MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

March 20, 2015
Menu Courey's parents upset over destroyed evidence

By ALAN BURDZIAK

Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 10:04 am Comments (15)

In the wake of the Columbia Police Department's announcement Wednesday it had closed the investigation into the possible sexual assault of former University of Missouri student Sasha Menu Courey, her parents have been critical of the department destroying items that could have aided the inquiry.

Mike Menu and Lynn Courey wrote in an email that a police department report on the case has an “important omission.” Journal entries of Menu Courey's and a five-page note police collected while investigating her April 2011 suicide attempt were not returned to the family and were destroyed before the sexual assault investigation started in 2014.

They wrote that in July 2011, about a month after their daughter died, police returned what they thought were all of her belongings, except her jeans. Menu Courey's parents claimed they were not told about the note or journal they believe she wrote while she was at the University of Missouri Psychiatric Center.

“We were also not notified prior to destroying this evidence to see if we wanted this back or destroyed,” they wrote. “We are waiting for an explanation from CPD about this but are very disappointed that this was not mentioned in the CPD report as an obstacle to the investigation.”

Columbia police spokeswoman Bryana Maupin said the journal and suicide note were destroyed in accordance with the department's policy to hold evidence for one year after investigations cease, unless otherwise required by law.

Columbia police Detective Brian Grove notified Menu Courey's parents of the rape investigation’s end on Tuesday, Maupin said, and Deputy Chief Jill Schlude is talking with them about the
destroyed evidence. Police also are reviewing the case to ensure policies and procedures were followed concerning the destruction of evidence, Maupin said.

KOMU-TV (NBC) – Columbia, Mo.

MU's Title IX office talks changes as Menu Courey case closed

Posted: Mar 19, 2015 4:16 PM by Arianna Poindexter, KOMU 8 Reporter
Updated: Mar 19, 2015 10:58 PM

COLUMBIA - MU Title IX employees discussed future changes in their office and elsewhere on-campus Thursday following the Columbia Police Department's closing of the Sasha Menu Courey investigation.

Since August 2014, there have been approximately 144 incidents, including sexual misconduct, harassment and discrimination, reported on MU's campus. 135 of those incidents fall under Title IX standards. MU's Title IX campus coordinator, Linda Bennett, said there has been an increase in reported incidents.

"The more we reach out to people in all different venues, whether its print or online or face to face, we're providing that culture of this campus cares about the people and they're willing to then be apart of the process."

MU hired Bennett, as well as Title IX investigator, Salama Gallimore, after the suicide death of former MU swimmer, Sasha Menu Courey.
"I think at any point in time we do the best job we can with the information we have," Bennett said. "And, at that point in time, I wasn't a part of the process, but from what I understand since I've been in it, we learn from prior experiences and there was research and studies done that help inform us of these practices."

Gallimore said she thinks MU did everything it could to help in cases such as Menu Courey's.

"The university has really put a lot of time and resources and thought into making these rules and making sure that, should a situation occur like Sasha’s and different from Sasha’s case and a university employee does find out, I would get that report and I would then meet with Sasha in my office. I would be able to speak to her or any student in her position," she said.

The Title IX office is planning to expand its department in order to better serve the campus.

Bennett said, "We have put in a budget and put in an organizational chart which goes beyond this office. We already are hiring a second investigator. We're looking at the applications at this time so, within the next couple of months, we will have a second investigator in the Title IX office. Then, we're also looking at the new Title IX administrator will come on-board April 20."

The MU Title IX website has more information on reporting cases.

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28067&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

and,

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=da593b82-b539-4e27-b6ad-536a95087344

Columbia, Mo. police close Sasha Menu Courey case
By Nick Bromberg
21 hours ago

The Columbia (Mo.) Police Department has closed the case involving the alleged sexual assault of a former Missouri swimmer.

Sasha Menu Courey committed suicide in June 2011, about 16 months after she said she was allegedly sexually assaulted in February 2010. She had believed her alleged attacker was a member of the Missouri football team.

In a statement released Wednesday, Columbia police said that "after a year of following leads, reviewing evidence, and taking multiple statements, CPD detectives have been unable to identify a suspect in this case."

The case was assigned to a detective after a January 2014 report by ESPN's Outside the Lines that said the university didn't take steps to investigate the alleged incident. ESPN cited records that said a rape crisis counselor, a campus therapist and two doctors knew about the allegation and, according to Menu Courey's journal, so did a member of Missouri's athletic department.

Missouri countered the report by saying Menu Courey chose not to report the allegations to law enforcement and that healthcare workers are bound by privacy and confidentiality laws. A spokesperson also said the university hadn't received family authorization to access her medical records nor had it heard back from her parents regarding their wishes for an investigation.

An independent investigation after the OTL report criticized Missouri's (lack of an) investigation. It said the school should have launched an investigation in November of 2012 and that the school "acted inconsistently" with Title IX requirements.

The police department statement cited four obstacles in the case: the alleged victim is deceased, no forensic evidence exists along with chain of custody issues with Menu Courey's phone and computer, that much of the information obtained from witnesses is hearsay and "there is no information available to clearly establish that this person actually committed the act."

The police statement also included details from an interview with former Missouri football player Rolandis Woodland, who said he received a tape of the alleged incident in the mail from Menu Courey before her death.
Rolandis stated that he did not know that Sasha had been sexually assaulted until after her death. Rolandis stated that immediately after her death, he received a package from Sasha that was sent while she was in a treatment facility in Boston, MA. He advised he felt she sent the package just before committing suicide. Rolandis said that the package contained two letters and a CD. Rolandis said in one letter, she described her feelings for him. He said that in the other letter, she described the sexual assault incident and asked that he not disclose the details to anyone. Rolandis stated that the CD contained video footage of the assault.

Menu Courey's parents responded to the police statement and questioned why police destroyed some of her belongings after investigating a previous suicide attempt by Menu Courey in a Columbia hotel in April 2011.

From the Kansas City Star:

Menu Courey's parents requested their daughter’s personal effects after her death in June 2011, and several items were returned roughly a month later, Menu said.

During the course of the Columbia police investigation, Menu Courey’s parents learned that items logged as evidence from that April 2011 suicide attempt were not returned.

Those items, including a 10-day journal and a five-page suicide note, were subsequently destroyed by Columbia police.

According to the Star, a police official is working with her family to "clarify" what happened with Menu Courey's destroyed belongings.

