three lawsuits were dismissed. He alleged in both suits against his accusers that they falsely claimed he raped them and that it damaged his reputation.

In all of his pending cases, including four in federal court here, his criminal charge in West Virginia and the two appellate cases in Missouri, Salau is representing himself. He has started a website to advocate on his behalf.

“He’s working harder than any lawyer I’ve ever met, representing himself,” said Ash, the West Virginia prosecutor.

This story was first published Friday, December 5, 2014 at 3:24 p.m.

Study points to lack of rigor in teacher education programs at universities

By ROGER MCKINNEY
Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (1)

A study released last month by the National Council on Teacher Quality argues universities don’t adequately prepare teachers for the classroom, doing a disservice to the teachers, their students and their employers.

Detractors of the study point to their own evidence to bolster their argument that education programs turn out graduates who are ready to teach.

The study, "Training Our Future Teachers: Easy A's and What's Behind Them" used commencement brochures at 509 colleges and universities to determine that a much higher percentage of teacher candidates graduate with honors than in other fields. It also analyzed 7,500 classroom assignments at nearly three dozen colleges and universities.

The study notes 30 percent of all college students graduate with honors, while 44 percent of education graduates qualify for honors. In analyzing assignments, it found many colleges rely on the opinions of the students, allowing them to articulate their own philosophies.

Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ, said an education major is among the easiest at universities, but teaching is one of the toughest careers.

"When they go into a real-world classroom, they encounter a brick wall," Walsh said.
Walsh said the University of Missouri had one of the largest spreads for teacher candidates earning top honors — 62 percent — compared with 31 percent of graduates in other fields earning top honors. The University of Missouri did not meet the NCTQ's rigor standard.

Cory Koedel, associate MU professor of economics and public policy, published a study in 2011, "Grading Standards in Education Departments at Universities" that reached many of the same conclusions as the NCTQ study, though his study measured grade-point averages in education departments and other academic departments.

Koedel's work was cited in the NCTQ study, and he said the organization consulted him. He said grade inflation was responsible for the higher grade-point average among education majors.

"Higher grades are associated with less effort being made by students," he said. "Grade inflation reduces student effort. There's no doubt about that."

Kathryn Chval, associate dean for academic affairs in the MU College of Education, said there are no easy A's in the college.

"We collect data from multiple sources on an annual basis to measure the effectiveness of our teacher education programs," Chval said. Most years, she said, all graduates pass the Praxis teacher certification exam. She said data also is collected from school administrators and teachers who have MU student teachers in their classrooms.

"Based on all of these data sources and the requests to hire our graduates, we have evidence that demonstrates the quality of our teacher education programs," Chval said.

Upon admission into the teacher education program, MU students have already had to meet academic standards not required by most students.

"It is not surprising that ... a program with a required minimum GPA of 3.0 will have more students achieve Latin honors than a program that has a minimum of 2.0 GPA," Chval said.

Latin honors refers to top honors of cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude. Beginning with graduates in 2017, only 30 percent of College of Education graduates will receive the honors, Chval said. Based on grade-point averages, the top 5 percent of graduates in early childhood and elementary, middle school, secondary/K-12 and special education program areas will receive summa cum laude distinction; the next 10 percent magna cum laude; and the remaining 15 percent cum laude. For current graduates, the standard is a GPA of 3.98 or higher for summa cum laude; 3.95 to 3.979 for magna cum laude; and 3.9 to 3.949 for cum laude.

"This change, voted on by faculty in 2013, is based on a change in policy, not grading practices, as the NCTQ analysis would assume," Chval said. She said universities have different standards for granting the honors, which the study didn't consider.

Susie Adams, social studies department chairwoman at Battle High School and president of the Columbia Missouri State Teachers Association, said Columbia College prepared her for her job, but her training wasn't finished. She said she was confident with classroom management and literacy training

"However, when I had my first classroom and I was solely responsible for the education of my students in a subject matter that I was relearning as I taught it, I realized there was so much I did not know or feel prepared for," she said. "Teaching really is an 'on the job training' kind of profession."

Adams said she has known new teachers who struggle early in their careers, but strong will and support from other staff can forge a quality teacher in those early years.
Kim Nuetzmann, Columbia Public Schools new teacher induction facilitator, said CPS has a comprehensive, three-year induction program to support new teachers, including working one-on-one with a mentor for two years.

"I believe our universities do a quality job of preparing future teachers, and in no way is an education degree an 'easy A,' " Nuetzmann said. "As in any field, the learning does not stop upon graduation."

Koedel said the education community didn't take his study seriously in 2011 and that the NCTQ study seems to be attracting some of the same, reflexively dismissive responses.

NCTQ sued the University of Missouri to get copies of course syllabi related to another study, but lost in the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District.

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**Ferguson**

And now New York

**By HENRY J. WATERS III**

Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12:00 am

The fallout over Ferguson continues.

**On Tuesday hundreds of students, faculty and a few administrators walked out of University of Missouri classes and offices to demonstrate what they see as “white privilege” leading to discrimination against black people. They believe the death of the Ferguson teenager at the hands of the white police officer is an unsurprising result.**

Then, within hours, here came news regarding the death of a black man choked to death by a white New York City cop in July, an episode captured on video circulated around the world. To the casual observer — me — the New York incident looked more like unwarranted police aggression than the Ferguson shooting, but in New York, as in St. Louis, a grand jury found inadequate grounds to indict the officer.

The point here is not to rehash the evidence against the cops but, instead, to ponder whether black people have good reason to harbor such collective anger, regardless.

A number of white people of privilege believe so.

I was interested to hear an interview Thursday by KFRU's David Lile with Ira Glasser, the longtime and now retired head of the American Civil Liberties Union. Glasser indulged in a nonstop explanation of why black people have good reason, using his own experience raising white teenage sons in New York City who, he says, never would receive the sort of police attention young black men receive. Glasser said most white people have no idea.

The ACLU exec would not condone outright lawlessness, but he seemed to place considerable blame on the white cop in Ferguson for what Glasser assumed was an overly challenging initial order from the policeman to the young black men walking in the street that understandably triggered
latent resentment of black toward white. Glasser mentioned “WWB,” and Lile knew that meant suspicion engendered merely by “walking while black.”

I recently received a lengthy communique from another person of white privilege, a very smart fellow making a similar case. He referred to people like us as having started on “third base” as opposed to typical blacks having trouble getting up to bat.

He has a point.

Not that any of this justifies violence and looting. Not that it means the grand juries, particularly in Ferguson, should have issued indictments. But does it prompt those of us who have an easier time getting around the bases to understand the anger felt by many in the black community?

It should.

Having made that easy calculation, what shall our riven society do about this treacherous racial gap?

I don’t think most white people conscientiously try to keep black people down, but we do notice obvious trouble in the black community and reach conclusions likely to become too generalized. Most black people probably do the same, too easily assuming all “whiteys” are untrustworthy bigots.

So, I’m stumbling toward the familiar conclusion. Easing racial tensions depends more on fixing interpersonal attitudes than anything institutions can do with policy and money. To be sure, we needed civil rights laws, and criminal enforcement must be evenhanded, but in ordinary interaction can we individuals bring ourselves to assume the best instead of the worst when we confront a person of the other color? If not, we’re in for a long slog.

The United States of America is institutionally about as fair as any nation of this size and character is likely to be. Beyond what our lawyers and politicians can build, the main factor is how we polyglot citizens individually act and react. If we sort of get on the same page, we won’t depend as much on laws and police and courts and juries, and we will ignore race baiters and hustlers more readily.

HJW III

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**Law professor’s request to investigate student social media conduct denied**

By [Quinn Malloy](mailto:quinn.malloy@law.missouri.edu)

Dec. 5, 2014

Professor Richard Reuben sent an email to School of Law students and faculty Dec. 4 requesting a formal investigation into whether law students broke the school’s [Honor Code](http://www.law.missouri.edu/) when they posted on social media sites regarding recent events in Ferguson, Missouri.
Associate Dean Christina E. Wells, whose research focuses on free expression issues, said she denied Reuben’s request in a Dec. 5 email to law students and faculty.

