Mizzou News

Daily Clips Packet

July 22, 2015
Columbia Police investigating early morning burglary

Posted: 07.22.2015 at 2:10 AM

COLUMBIA, MO -- Columbia Police are still investigating a burglary that happened just after 1 a.m. Wednesday morning.

It happened at 1112 Hamilton Way just north of the University of Missouri's campus. Columbia Police responded to the report and pursued the suspect.

Police called off the search twenty minutes later without apprehending the suspect. No description of the suspect is available at this time.

No more details have been released about the burglary.


Burglary suspect still on the loose after MU alert text was sent out
A burglary suspect is still on the loose in Columbia.

Authorities received reports of a burglary at 1112 Hamilton Way, which is north of Campus around 1:20am.

An MU alert was sent to students via text and e-mail warning them to be on alert.

The search led police on and off campus. They called off the search right before 2.

Stay with ABC 17 News on details with this developing story.


Suspect gets away after burglary near MU campus

Posted: Jul 22, 2015 7:52 AM
Updated: Jul 22, 2015 9:05 AM

COLUMBIA - Occupants of a residence on Hamilton Way called University of Missouri police early Wednesday morning around 1 a.m.
The residents said there was an intruder in their house.

The Columbia Police department also sent officers to the scene and the two departments worked together as the suspect moved on and off campus.

Police called off the search after being led to the 1400th block of University Avenue.

MUPD Sgt. Jennifer Perry told KOMU the suspect was tracked using Columbia PD's canine unit.

Police currently have no description of the subject.

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29783&zone=5&categories=5

MU police issue alert about chase

Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 6:27 am

University of Missouri police put the campus on alert early Wednesday during a 20-minute search for a burglar.

The MU Police Department received a report of a burglary at 1112 Hamilton Way, just north of campus, at about 1:20 a.m., according to a post on the MU Alert website. City police were chasing the culprit, and the pursuit was winding on and off campus, the alert said.

A follow-up alert said police had called off the search near the 1400 block of University Avenue without arresting the burglar.

We’re exposed to hormone-disrupting BPA just by breathing

Manufacturing and wastewater treatment sites are releasing bisphenol A into the air, exposing people to high levels of the chemical, according to a study
Researchers have long known people can be exposed to bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical commonly found in plastic packaging from receipts to the lining of food cans and believed to disrupt human hormones. But a new study has found people also can be exposed to the chemical just by breathing.

Published in May 2015 by researchers at the University of Missouri, the study found high concentrations of BPA in both air and water near industrial sites, indicating that people may be exposed to much larger quantities of the chemical than previously thought.

The finding undermines the arguments behind US Food and Drug Administration’s long held stance on BPA. For years, the administration has maintained that BPA primarily enters the body via food or beverages, making it a negligible health risk because orally ingested BPA breaks down and is eliminated from the body fairly quickly. The FDA doesn’t regulate the chemical, which it says is safe at the levels used in food and consumer products.

“The stance the FDA’s had for a number of years is probably narrow sighted,” says Christopher Kassotis, lead researcher on the University of Missouri study. “A number of studies looking at the BPA on receipt paper have revealed that large amounts of the chemical enter the bloodstream from just holding a receipt, and now our studies and a few others have found that there’s significant aerial exposure as well.”

Both exposure from touch and from air can have more of a biological effect than oral ingestion, he claims. “Knowing what we do now, I think the FDA needs to rethink its approach,” he says. “We cannot say a level of exposure is safe or not until we’ve adequately explored all of the exposure routes.”

In May, Health Canada – the Canadian government’s public health department – published updated research that questions the long held but previously untested assumption that BPA is harmlessly metabolized by the liver. The Canadian researchers found that the liver converts BPA into a compound called BPA-gluconide, which has been linked to obesity in human and animal studies.
While it’s still unclear whether or how airborne BPA affects human health, the University of Missouri study’s findings are concerning. These exposures, which can’t be avoided, greatly add to the overall levels of the chemical people are being exposed to on a regular basis. The levels of BPA detected around plastic manufacturing sites in particular were far higher than recommended safe levels for human exposure.

“Even at the sites that were essentially our background baseline sites, we measured 30 nanograms per liter – that’s higher than levels known to cause sexual differentiation issues in snails and some amphibians,” Kassotis says. “And at the aerial release sites, there was 10 times that amount.”

Kassotis and five other University of Missouri researchers collected samples of surface water from six sites throughout the state, including four sites where wastewater was the source of contamination and two where aerial release of endocrine-disrupting chemicals was the source. The team analyzed the samples for estrogenic and androgenic activity, and looked closely at the levels of two endocrine-disrupting chemicals: BPA and ethinylestradiol, a common chemical component of oral contraceptives that’s often found in municipal wastewater.

The researchers found far less ethinylestradiol than expected, which the authors suggest might be due to the need for more sensitive measuring tools, but far more BPA than expected, particularly in the sites near plastic manufacturing plants.

Those levels will certainly affect wildlife, Kassotis says, but their impact on human health remains unknown. Ultimately, the study of airborne BPA is in its infancy. Only a handful of studies have looked at the health impacts of inhaling endocrine disrupting chemicals in general, and fewer still have looked specifically at BPA. A global air sampling study in 2010 found that the chemical was present in the air all over the world, including in the Antarctic, but said that health implications remained unknown.

The team also found estrogenic activity in their surface water samples that could not be pinned on BPA or ethinylestradiol, particularly in sites impacted by wastewater.
Aside from further study, next steps will be to look at how much BPA is being discharged from factories and calculate the distance the chemical traveled to make it into the surface water sample; the amount of BPA that then shows up in the water; and the overall percentage of BPA emissions that ultimately reach nearby water resources.

More research on the impacts of BPA in the air and in surface water is necessary to understand any potential human health impacts, Kassotis says. Chemicals that are inhaled are likely to have a greater bioactive concentration, meaning they are more likely to have a biological effect. People may also be taking in surface water from their skin and mouths.