“There could have been really relevant information,” her father Mike Menu told the Star. “The journal, we suspect — and we don’t know, because we’ve never seen it, but we suspect — was related to her stay at MU’s hospital.

“That’s also a pretty substantial note, which we didn’t see either. What was in there? A person that killed themselves, you don’t know what they might have divulged in there, but there could definitely be something to look into.

“We felt like that, at the very least, should be mentioned as an obstacle, but it wasn’t even mentioned. I think that’s more important than the fact that our daughter’s computer had been accessed since her death when we opened it a couple times to read her journal.”
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A University of Missouri student is suspended after allegedly making harassing, hostile remarks toward another student about a screening of the "American Sniper" movie.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that the Columbia campus' chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, announced the disciplinary action this week.

The suspended student's name wasn't released.

Officials say the student made the remarks at an unspecified place online, responding to another student's letter to the editor in the university's student newspaper.

That published letter's author wrote that the film to be shown on campus April 3 "glorifies the mass murder of Iraqis, including civilians who are men, women and children."

The film is based on the memoir by the late Chris Kyle, who by his own count made more than 300 kills as a Navy SEAL.

MU student suspended for hostile remarks

by Dan Claxton
Posted: 03.19.2015 at 4:00 PM

COLUMBIA -- In the midst of a rash of high-profile hate speech cases on college campuses nationwide, the University of Missouri has been temporarily suspended a student for "harassing and hostile remarks" made to another student, according to a statement by Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

According to Loftin, a student was identified by MU police as having made the remarks in regards to the decision to show the movie "American Sniper" on campus. Some students have objected to the film because of its depiction of violence against Iraqis.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said he is unaware of the exact wording of the offensive speech, but that it must have been egregious for Loftin to take the action he did.

Basi stresses that the student has only been temporarily suspended pending a formal student conduct hearing process. Basi says the process is rigorous and the student will be allowed to have legal representation present.

At the conclusion of the process, the temporary suspension will be lifted and whatever sanction is decided upon, if any, will take effect.

Bowen said the decision to suspend the student was made in the best interests of the university community.

The name of the student has not been released.
Keller Auditorium at MU was full of anger and pain Tuesday night. From my seat in the back of the room, I had to admire MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin as he listened, responded and maintained his composure while students unloaded on him their unhappiness at the remaining vestiges of racism that continue to bedevil our university.

As the Missourian reported Wednesday, and as the chancellor repeatedly emphasized, the three groups — students, faculty and administrators — that constitute the campus community labor under a considerable burden of history.

That burden was illustrated by the Missourian's centerpiece story on page 1A Wednesday, directly under the account of the discussion, which recounted a belated effort to make amends for an earlier generation's stonewalling of Lucille Bluford's efforts to enroll as our first black student.

Obviously, change has come. But, Chancellor Loftin observed, change doesn't come easily or quickly. "You can’t change the human heart," he said. He urged patience and a "systematic, persistent effort."

The student speakers made clear, I thought, that their patience has been exhausted.

One obviously angry black student recalled that at a similar session last semester, participants identified eight steps that should be taken. There has been no follow-up and "no transparency," the student said. She added, "I don’t feel safe. How can we hold administrators and faculty accountable?"

"What do you want?" Chancellor Loftin asked. The response from that student and several others was that they want "proactive," visible and regular action to increase diversity and decrease acts of overt racism.

"How can we reach you?" the chancellor asked.

"Twitter," answered a voice from the crowd.

"I can do that," he replied. He also offered his email address: LoftinR@missouri.edu.

The exchange that seemed to me to capture best the peril and the promise began with a black student who identified herself as a bio-engineering major and continued, in a
voice that sounded near tears, "It's hard; it's really hard. I feel alone." She asked, "How can you help students like me?"

The response: "We have to have faculty like you and students like you." He encouraged her to pursue a doctorate and join a faculty here or elsewhere. "It will take time," he cautioned.

As if to reinforce that point, an MU Faculty Council member rose and reminded that last year's attempt to add a diversity requirement to the curriculum failed when the faculty overwhelmingly voted against it. Opponents pointed out, she said, that there are relevant courses already on the books. They didn't see that an unmet need still exists, she concluded.

Chancellor Loftin’s takeaway from that effort, he said, was that "the vast majority of them don’t really get it."

The MU School of Journalism did not escape unscathed. A white student complained that no minority candidates are among the four finalists for the deanship. He added that the Missourian, where he spent a semester, has no minority faculty editors, only "white Christians."

(Editor's note: There were two non-white professors on the Missourian staff last semester.)

Others spoke bitterly of the "lily-white faculty." The chancellor agreed that the campus "has far too few faculty of color," with Hispanics the most under-represented minority.

Later, though, another speaker pointed out that the chancellor's three most recent and most visible hires — the provost, athletic director and Title IX overseer — have all been white.

From my perspective as an elderly white guy, the encouraging aspect of the evening was that the exchange happened at all. Far better, it seems to me, to have students speaking angrily and openly than seething in silence.

Unless he has previously undetected masochistic tendencies, Chancellor Loftin must agree. He can’t have taken much enjoyment from Tuesday’s session. He did, he told us as it ended, learn from it.

"I take very seriously my role," he said. And he promised to keep pushing for change.
All of us have a stake in his — and our — success.

Loftin lobbies for men's tennis revival at MU

By DAVID MORRISON
Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Missouri has not offered men’s tennis as a varsity sport since 1998, when the athletic department discontinued the program over budget concerns.

At least one Tigers booster — a very influential one at that — wants to see what can be done about changing that.

**During an hourlong Wednesday morning session with reporters, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he doesn’t anticipate micromanaging much with incoming Athletic Director Mack Rhoades, aside from laying out some expectations in areas he feels could use adjustments.**

“I’ll give you one example,” Loftin said. “I said, ‘Mack, we’re the only school in the SEC without men’s tennis. How about that?’ ”

Loftin said fellow chancellors and presidents have been telling him at meetings that it’s difficult to make schedules with 13 teams in the equation. He said the school has looked into whether the Mizzou Tennis Complex, which opened last spring and houses the women’s team, could also accommodate a men’s squad.

He has determined it can. So why not start one?

