Mumps Outbreak at U of Illinois, U of Missouri

July 30, 2015

Cases of the mumps have broken out on two different campuses, health officials reported this week. Fifty cases of the mumps have been reported in Champaign County in Illinois and most of them are linked to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus, The Chicago Tribune reported Monday. At the University of Missouri, six students have been confirmed with cases of the mumps and four more cases are being tested for the illness, The Columbia Tribune reported. The Illinois campus and Ohio State University had similar in 2014.

Some States Resist Offering Tuition Breaks to Undocumented Immigrants

By Melissa Korn

July 29, 2015 2:28 p.m. ET

Missouri and Arizona are pushing back against a tide of states that have been making college more affordable for undocumented immigrants or those who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children.

“The trend has been to offer access to in-state tuition rates and, more recently, state financial aid to students who grew up in the country, regardless of their status,” said Tanya Broder, senior attorney at the National Immigration Law Center. She called Missouri and Arizona “outliers.”
Earlier this month Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich appealed a May court ruling that had allowed the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the nation’s largest, to charge in-state tuition to students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, status.

More than 900,000 individuals nationwide who came to the U.S. before age 16 have been granted a reprieve from deportation, and given work authorization, under the 2012 Obama administration program.

At least 20 states, including Florida, Texas, New York and California are among those that offer “tuition equity” to students regardless of their legal status, according to a Law Center tally.

A handful of others, including Ohio, Virginia, Massachusetts and New Hampshire provide in-state tuition rates to students who hold DACA, status, Ms. Broder says.

The Arizona appeal throws into question the tuition policies not just at community colleges, but also at Arizona’s public four-year universities. The Arizona Board of Regents, which oversees Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University, announced shortly after the original court decision that it, too, would allow DACA students who established residency to pay in-state tuition.

Ryan Anderson, director of communications for Mr. Brnovich’s office, said the judge in that case “took a great leap in logic” to equate “legal presence” in the U.S. with “legal status.”

Carmen Cornejo, an activist for undocumented students in Arizona, called the appeal “a waste of taxpayer money,” saying that the court was clear in its original decision and the tide has shifted nationally toward offering in-state tuition to DACA students. She said students she has spoken with are fairly confident the court’s decision will stand, but they remain concerned that costs will jump after they’re enrolled in school.

Arizona voters in 2006 approved a proposition stating that benefits, such as in-state tuition, shouldn’t be extended to people who don’t have legal status.

While the appeal is pending, the Arizona regents will adhere to the policy that extends in-state tuition to DACA students, said Sarah Harper, the governing body’s director of public affairs. Nearly 30,000 people have DACA status in the state, though the regents don’t have a tally of how many are enrolled in its universities.

In Missouri, lawmakers passed a bill requiring recipients of the state’s A+ Scholarship program to be citizens soon after the body that oversees the scholarship extended eligibility to include DACA students.

Though Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed that bill, Republican Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, who had introduced a similar version in the House, said he believes the two chambers have enough votes to override the veto in September.
Missouri’s latest budget also includes language barring colleges and universities that receive public funds from charging DACA students anything less than out-of-state tuition rates. Though Mr. Nixon has questioned whether that passage is enforceable, Mr. Fitzpatrick said schools can disregard it at their peril.

“If universities decide to ignore that language, I’m sure that there will be consequences in the budget process next year,” Mr. Fitzpatrick said.

The University of Missouri system has more than 20 DACA students enrolled across its four campuses, and plans to “follow the expressed will of the legislature,” when even more students start school this fall, said John Fougere, the system’s chief communications officer.

Meanwhile, private schools and foundations are looking to plug holes in higher-education funding for students with questionable legal standing.

Starting this fall, Emory University will provide need-based scholarships to DACA students enrolling in its College of Arts and Sciences.

And recently, Facebook Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, donated $5 million to TheDream.US, a scholarship fund for students without legal status.

Missouri university research maps cat DNA to help human patients

COLUMBIA, MO (KCTV) -

A groundbreaking project is happening at the University of Missouri-Columbia campus.

The veterinary school is mapping the DNA of cats and it could lead to solutions for humans who inherit life-threatening diseases.

Leslie Bayer is fighting a serious heart condition she and many of her family members inherited. Prepping healthy meals is just one way she fights the condition.

“Our condition leads to sudden death. And it’s an electrical issue that leads to sudden death,” Bayer said.

Her doctors installed a defibrillator in her chest after her sister Vicki McCombs died suddenly from the same disease 10 years ago.
“Two years after getting my defibrillator I had an event, cardiac arrest, and the defibrillator saved my life,” Bayer said.

The veterinarian lab at the University of Missouri could help patients like Bayer long before tragedy raises red flags. They’re doing so in their 99 Lives Cat Genome Sequencing Initiative.

“Overall the main genes that make our body function are all the same. So the genes that make our heart function are the same in cats as in humans,” said Dr. Leslie Lyons, a professor with the school.

It makes it easy to find felines fighting genetic diseases common in humans.

“The most amazing part is how much cats can help humans and how much humans can help cats. If we know it’s the same gene, same disease, then all the information can flow back and forth freely,” Lyons said.