“People are potentially swimming in, playing in, fishing in these rivers,” Kassotis says. “Maybe they clean their clothes in the water. More than half the drinking water in this country comes from surface water, too, and we know that our treatment processes are not designed to remove the majority of endocrine-disrupting chemicals from water, so there’s certainly potential for them to end up in drinking water. So we’re potentially talking about the full spectrum of exposure here, and right now, the health effects? That’s anyone’s guess.”

Panel suggests subtracting algebra from college requirements

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 19 hrs ago

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — A Missouri Department of Higher Education committee is recommending that two- and four-year public colleges requiring algebra for graduation instead give students the option of taking statistics or other math subjects more relevant to their fields.
Roughly half the students who take college algebra in Missouri fail it at least once, with many of them just giving up and dropping out, math professors say. By replacing the algebra requirement with other math choices, state education officials are hoping to speed graduation for many students, The Kansas City Star reported.

"Ultimately we are not able to tell any institution that they have to do this or that," said Rusty Monhollon, the Missouri department's assistant commissioner for academic affairs. "But I do think there is a great deal of support for improving the quality of math education in the state."

The department doesn't have a complete list of schools still requiring algebra, but they include some community colleges in Kansas City, along with the University of Missouri and Truman State University.

The change would add Missouri to a growing list of states that are nudging aside algebra requirements. In Kansas — where the pass rate for college algebra in 2014 was 76 percent — all six state universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents allow students to take alternative math courses to satisfy graduation requirements.

Missouri educators have pledged that by 2025, 60 percent of working-age Missourians will have a higher education credential. Freeing students from the algebra requirement could help them graduate sooner, save money and move the state closer to meet that goal.

"Right now we equate mathematics thinking with algebraic thinking, and mathematics is broader than that," said Northwest Missouri State math professor Mary Shepherd, a member of the statewide committee reviewing math requirements. "Students have been told, 'You don't think mathematically,' because they struggle with algebra, but algebra is just one small aspect of mathematics."
I am both encouraged and pained by the formation of another committee to save the Central Missouri Events Center, aka the Boone County Fairgrounds.

With it being fair week, and seeing as my personal voice was the most prominent in helping defeat a one-eighth-cent sales tax seeking to bail out the county’s management of the facility, it seems fitting to offer non-defeatist, yet realistic input on the discussion.

The Central Missouri Events Center Review Committee, recently formed by Boone County Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill, obviously has the most prestigious gathering of community leaders on the subject to date.

Yet, this wise roundtable faces the same discouraging facts at hand:

- Deferred maintenance that Atwill estimates at “easily in excess of $1 million.”
- Several consecutive budget deficits over $100,000 per year.
- And, no minimal gross income at all this year, since the Commission grimly followed through by shutting the place down after last August’s defeat at the polls.

New, magic funding sources hit some brick walls. Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid parried the idea of the city finding room in its crowded parks budget as “just not feasible.”

The mayor did offer to this group if it gets behind convincing voters to approve a raise in the local hotel tax, the events center would get a share of that new loot. Here we go again.
Although there are rumors that Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and Karen Loftin, motivated partly by their personal affinity toward horses, could find a way for MU to fund a new equestrian program to be housed there. If so, they better get a move on.

The fact is, there have been three outfits that have gone broke on this site. The first that I know of was a small private airport years ago.

Then, the Boone County Fair Board, drowning in red ink, led to the Boone County Commission bailing them out 15 years ago. The county has overseen it since. Even a private manager and county subsidies the last few years were too little, too late.

However, it seems that review committee member Teresa Maledy, a widely-respected bank executive, had the best insight I have yet seen reported. According to recent Missourian reporting, she simply asked how much area was actually needed to put on the fair.

Fair Board President Jeff Cook acknowledged that the set up for the fair could be more efficient. I gather since the area is so large, the Fair spreads out and utilizes that space.

I recall, as George Kennedy did last Friday, when the fairgrounds was on Clinkscales. So, that area was too small for the fair.

But at 129 acres (plus the County’s adjacent land-banked parcels), the Event Center is way too large for a fairgrounds. Efforts to derive complementary income from other events have failed to generate net profits to sustain the entire property.

What if a family had reasonably outgrown their 1,000-square-foot bungalow, but then jumped at the chance to move into a huge 4,000-square-foot abode? What if, over time, the cavernous quarters turn out to be too much house for their needs, and too much cost to afford on their family’s income?

Perhaps the family should choose to downsize to a 2,000-square-foot residence, which is closer to what it really needs, and can afford to keep up. Otherwise, holding on too long to an
uneconomical facility can end up resulting in bankruptcy and — at least temporarily — homelessness.

So perhaps it’s time to right-size the fairgrounds, to what the local ag community, and Events Center, actually needs and can more realistically support.

I read that the value of the land alone is likely worth double what county paid for it years ago — “likely,” as the county hasn’t even had an appraisal done.

If that’s the case, perhaps sell off about half the land and focus on what is actually sustainable to operate. County commissioners said that was not an option last August; but, after yet another year, and deeper in the red, here we are.

Mayor McDavid calls it “a valuable asset that we obviously have not maximized.” Therefore, it can be said that the political process has failed the fairgrounds.

The political process is good and necessary in a number of human endeavors, but running a businesslike entity such as the Event Center tends not to be one of them.

The political process also has failed the local agricultural community. Fair Board and 4-H interests pleaded to the review committee: “Don’t forget about us.” Lamenting this as the last year of the fair, pending the county’s shutdown of the property, that “you’re killing the agricultural kids.” But the ag leaders are now willing to do “whatever it takes to make it work.”

The fair would be best served to be free to chart its own course once again. If not from this entire site itself, at least from the county government’s control of it. Privatize the fairgrounds, for its own sake.
Missouri Senate to release harassment investigation findings


JEFFERSON CITY (AP) - A Missouri Senate panel is set to release findings from an investigation into a workplace harassment complaint.

An attorney's report and an internal report by the Senate administrator are set to be made public Wednesday.

A person familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press that it focused on an intern's sexual harassment complaint against Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota of Independence. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

LeVota confirmed only that the Senate was looking into why two University of Central Missouri students left early from an internship in his office. He has not directly answered other specific questions about the nature of the investigation.
Odom makes $625K as MU's defensive coordinator

By DAVID MORRISON
Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 5:15 pm

New Missouri defensive coordinator Barry Odom's annual salary is $625,000, according to a Tuesday response to a public-records request submitted by the Tribune.