“(Reuben’s) request is so diffuse as to amount to a request that I investigate every statement potentially made on Facebook, Twitter, text messaging or any other Internet medium involving students’ personal communications,” Wells said in the email. “That is simply not what the Honor Code requires.”

The grand jury’s decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown has motivated numerous protests, including a Dec. 2 MU4MikeBrown demonstration in the MU Student Center that drew hundreds of attendees.

Many students have taken to social media, as people around the nation have, to discuss and respond to both sides of the issue. In some cases, those responses have been threatening and prompted law enforcement officials to respond.

In his email, Reuben characterized the expressed opinions of several anonymous law students as “name calling, marginalization, and verbal thuggery.”

Reuben said he holds law students at MU to a higher standard when evaluating their engagement in civil discourse. He said this propriety of speech reaches into every facet of young lawyers’ lives, even their conduct on social media.

“Being a professional lawyer constrains some of the tactics we use to engage in argument,” Reuben said. “If you don’t like it, don’t be a lawyer. These are the rules that we play by. If you want to engage in intimidation, if you want to lose, go right ahead. You just can’t be a lawyer.”

Reuben also said that he wants students to be aware of the potential negative consequences that rash and inflammatory remarks on social media can have on students’ future employment prospects.

“Employers look at posts. I can say without hesitation that if one of those kids is seeking to apply for a job at a large law firm, (these posts are) not going to reflect well on their candidacy,” he said. “It’s not just their personal lives; we operate in a large, complex and integrated world.”
Reuben said that the heinous nature of some students’ comments merited a formal investigation because he thought some provisions of the Law School’s Honor Code could be applied to what was said.

“As a member of the faculty, if I see what I believe to be an Honor Code violation, I’m duty bound to bring that to attention, so I did,” he said. “The posts were shocking.”

Shocking though they may be, Wells said she doesn’t think the code can be applied as a disciplinary tool in this case.

“The Law School’s Honor Code does not authorize me to initiate spontaneous investigations of unidentified students’ personal, non-university Internet communications simply because someone has publicly requested (it),” she said in an email. “The Honor Code empowers me to investigate specific allegations against specific people of specific violations of the Honor Code.”

In his email, Reuben also included the director of the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, Noor Azizan-Gardner so that she could “provide support and oversight as may be appropriate.”

Azizan-Gardner said she was unaware of the specifics of this particular case. However, she explained the role that the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative could play in cases like the one at the Law School.

“The facilitation of difficult dialogues have always been our focus and strength,” she said. “We will continue to work with students, faculty and staff on campus-wide efforts to discuss these complex issues and work together as a community to move forward as a campus, state and nation.”

“Walking While Black” forum and experts panel brainstorm solutions to racism
By Rachel Pierret
On Dec. 3, Phi Rho Eta Fraternity Inc. hosted an open forum with a panel of academic, community and legal experts titled “Walking While Black,” to discuss the non-indictment of officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown and other race inequality problems.

The panel consisted of MU Police Department Captain Brian Weimer, English professor Clenora Hudson-Weems and lawyer Lindsey D. G. Dates of Barnes & Thornburg, LLP.

Junior Breon Woods, a member of the Phi Rho Eta Fraternity Inc., served as a moderator for the discussion. He began by asking Gates to explain the proceedings in a grand jury.

“Grand juries decide whether to issue a charge or not,” Gates said. “A judge (in Missouri) will get a panel of 12 jury members to meet over an extended period of time.”

In the case of Michael Brown, the jury had been chosen well before he died, Gates said.

There are several ways a grand jury can charge someone with a crime. One way is for a prosecutor to bring the charge to a judge to have it signed off on, Gates said.

“Usually in a more serious case, the prosecutor decides to use a grand jury to do that,” he said. “The grand jury’s burden isn’t to decide who is right or wrong, guilty or innocent.”

The prosecutor then presents his or her selected evidence to the jurors. Using the presented evidence, the jurors must decide if there is more than reasonable suspicion that there was a crime committed; there does not have be evidence beyond reasonable doubt, Gates said.

Woods responded by asking Weimer why he thought there was mistrust between the black community and police force.

“It’s with the public in general with the police, misunderstanding between each other,” Weimer said. “Typically when we get called to situations it’s because something bad is happening. The law is getting broken. Typically when we’re showing up, it’s not for the most pleasant thing. Mistrust can come from a lot of things. I believe it comes from
perceptions, and we reflect it towards all law enforcement rather than a bad individual or experience.”

In response, Hudson-Weems said police officers should be there to support people.

“In an ideal world, where there is no r-a-c-i-s-m (and mistrust in police) would not happen,” Hudson-Weems said. “Unfortunately, sometimes we have officers who bring baggage; racism predicated on a lot of misconceptions about blacks, stereotypes for blacks and just plain hatred for blacks. Unleashed and unchecked white power is not only toxic, not only malignant, but is deadly.”

Hudson-Weems described white power as a “monster.”

“We saw it happen in 1990, a white man in Boston killed his pregnant wife and baby so that he could collect insurance money,” Hudson-Weems said. “He did it because he thought he had the perfect scapegoat of a black man. That monster turned on him and his poor wife and unborn baby.”

Woods then opened up questions to the audience; he asked for opinions on media portrayal of the Michael Brown case.

“For 108 days, the police department in St. Louis said Michael Brown was 35 feet from the vehicle when he was shot and killed,” Director of Peoples’ Visioning Monta Welch said. “It was only through some (determination) to reveal the truth after going to the site themselves, that it was over 150 feet. This information that is untrue, it makes people doubt the information presented to the grand jury as even accurate. It makes people doubt the police department and media when they have been asked by other media to take this information forward to the public.”

The moderator then asked for possible solutions to all of these problems.

Welch promoted Peoples’ Visioning as a group against racial, social, cultural, economic and environmental injustices. She said they are looking for different and better ways to police in the community.

“Our organization is the only people in City Hall testifying against a military vehicle for the city police force,” Welch said.
MU Panhellenic Association President Kayley Weinberg made a presentation as well. She began her presentation of solutions by acknowledging her white privilege, and then discussing the comments made on MU’s Facebook postings of pictures of a Dec. 2 protest in the MU Student Center.

“A lot of individuals (commenting) were white alumni or white Greek males,” Weinberg said. “The white Greek community and the white alumni are two of the highest paying communities. (People should be) celebrating all of our stripes, no matter how much revenue they bring in.”

Other solutions presented from the audience were removing people from leadership positions if they made racist comments and pairing black and white sororities during homecoming.

Hudson-Weems said that the way to begin to fix a problem is to acknowledge that there is one.

“We have to understand that it starts with admitting,” Hudson-Weems said. “Then you have to be remorseful for it, then you have to try to atone for it. That is the only way you can get redemption, by doing good. We have to admit that there are some wrongs that need to be corrected. That’s the beginning of the healing and correction that needs to take place. At some point, you understand that other race (is) as human as you.”

The discussion finished with closing statements from the experts panel.

“I really enjoyed listening and thinking about what you all have said,” Dates said. “I’m really inspired by watching how brilliant you all are; it really makes me happy.”

Dates said he had one suggestion for furthering actions toward a solution.

“I challenge you to go back in small groups and come up with actionable things that the university can do, and really be thoughtful about it. Come up with that list, and you submit that list to the leadership,” he said.

Dates said there are similar issues in Illinois, but their chancellor would not have attended this event. Every time someone suggested an actionable plan, he said, he saw Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin was taking notes.
Weimer said he offered himself as a resource for change.

“If I could come talk to a large group, small group, do something for you guys, I invite you to ask me,” he said. "Please don’t see all police as being the same. I promise we’ll work with you. You are smart young men and women; let’s work together."

Hudson-Weems closed by saying she believed change started with individuals.

“What you need to do is to start with you,” she said. “As an individual, to search yourself out and make sure that you are responding in a positive way, so that you can be on that higher frequency and soar with the eagles, as opposed to crawling on the ground with the snakes. It’s about you, and what you feel you can do or contribute to this society that makes it better and better every day.”