“That’s just one very clear example where we have to do something,” Loftin said. “We have many more like that. I’ve given him certain things I think we need to work on. Hard.”
Missouri devoted $745,505 of its $80.2 million operating budget to women’s tennis in 2013-14, according to the revenue and expense report the athletic department prepared for the NCAA. The program generated $41,960 in revenue.

The 13 men’s tennis programs in the SEC averaged $904,029 in expenses in 2013-14, according to data compiled by the Department of Education.

Loftin said increased revenue streams from the conference’s television deals and the SEC Network should help grease the path for improvements in the athletic department, such as expediting the process of building the south end zone complex at Memorial Stadium for which football Coach Gary Pinkel has been lobbying, looking into improvements at Taylor Stadium — the home of Tiger baseball — and quickening the reimbursement process for the $14.1 million the athletic department still owes the school after borrowing to help cover a $17.7 million operating deficit incurred when it transitioned from the Big 12 to the SEC in 2011-12.

And, possibly, filling the SEC’s complement of men’s tennis teams. Of course, that could also mean Missouri would have to add a women’s team in order to remain compliant with federal Title IX legislation. Equestrian is the only women’s sport offered by the SEC in which Missouri does not already participate.

“I will give” Rhoades “a list, if you will, of things I want him to address,” Loftin said. “Not so much ‘how’ but ‘what’: ‘Here are the things I want to see us accomplish over the next several years. Let me know how I can help you.’ It’s up to him to figure out how to do it. … But I do want to make sure he understands clearly what we expect.”

Loftin addressed a number of other topics during his time with the media:

- Rhoades will take over for outgoing Athletic Director Mike Alden no later than April 27 and could start earlier if he fulfills his contractual obligations at Houston quicker than anticipated.
  
  Loftin said Rhoades’ contract has not yet been finalized, but he hopes to have it ready for the board of curators to review at the next meeting April 9-10 at Missouri S&T in Rolla.

Rhoades and his family are in Columbia this week to scout housing locations and get the lay of the land, Loftin said.

“He’s at the peak of his career right now,” Loftin said. “This guy is exactly primed, I think, to bring ideas to the table that perhaps wouldn’t have happened because of the long-term stability here. I
love Mike Alden. Don’t get me wrong. He’s a great guy. I respect everything he’s done here. He’s taken Mizzou a long way in 17 years here.

“I think when we bring a different person here who has different experiences, they will see opportunities that were not visible before. I think Mack will not only continue the trajectory that Mike Alden has set for this program over the last 17 years, but the slope may even change again now, just because we’ve got some fresh ideas coming to the table.”

- Loftin also said he hoped to have defensive coordinator Barry Odom’s contract ready for board approval by the time of the April meeting.

Odom has been working under terms of agreement since Pinkel hired him to replace Dave Steckel on Dec. 23.

“He’s being paid,” Loftin said, with a laugh.

- Exactly what entails “full cost of attendance” will be a hot topic at the annual SEC meetings in May, Loftin said. Missouri has set its figure at around $3,000 per full scholarship athlete per year to cover expenses not included in their scholarship.

Other SEC schools have floated different figures. Auburn, for example, told USA Today its yearly stipends could hover near $6,000 per athlete.

“Everybody’s worried about how this looks, first of all in your own conference and secondly in the five that are accounting for this now,” Loftin said. “That is a problem.”

The gulf between cost of attendance and the value of a full scholarship is determined by each school’s financial aid office and governed by a set of federal guidelines. Where the variance comes in, Loftin said, is the realm of ill-defined “miscellaneous costs.”

“The cost of books, the other things are fairly well definable and equitable across these conferences given the differences in location, things like that,” Loftin said. “What’s not so much is how you interpret what a miscellaneous expense is. We can probably refine that among ourselves in a way that gives us comfort that there’s no really one fair advantage to any one team.”

- Loftin said he is paying close attention to the twists and turns of the Ed O’Bannon case against the NCAA, known for the former UCLA forward who has brought the fight for college athletes’ ability to profit off their names, images and likenesses to the forefront.
A federal district court judge ruled in August that the NCAA violated antitrust law by not letting athletes benefit from the use of their names and likenesses on TV broadcasts and in video games. The NCAA appealed the ruling in a federal court in San Francisco on Tuesday.

“I really believe firmly in paying for their needs, in terms of housing, food, cost of going to the school as well as as much to be able to travel effectively on,” Loftin said. “Beyond that, if you begin to go beyond that, you begin to tamper directly with the fundamental premise of amateurism. That's where I think we draw the line.”

- The chancellor expressed a desire to find ways to get more plentiful and consistent fan support at Tigers sporting events.

Loftin said he hopes Missouri can find solutions for gameday experience at its venues — especially in revenue sports such as football and men's basketball — that can make the experience unique enough for fans to forsake their high-definition televisions and comforts of their homes.

“We don’t sell out every game at Faurot Field. Why not?” Loftin said. “That, to me, is an important question.”

Loftin said he has been doing his part to try and encourage Missouri’s students to show up in larger numbers, including his conspicuous presence at a number of sporting events.

“I’m disappointed sometimes we don’t have the attendance at games we should have. My showing up, if it has any minor effect that may help that,” Loftin said. “If you ever get with me at basketball, I’ll walk up behind the basket there where the students are — a lot of the time, we have so few there — and I’ll say, ‘Bring five friends next time. Please. Let's show some support for our team here.’

“I can’t measure if that has any success or not, but I do try to at least encourage them to come in larger numbers.”

Is Missouri a land of opportunity?

By Jocelyn Posos and Robert Elam

NO MU MENTION
The Missouri Legislature is swiftly moving through a tangled web of bills that would severely limit access to a postsecondary education to students all over Missouri, students who have been raised in Missouri and attended our schools but were born elsewhere. This group of bills (HB187, HB3 and SB224 are all in process, with no fewer than three additional bills filed) will bar undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students from receiving any state aid and mandate that universities charge them the highest possible rate of tuition or face forfeiture of state funds. The coordinated convergence of these bills establishes an ominous tone that undocumented and DACA students are not welcomed in Missouri.

DACA is the result of an executive order enacted by President Barack Obama that allows individuals who meet specific criteria to have deportation deferred for a period of time. This allows recipients to work and go to school without the fear of deportation. Attaining Deferred Action status is not an easy process, nor is it inexpensive. DACA students have the potential to achieve the goals they have set forth for themselves and to contribute to our state, but that potential is severely limited if they are not provided with the chance to demonstrate what they are capable of accomplishing.