In an email, University of Missouri System Custodian of Records Paula Barrett wrote that Odom does not work under a contract with the university.

When asked about Odom's contract in March, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said, "He's being paid. We certainly had agreed to certain terms regarding his joining us as a coordinator."

Missouri hired Odom, who played for the Tigers from 1996-99 and served in various capacities on Coach Gary Pinkel's staff from 2003-11, to replace former defensive coordinator Dave Steckel on Dec. 23, after Steckel left to become head coach at FCS school Missouri State.

Steckel made $600,000 as the Tigers' defensive coordinator in 2014. Odom, according to USA Today's database of assistant coach salaries, made $372,113 at Memphis last season.

His Missouri salary represents a 68-percent raise.

Offensive coordinator Josh Henson made the second-most on Pinkel's staff last year, at $550,000. Pinkel said in May that, as part of the raise and extension he received in April, his assistant coaches' salary pool increased to put it in the top half of staffs in the SEC. Details of that increase have not been released.

According to published figures, Odom would be the eighth-highest-paid defensive coordinator in the Southeastern Conference, behind Auburn's Will Muschamp, Alabama's Kirby Smart, Texas A&M's John Chavis, LSU's Kevin Steele, Georgia's Jeremy Pruitt and South Carolina co-coordinators Lorenzo Ward and Jon Hoke.

In his three years as Memphis' defensive coordinator, Odom helped the Tigers improve from 117th in the FBS in total defense in 2011, the year before he arrived, to 27th by the time he left.

WARD TO TRANSFER: Junior safety Chaston Ward has decided to transfer from the Missouri football program, team spokesman Chad Moller said Tuesday.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch first reported the news.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Ward totaled five tackles in 20 games during his Missouri career, with all of his action coming on special teams. He notched all five of his tackles last season playing parts of all 14 games, with three against Florida and two against Toledo.

Ward was listed as second-string strong safety in Missouri's pre-spring depth chart while senior Cortland Browning and redshirt freshman Tavon Ross recovered from injuries, but was not included in the team's preseason media guide.
Rivals.com listed Ward as a three-star recruit out of Cleburne, Texas, High School in the Tigers' signing class of 2012. He is the eighth member of that 19-signee class to leave Missouri before his eligibility had run out.

Ward is one of six players to leave the Tigers since the end of spring practice. Cornerback David Johnson, safety Shaun Rupert, Ward, offensive lineman Jordan Williams and defensive tackle Evan Winston chose to transfer, while defensive end Marcus Loud was dismissed from a violation of program policies.

Missouri unofficially has 82 players under scholarship for the fall semester with two more -- junior college transfers Chase Abbington and Tyler Howell -- expected to join the team later in the summer. FBS teams are permitted to have 85 players under scholarship.

Missouri to investigate Planned Parenthood after video controversy

By Jordan Shapiro

July 22, 2015

Missouri elected officials announced efforts Tuesday to investigate Planned Parenthood following the release of a controversial video that raised questions about whether the national abortion provider was selling fetal tissue for profit — and if Missouri affiliates were participating in such a scheme.

The separate moves by Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster and the Republican-led state Senate propel Missouri into the forefront of a national uproar caused by the video after it was made public last week. The video specifically mentions St. Louis as a possible location to obtain fetal tissue.

Koster’s announcement came after several Republican lawmakers asked him to look into the allegations against Planned Parenthood. The attorney general, who is trying to become Missouri’s next governor, said the video raised questions about Planned Parenthood’s practices.

“Regardless of whether one is pro-life or pro-choice, the questions raised by these videos require careful review,” Koster said in a written statement. A spokeswoman for Koster declined to comment on which state laws Planned Parenthood may have violated.

After Koster’s announcement, the Missouri Senate decided it too would join the fray.

Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey announced he was creating an interim committee to look into Planned Parenthood’s procedures for handling fetal tissue, whether state dollars were used in such efforts and if any state employee had knowledge of the allegations. The state Department of Health and Senior Services is responsible for regulating abortion clinics.

The panel, formally named the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life, will issue a report to the full Senate later this year.

It will be led by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who had previously called on Koster to investigate. Schaefer is running to replace Koster as attorney general in 2016.
“Missourians deserve to know the truth behind this potentially atrocious violation of our state laws and humane values,” Schaefer said in a written statement Tuesday. Last week, two Missouri House members also announced they would be using existing committees to investigate Planned Parenthood.

The video, released by a recently created group called the Center for Medical Progress, has sparked investigations in Congress and other states. The national Planned Parenthood organization has denounced it as fraudulent and part of a concerted effort to prohibit abortions.

It apparently shows a national Planned Parenthood executive discussing the organization’s protocols for providing fetal tissue for research. The official, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, was filmed at a lunch by undercover abortion opponents posing as medical researchers interested in purchasing specimens.

Under federal law, abortion providers are allowed to sell tissue, but it’s a criminal offense to profit from the exchange. During the video, Nucatola says some clinics charge between $30 and $100 for a specimen to cover storage and transportation, an action permitted under federal law.

At one point in the video, Nucatola tells the undercover actors that the Planned Parenthood affiliate in St. Louis could be a good place to purchase specimens.

“The one other place I would consider that you’re not thinking about possibly is St. Louis,” she says. “I think that’s definitely worth your while. ... I would say St. Louis is worth investigating.” Nucatola also named the medical director of the St. Louis-based Planned Parenthood, Dr. David Eisenberg, in the video.

But the two Missouri affiliates, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri and Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said Tuesday that they do not participate in any tissue donation programs, citing a 1979 state law.

“These political attacks claiming that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation or illegal activity are simply not true,” they said in a written statement. “This is yet another orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri.”

Missouri law states that “no person shall use any fetus or child aborted alive for any type of scientific, research, laboratory or other kind of experimentation either prior to or subsequent to any abortion procedure” except to protect the fetus. Violating that law is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison.