Students rally for New York victim
Jonathan Butler, a University of Missouri graduate student, raises his fist during a moment of silence for black men who have been killed by white police officers. About 500 protesters marched Friday from Tiger Plaza to the north steps of Jesse Hall on the MU campus.

By JACOB BOGAGE
Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (15)

Hordes of University of Missouri students traipsed from Tiger Plaza to Jesse Hall on MU’s campus Friday — through rain and cold temperatures — to protest the death of Eric Garner, a black man slain by New York City police officers in July.

The demonstration drew close to 500 participants who peacefully held signs, chanted and conducted a candlelight vigil for Garner outside Jesse Hall. The policeman who killed Garner put him in a choke hold, a practice banned by New York police. Garner allegedly was selling single cigarettes from packs that lacked tax stamps.

His death and that of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager killed by police in Ferguson in August, have become a rallying cry for civil rights activists across the nation. A New York grand jury Wednesday declined to indict the police officer responsible for Garner’s death.

MU students walked out of class on Wednesday hours before that decision was announced to protest Brown’s death and lack of indictment of former Ferguson officer Darren Wilson.

Those gathered Friday night chanted, “Black lives matter,” and “No justice, no peace,” during their march through MU’s campus.

“Injustice is running rampant through the United States,” graduate student Jonathan Butler hollered through a megaphone at the start of the rally. “You’re on the right side of history.”

His brown sport coat and black cap were sopping wet by the end of the night. The march began at 6 p.m., and speakers from the MU student body read poetry and led chants until 7:30 p.m.

“I might not look like it, but I have died a thousand times,” said freshman Marshall Allen, who told onlookers he feared police brutality toward minorities.

“I don’t have the convenience of taking my skin off at the end of the day,” Butler said.

“I’m not black, but I’m still standing here in the rain and the cold because this is important to me,” freshman Yasmin Younis said through tears.

After lighting candles, demonstration leaders read a roll call of names of African Americans who were killed by law enforcement officials. Butler led participants in reciting, “I can’t breathe” — the phrase Garner repeated as he was wrestled to the ground by policemen — 11 times.

Butler told protesters to think of when Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, was killed in Florida in 2012 and prosecutors lamented a lack of witnesses for the case. When Brown was killed, witness testimony was disputed, Brown said. Garner’s death was documented on video.

“What will be enough evidence?” Butler asked to raucous cries. “I love all of God’s people, but I’m sorry, white people, you do not have to deal with this.”

Protesters drew flack Wednesday for impassioned expressions of examples of white privilege.

Junior Naomi Daugherty issued a similar plea Friday.

“I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired,” she said.
MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a statement Wednesday night decrying racist and threatening comments made on social media aimed at demonstrators.

“ Lets burn down the black culture center & give them a taste of their own medicine,” a Yik Yak app user posted anonymously.

MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said Wednesday officials were working to identify the person behind the comment.

The student group MU4MikeBrown organized both demonstrations. Butler said the group will continue to organize events around Columbia just as similar movements have taken shape nationwide.

“We’ll disrupt your neighborhoods. We’ll disrupt your schools until our voices are heard,” he said. “We won’t stop until there’s a change.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Students, community members march for Eric Garner

Friday, December 5, 2014 | 9:19 p.m. CST; updated 9:35 p.m. CST, Friday, December 5, 2014

The MU4MikeBrown movement organized a march Friday in honor of Eric Garner at MU. The march capped off an eventful week on campus for the movement. | LILI SAMS

BY JACK HOWLAND, LURIA FREEMAN

COLUMBIA — Huddled groups of protesters found refuge from the rain underneath umbrellas as they passed out items for the peaceful march just minutes away. Out of one damp cardboard box, they pulled out buttons reading, “Black Lives Matter.” Out of another, long wax candles affixed to paper cups.

Solidarity was the theme Friday night as demonstrators protested the grand jury decision to not indict the white New York City police officer who killed an unarmed black man in July. Officer Daniel Pantaleo put 43-year-old Eric Garner into a chokehold that led to his death. The entire incident was captured on video and posted to YouTube.

Standing on top of a bench in Tiger Plaza, graduate student Jonathan Butler addressed the 100 or so students and community members who showed up despite the downpour. The first words out of his mouth became a rallying cry for the night.

“The people united will never be defeated! The people united will never be defeated!” he shouted into a megaphone, the seven-word mantra growing louder each time.
The New York grand jury decision came just 10 days after another no-indictment was announced in the death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teen shot dead in Ferguson, Missouri. Butler, who helped organize Friday’s event, said the Garner case is emblematic of a larger trend. There are no checks and balances with police officers on trial, he explained, and prosecutors end up favoring those in uniform over the lives of black youth.

With the video evidence against Pantaleo, Butler said the no-indictment decision is harder for people to understand. He set up the event on Facebook with the help of sophomore Kierra Otis as a way for people to come together to express their outrage.

“You see people — conservative, liberal, everyone — who are for once coming to a consensus,” he said. “It was on video. The grand jury decision to not indict the officer was wrong.”

Shortly after 6 p.m., the crowd began their march toward the columns, umbrellas and signs hoisted high above their heads. Signs bore rain-smeread messages such as “Indict the System” and “They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we were seeds.”

“Tell me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!” protesters chanted in call-and-response fashion.

Protesters trudged in mud through the columns and on toward Jesse Hall. Chants of “No justice, no peace. No racist police” echoed across the Francis Quadrangle.

The group congregated at the steps of Jesse Hall. The rain began to pour harder as the presentations of the night began. The crowd had to huddle closer together to hear what was being said.

Junior Delan Ellington shared a poem titled “How to survive the police” which listed ways his parents had taught him to avoid police brutality.

“The world is dangerous for a black man, and we only wish not to bury you,” he said.

Freshman Marshall Allen also recited a poem expressing his outrage for the continuous lack of justice in the cases of black deaths. In the poem he associated himself with the lives of all who have been lost, saying “I may not look like it, but I have died a thousand times.”

Students involved in organizing the event took turns reading the stories of the deaths of Amadou Diallo, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, John Crawford, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and many other people of color who lost their lives, whom they described as people who never saw justice because of prejudice and excessive force of police officers.
Butler led the crowd in chanting “I can’t breathe” 11 times, echoing the 11 times Eric Garner said he couldn’t breathe in the video of his death. Lighters were passed around the crowd for the candles, and people huddled under umbrellas to protect the flames from the rain.

Every few minutes a candle would go out and a neighbor would lend their candle to reignite it.

“Right now, whether you believe it or not, this is a season of inconvenience,” Butler said. “We will continue to disrupt America until a change happens.”

Students march for Eric Garner

By Wendy Hayworth
Dec. 7, 2014

Hundreds of students gathered in the rain at Tiger Plaza on the night of Dec. 5. Signs could be seen saying "We Can't Breathe!," "Hands Up Don't Shoot," "Black Lives Matter" and more in support of Eric Garner, who died from being choked to death by a Staten Island police officer last July.

The group, lead by sophomore Kierra Otis and grad student Jonathan Butler, marched through Speakers Circle, through the columns and to the steps of Jesse Hall. All along the way chants of "No justice, no peace, no racist, police," "The people united will never be defeated!" and "Tell me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!" echoed through the campus.

When the congregation reached the steps of Jesse Hall, six minutes of silence were held. Each minute represented a child left behind by Garner. The rain picked up and groups huddled closer together under their umbrellas all while staying silent.

Presentations ranging from poems titled "How to survive the police," and "I have died a thousand times" to passionate speeches about the injustices faced by minority groups in the land of the free echoed over the steps of Jesse Hall.
Lighters were passed around and slowly candles were lit throughout the crowd. A list of names was read, along with the circumstances of their death, of black lives taken from Garner to Tamir Rice, Michael Brown and John Crawford.

Butler then stood and chanted "I can't breathe!" 11 times, just as Garner did in the video of his death.