Under federal law, all children regardless of immigration status are guaranteed access to K-12 public education. The U.S. Supreme Court affirms that denying such an education would create a permanent underclass of citizens. Many of the students who will be adversely affected with the passage of these bills have lived in Missouri from as early as they can remember. Missouri is their home, where they have excelled academically as model students.

Having invested in our students’ education thus far, will we now relegate them to the fringes of American society? Restricting access to postsecondary education will impede the development of Missouri’s intellectual and civic talent and result in Missouri forfeiting the investment already made in undocumented and DACA students.

Other states realize the value in educating all students. Currently, 18 states have taken the steps to make postsecondary education more accessible to undocumented students. Many states recognize that supporting undocumented youth in obtaining higher education is not only a humane policy; it’s also an investment in the state’s human capital and economy.

In an admirable display of bipartisan support for greater access to higher education, our neighboring states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Illinois all have policies that help undocumented youth to earning a higher education. Missouri’s undocumented and DACA students have dreams of achieving success. Their dreams will be severely threatened if these bills are passed.

As graduates of Missouri public universities, we have been deeply concerned about affordability. We know where we might be, if not for access to higher education. We know how our education has benefited not only ourselves and our families, but also our communities and our state.
Students who want to learn, are driven to excel and want to contribute to a thriving state deserve the opportunity to do so.

Show our students Missouri wants them home. Show us Missouri is a place of hope. Show us opportunity. Show us promise. Show us dreams come true.

Robert Elam is pursuing his master of social work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Jocelyn Posos is a 2014 graduate of Missouri State University. Both are education policy interns with The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

MU improvement funding tied to bond refinancing

Posted: 03.19.2015 at 12:55 PM

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) -- Missouri will be on the hook for $1.6 million less in interest payments after a state board approved refinancing of some bonds at a lower interest rate.

The Missouri Board of Public Buildings on Wednesday approved refinancing $21.4 million in bonds.

Gov. Jay Nixon says the state's consistent triple-A rating was key to saving money through refinancing.

The transaction also included the sale of $38.5 million of bonds to fund the renovation of an engineering building at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Legislature approved sprucing up Lafferre Hall at the University of Missouri last year. The renovation will provide additional space for engineering research.
Seniors love technology too, and some companies are starting to notice

Keith Wagstaff, NBC News

Forget, “I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!” These days, senior citizens have access to technology that is light years beyond the old Life Alert bracelets.

From specially designed smart watches to advanced sensor systems meant to detect falls, tech companies are designing products with seniors in mind. It's a trend that some in the industry think is long overdue.

"There was a stereotype earlier that seniors weren't interested in technology," Marjorie Skubic, director of the University of Missouri's Center for Eldercare and Rehabilitation Technology, told NBC News. "Seniors are willing to embrace technology as long as it has a function that's helpful to them."

Video: Amy Goyer from AARP and psychologist Dale Atkins offer advice on caring for elderly family members, suggesting ways to do it without sacrificing your own health and happiness.

Kids might start using Snapchat or Yik Yak because it's the cool new thing. Older people want something that is actually useful.
Yes, seniors do lag behind other demographics in adopting technology. Still, 59 percent of American adults age 65 and older used the Internet in 2014, according to a study published by the Pew Research Center, which is six percent higher than two years earlier. The overall number of seniors is also set to grow. By 2050, that population could double to 84 million people, according to a forecast by the U.S. Census Bureau.

That is a huge market — and plenty of companies want a piece of the pie.

**Sexy Gadgets Are For Everybody**

Iggy Fanlo, CEO and co-founder of Lively, didn't like the way people looked at him when he wore an emergency pendant around San Francisco for a couple of days.

"I felt like a special needs person," Fanlo, 53, told TODAY. "People pitied me."

He was trying to get a feel for why senior citizens might buy something like Life Alert, but then decline to wear it. A study published in the Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics in 2010 found that only 14 percent of people who bought an emergency pendant wore it after purchase.

Fanlo wanted to make something senior citizens would actually want to put on. He came up with a simple, waterproof watch that displays time, counts steps and call for help when users press a big, orange button.

It doesn't really look that different from other smart watches — which is exactly the point. Nothing about it screams "medical device." If a 30-year-old wore it on the street, nobody would think it was weird.

"Seniors aren't any different from everyone else," he said. "Whether you're eight or 88, you still want nice things."

Sure, senior citizens could just buy the new Apple Watch, but that is a relatively complicated device that doesn't make calling for medical help a priority. Emergency pendants, on the other hand, have no other function than calling for help. That makes them useless most of the time.

Lively hopes that its watch can appeal to people who want something in the middle. The company also makes sensors that can be attached to pillboxes and refrigerator doors that can remind someone to take their medication or alert family members if someone hasn't been active recently.

There are plenty of other companies creating products for seniors too. The grandPad is a modified Android tablet with an extremely simple interface and live member support. GreatCall sells several smartphones designed specifically for senior citizens.
L.A.-based SingFit is being used to provide music therapy to people in 60 senior citizen centers across the country. It's kind of like karaoke, but it speaks lyrics out in plain language before they are supposed to be sung, which helps people with conditions like dementia and vision problems follow along.

"It's when people begin to socially isolate that rapid decline happens," Rachel Francine, CEO and co-founder of SingFit, told TODAY. The hope is that SingFit can prevent that by encouraging seniors (even those with physical and mental ailments) to sing together as a group.

Other products take zero technical skill to use, like Marjorie Skubic's remote sensor network. It keeps track of seniors in their own home using motion sensors, Microsoft's Kinect and a sensor placed under the bed to monitor respiration and restlessness during sleep. The hope is to catch health problems or injuries early so they don't get worse — all with technology that seniors don't even have to interact with.

"We want it to be almost invisible," Skubic said. "They don't have to put anything on, they don't have to charge any batteries. They don't have to worry about anything."

Not So Old-School

When most people think of Uber or FreshDirect, they probably think of young urbanites. But senior citizens could benefit from them as well.

"A lot of convenience services are targeted toward busy yuppies," Katy Fike, co-founder of Aging2.0, which helps fund senior-focused tech companies, told TODAY.

"If you look at who has these needs, grocery shopping and transportation services can really make the difference between living independently and having to hire a caregiver or move into a home."