The Center for Medical Progress released a second video Tuesday apparently showing another Planned Parenthood official discussing the method and price of providing fetal tissue left over from abortions for medical research.

The Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis is currently Missouri’s only abortion provider, though a location in Columbia announced recently that it would soon offer abortion services.

Joan Berra, 78, participated in a small protest outside the St. Louis clinic Tuesday afternoon. She said she was “just horrified” by the video, but was glad state officials were taking steps to investigate.

“I’m trying to protect these babies from being destroyed and their body parts from being sold,” she said. “I’m extremely happy they are looking at Planned Parenthood.”

Koster is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor in 2016 and so far is running unopposed. But he was previously a Republican, and while serving in the state Senate he supported some anti-abortion measures. He switched parties in 2007 after voting for a controversial law that imposed strict requirements on the state’s abortion providers.

Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri, said Koster’s lack of an opponent in the Democratic primary for governor gave him the political ability to investigate Planned Parenthood.
“Democrats don’t really have an alternative to him, so he doesn’t have to behave as a normal Democrat might have to behave,” he said. “He can make himself appeal to the political center and protect himself from attacks Republicans might make.”

Jeremy Walling, a political science professor at Southeast Missouri State University, agreed that Koster had little to lose from his stance. But he said it’s too early to tell what effect it will have on the 2016 election.

Missouri has long been a battleground for abortion rights. In the last few years, the state has moved to curb the use of abortion-inducing drugs and triple the amount of time pregnant women have to wait between seeing a doctor and having the procedure. One lawmaker said the Planned Parenthood issue could be a theme during next year’s legislative session.

“[The video] points to a number of violations in federal and state law and I think we need to get to the bottom of what is going on,” said Sen. Bob Onder, R-St. Charles, a member of the Senate interim committee.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

University of Missouri Press returns to campus

ANDREW KESSEL, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **After more than 25 years, the University of Missouri Press has returned to MU. The press was founded at the campus more than 50 years ago but operated out of a warehouse on LeMone Industrial Boulevard until this month.**

Press director David Rosenbaum said returning the press to campus had been a goal of his ever since he took over in November 2013. Because printing is no longer conducted by the UM Press itself, Rosenbaum said, the warehouse space became less than ideal. When space opened up in the Heinkel Building at Seventh and Locust streets, he decided to make the move.

Returning to campus increases the visibility of the press, Rosenbaum said, as well as strengthens the interaction between the press and entities on campus. The press is able to conduct more co-ventures with Ellis Library and engage more students with activities and internships.

"There is certainly more of an awareness that the press actually exists," Rosenbaum said. "There's not a lot of support for investing in a service people aren't even aware of."
The UM Press seeks out authors to publish scholarly works, particularly those focusing on the history of Missouri. In addition to releasing print editions, the UM Press publishes digital copies of its new works and has begun digitizing old ones, something Rosenbaum said is a priority.

The UM Press almost closed in 2012. University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced that a $400,000 subsidy the press receives annually would be removed and the organization phased out.

One author, Nancy Hill, was already well into publishing her first book with the UM Press when Wolfe made his announcement. Hill said she didn't find out that the press was closing until her mother mentioned over lunch that she had read about it in the paper.

Hill, an administrator of the Diastole Scholar Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said she couldn't believe a university with Research One status would make such a decision.

"How can you say that and then, in the same breath, cancel the university press?" Hill said.

After many, including Hill, spoke out against Wolfe's proposal, the decision was ultimately reversed and the subsidy restored. Oversight of the press was then shifted from the UM System to solely the Columbia campus.

Hill had begun to explore other academic presses around the country when she got a call from the UM Press telling her the news. Hill returned to publish her book but not without doubts.

"There certainly was, in the back of my mind, a fear — that it would get a little, or a lot, less professional," she said.

Her book, "A Very Private Public Citizen: The Life of Grenville Park," was published with the UM Press in 2014. But there were other authors whose works never were.

The period of uncertainty cost the press a number of authors and about a year's worth of revenue, Rosenbaum said. Even now, the press has yet to fully recover.
"We're not where we need to be," he said. "But we're moving in the right direction, and I'm confident we'll get there."

Rosenbaum said the press now is engaged with upwards of 75 authors who are at various stages in the publishing process.

For Hill, it was the quality of the people that brought her back.

"Every interaction I've had with the UM Press has been positive," Hill said. With other presses, "that's not always the case," she said.

Ultimately, Rosenbaum said he hopes the press can break even in the coming years and eventually become less dependent on the university subsidy. He said that unlike commercial presses he's worked at in the past, the UM Press isn't trying to make a "fast buck." Here, the priority is always the "dissemination of scholarship."

If the UM Press were to close, the profile of the university would be hurt nationally, Rosenbaum said. Authors like Hill would be forced to seek out other university presses, such as the one at the University of Kansas.

"If you want a Jayhawk on the spine, that's the way to do it," Rosenbaum said.
MU professor says rain could lead to drought damage in plants

COLUMBIA - The heavy rains in mid-Missouri could actually lead to drought damage, said one MU plant sciences professor.

David Trinklein is an MU associate professor of plant sciences and a horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension. He said when it rains as much as it has this summer, the soil oxygen concentration is limited. This means the soil fills up with so much water that the roots cannot get the oxygen they need.

He said the potential drought damage comes in because the water evaporates from the top layer of the soil after the rain stops and temperatures drop.

KOMU 8 News talked to some local nurseries to see if their plants suffered because of the heavy rain.

Giving Gardens Greenshouse Supervisor Carol Gasperson said too much rain, a lack of sunlight and a lack of heat this summer had taken a toll on some of Giving Gardens' plants, such as annuals like purslane.
"A lot of our annuals that are outside have remained too wet and haven't had enough sunlight," Gasperson said. "Therefore, we've had less bloom."

She said many of the greenhouse's plants were too soggy and looked wilted to customers. And she thinks the weather also kept people away this summer.

"It just seems like when it's rainy and cool, people don't shop for plants," Gasperson said. "So one way that the wet, cool season has hurt us is we don't have as many people here looking at our pretty plants."