The crowd ended the night with a panic yell or war cry that echoed off the columns.

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Fracking chemicals could pose risks to reproductive health, say researchers
People living near fracking operations should be monitored to assess the risk of chemicals to human health, say scientists

Ian Sample, science editor
Friday 5 December 2014 12.02 EST

People who live near fracking operations should be monitored for chemical contaminants and health problems, according to researchers who surveyed the risks posed by substances used in the process.

Scientists in the US found that many of the 750 or so chemicals that are pumped into the ground at high pressure to fracture shale rock were associated with fertility and developmental problems.

But while the chemicals have been linked to various health effects, ranging from poor semen quality and endocrine problems to miscarriages and low birth weight, very little is known about the levels of chemicals that people are
actually exposed to from fracking operations, making it impossible to assess the real risk.

The scientists’ study drew on published scientific reports into the health impacts of chemicals such as benzene and toluene, and elements including cadmium and arsenic that are released from rocks in the drilling process.

**The team, led by Susan Nagel at the University of Missouri, fear that fracking chemicals could contaminate air, water and soil, and expose workers and local communities to the substances.**

“We desperately need biomonitoring data from these people. What are people actually exposed to? What are the blood levels of people living in these areas? What are the levels in the workers?” said Nagel.

“It is absolutely in the realm of possibility that at current human exposure levels, we might expect to see some of these effects, and at the very least, we should be looking for them,” she added.

The rapid rise of what are called unconventional oil and natural gas (UOG) operations, that combine horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing of rock, increases the risk of air and water pollution, the scientists write in Reviews on Environmental Health. In the US, more than 15m people live within 1.5km (one mile) of UOG operations.

Sheila Bushkin-Bedient, a co-author on the study, said that another major unknown was how low level, but long-term, exposure from multiple chemicals might effect peoples’ health. In light of the potential harms, she argues that the industry should be kept from expanding until the risks are better understood.

Professor Richard Sharpe, who leads a research team on male reproductive health at the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health at Edinburgh University, agreed that good data from people living near fracking sites was needed.
“It’s impossible to say how much of a potential issue this is. I certainly wouldn’t dismiss it lightly, but I think we will have to wait for detailed prospective data from well-organised studies to get that,” he said.

“The one thing that is certain in all of this is that there should be a voice asking that the necessary surveillance and monitoring should be automatically put in place with such novel developments, in order that we can be reassured that we are not going to recreate another DDT scenario some way down the line,” he added.

April Lane's work often brings her to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she monitors pollution from natural gas production sites around the area's rich shale reserves. Exposure to toxins, she says, have left her with chronic headaches, nausea and a hesitancy to have more children.

"I've decided having another baby is probably not going to happen for me. I'm too scared of what the health effects might be," said Lane, 28, of Little Rock, a mother of one and an environmental health advocate who has led citizen groups in tracking threats from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations.

A paper published Friday in Reviews on Environmental Health may give credence to her personal suspicions. The paper suggests that even tiny doses of benzene, toluene and other chemicals released during the various phases of oil and natural gas production, including fracking, could pose serious health risks -- especially to developing fetuses, babies and young children.
"We hear a lot of anecdotal stories all the time," said Dr. Sheila Bushkin-Bedient, of the Institute for Health and the Environment at University at Albany-SUNY and co-author on the paper, "but now that we've had a decade of opportunity to observe the ill effects from these chemicals on people and animals, the evidence is no longer just anecdotal."

The boom in the extraction of oil and natural gas continues across large swaths of the U.S., but not without resistance. Many environmental groups oppose fracking -- which uses a mix of pressurized water, sand and chemicals to unlock hydrocarbon reserves in shale rock -- even as the industry maintains that processes like fracking are safe.

A small Texas town near the birthplace of the fracking boom is the latest case in point: In November voters approved a ban on the practice, due in part to concerns about air and water contamination.

Still, more than 15 million Americans now live within one mile of such oil and gas operations.

The research paper pulls together findings from studies that have investigated links between exposures to chemicals associated with fracking -- and, in some cases, proximity to fracking operations -- and developmental and reproductive problems in animals and humans, including reduced semen quality and increased risk of miscarriage, birth defects and infertility. While the report doesn't provide any new data, the authors say the compilation builds a more compelling case for such connections.

Among the more than 750 chemicals known to be used in fracking, at least 130 may carry the potential to mess with the natural hormone messengers responsible for critical processes such as sleep, metabolism, growth and reproduction. Even in very small concentrations -- say, a couple tablespoons in an Olympic-sized swimming pool -- these endocrine disruptors have been shown capable of derailing normal brain and sexual development, diminishing the immune system's ability to fight disease, and other effects. These could be subtle, experts warn, but the life-long consequences could be profound.

**Endocrine disruptors** have made headlines in the last few years, as scientists increasingly tie exposures to the chemicals -- which commonly lace plastics, herbicides, non-stick fry pans and other consumer goods -- with potential harms such as obesity, diabetes and breast cancer.

But it has been the acute, more obvious health concerns that have drawn the most attention in the fracking debate. A study published in September, for example, found that people who lived close to fracking sites in southwestern Pennsylvania were more likely to suffer **skin and respiratory symptoms** compared to those who lived further away. Another study conducted
in Arkansas, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wyoming, and published in October, warned of wells releasing cancer-causing chemicals at levels several-fold greater than federal limits.

Andrea Gore, a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at The University of Texas Austin, suggested that more focus should be directed at the endocrine-disrupting potential of fracking chemicals.

"This is of great concern," she said, adding that she anticipates fracking will prove the next area of study with regard to this class of toxins.

The fracking industry, meanwhile, has criticized the new paper, focusing its censure on a source study by Susan Nagel, an obstetrics and gynecology researcher at the University of Missouri, who is also a co-author of the report. That study, published last December, found more endocrine-disrupting activity in water samples collected near fracking sites in Colorado as compared to sites with no fracking activity.

"The researchers have pushed these same claims before only to receive sharp criticism from Colorado regulators for relying on assumptions that were 'not factually or scientifically valid,'” said Katie Brown, a spokeswoman for Energy in Depth, an industry group. “This report is more of the same. It contains no new data, and (as with their previous report) there is no evidence to make a link between developmental issues and hydraulic fracturing.”

The new paper also highlights findings published in March that asserted pregnant women who lived near fracking wells faced an increased risk of having children born with defects such as oral clefts and heart problems. And it further points to science that warns of other chemicals' potential for widespread and long-term harm.

"You're not always going to see an effect straight away," said Sharima Rasanayagam, director of science for the nonprofit Breast Cancer Fund, who was also not involved in the new paper. "Ten, 20, even 50 years down the line there may be health effects which are due to the changes caused in the hormonal systems of developing fetuses."

Rasanayagam underscored another concern shared by health experts and anti-fracking advocates: Fracking companies are not required to disclose all of the chemicals they use in their operations.

A controversial exemption from existing environmental regulations, known as the "Halliburton loophole," continues to make it difficult to monitor, let alone prove any links to health problems, laments Rasanayagam and others.
Katie Huffling, a registered nurse and director of programs with the Alliance of Nurses for Health Environments, added that people are "not just exposed to one chemical by itself, but rather to a chemical soup."

"That can make it a real challenge to tease out what specific chemicals are doing what," said Huffling, who counsels her pregnant patients on avoiding toxins, including endocrine disruptors, in their everyday lives -- from lead in paint to bisphenol-A in plastic products and food can liners.

"We need to be taking a more precautionary approach and protecting the most vulnerable among us," she added.

Nagel acknowledges a "striking need" for more monitoring and research studies to determine just what people living around oil and gas operations are really exposed to, but she maintains there is enough "suggestive" evidence at this point to "cause concern."

Lane in Arkansas, for one, was heartened by the paper. "I've heard countless stories from people dealing with all kinds of health problems," she said. "Now we're finally seeing some evidence backing us up."