The problem could be that tech companies are young — really young. A study by Payscale, a salary comparison service, in 2013 found that only six of 32 tech companies surveyed had a median employee age over 35. That might explain why many products are designed and marketed without senior citizens in mind.

More senior citizens might use these apps if companies focused their advertising on specific features, instead of trying to build a hip, young brand, she said. It would also help if they hired more older Americans.

"It's very hard for a 24-year-old to put themselves in a senior's shoes," Fike said. "We do too much designing for seniors when we really should be designing with them."
I was a freshman in the New York University bookstore, browsing what I’d need for the first semester, and American Express had set up a table with some friendly folks who were determined to get customers. There was a new card—Optima, they called it—and on the application, I could check off how much I credit I wanted. $2,000? $5,000? $10,000?

$10,000 sounded good. So I took it. I was amazed that a credit card company would give that much to a college student, a credit card virgin at that, but they did.

I was set financially in my 20s, thanks to wads of cash from excellent waitressing and bartending gigs, plus a well-paid internship and criminally low rent, even for Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Then I followed my handsome, funny Ivy League boyfriend to a scruppy little town in New Mexico where he’d gotten a job, where I happily paid $800 for a 1986 Ford F-150 dual-gas tank truck that cost $50 to fill. I landed my first real journalism job—earning about $4.50 an hour.

My cash quickly disappeared, and I started living on that Optima card, and maybe another card or two as I came closer and closer to maxing out my $10,000 limit. I would wander through the town’s one major store, a Wal-Mart, and pick up things for our home that we didn’t need. I’d buy T-shirts for myself and gifts for my boyfriend. As a vegetarian, I’d be distressed with the lack of fresh produce in the supermarkets and go out to eat, a lot, all the while racking up debt. I had no concept of credit—of how much it was costing me and how hard it would be to make it back. I just knew that I was in love and that the extra trip to the Giant Truck Stop for cowboy boots might carry me through the loneliness and despair of an increasingly complicated relationship that wouldn’t last much longer.

It took me several years, a humiliating loan from my dad and one bankruptcy to learn how to use credit cards and live within my means. Experts agree that cards should be used exclusively for real emergencies that can’t be handled by your six-month (or two-year, depending on whom you ask)
emergency fund (and no, Tony Lama cowboy boots on sale do not constitute an emergency), or to earn airline miles or cash or other incentives while paying off the full balance each month.

A researcher at the University of Missouri put her finger on the differences between the type of person who abuses credit and the rest of the world. “There is nothing wrong with wanting to buy products,” said Marsha Richins about her 2011 study. “It becomes a problem when people expect unreasonable degrees of change in their lives from their purchases. Some people tend to ascribe almost magical properties to goods—that buying things will make them happier, cause them to have more fun, improve their relationships—in short, transform their lives. These beliefs are fallacious for the most part, but nonetheless can be powerful motivators for people to spend.”

Richins and her co-author, Lan Nguyen Chaplin, say in a more recent study that it all begins in childhood, when we’re trained by our parents to become materialistic, even if they mean well. The things we give our children generally have practical purposes: A coat to stay warm, a computer for homework. “At other times, purchases are made simply because the parent loves the child and wants to buy something that brings the child joy. In fact, the crowded closets and overflowing toy bins in most middle class homes may be considered a testament of how much parents love their children. Parents also use material things to shape their children’s behaviors. For example, parents may take things away as a discipline for disobedience or a consequence for neglect of responsibilities, or they may buy a desired toy to reward a child’s accomplishments or good behavior such as successful toilet training, doing chores, or achieving a target GPA.”

So maybe it’s your parents’ fault you’re buying things you don’t need, but ultimately, it will be your responsibility to change if you want it to stop.

IF YOU’RE DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Suze Orman has a neat little “Debt Eliminator” tool on her website. It asks you to enter all your credit card debt, what the minimum payments and interest rates are, and if there’s any extra you can pay per month. And then, presto, the tool calculates the smartest way to pay down the cards. The gist: Cut up your cards, pay down the one with the highest interest first, while maintaining minimum payments on the others. If you have trouble making payments on time, set up automatic payments through your bank so at least the minimum amount is covered on time and you won’t get socked with late fees and even more interest.

Make a plan to get out of debt. Perhaps take Forbes’ contributor Laura Shin’s advice about a side hustle to boost your payments. Stop hanging out in places you are tempted to overspend, and with people who are insensitive to your situation. When you’re buying something you don’t need—and we all do this to some extent—try to figure out the underlying feelings about why you want it. Are you lonely? Sad? Hungry? Anxious? Tired? Procrastinating? Could you hold off making that purchase for 24 hours and come back the next day if you still want it?

Spending money you don’t have will not make life more fun. It won’t make you prettier or more desirable. It won’t open up a great new world. You will not have better friends, and your kids won’t like
you more. All it will do is create a little black hole inside you that grows bigger and blacker until you get a handle on whatever the real issue is. You might have to bottom out first. But know there are resources out there if you need them.

The Seattle Times

Too much stuff: We collect it all our lives, and then what?

By Susan Kelleher

THE PALE YELLOW chair sliding down the scratched steel bed of the Goodwill tractor trailer lands with a thud atop the fractured remains of a cheap particleboard desk at Seattle’s South Transfer Station, an ignominious end for an object that, at one time, probably sparked joy for its owner.

Despite its perch atop a mound of garbage, it’s easy to imagine that this overstuffed chair was once the prized centerpiece of someone’s living room. Maybe kids jumped on it and cats napped on it, staining its arms. Maybe it enjoyed a second life in someone’s first apartment.

Even now, the chair exudes potential. With some imagination and a sturdy sewing machine, it could come to life again. But it’s too late for that.

In a few minutes, a bulldozer will crush it and push its broken remains into a pit, where it will be crammed into a container, loaded onto a trailer and driven, along with millions of other discards, to its final resting place: a dump in Oregon.

“Most of the stuff that comes in is totally reusable,”’ says Anthony Grant, a supervisor at the transfer station who has a front-row view of the detritus of our acquisitive lives. Grant has seen the contents of homes end up in a pile on the wet concrete floor. Lots of antiques, he says, and stuff from the 1960s.

For a while, transfer staff would yank items from the trash piles and set them aside for re-use by whoever was willing to haul it away. But then bureaucracy interfered — the usual stifling concerns about liability — and everything became trash again.