But Trinklein said unless you grow a garden, you will probably not see the effects of this.

Gasperson said the biggest difference between growing plants at home and at a nursery was that she could control how much water the plants get. She said tomato plants were specifically affected.

"Without enough heat and being too soggy, the tomatoes are not doing well in people's yards, so they've come here to buy our tomatoes," Gasperson said. "Our plants are doing fairly good because they're in a hoophouse, but a lack of sunshine, even in the hoophouse, has made our tomatoes smaller, and the crop has been a lot smaller than we would expect."

To plan for the future, Trinklein said people who plant flowers and vegetables should think about trying to improve drainage of excess water. He said one way to do this is by incorporating organic material.
Changing Definitions of Sexual Consent on College Campuses

July 21, 2015 - 8:42pm

By Jeanne Zaino

NO MU MENTION

When students in two of the U.S.’s largest states return to campus in August they will find that the definition of what constitutes sexual assault has changed. While the change is fairly dramatic and impacts many, it has been accomplished with surprisingly little fanfare. The lack of coverage may be hailed as a sign that the change is broadly supported. However the net result is that students may not be cognizant of it until they arrive in the fall.

Recently New York became the second state to pass affirmative consent legislation. Under the new law, consent now requires an affirmative agreement between the two parties or what can also be defined as clear, unambiguous assent to the sexual interaction. This is a wholesale change from the former ‘no means no’. The legislation also creates a victims bill of rights and increases training for law enforcement, as well as college and university employees.

In signing the law at New York University last week, Governor Andrew Cuomo said that the legislation, an expansion of a policy in effect since last year at the state’s public universities, would help end sexual assault “and the imbalance of power that women face across the board.

Cuomo was not alone in pushing for this bill. He famously teamed up with Lady Gaga, among others, to urge passage and penned a widely read op-ed with the superstar in support of his “Enough is Enough” campaign.

New York’s law comes shortly after the passage of similar legislation in California. The bill, signed by California Governor Jerry Brown last year was the first in the nation to force colleges and universities receiving state financial aid to adopt an “affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity.” Under the law consent to sex requires an affirmative ‘yes’ rather than the absence of a ‘no’.
forward college’s receiving aid are required to use this redefinition to both investigate claims of assault and instruct their students.

The notion of affirmative consent may be new to the state legislative arena, but it is not a new concept or practice. As Eliza Gray reports, even before the recent laws were passed in California and New York affirmative consent was already being used at approximately “800 post-secondary institutions”. What is new, however, is that we now have state's codifying what in the past would have been included in a Student Code of Conduct.

While widely supported, the new legislation is also not without some conflict. As Gray notes, Harvard’s recently revised policy did not embrace affirmative consent. According to “Harvard’s Title IX Officer, Mia Karvonides... the school rejected [the] policy because there is no 'standard definition of affirmative consent.”

Critics are also worried that under the new definition those accused of assault – most commonly male students - may be denied due process. This concern has been exacerbated by the notorious Rolling Stone article about a sexual assault at the University of Virginia (UVA). The article, which was later retracted, caused a firestorm of controversy and led to the closure of a campus fraternity (that fraternity was subsequently reinstated by the University). Unfortunately the focus on stories like these take away from what statistics show is an alarming problem. A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Washington Post, for instance, finds that:

- *One in five college women are victims of sexual assault*
- *Sex assault at college is both common and life changing*
- *Male victims fear they will not be believed*

Moreover, the institutions charged with handling claims of assault have come under increasing scrutiny by federal authorities, the Obama administration, Congress, and others. The concern has been provoked by well-publicized cases like that of Columbia University student Emma Sulkowicz who as part of her senior thesis committed to carrying a mattress on campus as long as her alleged rapist was allowed to remain on campus. Sulkowicz also carried her ‘rape protest mattress’ across the stage during Columbia’s commencement ceremony this past May. But it isn’t just high profile cases like Sulkowicz’s which have sparked renewed focus on this issue, it is also the data. According to reports more than fifty colleges and universities are facing “federal investigation for their handling of sexual abuse allegations.” In addition, the Education Department notes that sexual assault on campus increased from 3,443 in 2011 to 4,062 in 2012.

These numbers are reinforced by studies like a 2014 inquiry by Huffington Post which found that:

- *less than 1/3 of college students found guilty of assault were dismissed from the institution*
- *students found responsible for sexual assault were expelled in 30% of cases and suspended in 47% of cases*

The data underscore the need for action in this area. The question is whether affirmative consent policies will make a difference? For all the support the affirmative consent movement is currently enjoying, research regarding whether it will be effective
in cutting down on the number of sexual assaults on campus, as well as the investigation and prosecution of these claims, is still inconclusive.

When a State Decides That ‘Yes Means Yes,’ What Does That Mean for Colleges?

By Colleen Murphy

Nearly a year ago, Gov. Jerry Brown of California signed a law requiring the state’s colleges and universities to adopt an "affirmative consent" standard defining that "only yes means yes" — that students engaging in sexual activity must signal they are willingly doing so.

Now other states are making — or at least weighing — similar moves. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York signed a law this month requiring affirmative consent on college campuses, and advocates of the practice say it is likely to spread elsewhere. The momentum is a sign that lawmakers and colleges continue to sharpen their focus on thwarting campus sexual assault while encouraging students to report attacks.

What happens when a state decides that only yes means yes? We took a look at the impact of California’s law and what New York institutions can expect under their new law.

How did California’s "yes means yes" law affect the state’s colleges?

The California law applies to all colleges and universities that receive state funding. And for most of those institutions, the enactment of the law last September didn’t make much of a splash. That’s because so many institutions already had affirmative-consent language written into their policies on sexual assault. The University of California system, for example, adopted the yes-means-yes standard in February 2014.

Occidental College started using the standard four years ago, says Ruth Jones, the college’s Title IX coordinator. She says that most cases her office has handled have
centered on incapacitation by drugs or alcohol, which negates the ability to consent to sexual activity, instead of questions of affirmative consent.

Whether a student will report an assault depends on factors beyond a consent policy, Ms. Jones says.