Cats live similar lives to humans – laying around the house, eating things they shouldn’t and breathing in the same allergens. Researchers say studying the environment is just as important.

“We are a product of both our environment and our genetics,” Lyons said.

Already scientists have found genetic mutations affecting eye sight and in one case cats are being tested for inherited blindness.

Scientists aren’t far from marking kidney failure and heart disease, which could lead to longer lives for humans and their feline companions.

“A genetic test would be incredibly awesome and life-saving for our family if we could have our children tested,” Bayer said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

In trading one Columbia for another, MU business dean looks forward to larger role

- ANDREW KESSEL, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Joan Gabel said she looks forward to partnering with multiple colleges when she becomes provost of the University of South Carolina next month.
"As a dean, my primary responsibility is to a specific college. As a provost and executive vice president, I have a campus wide role," said Gabel, who has led MU's Trulaske College of Business since 2010.

Gabel is expected to begin as executive vice president of academic affairs and provost on Aug. 24, according to a news release from the University of South Carolina — located in another Columbia.

During her tenure at MU, Gabel helped start new programs at the school, such as a hybrid executive-MBA program, a risk management program and insurance concentration, and an entrepreneurial alliance program, which seeks to connect students with business opportunities.

Gabel also worked to secure funding for the Applied Learning Center, a facility designed to offer students hands-on experience of what it's like to work in a sales lab or on a trading floor.

In May, Gov. Jay Nixon announced that Missouri's Higher Education Capital Fund would match $10 million of privately raised funds for the center. Although the facility still has to be approved by curators and won't open until after her departure, Gabel said she was proud of the effort of everyone involved.

Gabel was instrumental in the "We'll Show You" ad campaign, a rebranding that centered around the centennial anniversary of the business school. The campaign, featuring the iconic MIZ-BIZ logo, was recognized at the Educational Advertising Awards.

Gabel said she felt lucky to be part of such a powerful combination of students, faculty and alumni during her time as dean.

When Gabel begins her career at South Carolina, she will leave behind more than her old position: Gabel's daughter is a rising junior in the School of Journalism and will stay at MU.
"I will miss having my daughter right next door," said Gabel, whose husband is pursuing a doctorate in education at MU. Gabel added she hopes that all the relationships she's formed with friends and colleagues will remain strong, even at a distance.

Today, the Trulaske College of Business has more than 5,000 students, up from about 4,000 when Gabel took over in 2010.

According to MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken, MU Provost Garnett Stokes will begin soliciting nominations for an interim dean and is expected to conduct a national search in the coming weeks.

Leading the charge

MU administrators have been giving sexual assault prevention the old college try, but so far, students are the ones leading the way

by Laura Heck
July 30, 2015 1:00 am

In early 2015, three groups of MU student leaders came together to outline their goals for the year. These groups — the Missouri Students Association, the undergraduate student government; the Panhellenic Association, the governing body for sororities; and the Interfraternity Council, the governing body for fraternities — are heavy hitters in the campus community. They frequently are first to get the ear of administrators and have autonomy to make decisions that affect student life.

Many of these students are part of the “Mizzou Famous” crowd, an informal group who are often selected for Tour Team, Summer Welcome and secret societies. They are future politicians, highlevel administrators and company COOs. They use buzzwords such as “programming” and “we started the conversation” in everyday speech. And they are working hard to prevent sexual assault on MU’s campus.
Sexual violence has plagued college campuses for decades, inspiring federal legislation such as Title IX in 1972, which handles cases of sexual violence and gender-based discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The Clery Act, signed in 1990, requires colleges to disclose information about crime on and around campuses.

In 2014, President Barack Obama set up a task force dedicated to finding solutions for sexual assault on college campuses. The force created several strategies released in an April 2014 report called “Not Alone.” In the report, the task force identified one important factor helping to alter the climate on college campuses across the country: “A new generation of student activists is effectively pressing for change, asking hard questions and coming up with innovative ways to make our campuses safer.”

Some of the activists mentioned in the report can be found on MU’s campus. They’re spearheading programs, including PHA and IFC peer education groups and MSA awareness campaigns, to create a legacy of sexual assault prevention.

The MSA’s work received the attention of the presidential task force. As a result, MSA President Payton Head sat on a panel about educational and awareness efforts on college campuses during the President’s Leadership Summit at the White House in June.

MU and Ohio State University were the only schools asked to be on the panel. “Missouri definitely got the conversation going for the other schools,” Head says. “We got real with them. We shared some of the good things Mizzou has done — which was inspiring for other student leaders that things can be accomplished — but we also talked about our shortcomings.” He says sharing difficulties of the MSA sexual assault awareness campaigns during breakout sessions helped other school leaders speak up.

But the conference was also bittersweet for Head. Yes, MU is at the forefront of national sexual assault awareness. But the conference also highlighted how difficult making a real impact can be. “That’s when I realized that even the White House doesn’t have the proper solution for this,” Head says.

Students in the lead

The culture of college campuses contributes to a higher rate of sexual violence at universities compared to the surrounding towns and cities, according to a 2004 study from the Journal of Family Violence. To try and decrease this rate, university administrators across the country, who might be uninformed about the dynamics of student life, make policy changes. They hire Title IX coordinators and create presentations to combat sexual assault on campus but might not gather adequate input from the people they’re seeking to protect. It’s a backward approach, and the presidential task force recommends bringing students to the table as much as possible.