After decades of accumulating stuff, it seems we’re now obsessed with managing it and getting rid of it.
Last year, we spent about $7.7 billion on stuff to organize our stuff, and another $24 billion to store it. When those options maxed out, we bought books from tidying gurus like Marie Kondo offering tips on how to part with it.

Kondo notes that the closets and drawers of an average client contain 160 shirts, sweaters and other tops. Purging is suddenly virtuous.

“Thank your stuff,” she advises. “It’s been working hard for you.”

For many of us — especially baby boomers — stuff has become a burden too heavy to carry alone. Parents die or become ill, and suddenly there’s a whole other household of stuff to deal with. China, books, shoes, papers, old television consoles, mink coats and dusty felt hats from the Disneyland trip 40 years ago.

So we hire junk removal companies to clear out basements and attics. We hold garage sales and engage liquidators to sell off what they can. We rent dumpsters and haul our stuff to charities to sell for a good cause, creating an endless churn of stuff looking for new homes until we run out of options and simply throw it away.

MERLIN COFFEY is sitting in the corner of his dining room, parked on an antique French chair in front of a table stacked with china and silver serving sets. Around him, strangers pick through three floors worth of his belongings — thousands of items, nearly all of it acquired by his late wife, Mary Jane, who died in 2013 after 92 magnificent years on earth.

“She never threw anything away,” he says, without a hint of resentment or exasperation. Collecting was Mary Jane’s passion, and he indulged it, even when that passion filled every nook and cranny of their West Seattle home.

Mary Jane grew up on a sugar plantation in Hawaii, the daughter of the superintendent. She didn’t own much as a child and made up for it as an adult. For a time, she ran an antiques business in a storefront next to the restaurant the couple owned in Burien. But as her husband notes wryly, she did far more buying than selling.

Coffey grew up in Cowiche, “a wide spot in the road in Yakima County,” where his parents were migrant workers. Aside from tools and model planes, Coffey doesn’t collect much, and doesn’t feel particularly attached to the stuff that has shared his space for 56 years.

“I like a lot of it because she did,” he says.

The couple’s three sons, their children and their children’s children have already taken what they wanted, which wasn’t much, he says. That left Coffey, a spry 93-year-old former engineer, to dispose of the rest.

“We should have started five years ago, doing little by little,” he says of the paring down. “It’s essentially a situation you don’t plan on. You just gradually get old.”
Six months ago, he started boxing things but eventually gave up and hired Alyssa Stevens of Fruit Cocktail Collectibles in Seattle to sell the rest. Stevens, an appraiser who has been running estate sales for 15 years, went room by room through Coffey’s house, pricing items and taking photos of things to sell online. The process took a month and a half.

Today is the second go-round for the sale, and despite the blustery weather, there’s a steady flow of customers, drawn in by scores of photos Stevens posted.

Linda Gause of SeaTac spends about 20 minutes looking over Mary Jane’s collection of cookie jars perched on kitchen shelves. Gause has about 300 cookie jars at home — they even have their own room. She looks pained as she struggles to resist the urge to buy one more and walks into the kitchen to touch them a few times before deciding she can’t bring herself to drop another $100 to add to her collection, and leaves without one.

Coffey has been present for most of the sale days and admits that he’s had to check himself as people leave with treasures his wife had brought home, some from other people’s estate sales.

“You see it go, and think, ‘Maybe I can use that,’ ” he says. “(But) when you boil it down, I won’t be using much of anything.”

At his son’s urging, Coffey rented an apartment on Queen Anne. He moved some furniture and dishes into it. He also brought along a few Italian plates and a painting of Mary, Queen of Scots he said he wouldn’t part with “for money, love or nothing.”

“It’s a really good painting,” he says. “Very well done.”

The rest? He’s going to donate it to charity, he says. Mary Jane was his passion. Everything else is just stuff.

EXCEPT WHEN it isn’t.

Turns out that guilt and sentimentality — powerful feelings attached to the things we own — are reasons we hang onto stuff.

How do you get rid of Grandpa’s lucky football hat or the cranberry-colored glass dish your great-grandmother used to rest her powder-puff? How do you dispose of a library your mother spent a lifetime building, or discard the hulking kitchen table from your childhood home, even though it doesn’t fit in your apartment? The vintage toy collection inspires happy memories of childhood. The carved coconut reminds us of our honeymoon in Hawaii.

Buying things also gives us an emotional boost, yet behavioral studies show that the things we own bring us diminishing pleasure over time, and sometimes very quickly.
“The positive emotions associated with acquisition are short-lived,” according to a 2013 article in the Journal of Consumer Research by Marsha Richins, a distinguished marketing professor at the University of Missouri.

Richins found that “materialists” — people who buy more than other consumers — are willing to go into debt to buy things they can’t afford because they believe their lives will be transformed by the purchases.

“Although materialists still experience positive emotions after making a purchase, these emotions are less intense than before they actually acquire a product,” she noted.

We also tend to overvalue our stuff, ignoring the fact that collections of Beanie Babies, Precious Moments figurines and Thomas Kinkade paintings are worth pennies compared to what we paid for them.

Still, there are people who love their stuff and have no intention of parting with it until they’re departed. With 8,000 Americans turning 65 each day, more and more of us are going to be confronting our stuff. Because, let’s face it, either we get rid of it or someone else will.

GARY FOY plucks a pine cone from a plastic blue donation bin at the Goodwill store on Dearborn Avenue in South Seattle. He brings it up to eye level and becomes as excited as if he had just opened a Christmas present.

“I’ll get four or five of these, put ’em in a bag and sell it for a dollar,” he says, setting it aside and going on to the next item, a cartoonish metal dog sculpture.

“Yard art!” he says. “This is killer. I’m going to do $12 to $14 ’cause he’s cool.”

Foy has been pricing items for Goodwill for 10 years. He’s seen one of just about everything, he says, and items will often repeat. Usually, it’s driven by life phases: the kid who outgrew Pokeman, or Magic the Gathering cards, or the woman who said she liked dogs and ended up with a collection of dog figurines from friends who ran out of gift ideas.

Lately, there have been lots of electronic drum sets. There used to be a lot of old console televisions, but now flat-screen TVs are coming in as people get new ones. Household goods are a staple, as are clothing and furniture.

“People buy new stuff, and they only have a little bit of space,” Foy says.

Some stuff is rejected, but if Foy thinks it has value and is in good enough condition to sell, he’ll stick a price tag on it.