"People have different concerns: who will know about it, and whether or not the process will interfere with their ability to pursue their education," she says. "For respondents, they’re concerned about if they have a fair opportunity to tell their story."

**Are there any ways in which the law has made an impact on the ground?**

Here’s one. Even though it didn’t change their day-to-day operations, several Title IX coordinators at California institutions agree that the law has increased awareness of sexual-assault issues, and not just among students.

"It was national news and was an opportunity for this conversation to go beyond the gates of our community," says Ms. Jones, adding that many students started discussing the law at home with their families.

Kathleen Salvaty, the Title IX coordinator at the University of California at Los Angeles, says she has noticed a "high level" of interest from students in the topic of consent since she started work at the university last spring. That was particularly evident during UCLA’s freshman-orientation sessions this summer, she says.

"I was impressed by their understanding, and it was clear that it was something they had thought about," she says.

**If colleges are already stating that yes means yes, why pass a state-level affirmative-consent law?**

Advocates and Title IX coordinators say one benefit of codifying the language in state law is that it sends a clear signal to college students: This issue matters.

On a symbolic level, the concept of affirmative consent "shifts the onus from the victim to the alleged perpetrator to demonstrate that the person had consent," says Colby Bruno, senior legal counsel at the Victim Rights Law Center, in Boston.
"That’s a positive step. I think even as a society we wait for the victim to say, ‘This is what happened, this is the story, this is the truth.’ And the assailant says, ‘Oh no, that’s not what happened,’” Ms. Bruno says.

Daren Mooko, associate dean and Title IX coordinator at Pomona College, says he’s seen an increase in reports of sexual assault since the college adopted a "yes means yes" policy, in 2013, a sign students may be more aware of the resources and steps to report than before.

He also attributes the increase to broader attention to the topic of sexual assault and the involvement of student leaders in educating their peers about prevention, which has led to "a culture of people feeling more open" and a "significant increase in reports."

**What should colleges in New York expect?**

Probably business as usual. Many New York colleges already have a "yes means yes" standard, including the 64-campus State University of New York system, which adopted such a policy in October 2014. As in California, the law applies to public and private colleges. Chantelle Cleary, the Title IX coordinator at the University at Albany, one SUNY campus, says the state law is simply a more "succinct" version of the language already in the institution’s policy. "The definition and the idea we are trying to teach our students hasn’t changed. It’s more of a language thing," she says.

Officials at Fordham University are taking another look at their existing policies following enactment of the state law. The institution decided last year to add a written definition of consent to its policy, says Anastasia Coleman, its Title IX coordinator. The university has also incorporated the concept of affirmative consent into orientation programs for the last several years, she says.

In light of the law, she says, campus officials are likely to make additional updates. "We evaluate our policy and orientation training every year, taking into consideration changes in the law, feedback from the previous year, and looking for ways to improve our policy," she says.

**Will campus affirmative-consent laws spread to other states?**

Most likely. Ms. Bruno, of the Victim Rights Law Center, says she expects more states to adopt similar standards. But those states may try to be "a bit more cautious,"
she adds. "They want to see what these new laws do," she says. "Are they effective in prevention? Are people being accused and found responsible more often than not?"

A policy requiring students to express consent through "clear and unambiguous language" had been set to take effect this month across the five campuses of the University of Minnesota system. But Eric W. Kaler, the system’s president, recently delayed a vote on the change to give members of the university’s Board of Regents more time to review the concept before they meet again this fall, the Star Tribune reported.

Campus officials shouldn’t rush into a new policy just to jump on a trend, Ms. Bruno says. Rather, she says, colleges should consider commissioning campus-climate surveys before changing policies, to better understand if a new standard would make a difference. And once new guidelines are in place, institutions face the challenge of properly training their staffs, educating their students, and carrying out the new standards.

"You can have the best policy in the world," Ms. Bruno says, "and have terrible implementation."

Roommate Tiff, Title IX Dispute: The General Counsel Sees It All

By Katherine Mangan

NO MU MENTION

On any given day, José D. Padilla and the seven lawyers he oversees at DePaul University might be dissecting the latest guidance from Washington to ensure that the university’s sexual-misconduct policies pass muster. On the same day they could also be monitoring "pay to play" litigation that, if successful, could require it to dole out more money to its athletes, and following up on a whistle-blower tip about a misuse of
grant money. Meanwhile, contracts for a planned multimillion-dollar campus-events center in downtown Chicago might need scrutiny, and a student with roommate problems could be threatening to sue.

Surviving as a university general counsel these days, says Mr. Padilla, "requires what I call a head on a swivel."

Federal mandates and public pressures have been piling on in recent years, requiring universities to update policies on such matters as sexual and alcohol abuse, privacy protections, and crime disclosures. At the same time, perennial concerns over academic freedom and tenure sometimes threaten to flare into lawsuits.

Mr. Padilla, who has been general counsel at the nation’s largest Roman Catholic university, with 24,000 students, since 2005, says each of his lawyers has a portfolio of topics he or she covers. Whenever possible, they try to mediate issues so DePaul won’t end up in court.

For instance, "I have a very aggressive employment lawyer who does a good job of working with university clients to stamp out the embers before they turn into full-fledged forest fires," he says. But that isn’t always possible.

"We don’t get sued a lot, but people are lawyering up more and more these days," Mr. Padilla says. Cases like student suspensions, which used to be handled as disciplinary issues, often escalate into his office. If a student has a dispute with a roommate and wants to change rooms but is locked into a dormitory contract with the university, it’s becoming more likely that "we’ll be getting a nastygram from an attorney."

With stepped-up enforcement of the federal gender-equity law known as Title IX, a staff lawyer holds frequent meetings with administrators from departments that oversee housing, public safety, diversity, student affairs, and athletics to make sure everyone understands their compliance responsibilities.

And when it comes to hot-button issues like sexual assault, everyone wants to weigh in.