The June summit is an indication that students across the country are taking charge instead of waiting for administrations to lead the way. Laura Palumbo of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center in Pennsylvania says she has seen students taking the lead for more than a year.
“When (the administration has) done best by us is when they let us lead in a lot of the programming,” says Samantha Franks, MSA director of student services. She says that working with administration has recently become easier, and now students can be more transparent about problems with university culture and policy. “We’re finally able to say things are not always great at the university, but we’re going to try to make it better,” Franks says.

There are still frustrations, Franks says. In the fall, students got a Green Dot banner placed on the columns, which brought awareness to the Relationship and Sexual Violence Center program focused on creating spaces where sexual assault is not tolerated. But when the SEC Network set up for GameDay, the banner was relocated to Switzler Hall to get a shot of Jesse Hall, according to an MU tweet.

The university’s public identity is one of many issues the administration has to consider alongside their legal and civic responsibilities to provide a safe place for students. Although MU has several administrators dedicated to sexual assault prevention and survivor support, they are also swamped with day-to-day tasks or don’t know what it’s like to be a freshman woman at a fraternity party. Allison Fitts, PHA president, says that’s why listening to students is imperative to finding solutions. “We don’t want to be discounted because we’re 21- or 22-year-old students,” she says. “We’re entrenched in this daily culture.”

As student leaders push their own agendas, many say they are happy with how administrators have been listening to them about the realities of student life. Fitts says such efforts make all the difference. Student leaders cite Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Danica Wolf, RSVP Center coordinator, as administrators who go out of their way to get input from students. Ellen Eardley, who began as MU’s Title IX administrator in April, worked as a lawyer in Washington, D.C. Although she has dealt extensively with sexual assault cases, she’s new to working directly with student leaders. The MU News Bureau declined to make Eardley or any other administrators available to Vox for interviews.

Eardley has been learning, though, according to various student leaders. Franks of the MSA remembers Eardley attending a meeting in the spring semester, pen and paper in hand to take notes. When the discussion turned to pepper spray and mace, Franks took note of Eardley’s interest — and surprise — at the number of women who carry such devices on college campuses.

Franks says having conversations like that will be important going forward. Blunt discussions between administrators and students about race relations on campus is a good model for sexual assault conversations, she says. “Getting them to listen to what our day-to-day life is like is important,” Franks says. “You hear the numbers and the rhetoric all day long, but it’s entirely different to hear your own students speak about what it’s like to live here.”

Divisive proposal

This June, tension between MU administration and students boiled over when proposals by the MU Fraternity Alumni Consortium, a group of alumni fraternity members, were leaked, catching the attention of national media outlets such as USA Today College and The
Huffington Post. The regulations included a ban on hard alcohol in fraternity houses, restricting out-of-town formals and — most incendiary — not allowing women in the chapter houses during peak party hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., Stop Day and the first week of classes.

These requirements are meant to protect women and, more generally, students, according to the consortium. But two groups weren’t part of creating the regulations: students and women.

The proposals blindsided many and were seen as out-of-touch solutions showing what can happen when people outside of a group try to change it. “It was very clear it was coming from a place where these people don’t know the culture well enough to make policies for Greek Life,” says Kendall Foley, vice president of risk management for the Panhellenic Association.

In response to the attention, student leaders and MU administration were invited to attend the Chancellor’s Summit on Sexual Assault and Student Safety in Greek Life in July.

“We did something similar to this in the ’90s but nothing to this degree,” Scroggs says in a statement released after the summit. “I think within a year they’re going to be saying, ‘Let’s do things like the University of Missouri.’ That’s our goal. We intend to be the national model.”

Some walked away from the discussion saying it was fruitful. PHA president Fitts says her organization will implement some of the strategies discussed during break-out sessions, though they weren’t proposed in the meeting’s body. But the lack of immediate action frustrated Jason Blincow, IFC president. “We had all these important people with huge voices on campus in the same room, but we all left, and it didn’t really seem like we had a great game plan,” he says.

IFC was already working on policy changes similar to those discussed in the consortium proposals and during the summit. Blincow says the proposals didn’t change anything for students; most of the rules have been dropped, and a hard liquor ban was something IFC officers have been talking about for awhile. They’ve seen other universities, such as KU, find realistic success with the ban as far as mitigating general risk, he says. The rule will be enforced at or near the start of the school year, according to Blincow. IFC has worked to change how fraternity men think about sexual assault, despite not being brought into the consortium’s proposal discussions. Last year, IFC began plans for a peer-education program that was tested this spring. About 15 fraternity men attended almost-weekly meetings to discuss alcohol safety, gender norms and masculinity. Various officials came and spoke to the men, including Kim Dude, director of the Wellness Resource Center, and Travis Fox, a counselor from the MU Counseling Center.