Seattle Goodwill runs 24 retail stores from Bellingham to Burien, and uses some of the revenue to fund job training and education. In 2012, the year of the charity’s most recent available tax return, Seattle Goodwill sold $93 million worth of stuff. That makes it the Big Kahuna in town:
Salvation Army sold $9.3 million in donated goods through its Northwest stores, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul sold $4.6 million in clothing and household goods in the Seattle area, tax records show.

“We put 100,000 items on the floor every day,” says Katherine Bourey, a Goodwill spokeswoman. “Some people come two, three, four times a week because they never know what’s going to be here.”

Although Goodwill sells some new merchandise, almost all of the goods it sells are donated by people such as Meg McDonald, 46, who just pulled up at the Dearborn donation site in a U-Haul truck. She parks between the orange cones, climbs down from the truck bed as Goodwill employees lift the back door, and starts unloading furniture: a bunk-bed frame, an end table, two couches, a chair . . .

It’s from a rental house. “I bring stuff here all the time,” she says. “In fact, I was here earlier buying stuff.”

ON A BUSY day, Goodwill employees will unload at least a car a minute, says Brent Frerichs, director of business development and strategies for the nonprofit in Seattle.

The furniture is shrink-wrapped in plastic and transported across the parking lot to storage until it’s ready to be sold. Other items are put into trailers painted with the phrase, “Someone’s going to love your stuff.”

Most of the donations come in around Christmas and the summer, when people tend to purge, but the stores operate year-round.

Occasionally, someone will bring over the contents of an entire house.

“It’s not a rare occurrence,” Frerichs says. “People are downsizing or moving into an apartment or retirement home. That’s the time when people are editing and sorting. We get a lot of people moving out of early childhood, so we get strollers . . . They’re moving onto the next stage of their lives. Styles evolve and families grow older.”

Sometimes they’ll donate something they bought at Goodwill: “It’s almost a joke that they’re renting it,” Frerichs says.

Donations are sorted — clothing by size and color — and put on the shop floor. What doesn’t make the cut is parted out to vendors, who buy everything from the wire inside Christmas lights to single shoes.

Items that don’t sell in four weeks get discounted for five days, and then moved out to one of Goodwill’s two clearance outlets, in Seattle and Everett. Regulars at the outlets sometimes wear surgical masks and wield mechanical claws so they don’t have to touch the clothing and bedding heaped into 10-foot-long bins.
People pick their way down rows, filling what look like canvas laundry hampers on wheels with blankets, sweaters and coats, dishware and boots. Mornings are for the hard-core shoppers, many of them involved in resale. The afternoons tend to attract younger people looking for cheap threads a la Macklemore, who filmed his “Thrift Shop” video in the Seattle outlet.

Macklemore scored a leopard mink coat for 99 cents, but could have just as easily walked away with a hutch or a couch for the same price.

Furniture at the clearance outlets is mostly on its last legs, and it’s only a matter of time before some of it will meet the fate of the pale yellow chair that ended up as trash at the Seattle transfer station.

The people throwing their stuff away might feel relieved, finally getting it out of the house. Whatever joy it once sparked is long gone, and the most pleasurable aspect of owning stuff — the moment just before you bought it — is but a distant memory.

The silent problem that's hurting dads and their children

Postpartum depression — feelings of sadness that can occur after childbirth — isn't just something new mothers experience, but new fathers, too.

While most mothers experience postpartum depression because of the emotional toll of childbirth, men experience postpartum depression because of the anxiety, sleepless nights and busy lifestyle that fathers take on during the early stages of parenthood, according to researchers at Postpartum Men. These issues make men feel depressed because the joy they felt when their baby was first born is gone.

And children are negatively impacted when fathers experience postpartum depression, according to a new study from Northwestern University. Children of fathers with postpartum depression were more likely to develop bad behaviors like “hitting, lying, anxiety and sadness” during their early development years, according to the study’s press release.
These bad habits develop because depressed fathers make less eye contact with their children and don’t spend enough time with them, which makes it difficult for parents to teach their children important life lessons, according to the press release.

“Fathers’ emotions affect their children,” Sheehan Fisher, lead author of the study, said in a press release. “New fathers should be screened and treated for postpartum depression, just as we do for mothers.”

And even though some research has been done to help fathers who suffer from postpartum depression, there’s still questions about what doctors and health officials can do to make things easier for men. Fisher told The Huffington Post that even though the Northwestern study shines a new light on fathers who have postpartum depression, researchers often overlook how postpartum depressions affects men.

This is likely because about 9 to 16 percent of new mothers suffer from postpartum depression after giving birth to a child, according to the American Psychological Association. And women are more likely to develop postpartum depression than men (about 10 percent of men develop postpartum depression in the first six months after having a new baby), according to a 2010 JAMA Network study.

But, still, more research can be done to help men get the attention they need for mental health issues.

"The fact is that, given that there's often two parents in the home working with the child, both parents' depressive symptoms can have a very similar level of effect to the point that both need to be addressed," Fisher told The Huffington Post.

Fisher told HuffPost that men will get help with postpartum depression when doctors make men feel more comfortable about reaching out to others about their mental health.

"Typically, in our culture, fathers haven't been considered as integral in a child's care," Fisher told HuffPost. "Now that there's been a transition for fathers being more involved, I think that we're just starting to see that we need to focus on both of the parents."

But men are generally less likely to seek help with mental health issues, according to the American Psychological Association. Researchers of the APA found that men often don’t seek help because they’re taught by society to be tough, strong and masculine, and therefore shouldn’t look for it.

"I don't think that it's biologically determined that men will seek less help than women," University of Missouri professor Glenn Good told the APA. "So if that's true, then it must mean that it's socialization and upbringing: Men learn to seek less help."
Researchers told the APA that men will feel more comfortable approaching doctors about mental health when society doesn’t pressure men to act more masculine, and when society doesn’t treat mental health issues as taboo.

Men experiencing postpartum depression should seek care from their doctors consistently and understand that the mental health problems they’re going through are normal, researchers told the APA.

Graduation rates are up, but education secretary says it's far from 'mission accomplished'

By TIM LLOYD • 16 HOURS AGO

Listen to the story: http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kwmu/audio/2015/03/Editsduncan.mp3

The high school graduation rate has hit an all-time high in America of 81 percent, and in Missouri it climbed to 85.7 percent during the 2013-14 school year. As more students earned high school diplomas, the gap between graduation rates for white and minority students also began to narrow, both nationally and in Missouri.