Pinkel gets his wish with new football complex

December 06, 2014 1:00 am  •  By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

ATLANTA • As is the custom when he arrives for SEC championship games, Missouri coach Gary Pinkel defused any speculation that he could leave Missouri for a vacant high-profile job. The Michigan job is still open, and Pinkel rebuffed an invitation to interview for the Wolverines' job after the 2010 season.

Asked Friday if any schools had contacted him, Pinkel said, “No, I’m just coaching Mizzou football here. That’s where my focus is.”

Pinkel’s 14th-ranked Tigers (10-2) play No. 1 Alabama (11-1) at the Georgia Dome today for the SEC championship.

When his team came to Atlanta last year to play Auburn for the SEC crown, Pinkel had just been contacted by Washington about its job opening. His agent had brief talks with UW’s administration, but the job went to Boise State’s Chris Petersen. After the season, Pinkel agreed to a new contract that raised his salary to $3.1 million through 2020.
This time around, there’s something else keeping Pinkel, 62, at Mizzou: Over coffee about six weeks ago, Pinkel met with athletics director Mike Alden and made a request. Pinkel wants to put off plans to build a new indoor practice facility and instead spend the resources on a new football-only building that will house coaches’ offices, a new weight room, training room and locker room. Pinkel wants the new facility just south of Memorial Stadium.

Wish granted.

“We felt that would have the biggest impact on recruiting, to be honest with you,” Pinkel said.

The new complex will free up the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex for other teams to use the space currently occupied by the football team. Alden said it will take about three years to complete the project — nine to 12 months to design the complex and another 24 to 30 months to build it. The project could include the addition of limited premium seating in the south end zone, but Alden doesn’t want to push the stadium capacity much beyond the current 71,168 limit — at least not until MU builds an upper deck along the south side that could see capacity climb to 80,000.

**COMMON ROOTS**

Pinkel and former college teammate Nick Saban rarely share colorful details about their days playing together at Kent State or the brief time they spent as graduate assistants under Kent coach Don James.

Pinkel and Saban’s shared lineage comes out in the form of a genuine mutual respect.

“I don’t know that anybody has done as consistent a job at coaching with 85 scholarships as Nick Saban has,” Pinkel said. “I’m not telling you this because he’s my friend, but because I have great respect. To win at the level he’s won, year after year after year, you don’t see anybody doing it like that with his consistency. He’s a great football coach, a good friend. Sometimes I don’t think he gets the credit he’s due.”

Appearing on the same dais minutes later, Saban saw Pinkel’s compliment and raised him a few more.

“I think he’s always represented our profession with a tremendous amount of professionalism and class,” Saban said, “which I know Coach James would have been very, very proud of.”

James died last year.

**TIGER-TIDE TALES**

Alabama kicker Adam Griffith and left tackle Cam Robinson have been nursing injuries lately, but Saban said he expects both to play today. Robinson hurt his shoulder in Saturday’s win over Auburn. Saban has not disclosed the source of Griffith’s injury. … Missouri tailback Russell Hansbrough wore a protective boot on his left foot during Friday’s brief walk-through at the Georgia Dome. Hansbrough sprained his ankle on his final carry against Arkansas last week. Pinkel has said he expects the team’s leading rusher to play today. … After he celebrated last year’s Cotton Bowl victory with an impromptu dance in the locker room, does Pinkel have more moves prepared for today? “The answer to that is no,” he said, cracking a smile.
Missouri puts Memorial Stadium project on fast track

By JOE WALLJASPER

Friday, December 5, 2014 at 12:00 pm Comments (2)

A conversation over coffee six weeks ago led Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden to rearrange the priorities of his facilities master plan and put the Memorial Stadium south end zone project on the fast track.

Alden said the plans for a new indoor football practice facility were almost complete and the university was getting ready to accept bids for its construction when football Coach Gary Pinkel asked Alden to call an audible. In the athletic facilities master plan that was approved in June 2012, there was a project in which the football offices, locker room, training room and weight room would be incorporated into a structure attached to the south side of the stadium.

Pinkel wanted that done sooner than later, as he informed Alden one morning at Lakota Coffee Company.

“He said, ‘Hey, I’ve been thinking about this. We’ve got all these resources going to this indoor facility, and I know at the same time, on our master plan, we have this end-zone complex as well, too. What do you think about us putting this one on pause and putting our attention back here?’” Alden said Thursday in a meeting with reporters. “For me, it was like, ‘Shoot, Coach, we’ve talked about this.’ It was not our first time we’d talked about this.”

But Alden was persuaded. Missouri’s football facilities are currently across Providence Road from the stadium in the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex. Alden said that Pinkel preferred adding the football facilities to the stadium now because it would provide “the biggest bang for recruiting.” It also would free up space for other sports to take football’s place in the MATC.

“We’re crawling all over ourselves in the MATC right now,” Alden said.

The south end zone project will not significantly change the current stadium capacity of 71,000, although Alden said some premium club seats — similar to ones in the new east-side expansion — could be added. Eventually, though, the master plan calls for an upper deck to be added to the south end of the stadium that will raise the capacity to 81,000, but there is no timetable yet.

Alden estimated the initial end zone project would take nine to 12 months to design and then 24 to 30 months to build, so it could be completed in 2018.

The price tag has yet to be determined. Associate athletic director Bryan Maggard said the next step is to conduct a “scope analysis” in which athletic department and campus officials decide what the facility will include and some of the parameters of its size and shape.

“That process will tell you, No. 1, what type of programming you want to have in that facility, and, 2, helps you at least get a ballpark figure for cost,” Maggard said. “Once we do that, then there’s a process that any type of construction project on our campus would follow and that stems with board approval and identifying and hiring architects and things of that nature.”
Maggard said the south end zone project will cost much more than the indoor facility, so additional fund-raising is required. Missouri is also preparing to build a new softball facility east of the Hearnes Center, so the cranes that dominated the skyline at the corner of Stadium and Providence will soon return.

Alden said he doesn’t know when the new indoor practice facility will be built, but he expects Pinkel to push for more construction as soon as this phase is done.

“The minute we get this rolling,” Alden said, “I’m pretty confident he’ll say, ‘When are we getting that new indoor facility?’ ”

**ANOTHER ROAD GAME:** Although technically a neutral-site game, Saturday’s SEC Championship Game will probably look and sound more like a home contest for Alabama. That was the case last year when Auburn fans outnumbered Missouri fans about 3 to 1 at the Georgia Dome. Alden expects about the same split on Saturday, even though Missouri sold out its ticket allotment.

“We sold those tickets out pretty quickly, I thought, much more quickly than I thought we would,” Alden said. “But even with all of that, there’s more work that we have to continue to do.

“What we’ve learned is there are so many people that own season tickets to the SEC Championship Game. So you have four tickets to the SEC Championship Game, and your allegiance may be with LSU. And with LSU not being in there, those tickets may be up for grabs. So how do you impact those people who are SEC fans but maybe don’t have an allegiance and maybe they’re willing to be able to help you with your ticket allotment? We’re learning that. That’s a lot of stuff there. That’s something that we’re learning, but people who have been in the SEC a long time think they understand the secondary market better than we do.”

The good news for the Tigers is that they’ve been great on the road, winning 10 straight true road games, including eight straight in the SEC.

**BOWL PROJECTIONS:** Missouri (10-2, 7-1 SEC) will find out its bowl destination on Sunday. The SEC is using a new bowl selection procedure this year.

If Missouri beats Alabama to win the SEC title and is not selected for the four-team College Football Playoff, the Tigers would go to either the Peach, Cotton or Fiesta.

If Missouri loses to Alabama, there are several possibilities. After the aforementioned three bowls make their selections, the Citrus Bowl gets first dibs on any SEC team that remains. If the Citrus passes on Missouri, the Tigers likely would land among a group of six bowls — the Outback, TaxSlayer, Belk, Music City, Texas and Liberty. The schools and those bowls would inform the SEC of their preferences, and then the SEC would decide who goes where. There is no pecking order assigned to the bowls.

After that, the Birmingham and Independence get the ninth and 10th picks, respectively, although it’s almost inconceivable that Missouri would fall that far.