The goal is for these men to take what they discussed back to their houses. Blincow says fraternities are unclear about what is considered sexual assault, and education is key to changing the culture. But it has to be realistic and engaging for men to want to learn. “The idea of peer education is not to force a bunch of guys to sit in a room in front of a speaker,” Blincow says. Instead, students talk about how they see the culture around them affecting themselves and others.
The sense of personal responsibility that comes with engaging in discussion is a reason peer-education programs can be the most effective way to start a conversation among Greek chapters, Foley says.

Band of sisters

Shortly after the consortium proposals were leaked, PHA released a sexual violence education plan its members had been working on for months. “We wanted people to know that we are working to make this better, not sitting around for a semester,” Foley says.

Sorority leaders talked to members of the Greek community to find the biggest risk factors for sexual violence for Greek women and the types of pressures the women face. The resulting plan encompasses various entry points for education throughout a woman’s time in Greek Life. The plan states: “The PHA board recognizes that it is unrealistic and ineffective to treat the issue of sexual violence as if it affects all of our members in the same way. We have tailored the education plan to address members throughout all phases of their time in college and different types of members within the sorority chapter.” The plan, which includes tiers of both formal and informal education for new members, officers and general sorority women, goes into effect in the fall semester.

The group identified the time of year when women are most at risk for sexual violence: September and October during a student’s freshman year.

But PHA members know adding more presentations and programs to a new student’s agenda won’t help. “They’re at college for the first time,” Foley says. “They’re worried about classes. They’ve got new member programs with their chapters. What we see with new members is that the more you throw at them, the less they retain.”

So PHA hopes to take a more realistic approach. The plan requires each chapter to select 10 incoming pledge class members to become peer educators who spend time receiving specialized education to bring to their sorority sisters. “It’ll be informal, from the inside out,” Foley says. PHA President Fitts says these peer educators will be encouraged to talk casually to other new members, perhaps at lunch, and learn to recognize when a situation becomes dangerous for their friends.

People can experience a breakthrough when they understand these issues, Foley says. “If we can get those 10 women to get to their breakthrough early on, that can help,” she says.

The hope is that the program helps women to learn what rape and sexual violence really means. A 2013 study from the journal Violence Against Women presented groups of college women with stories of sexual encounters that legally fit the definition of rape. The women didn’t consider many of the described encounters, which included forced intercourse with a boyfriend or drunken fingering at a party, as violating consent. Many in the study said they would not advise their friends to come forward in those situations because they wouldn’t be taken seriously.
The PHA officers, and many others, see this similar thought process occurring around them. “If people don’t know the definition of different types of sexual assault, it’s just very common that they’ll learn later what sexual assault means, and they’ll realize, ‘Holy crap, I’ve been sexually assaulted all this time,’” Foley says. The new member education program is meant to help teach women what consent means in a variety of scenarios.

The plan also acknowledges that students who learn of a fellow sorority member’s sexual assault often have no idea how to respond. To combat this, leaders will attend training summits and be provided with detailed manuals.

During the Chancellor’s Summit, Fitts says her breakout group developed the idea of creating a new position in each chapter: a Title IX and RSVP Center liaison. This provides an avenue for leaders who find out a member of their chapter has experienced sexual violence. Fitts says this will give Greek women someone they know they can turn to. The position will be implemented in each chapter this fall.

A culture of respect

MSA President Head and his fellow officers are dedicated to creating a “culture of respect” on campus. He says that idea alone could limit sexual assault. Prevention is the priority. Last year, MSA student leaders launched a campaign called Enough is Enough, which educated students about how to prevent sexual violence. This year, MSA adopted the It’s On Us campaign created by the White House task force because it has more national support and attention. Commercial spots have been running nationally and feature celebrities such as MU alumnus Jon Hamm, as well as Kerry Washington and Common, who say, “It’s on us to stop sexual assault.” The campaign encourages members to take a pledge and offers tools for carrying out its goal.

MU is one of 200 universities to implement the campaign, and MSA Director of Student Services Franks says it’s the most comprehensive program MSA has undertaken. “We were able to get some programming and education, we had banners, and we have people taking the pledge,” Franks says. “We’re working on training the executive board in sexual assault awareness.” As part of the campaign, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill delivered a keynote speech on campus in April regarding sexual assault. MSA also will host another viewing of the campus sexual assault documentary The Hunting Ground this fall.

In the fall, MSA plans to make It’s On Us an umbrella initiative by involving every student group on campus. Each group will come up with its own ideas to make it relevant for its members, which — MSA hopes — will allow the program to reach groups that aren’t typically as connected with student government.

MSA, which creates bylaws and regulations involving student fees and university student policy, also has concerns with the systemwide policy of mandatory reporting for university employees.

One of the issues MSA and others have with it is that it complicates whom they can turn to. This contributes to what Franks calls the “cloud of mist about Title IX.”
MSA is supporting a new faculty council-proposed clause in the mandatory reporting requirement: an “ally” position. Under this clause, university staff could opt to go through additional training to become a confidential source for students to turn to, one that is not compelled to report sexual harassment to the Title IX office.

Beyond policy changes, awareness programming and peer education, MSA is dedicated to keeping the conversation going. “That’s the kind of culture change that is most effective and the best that will help people on campus and in the country,” Franks says.