"The problem isn’t so much Washington as the echo effect it’s created in states and municipalities," says Mr. Padilla, who previously worked as a lawyer and lobbyist for the Illinois Institute of Technology. He understands the political pressures, having also worked as a legislative assistant to the late Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, and as an assistant commissioner in the Treasury Department during the Clinton administration.
Last year city officials in Chicago proposed an ordinance on campus sexual violence at the same time that the state’s attorney general was promoting legislation aimed at strengthening colleges’ responses to such incidents. The state bill, which would require colleges to offer extra training for students and employees, and to comply with stricter reporting procedures, has since been approved by the House and Senate and is awaiting the governor’s signature.

"When those things occur," says Mr. Padilla, "they’re ripe for conflicting or duplicating, or otherwise just making compliance nightmares with respect to what’s happening in Washington."

His office also fields questions that pertain to its Catholic mission, including whether it can stop the annual staging of *The Vagina Monologues*. The play raises money for groups combating violence against women, but its explicit content has prompted other Catholic colleges to call off productions. Mr. Padilla’s office has responded by saying that it respects the protesters’ views, but that a university should encourage "an honest and robust debate" about challenging issues.

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**Quota for In-Staters**

July 22, 2015

By Elizabeth Redden

**NO MU MENTION**

In pitching a new B.A. in architecture program to a state oversight body for approval, Kean University made an unusual promise -- that it would limit the number of in-state students to 25 each year. The rest are to be recruited nationally and internationally -- the program has links to China -- so as to minimize competition with other New Jersey institutions.
The fact that Kean, a public university in New Jersey, is starting a new academic program with a cap on in-state residents was first reported Sunday by the Bergen County Record.

“We are a state university for the state of New Jersey,” said James A. Castiglione, an associate professor of physics and president of the Kean Federation of Teachers. “Our mandate, our mission is to provide an affordable education for the children of the citizens of New Jersey. That’s what we’re here to do, and to take the state subsidy and the state appropriations meant for that purpose and redirect it elsewhere is utterly at odds with our mission.”

The New Jersey Institute of Technology had initially opposed the introduction of an architecture program at Kean on the grounds that it would be duplicative of its own. NJIT, whose main campus is located less than 10 miles away from Kean’s, has since dropped its opposition and the Kean program gained approval from the Presidents' Council, which is made up of New Jersey college presidents.

“As Kean University followed the process for achieving approval of its architecture program, we learned more about it and its target audience and were no longer opposed to the program,” a NJIT spokeswoman, Lauren Ugorji, said via email. “Our president, Joel S. Bloom, was briefed on the program by Kean's president.” (Ugorji did not elaborate, saying she was not privy to the conversation, but an accounting of it in Sunday’s Record said that Bloom was assured by Kean President Dawood Farahi that the majority of seats would go to foreign students.)

Kean is planning to offer the new B.A. in architectural studies and, eventually, an M.A., at both its New Jersey campus and its campus in Wenzhou, China. The university expects, according to the proposal for the B.A. program submitted to the Presidents' Council, to ultimately enroll about 250 students at each of the two sites.

That proposal states: "The number of New Jersey residents will be limited to a total of 25 students at the B.A. degree each year. At the M.A. level only 15 New Jersey residents will be admitted into the program each year. The remainder of the cohort at each level will be recruited at national and international arenas to significantly minimize the impact on our New Jersey sister institutions."

"Enrollment in the School of Public Architecture in the Michael Graves College at Kean University in Union, N.J., is limited and competitive,” a Kean spokeswoman, Susan Kayne, said in an email. “Our fall 2015 cohort will have approximately 15 students from New Jersey with enrollment increasing to 25 per cohort. Classes are small as there will be intense individual tutorial sessions between students and faculty throughout the course of study. Students will have the opportunity to study at the Michael Graves School of Architecture at Wenzhou-Kean, Kean University's English-speaking campus in China. Matriculation to the Michael Graves School of Architecture at Wenzhou-Kean will begin in fall 2016.”

Kayne did not directly address a question about why the university opted to impose a quota on the number of New Jersey students, but in a subsequent email she said the university expects enrollment at its Union, N.J., campus to be half in-state and half out-of-state. "We will accept 25 students a year from New Jersey and another 25 from out
of state and/or international, eventually growing the program to 250 students, half of which will be from New Jersey," she said. "Given that more than 90 percent of our students are in-state, we don't envision a one-to-one ratio for quite some time. We anticipate that most of the architecture students here in Union will be New Jersey residents for the near future, although we anticipate that the high caliber of this program will attract attention well beyond state borders."

Earlier this year, Kean’s University Senate issued a statement on the issue of shared governance after it said the proposal for the B.A. in architectural studies program was forwarded to the Board of Trustees for a vote prior to getting Senate approval. As public universities nationwide have seen declines in state appropriations, they have increasingly looked to out-of-state domestic and international students for the tuition dollars they bring.

Edward St. John, an education professor at the University of Michigan who has researched the privatization of public universities, said the Kean case is at the "intersection" of issues of state regulation and privatization -- "but is not a new pattern per se."

"Public colleges and universities now develop their financial strategies for new programs within market systems with dual methods of recruiting for in-state and out-of-state students," he said. "The 'duplication' argument was used in the Kean case relative to in-state competition for students. But to be understood, it must be placed in the larger national marketplace, including competition for high-achieving international students who can pay to attend."

July 21, 2015

7 Myths About Campus Diversity
By Eric Hoover

NO MU MENTION

Plenty of prognosticators believe the end is near for affirmative action in college admissions. Arthur L. Coleman is not one of them.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Coleman, a partner and founder of Education Counsel, an education-consulting firm, offered his view of the legal landscape at a conference hosted by the American Council on Education.

Colleges, he said, should remember that the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged that the educational benefits of diversity are compelling, and
recognized the legitimacy of race-conscious admissions policies. His hunch: The Supreme Court’s forthcoming ruling in Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin will not erode that legal foundation.

Still, he has no crystal ball. "We don’t know what the court is going to do," he said.

How should colleges with race-conscious admissions policies proceed in the meantime? Mr. Coleman offered some suggestions by explaining what he described as seven myths about campus diversity, which are paraphrased here.

1. **Questions about campus diversity come down to what lawyers and judges say.** That’s the wrong way to look at it, Mr. Coleman said. College leaders have a responsibility to define how and why diversity is important to institutional goals and values based on their own research and internal decision-making. "The homework, in a nutshell, rests with institutional leaders and actors," he said.