“We’ve got to go through this first year to see how that works,” Alden said. “I wish I could tell you that we know exactly how this is going to work out, because this is the first time we’ve had a pool system.”
MU Health partners with Kansas company to buy Callaway County hospital

By ALICIA STICE

Friday, December 5, 2014 at 1:00 pm Comments (1)

A health care management company based in Leawood, Kan., has joined forces with University of Missouri Health Care to purchase Callaway Community Hospital in Fulton.

The university’s minority ownership stake offers it a way to ensure that it can continue its residency program at the hospital and start revitalizing the facility with care that people often leave the area to receive, MU Health CEO Mitch Wasden said.

“We’ve been in the community for 40 years,” he said. “We’ve trained over 400 residents there. Part of what makes that possible is that the facility sponsors our residency program. If we aren’t part of it, some other owner might decide not to.

MU Health spent $1.15 million on the deal using money from its operating reserves, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said.

HealthMont of Missouri, LLC, a subsidiary of SunLink Health Systems Inc., currently owns the hospital. The total sale cost was about $6 million, the company said in a news release. The deal is scheduled to close Dec. 31.

Kansas-based Nueterra will be the majority owner, and MU Health Care has an approximately 35 percent ownership stake in the hospital. MU is also providing about $2.75 million in the form of a loan guarantee, Jenkins said.

The partnership began after Nueterra approached Callaway Community about a purchase.

At Nueterra, “they’re kind of an expert at running small hospitals,” Wasden said. “We thought it might be a way to lever both of our strengths. We’ll keep our residency relationship, and we’ll have a seat on the board so we’ll have input.”

The board currently has three members. Wasden said MU Health plans to add specialty care, specifically general and orthopedic surgery, to the 37-bed hospital.

“When you look at Callaway County and Fulton in general, there is lots of care that leaves the county and leaves the city,” Wasden said. “We thought working with Nueterra we could keep care local so people don’t need to travel for routine things.”

Adding these services will be a gradual process, likely with a doctor visiting the hospital for a few treatments a week. As demand grows, so will the hospital offerings. The hospital already employs three primary care physicians who will remain there, Wasden said.

Amy Lieker, Nueterra’s vice president of global marketing, said in an email that the company was excited to partner with MU and establish a presence in Mid-Missouri.
“This partnership will enable us to re-energize the facility, and guarantee access to a wide range of new and improved medical and surgical services,” she said in the email.

This story was first published online on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 5:07 p.m.

Sheriff shifts detective positions to keep Internet crimes task force staffed

By ALAN BURDZIAK

After Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed a bill that would have provided $1.5 million to Internet crimes task forces statewide, including enough money for two detectives here, Boone County Sheriff Dwayne Carey made adjustments to fund their positions until at least June 30.

Carey shifted the two investigator positions from the enforcement side of the department to the corrections side, where nine spots are open for jailers, he said. The move allowed Carey to avoid having to lay the investigators off, which could have put the existence of the Boone County Cyber Crimes Task Force in jeopardy, he said. A state grant that expired June 30, the end of state fiscal year 2014, paid for the two positions.

The task force focuses on child enticement and child pornography cases and is staffed by three full-time sheriff's detectives and a University of Missouri police officer whose role with the group is part time. An FBI agent formerly worked part time with the task force as well.

Carey said he hopes the General Assembly can find a way to re-establish state funding for Internet crimes task forces in 2015.

“There are a lot of options I’ll have to weigh at some juncture if the money doesn’t come back to us,” he said. Though the number of open positions in corrections and enforcement is in constant flux, Carey said, the jail will eventually need to fill its openings. He estimated nine spots are open for jailers and three for patrol officers.

If no state money becomes available, Carey said, he could either request county funding for two more detective positions in fiscal 2016, which begins Jan. 1, 2016, or consider disbanding the task force. He said he hopes the latter won’t be an option.

Carey said law enforcement struggles to keep up with technology crime. “I think we’re not necessarily out ahead, but we’d like to keep pace with it,” he said.

The total cost of both positions was not immediately available. According to Boone County government’s website, an investigator in the sheriff’s department’s annual salary ranges from $34,128 to $51,191 depending on experience. Corrections officers start at $27,327 annually for entry-level employees and cap at $54,783 for a sergeant. The additional cost of benefits for those positions was not immediately available.

Sheriff’s Det. Tracy Perkins, who has worked on the task force since 2007, said without the state grant it is more difficult to pay for the unit’s training and equipment costs. Recently, the task force
received a $10,000 grant from the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, based in O'Fallon, to pay for training and a new Cellebrite machine. The department’s old machine, which downloads data from cellphones, tablets and other portable electronics for computer analysis, was 4 years old, Perkins said.

“The machine it replaced,” Perkins said, “was basically obsolete.”

Study reveals everyone benefits from family meals

Friday, December 5, 2014 at 1:00 pm

Following more than 10 years of research, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University consistently found that kids who eat dinner with their families are less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs.

Lynda Johnson, University of Missouri Extension nutrition and health education specialist, said family meals are not only a simple, effective tool to help prevent substance abuse in kids but are also good for children’s nutrition.

“Many child experts indicate that regular family meals are one of the best ways to help children and teens be fit, healthy and ready to succeed,” said Johnson. “Young people who spend more time eating and talking with their families are more likely to do well in school, more likely to have a healthy weight and get the nutrition they need. They are less likely to use drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and less likely to develop eating disorders. They are also less likely to have sex, get into fights and have thoughts of suicide.”

Family mealtime helps foster a sense of connectedness for children and an opportunity to focus on family communication. Positive conversations at mealtime strengthen family relationships, share family values and help parents understand the challenges that children face today.

Johnson promotes family meals as both an opportunity for family interactions, but also the ideal setting to teach children the benefits of healthy eating. She suggests using mealtimes to show kids how to eat slowly and enjoy their food and talk about how eating healthy foods helps people grow strong and have energy.

In 2001, CASA launched the annual Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children to remind parents that frequent family dinners make a difference. Family Day focuses attention on the importance of eating and talking together at mealtime, and encourages family meals “even if you aren’t a great cook.” The focus should be on the time interacting together, not on creating an elaborate meal. The meal can be as simple as ordering a pizza or picking up a rotisserie chicken, cooking a vegetable and preparing a salad.

Some quick-to-fix ideas from USDA’s Nibbles For Health include adding canned or frozen vegetables to tomato or chicken soup for a quick main dish. Mix chopped lean ham or deli meat and cooked vegetables with macaroni and cheese. Or, serve chili over a baked potato or rice as a main course.
Johnson said that planning and cooking meals together offers many of the same benefits as eating together. Children who help prepare the meal are much more likely to consume it. Involve children in making food decisions, especially when it comes to vegetables (broccoli or carrots?). Assign each family member a task — like making the salad, setting the table, preparing the beverages or slicing fruit for dessert.

Busy families can start simple and schedule one or two meals a week together. Once a routine is established, the family can gradually increase the number of meals to as many as possible.

— Adapted from articles written by Lynda Johnson & Tammy Roberts, Nutrition and Health Education Specialists, University of Missouri Extension

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**Partnership releases preliminary results of women's issue study**

**By ASHLEY JOST**

Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12:00 am

KANSAS CITY — A partnership created to bring to light the issues Missouri women face, including an income gap compared to male counterparts and lack of access to quality child care, released preliminary information Friday.

**The Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the University of Missouri’s Institute of Public Policy started a partnership this spring with the goal of creating a political and philanthropic platform to address the needs of Missouri women based on research that identifies those needs.**

Some of the preliminary results were unveiled Friday during the Women’s Foundation annual luncheon in Kansas City.

The findings were broken into five key issues based on the MU institute’s research and validated at Women’s Foundation listening sessions in Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis.

Women from lower, middle and higher income backgrounds provided feedback, as did one focus group of men, said Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation.

Jacqueline Schumacher, policy analyst with the MU institute, discussed the top priority problems found in each lead indicator. For “employment and income,” the key issue was the gap between male and female incomes. Schumacher said Missouri women make 71 cents for every dollar men make, compared to a national average of 78 cents.