If MU continues down this path, it could become a national model for campus sexual assault prevention. The work of these groups exemplifies what can happen when students take the lead and administrators trust that students know their culture best and can figure out how to change it. After all, students are the ones on the front lines.

Colleges reviewing Capitol internships

Watch story:

JEFFERSON CITY -- Some Missouri colleges and universities said they're making changes to their state Capitol programs after two cases of alleged sexual misconduct.

Republican House Speaker John Diehl resigned in May after the Kansas City Star published sexually-charged text messages he had exchanged with a 19 year old Capitol intern from Missouri Southern State University. Last week, Democratic state Sen. Paul LeVota resigned after two interns publicly accused him of sexual harassment. Both interns had come to his office through the University of Central Missouri's state Capitol program. UCM spokesman Jeff Murphy said in a statement the university's provost is reviewing proposed changes to the capitol program, though he declined to detail what changes were under consideration.

Westminster College has already implemented several changes even though none of its interns were involved in this year's scandals. Tobias Gibson, a political science professor who coordinates the college's Capitol program, said Westminster now requires interns to complete a course on how to recognize and report sexual harassment before they begin their internships.
Gibson said the students have received some training in the past, but it dealt primarily with harassment from other students.

Some universities already have extensive intern protocols in place. University of Missouri spokesman Christian Basi said that institution already requires all Capitol interns to complete a day-long orientation session that includes segments on professional relationships and behavior. He said MU interns are required to submit weekly reports detailing their work and experiences to their faculty advisor. In addition, MU has a full-time staff member assigned to the Capitol 2-3 days a week when the legislature is in session.

Gibson said he was "shocked and surprised" to hear about the allegations against Diehl and LeVota. He said he isn't surprised one of LeVota's former interns has gone on record saying she doesn't think she wants to be involved in politics anymore.

"Colleges and universities from across the state sent student interns to learn about the inner workings of government," he said. "This should not be the lesson that they take away."

Missouri Southern State University did not respond to request for comment for this story.

Columbia man sentenced on federal drug charges

By Alan Burdziak

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A 36-year-old Columbia man whose travels with the University of Missouri men’s basketball team led to an internal review of the program was sentenced Tuesday to 10 years in federal prison for his part in a scheme to sell cocaine and marijuana in Boone County from July 2008 to February 2012.

Levi M.F. Coolley pleaded guilty in January 2014 to conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, conspiracy to distribute less than 50 kilograms of marijuana and conspiracy to commit money laundering. In 2008, Coolley began buying cocaine from Samuel R. Johnson, a codefendant, who would not take the risk of transporting the narcotics, court records said. According to the sentencing memo, Coolley arranged for the cocaine to be brought up to Columbia, and he then distributed it among his network of dealers.
Coolley also sold marijuana and funneled proceeds from his illicit transactions through his stereo business, Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Gonzalez wrote in the memo.

“Coolley’s offense was not an isolated act; it was a way of life,” Gonzalez wrote. “His distribution of drugs was not intended to support a drug habit: it was a profitmaking machine that occupied him.”

Coolley — one of 18 people charged in connection with the conspiracy — received 10 years each for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and to commit money laundering and five years for the pot charge. He also will be on supervised release for five years after he gets out of prison. All of Coolley’s prison sentences are concurrent.

MU officials investigated Coolley’s ties to the basketball program but found no evidence that anyone associated with the team had participated in his scheme.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Photographing their community, fifth-graders find their voices

JOHN CLEMENT BATE, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — In the Parkade Elementary School hallway, J.J. Dawson happily introduced his three photographs to his friends on the last day of the Fun City Summer Academy.

J.J., 9, didn’t let a question fly by without an answer. His purpose at the exhibit was clear: to inform (although, as he drew in spectators, he showed entertaining wasn’t too hard, either). His first photo portrayed a piece of broken glass on the sidewalk.

"This is from a beer bottle, and drinking is a horrible thing," J.J. said. "I’d say no littering because it ends up injuring lots of people and animals."

J.J. said he wished the news would put littering on television more. "A lot of people are just seeing it, and they just walk away," he said.

J.J. was one of the 12 Columbia fifth-graders who presented photos Wednesday afternoon that spoke to each child’s own experiences in the community: Some of the visuals portrayed what
they enjoy about their community and where they feel most accepted, while some children, such as J.J., emphasized what they thought should change.

Around 30 photos hung in the hallway of the school, with each child exhibiting one to three pictures they’d taken over the past eight weeks. The exhibit was an exercise in PhotoVoice, a method of art that draws meaning from a group's collective portrayal of experiences, community or surroundings.

Jennifer First, the mental health program manager at the MU Disaster and Community Crisis Center, which helped coordinate the exhibit with the Fun City Summer Academy, said the point of the project was to "empower its participants." The summer program is part of the Fun City Youth Academy, which offers low-cost reading and math programs for children between 5 and 14 years old. One of the nonprofit's main goals is cutting the academic achievement gap for kids in lower-income families.

Malaya Cunningham, 10, of Benton Elementary School, stood by her collection of photographs until she was one of the last few people remaining in the hall.

"There's a lot of programs like this that help people, and some of them are free, so Mom doesn't have to pay so much," Malaya said. Her favorite photo was of her friend Aniyia Brantley, whom she had met during the program's first few days.