2. **Diversity is about admissions and nothing else.** "It misses the forest for the trees," Mr. Coleman said. It’s important to consider broader enrollment patterns when assessing the lawfulness of specific admissions practices. The vast experience of college begins after the admissions process ends.

3. **Diversity is just about race and ethnicity.** "That’s not the totality of the conversation," Mr. Coleman told his audience. Colleges must look broadly at all facets of diversity (including first-generation status and family income) that relate to core educational goals. Assembling a diverse class? It’s about creating learning experiences that a college wants for its students, he said.

4. **A college’s policies and practices are either race-conscious or race-neutral.** "This notion of either-or is a false dichotomy," Mr. Coleman said. For one thing, a new report co-published by ACE’s Center for Policy Research and Strategy says that strategies for achieving greater racial and ethnic diversity often go hand in hand with strategies for enhancing socioeconomic diversity. Also, he said, it’s not always clear whether a given policy really is race-neutral.

5. **We should stay as far away from numbers as possible when talking about diversity.** Some college leaders, Mr. Coleman said, fear the perception that they are using racial quotas in admissions, a legal no-no. Nonetheless, institutions should be "numbers attentive," he said. How does your college define success in terms of its diversity goals? The answer should be a mix of quantitative and qualitative evaluations. Courts, he said, want to know if a given college has a "contextual
benchmark" by which it measures progress — and determines whether its race-conscious policies are necessary.

6. **We can rely on another college’s research.** Mr. Coleman urged colleges that consider race not to lean on the research and rationale behind other institutions’ race-conscious admissions practices. What worked for the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor might not make sense, legally or otherwise, on your campus. "Every institution has to roll up its sleeves and do the hard work," he said.

7. **Courts and pundits are qualified to step into admissions leaders’ shoes.** "Fundamentally, people outside the academy lack the mission orientation, and, quite frankly, they lack the expertise," Mr. Coleman said. That does not mean he thinks colleges should stand still — or run away from difficult discussions about how and why campus diversity is important. "We need to be more deliberative and transparent about what we’re doing," he said, "not only to judges, but in the court of public opinion."

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**Don’t Mess With Free Speech**

July 22, 2015 - 3:00am

by Kristine Maloney

**NO MENTION**

It’s nonsensical to me: Institutions that attempt to thwart the efforts of student journalists by refusing to participate in their stories, attempting to silence them and generally promoting hostile relations. Yet, it recurs so often and almost always backfires on the administration.

Take this recent example from Muscatine Community College in Iowa, where things have escalated all the way to the courthouse. In May, student reporters sued the former college president, dean, other administrators and the board for censorship and intimidation. As you would expect, the tension between the paper and the
administration seemed to be triggered by an investigation into conflict of interest claims that had the potential to portray the college in a negative light. But the conflict was exacerbated by a single faculty member’s photo—a headshot—that ran along with the announcement of a grant the professor has received. This should have been a good thing—a celebration of faculty scholarship—except the faculty member didn’t want his picture used alongside the piece. And it became a big deal, ultimately leading to a legal battle, which has received far greater media attention than any of the stories the administration originally had concerns about. I don’t need to point out the irony here.

The scary thing is that Muscatine isn’t alone. Remember Pensacola Community College? Last fall, they became national news when the administration attempted to institute a gag order related to a labor dispute. Then there’s Northern Michigan University, which also made headlines across the country when the student newspaper’s editor and advisor sued the administration for alleged retaliation after they published a critical story. Chicago State University has been at odds with their independent student newspaper for years and has been involved in multiple legal battles, including at least one that was deemed a First Amendment violation on the part of the administration. Similar issues have plagued George Washington University and the University of Minnesota, as detailed in this article about university “PR staff increasingly limiting access to sources.” And, from what I hear from colleagues across the country, relationships are strained at so many other institutions as well.

It’s unfortunate, to say the least. A missed opportunity. An overlooked chance for both sides to have a win.

Kyle Munson, a columnist with the Des Moines Register, who opined last week about the Muscatine incident, summed it up beautifully. He wrote, “Let me conduct a quick Higher Ed Marketing 101 session in two sentences: Open, unrestricted student journalism under the tutelage of dedicated faculty is some of the best public relations you can produce and will only help you avoid headaches in the long run. The best way to thwart a ‘bad’ story is with more stories, not stonewalling.”

I couldn’t agree more.

I have always viewed student newspaper staffs as allies. And treating them as such paid extraordinary dividends. I cultivate relationships in the exact same way I approach other members of the media—a strategy corroborated by my colleague Erin Hennessey in a blog post written earlier this year.

So, what does partnering with student media look like when done well? It looks like your interactions with other reporters. It’s about providing students access to administrators and faculty. It’s about facilitating interviews for mundane as well as more sensitive, stories. It’s about being available as a resource to provide context and background. It’s about giving student reporters a heads-up on major institutional announcements and news, including potentially negative news. It means giving students embargoed information (in certain circumstances). Terrifying for some of us, but potentially hugely rewarding.

It means regular, casual meetings with editors and reporters over coffee or lunch, as well as special occasion meetings. (Throw the newspaper staff an end-of-year ice cream
It means sending an email about a job well done, a story well reported—especially if they’ve handled a negative story about the institution in a particularly fair and sensitive way. It means protecting students from overstepping and from potentially libelous reporting. Yes, you’re treating them like professional journalists, but you’re also operating in an educational setting as a mentor looking out for their interests. And mentorship needs to be genuine to work. It can’t protect anyone else’s agenda.

Student journalists aren’t perfect. They’re less experienced. They’re still learning the process. But I know that even the most ambitious among them aren’t out to get the administration. They want to put out a good newspaper. And it’s our responsibility to help them do that, keeping in mind that good reporting doesn’t always mean that the stories that end up in print are the ones we want told. Even the most negative stories benefit from a good relationship with the reporter.

And you may get burned. That’s the risk of engaging with any media, right? The reality is, with student journalists and most other things in life, you catch more flies with honey (or ice cream) than vinegar.