Yet, the disparity remains striking. For example, the data show a 16 percentage point difference between the graduation rate of white and black students nationally, and in Missouri the gap is roughly the same. Last school year in Missouri, the four-year graduation rate for white students was close to 91 percent and 75 percent for African-American students.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called the numbers encouraging, but added that by no means do they represent “mission accomplished.” During an interview with St. Louis Public Radio, he talked
about disparities in graduation rates and other issues related to school equity.

During the interview, Duncan said:

- When it comes to long-standing disparities between the graduation rates for white and minority students, more should be done to reject the status quo at schools that have become “dropout factories.” Struggling schools need extra resources, such as school counselors.
- Not all students who graduate from high school are college and career ready. The goal can’t simply be to hand out more diplomas, said Duncan. Schools have to make sure that students are fully prepared to enter the next phase of their academic or professional lives.
- There is a “discipline gap” in terms of suspensions for minority and white students, and in some places the so-called school-to-prison pipeline is very real. Duncan said the solution starts with understanding the root causes for a child’s misbehavior before issuing a suspension.
- No matter their party, politicians need to view education as the best investment that can be made with public dollars, especially with leveling the playing field between schools in rich and poor areas.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Beyond Meat moves beyond faux chicken to 'beef' product line

Friday, March 20, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT; updated 7:12 a.m. CDT, Friday, March 20, 2015
BY DANIELLE ZOELLNER

COLUMBIA — It started simple enough with vegetarian chicken strips created at MU.

Leigh Lockhart of Main Squeeze, a vegetarian restaurant on Ninth Street, has been working the Beyond Meat chicken strips into her food for her customers since the product was first introduced.
“Customers have responded very favorably,” Lockhart said. “I haven’t talked to someone who hasn’t liked it.”

Lockhart creates different dishes with the faux chicken including a vegan chicken salad, sesame chicken salad and Philly cheese steak sandwich.

“It’s a real easy product to work with,” she said.

Rose Kness and her husband, Larry, a vegan couple living near Mexico, Missouri, drive 65 miles twice a week to pick up food from Main Squeeze and Natural Grocers. They’re especially fond of Lockhart’s vegan chicken salad.

"I have ordered the chicken salad, my husband says by the truckloads, to go to family functions," Kness said. "We like the texture. It tastes just like meat."

When Beyond Meat opened its Columbia plant in 2012, it only produced chicken strips. The company has since diversified its product line to include soy-free "beef" crumbles. Its most recent additions — a vegan "Beast Burger" and slider — have been so popular that the company added 10,000 square feet to its processing plant on Vandiver Drive, which has about 30 full-time workers. The plant is working with a smaller-scale production room for the beef product until the new addition is finished in mid-April.

**Process and Product Development Engineer Justin Fuller, who helped create the "chicken" product at MU, said sales of Beast Burgers introduced in February have been greater than expected. “We are rushing to get the expansion scaled up for beef product so we can go into larger stores,” he said.**

Since 2012, Beyond Meat has placed its product in around 6,000 stores nationwide, including Whole Foods. Investors in the firm include Microsoft’s Bill Gates, said Bob Connolly, the vice president of marketing.

“He is trying to solve human problems,” Connolly said. “He sees us as a solution for solving world hunger.”
So far, the Beast Burger is only available in about 300 Whole Foods stores, and Beyond Meat hopes to have the new product in most of its other 6,000 retailers by the end of the year.

The Beast Burger, made from ingredients that includes pea protein, is soy free and wheat free and a single patty provides 42 percent of daily protein requirements.

“There are nine different super foods plugged into this burger,” Connolly said. “All the protein of beef but like having a protein shake on a bun.”

Along with the Beast Burger and slider, the company has introduced four breaded chicken items and two meatball items. The products were introduced at the Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California, at the beginning of March.

There was a noticeable buzz about the products and consumer interest at the expo, Connolly said.

The locally owned Clovers Natural Market on Broadway sells five products from Beyond Meat, including two types of beef crumbles. The store has been carrying the products for at least a year and has been satisfied with the results.

“If the customers continue to want it, we will continue to stock it,” Dan Neiswanger, head of freezer and dairy, said.

Neiswanger has heard about the new products from Beyond Meat and would be interested in stocking them as soon as they become available, which he believes will be soon.

"The products stand out due to the fact that they have a connection to Columbia,” Neiswanger said.
Angela Speck, Professor of Astronomy, Discusses Solar Eclipse

Watch the story:
http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d0eb6a40-a7f9-4b99-8344-b2ab53af792

Bill to help Missouri's dairy industry heads to governor

Thursday, March 19, 2015 | 10:01 p.m. CDT; updated 10:30 p.m. CDT, Thursday, March 19, 2015

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY — Lawmakers on Thursday sent a bill aimed at spurring growth in Missouri's dairy industry to Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon's desk, one of the first bills to make it that far this session.

Touted by sponsor Rep. Bill Reiboldt, R-Neosho, as the Dairy Revitalization Act, the measure earned a second nickname Thursday: "Obamacow." The name stems from a provision of the bill that would subsidize federal dairy insurance for up to 70 percent of farmers' premium payments.

Before voting in favor of the bill, Sen. Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City, questioned helping provide dairy insurance while the majority party has resisted growing a federal health
care program for low-income adults. Silvey is one of the few GOP members who this session has joined Democrats in calling to expand eligibility for Medicaid.

Silvey called the bill "Obamacow," drawing a parallel with the term "Obamacare." That term is used by some Republicans to describe President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, under which states can receive enhanced federal funding if they raise eligibility for adults earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level — or $33,465 for a family of four.

Along with the federal dairy insurance, the bill would require MU to research and report on how to improve the field. The legislation also would create a $5,000 scholarship for 80 agriculture students who pledge to work in the dairy industry and meet certain eligibility requirements, if lawmakers set aside money for that scholarship.

Passed 110-49 in the House and 31-2 in the Senate, Reiboldt's bill now needs approval from the governor to become law.

Sen. Brian Munzlinger, R-Williamstown and chairman of the Senate's agriculture committee, said the measure is needed to keep the state competitive in the dairy field.

"Missouri used to be I believe No. 2 in dairy back in the '70s, second to Wisconsin," Munzlinger said. "Right now I don't even know where we are on the list."