"She makes me happy a lot because she's always there for me, and I'm always there for her," Malaya said.

By the end of the session, she said, the two were best friends. Though Malaya said she didn't improve much as a photographer during the project, she did gain an appreciation for how communities are made up of relationships between individuals.

The exhibit culminated an eight-week-long project the students had undertaken with the MU Disaster and Community Crisis Center, which works to help families with behavioral and mental
health after disasters. Instructors with the crisis center visited the children each week to teach them photography tips, bring them on field trips around town and brainstorm ideas for their exhibits.

The group's teacher for the summer, Lindsey Murray, was pleased with the project and the help from MU Disaster and Community Crisis Center. He hopes next year the group does it again, and he thinks fourth graders could get something out of it, too.

"I feel that these kids have really deep stories to tell," Murray said. "Hopefully through PhotoVoice we've taught them new ways that they can use cameras and maybe see more tasteful pictures out there on social media."

MU Program Helps Train Nurses to Become Managers

A new program is helping care workers senior centers go from being employees -- to running the place. The University of Missouri offers the program that helps bridge the gap between care provider and manager. They say it's important for managers to remember that caring for patients is top priority -- and that promoting qualified providers can help make that happen. I think when our staff feels supported, and heard, that they're able to go out and pay attention to that person that needs help to walk, hopefully they'll know they'll be listened to and cared about. The school hopes the program helps prevent turnover in the health care industry.

MU and the campus community work to accommodate students with disabilities

On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act, was created to “(remove) barriers and (empower) people” with disabilities, according to its website. According to the introduction to the ADA, the legislation was modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is “one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation.” The ADA effectively prohibits discrimination and guarantees those with disabilities have access to the same opportunities, and the ability to “participate in the mainstream of American life — to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services.”

As the ADA celebrates its 25th anniversary, here's a look at how different areas of MU and the surrounding community work to meet ADA standards.

Campus

According to the ADA, places of public accommodation and public government entities must meet ADA requirements and standards. Examples of places of public accommodation on campus include dining halls, auditoriums and classrooms, University Hospital, Student Recreation Complex, and other service establishments. Check out this map, from the Campus Facilities Department of Space Planning and Management, which allows you to search for accessible entrances, ramps, elevators, chairlifts, accessible parking as well as current construction across MU’s campus.

Disability Center

The MU Disability Center offers a number of accommodations for students with a variety of disabilities. According to the center’s website, these accommodations fall under the following subcategories: academic and classroom, transportation, housing, and service animals. Examples of these include flexible attendance, additional time on exams, alternative-format materials and many more for the classroom, the ability to have private restrooms, lower closet rods, hands-free student room door access and more for housing, and access to para-transit vans for transportation. In order for a student to have access to these accommodations, they must first provide documentation of their disability and work with the Disability Center to find a plan suitable for them.

Residence Halls
After a student files with the Disability Center, they are then given access to the aforementioned number of accommodations for students with disabilities. In the case of on-campus housing, the Department of Residential Life works with the Disability Center to provide student-specific accommodations. Examples of these include placement in residence halls in the center of campus or nearest to the majority of the student’s classes, special attention and checks during storm warnings, power outages and fires, along with room design alterations to meet the student’s needs.

**Greektown**

While Greektown is located near the MU campus, sorority and fraternity houses are not university property, and as such, are exempted from meeting ADA building requirements. Under ADA, “privately owned and independently developed Greektown is exempted, as fraternity and sorority houses are considered private clubs under Title III of the ADA,” a Maneater long read from April of this year explained.

MU would be responsible for funding or making Greektown more accommodating only if the university bought all of its properties, MU’s ADA compliance manager Amber Cheek said in the article.

“Just because (sororities and fraternities) fall under an exception in the ADA doesn’t mean they shouldn’t plan to make things accessible,” Cheek said. “I think that with awareness, they might decide to plan (for) accessibility.”

Check out this interactive map to explore individual house's accessibility features.

**Off-Campus Housing**

MU students have many options when it comes to choosing apartments, but for students with physical disabilities, the search may require a bit more effort. Adam Thoma-Perry, a representative for Copper Beech Townhomes, said that it has a number of handicap accessible, one-bedroom units to help accommodate for students with physical disabilities. Other complexes, like The Reserve, said that, upon request, the apartment complex will accommodate for students with physical handicaps by allowing them to install ramps and giving them access to ground-level units. MU also offers University Student Apartments, a grouping of on-campus apartments — Manor House, Tara Apartments and University Heights — that will “offer accommodations for undergraduate students over 21, graduate students and students with families,” according to Residential Life’s Accessible Housing webpage.

Comprehensive data on the accessibility of the many off-campus housing options is not available at this time. If you have concerns about your building's accessibility, email editors@themaneater.com
Campus or City Police?

July 30, 2015

By
Jacqueline Thomsen

NO MU MENTION

During a widely anticipated news conference Wednesday afternoon, an Ohio county prosecutor announced that a white University of Cincinnati police officer would be indicted for the murder of Samuel DuBose, a black man shot by the officer during a traffic stop on July 19.