Schumacher also discussed the fact that more than a quarter of Missouri’s 114 counties lack accredited child care centers.

The institute discovered the disparity in the state’s population that lacks health insurance heavily affects women.
The fourth indicator was the rate of impoverished women who are 65 and older. Schumacher said 9 percent of Missouri seniors are impoverished and that two-thirds of them are women. She said often that is a difficult period for women who have possibly lost a spouse and are no longer sure about their role in society.

The fifth and final indicator addressed the disparity in the number of women who serve in the Missouri General Assembly. Though just more than half the state's population comprises women, only a quarter of state legislature seats are filled by women.

"Why is it important for women to be at the table? Because I can tell you from personal experience that having women as part of the conversation when developing public policy makes a difference," said Rep. Anne Zerr, a Republican from St. Charles. "We bring a perspective that is unique and that brings great value."

Though the number of female legislators continues to rise, Zerr said, no women are elected to statewide executive positions.

Doyle said she hopes to roll out a small platform of action items that address these issues during the 2015 session of the General Assembly. Zerr, the chairwoman of the House Economic Development Committee, said she is committed to working with the foundation to “improve the economic self-sufficiency of women and their families.”

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in the annual luncheon’s keynote address mentioned the survey results, noting the numbers show “how much work needs to be done.”

Doyle said the foundation and MU institute plan to have the full study completed in mid-January, as well as a public database that will break down numbers by topic, such as statistics related to older women and salary information.

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Rolling Stone casts doubt on U.Va. rape story

December 05, 2014 8:40 pm  •  By ALAN SUDERMAN and FREDERIC J. FROMMER

NO MU MENTION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Rolling Stone cast doubt Friday on its story of a young woman who said she was gang-raped at a fraternity party at the University of Virginia, saying it has since learned of "discrepancies" in her account.

"Our trust in her was misplaced," the magazine's editor, Will Dana, wrote in a signed apology.
The backpedaling dispirited advocates for rape victims who said they are concerned it could lead to a setback in efforts to combat sexual assaults both at U.Va. and college campuses elsewhere.

The lengthy article published last month focused on a woman it identified only as "Jackie," using her case as an example of what it called a culture of sexual violence hiding in plain sight at U.Va.

Rolling Stone said that because Jackie's story was sensitive, the magazine honored her request not to contact the men who she claimed organized and participated in the attack. That prompted criticism from other news organizations.

"We were trying to be sensitive to the unfair shame and humiliation many women feel after a sexual assault and now regret the decision to not contact the alleged assailters to get their account," the magazine's statement said. "We are taking this seriously and apologize to anyone who was affected by the story."

The statement Rolling Stone posted on its website said discrepancies in the woman's account became apparent "in the face of new information," but provided no details about what facts might be in question.

That wasn't enough for some.

"It is deeply troubling that Rolling Stone magazine is now publicly walking away from its central storyline in its bombshell report on the University of Virginia without correcting what errors its editors believe were made," Attorney General Mark Herring said in a statement.

The original story noted that a dangerous mix of alcohol, date-rape drugs and forced sex at fraternity parties is by no means unique to any one U.S. university. In fact, U.Va. is one of 90 schools facing Title IX sexual-violence investigations from the Education Department, a list that includes four others in Virginia: the College of William and Mary; James Madison University; the University of Richmond; and Virginia Military Institute.

But U.Va was roiled by the article, whose main allegation was that too many people at the university put protecting the school's image and their own reputations above seeking justice for sex crimes. The story prompted protests, classroom debates, formal investigations and a suspension of fraternity activities.

Phi Kappa Psi, where the gang rape allegedly occurred on Sept. 28, 2012, was attacked after the article was published, with cinderblocks thrown through the fraternity house's windows.

The fraternity issued its own statement disputing the account of Jackie, who described being led upstairs by her date, who then allegedly orchestrated her gang-rape by seven men as he and another watched.

"No ritualized sexual assault is part of our pledging or initiation process," the statement said. "This notion is vile, and we vehemently" dispute the claim. "We continue to be shocked by the allegations and saddened by this story. We have no knowledge of these alleged acts being committed at our house or by our members. Anyone who commits any form of sexual assault, wherever or whenever, should be identified and brought to justice."

According to the Rolling Stone article, the woman said she recognized one attacker as a classmate, who reluctantly sodomized her with a bottle as others egged him on, saying, "Don't you want to be a brother?"

The article said Jackie had met her date while they worked at the U.Va. pool, and that she quit her job as a lifeguard there to avoid seeing him thereafter.

But the fraternity said none of its members worked at the university's Aquatic and Fitness Center in 2012, that it had no social event during the weekend when the woman said the rape took place, and that it doesn't hold pledging parties until the spring.
Some advocates for sexual assault victims expressed concern that Rolling Stone's backpedaling could discourage victims from coming forward. But college officials and state leaders said Friday's developments would not stop ongoing efforts to prevent sexual assaults on campus.

Over the past two weeks, the college community "has been more focused than ever" on the issue, U.Va. President Teresa Sullivan said Friday in a statement.

"Today's news must not alter this focus," Sullivan said.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe's spokeswoman, Rachel Thomas, said the governor has asked for an investigation while continuing to work with state and educational leaders "to ensure that Virginia's college campuses are leaders in prevention, response, and awareness efforts."

Some state lawmakers proposed legislation requiring university officials to report sex assault allegations to the criminal justice system, rather than try to handle cases themselves. Another proposed requiring campus police to report assaults to local prosecutors within 48 hours.

Sullivan asked Charlottesville police to investigate the alleged gang rape. The police inquiry continued Friday.

A vigil organized by high school students in support of sexual-assault victims prior to Rolling Stone's announcement took place as planned on the U.Va. campus Friday evening, with several dozen high school and college students in attendance.

One of them, first-year U.Va. student Maria DeHart, said criticism of the magazine's article misses the point and "devalues the issue at hand."

"The fact is, Jackie is not making this up," she said.

Two fourth-year students on campus said they were disappointed with how Rolling Stone treated Jackie, and said discrepancies in her story don't mean what she said happened is untrue.

"I believe Jackie, period," said Greg Lewis, who added that he thinks U.Va. has an entrenched rape culture.

"At a certain point you have to say how many rapes is enough?" added Anna Boynton.

Some advocates expressed anger Friday that the magazine blamed the victim, rather than its own journalistic practices.

"It's an advocate's job to believe and support, never to play investigator or adjudicator," said Emily Renda, U.Va.'s project coordinator for sexual misconduct, policy and prevention, and a member of the governor's Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence.

Renda, who knows Jackie and also was interviewed for the Rolling Stone article, said, "I didn't and don't question Jackie's credibility because that is not my role. Rolling Stone played adjudicator, investigator and advocate — and did a slipshod job at that."

Renda, a May graduate who said she was raped her freshman year at the school, added in an email that as a result of this, "Jackie suffers, the young men in Phi Kappa Psi suffered, and survivors everywhere can unfairly be called into question.

"We still have to build a culture of support and reporting so that justice can be done right and survivors can find healing. Rolling Stone has run roughshod over years of advocacy, over fairness and justice, and ultimately, over Jackie."
Doubts About UVa Rape Account Leave Concerns About Consequences

By Katherine Mangan

Last month, when Rolling Stone published a sensational story of an alleged gang rape at a University of Virginia fraternity house, the account emboldened rape victims nationwide to speak out—and seemed to put another nail in the coffin of fraternities accused of running amok.

Now, though, the story appears to be unraveling. That has caused deep concern for many activists and administrators, who fear the magazine’s incendiary and subsequent backpedaling will arrest the momentum of years of sweeping efforts to combat sexual violence on college campuses.

Among the questions on their minds: Will the debacle keep future rape victims from speaking out? Let more fraternities off the hook? Cause university administrators—already under intense pressure to respond to sexual-assault accusations—to hold back, fearing a rush to judgment they might later regret?