Prosecutor Joe Deters called the killing “asinine” and “senseless” during the news conference, saying that Ray Tensing “should never have been an officer,” and released footage of the shooting from Tensing’s body camera. Earlier in the day, the university canceled classes and called on surrounding police districts to help ward off any potential riots on campus.

But Deters also called for the University of Cincinnati’s police force to be disbanded and replaced with officers from the Cincinnati Police Department.

Deters, who has earned two degrees from the university and is a former trustee, described the institution itself as “wonderful” but said it shouldn’t be doing police work on campus.

“They’re not cops, and we have a great police department in Cincinnati, probably the best in Ohio,” he said. “And I talked to the [city police] chief about it today and I said, ‘You know, you guys should be doing this stuff,’ and I think he’s in agreement with it.”

In a separate news conference later in the day, University of Cincinnati President Santa Ono fielded questions addressing Deters’s proposal, saying the university has no plans to disband the campus force but does plan a review of the department.

Ono announced last week that the university would join Cincinnati’s Collaborative Agreement to help improve relationships with community members. He also said at the time that the university had reached out to officers from Cincinnati’s Fifth and Fourth
Districts to help patrol the boundaries of campus and that university officers would remain on the campus and not perform any traffic stops outside the campus grounds.

Ono said during the news conference that campus officers have different requirements from city police because the officers at a university have different responsibilities and scenarios that are oriented more toward students than toward the diverse group of people the average police force might interact with on a daily basis.

“It’s really a specific field where a police officer is working with students a lot, so they need a lot of experience working with them. There are also a lot of federal guidelines that they’re working toward,” Ono said.

He added that he had met with DuBose’s family that morning, including one of DuBose’s stepdaughters, who is a student at the university, and that university officials were in the process of discussing different ways the university could help the family. When a student died after being shocked with a Taser by a University of Cincinnati officer in 2011, the family was awarded. The victim’s two siblings also received free undergraduate educations at the university.

**City Police on Campus**
Generally, a campus police force patrols an institution, although there are a couple exceptions to the rule. Auburn University does not have a police force but instead relies on the City of Auburn Police Department for law enforcement.

The University of Cincinnati police force is not accredited, but officers are allowed to carry weapons. Ninety-four percent of armed officers at more than 900 institutions were authorized to carry firearms, and nearly 70 percent of colleges and universities operated full police departments on campus in 2012.

William Taylor, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and chief of police at San Jacinto College, in California, said most colleges began creating their own forces after clashes between students and police broke out during Vietnam War protests in the 1970s.

He said the quality of campus police forces is about equal to that of municipal police departments, because both choose from the same pool of applicants and both kinds of officers have to follow the same state requirements and policies.

Taylor called the prosecutor’s comments “disheartening” and said the police department at the University of Cincinnati should not be judged on the actions of a single officer. “I’m concerned to see that kind of public statement made, because it’s stating everything that’s wrong with the department based on a single incident,” he said. Taylor also noted that the chief of police at the university, Jason Goodrich, has been in his position for a relatively short period of time (less than two years), and that the force could be in a period of transition.

Chuck Drago, a former police chief and a police practices consultant, said that if a campus police department is trying to put reforms in place and bringing it to a level where it can be accredited, as Goodrich is, community members have to be patient
while those changes take effect.

“If you see evidence of this chief trying to fix things and they brought him in to do it, as I assume they did, he needs a fair amount of time to do it,” he said.

Twelve officers were sworn in to the University of Cincinnati force in March, bringing the total to 72. In November of 2014, that number was only 51.

Drago said that if the university runs the police department, university officials get to dictate policy. Otherwise, the university is at the mercy of local law enforcement. “The city of Cincinnati would have to reach an agreement that would provide the type of police the school would want, just like any jurisdiction would want to define the type of police department a jurisdiction has,” he said.

S. Daniel Carter, director of the 32 National Campus Safety Initiative, said it was “an incredibly short-sighted and dangerous call” made by the prosecutor, noting that specialized campus police departments have been the norm for more than 40 years. “It would be dangerous to replace them with a unit of city police from the police department of Cincinnati,” he said.

**Healing on Campus**

During the prosecutor’s news conference, DuBose’s family and their lawyer called for peace in the city. In 2001, the city suffered millions of dollars in damages after riots broke out in response to the death of a black man at the hands of a white officer. A protest by the group Black Lives Matter Cincinnati was planned for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday outside the Hamilton County Courthouse, where the officer turned himself in earlier that day.

While the Cincinnati police department has received praise for its reforms in recent years, Christina Brown, a University of Cincinnati alumna and Black Lives Matter Cincinnati activist, said that replacing campus police with city police wouldn’t help to solve the racial and law enforcement issues on campus.

“It’s just changing the uniform,” Brown said, adding that the police still need to recognize the systematic cultural and racial issues on the city campus.

She also called the university’s response to DuBose’s death “problematic” because no statement was issued until 72 hours after the incident and the president’s statement offered condolences to the family but no mention of a transparent investigation.

She said that the university should take this opportunity to reflect and determine the best way to “not move beyond, but work through” the racial issues and conflicts the university community faces.