On Friday, Rolling Stone apologized to readers for not trying to talk to the men that Jackie, the alleged victim, said attacked her. "There now appear to be discrepancies in Jackie’s account," wrote Will Dana, the magazine’s managing editor, "and we have come to the conclusion that our trust in her was misplaced."

The magazine’s announcement sent shock waves across campuses nationwide. Some students and observers were quick to portray the apology as vindicating their belief that the prevalence of rape on college campuses is exaggerated. But many others, including advocates for sexual-assault victims, saw a troubling pattern: The victim was being blamed, they said, and that could have repercussions later.

"If Rolling Stone feels like it should’ve conducted its research more fully, it should’ve done that," Dana Bolger, a founding co-director of Know Your IX, a victims’ rights
group, wrote in an email to The Chronicle. "But throwing Jackie under the bus for its journalistic mistakes is not only unfair to her but to survivors everywhere. Victims were already met with skepticism when they spoke out. Who’s going to possibly want to speak up now?"

Traumatized rape survivors often forget details of their experiences, she added. "Just because there are ‘discrepancies’ in Jackie’s story doesn’t mean she’s lying. It doesn’t mean she wasn’t raped."

Many who had been following the case took to social media to make that point. Using the hashtag #IStandWithJackie, more than 1,000 Twitter users weighed in in the first four hours after the news broke to defend the accuser.

One tweet read: "You know how many gross white boys at frats across the country are going to throw vindication parties at their frats now?"

‘Dueling Narratives’
In a statement released on Friday, UVa’s president, Teresa A. Sullivan, sought to reassure students that pressure to improve the campus climate won’t let up. "We will continue to take a hard look at our practices, policies and procedures, and continue to dedicate ourselves to becoming a model institution in our educational programming, in the character of our student culture, and in our care for those who are victims," she wrote.

The state’s attorney general, Mark R. Herring, said that sexual-assault victims "should never feel further victimized by a response that is inadequate, suspicious, or judgmental." The magazine’s backtracking "leaves us with serious questions," he said, but "we must not lose the sense of urgency that students, alumni, campus leaders, law enforcement, and many Virginians have brought to this conversation."

The controversy illustrates the enormous pressure campus leaders face to act quickly and decisively on sexual-assault allegations even when the facts are still murky, said Peter F. Lake, director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University.

"College presidents routinely face situations where they’re in the fog of war," said Mr. Lake, who serves as a legal consultant to colleges on sexual assault and other issues. At the same time, "any college president has to be sure they’re acting on information they can verify and not just acting on what they’re reading in the paper."
No one wants a repeat of the Duke lacrosse scandal that tarnished the reputations not only of the falsely accused players, but also of the university.

The "dueling narratives" playing out in Virginia, Mr. Lake said, are similar to those that Pennsylvania State University alumni had to wade through when that campus was rocked by reports of a high-level attempt to cover up a football coach’s sexual abuse of children.

Many activists have also expressed concern that the questions swirling around the case will set back efforts to crack down on sexual abuse, alcohol abuse, and other misconduct by fraternities.

On Friday, an association representing 74 fraternities across North America—including Phi Kappa Psi, whose UVa chapter is disputing the allegations lodged against it in Rolling Stone—asked Ms. Sullivan to reverse her decision to suspend Greek activities until after the winter break. There was no indication the university planned to do so.

"As we’ve said all along, it is not right to punish an entire community of students based on allegations against a very small subset of those students—especially when those allegations have not been investigated or proven," Peter Smithhisler, president of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, said in an email to The Chronicle.

Some students and outsiders who have accused universities of being too quick to believe stories of abuse, particularly when fraternity members are involved, reacted almost gleefully to the news on social media. Mr. Smithhisler, however, chose his words carefully.

"While we are heartened to discover that the horrible story shared in the Rolling Stone article is untrue, that does not reduce the significance of the issue of sexual violence on college campuses nor the importance of encouraging timely reporting and thorough investigation of such incidents," he said, adding that fraternities "want to be part of the solution."

Dangerous Skepticism

Nevertheless, skepticism abounds after public backtracking like Rolling Stone’s. And doubts about Jackie’s story are bound to inhibit future victims, said Kathleen A. Bogle, an associate professor of sociology and criminal justice at La Salle University.

"It is very sad that a sexual assault case that may be false was so widely reported and discussed," she said. Only between 2 and 8 percent of sexual assaults turn out to be
false, she said, pointing to widely cited research. "However, any false report is going to fuel suspicion of victims when they come forward, which is terrible for the victims themselves and for anyone who cares about the sexual-assault problem on campus."
As one student tweeted: "If you’re using the word ‘hoax’ to describe what’s going on you should be ashamed of yourself."

Regardless of how much of Jackie’s story withstands closer scrutiny, the process of uncovering the truth when rape accusations are lodged can be brutal on the alleged victims. David S. Cohen, an associate professor of law at Drexel University, cringed when he saw the way Jackie’s story was dissected in The Washington Post article that broke the news that the fraternity was disputing key points in her story.

"The article read like they were cross-examining a criminal defendant as opposed to listening to someone who clearly experienced a traumatic event in her life," he said in an interview on Friday. "I’m very concerned that women on college campuses are going to be afraid that if they come forward, they won’t be believed—and that they’ll be interrogated by college administrators, the police, and any news outlets that pick it up."

Katherine Mangan writes about community colleges, college-completion efforts, and job training, as well as other topics in daily news. Follow her on Twitter @KatherineMangan, or email her at katherine.mangan@chronicle.com

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

FROM READERS: MU's Cast Gallery provides students with a link to the past

Matt Ballou is an MU associate teaching professor of art. The work of students in his drawing classes is featured in an exhibit in the Cast Gallery at MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology.

I love bringing my students to the Cast Gallery because it provides them with a chance to encounter a physical history that they do not often see.
These precious plaster casts from original artwork do not function as mere objects. They are resonators through space and time, sublimely powerful in their innate ability to evoke the human presence of the past, quietly evocative of trans-historical realities. Sensitive students find the fact that real, living, breathing, feeling, believing, making, and thinking human beings may indeed reach out across the centuries through these sculptural works of art.

The fact of the physical artifact (and all the historical, sociopolitical, theological, and aesthetic meanings that necessarily come with it) is an undeniable reality. By focusing attention on these works, by spending time with them, and by rendering them in graphite on paper, my students forge a real communion with the past.

This is an exercise that I believe will stay with these young people far beyond their time at the University of Missouri. Their work in the Cast Gallery stands in sympathy with the truth folk singer Utah Phillips declares in his storytelling narratives when he shouts, “The past didn’t go anywhere, did it?”

This is a remarkably important lesson to learn. The cast collection speaks so clearly if only we make ourselves — our hearts, our minds — available.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Santa's helpers man the phones
Saturday, December 6, 2014 | 8:33 p.m. CST
BY TAYLOR LOWER

COLUMBIA — With less than three weeks until Christmas, the North Pole's phone lines are heating up. To help with the traffic, some local volunteers helped Santa field children's calls Saturday.

Ellen Woods answered the phone in a merry falsetto: "Thank you for calling Santa's workshop, this is Garland the elf."

The calls usually lasted about five minutes, enough time to cover the details of each gift — followed by a short interrogation to sort the naughty from the nice. (Nobody was dropped from the nice list, but a few kids hesitated when asked if they'd been good.)
Up to 10 volunteers at a time crowded into the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department’s office in Paquin Tower. They took turns answering the two constantly ringing phones; if the line was busy, callers would hear a message from Santa encouraging them to call back.

More than 150 calls came in between 9 a.m. and noon, and many had multiple kids on the line. That’s on pace with prior years, which totaled about 300 calls, recreation specialist Sarah Bowman said.

"The best part is you can sense the joy in the kids' voices," said John Mier, a regular Parks and Recreation volunteer and the resident Santa.

Kids’ requests included puppies, Legos, cotton candy machines, Easy-Bake Ovens, tablets and a fairy.

"It's fun to talk to kids and kinda have the spirit of Christmas renewed," said Woods, a student at MU. "You sometimes forget what it's like to be a kid and want toys."