“If we can’t honestly analyze these issues at an institution of higher learning,” Brown said, “where can you do so?”
Congressional Republicans on Wednesday introduced legislation designed to strengthen the due process rights of students accused of sexual assault and to prevent campus investigations from taking place unless a victim also reports the allegations to law enforcement. The bill would make it tougher to kick a fraternity or sorority off campus without a proper hearing, and bar colleges from forcing Greek organizations to become coeducational.

Civil liberties organizations and the lobbying group representing fraternities and sororities -- a frequent financial contributor to the legislation's sponsor -- applauded the bill as providing an avenue for “much-needed reforms.” Campus safety groups and victims’ advocates decried the legislation as redundant and deleterious.

“I am both shocked and disappointed by the amount of Congress members who are proposing legislation without fundamental knowledge about the field of campus safety law,” Laura Dunn, founder and executive director of SurvJustice, said. “Campus safety advocates are going to have to be on the defense to prevent legislation that moves things backwards.”

Colleges are required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to investigate and adjudicate cases of campus sexual assault. Facing pressure from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to improve their handling of these cases, institutions in recent years have begun more rigorously adjudicating sexual assault allegations.

While victims' advocates say colleges still have a long way to go in addressing the needs and rights of students who have been assaulted, civil liberties groups argue that in their haste to comply with Title IX, colleges are increasingly trampling the due
process rights of the accused. Several lawsuits in the last two years by male students who feel they have been wrongly suspended or dismissed over sexual assault allegations have helped reinforce such a notion. Earlier this month, a ruling in a lawsuit against the University of California at San Diego bolstered the perception that accused students are not receiving a fair hearing. The new legislation, called the Safe Campus Act, would address some of the complaints made by the UCSD student, including that he was unable to cross-examine crucial witnesses and that the university kept him largely out of the loop during the investigation and hearing. In a statement Wednesday, Joseph Cohn, legislative and policy director at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education and a frequent critic of campus hearing processes, praised the legislation.

“FIRE has repeatedly expressed our reservations about entrusting universities to adjudicate allegations of serious felonies like sexual assault,” Cohn said. “But if they are to continue to hold this responsibility, basic fairness requires students be given tangible due process protections. The due process protections provided by the Safe Campus Act would enhance the reliability of campus proceedings and lend sorely needed credibility to their findings.”

Components of the legislation run contrary to some Department of Education regulations. The Safe Campus Act would allow an alleged victim to decide whether to involve police, but the college could not launch its own investigation unless the student chose to report the incident to law enforcement. Currently, colleges are required to conduct investigations even if police are not informed of the crime. An institution could still provide certain protections, such as ordering the accused student not to contact the alleged victim.

Many victims prefer not to involve police, as the process is much longer and involved than a campus investigation and it rarely results in a suspect being prosecuted. Some prefer to keep the investigation on campus, as they may personally know the alleged attacker, and while they want to see that person punished, they don't want to send him or her to prison.

If an internal investigation does take place, both the accused and accuser would have the right to hire lawyers at their own expense, and both would be allowed to question witnesses. Colleges could choose what standard of evidence to use when deciding responsibility, rather than being required to use the lower burden of proof known as “preponderance of evidence.”

The stronger due process would also apply to student groups, not just individuals, meaning it would be more difficult to push a fraternity off campus if it is accused of sexual misconduct -- a punishment that, according to student affairs officials, is already rare at many institutions. The legislation would require a college to conduct a full discipline hearing before a chapter could be banned from campus.

The legislation would also prohibit colleges from ordering fraternities and sororities to become coeducational. In September, following a series of alleged sexual assaults, Wesleyan University told its fraternities that they must admit women in the next three years. One of the chapters is suing the university, alleging the order is discriminatory.
In recent months, the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee lobbied Congress for many of the protections included in the new legislation. The legislation was introduced by Representatives Matt Salmon, Kay Granger and Pete Sessions. According to the Federal Election Commission, Sessions has received more than $33,000 in contributions from the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee since 2005. Sessions is also sponsoring a separate bill called the Fair Campus Act, which includes similar sexual assault policy changes and protections for fraternities and sororities. His co-sponsor on that legislation is Representative Susan Brooks, an Indiana Republican, who has received $10,000 from the FSPAC since 2012.

In a statement Wednesday, FSPAC leaders said that the legislation “enhances the rights of all students” and single-sex student groups, while improving campus safety.

"Over the past several years, it has become increasingly clear that there is an urgent need to improve the current process of handling sexual assaults on campuses," Kevin O'Neill, FSPAC's executive director, said in the statement. "We strongly believe that the Safe Campus Act proposes sound and effective solutions to address the current system's flaws. It ensures that each student and student organization involved in a sexual assault case is treated fairly."

The North-American Interfraternity Conference announced on Wednesday that it also supports the bill. Dunn, however, said the Safe Campus Act does little to keep campuses safe.

“It would be nothing short of absurd to regress to allow colleges to pick at will what standard of evidence to use,” Dunn said. “Why should a student at Harvard be protected more or less than a student at a community college? Regarding due process, many federal courts have reviewed and upheld the current levels of due process. Considering these are misconduct hearings governed by student conduct codes, it does not seem there is a justification for increasing due process.”
UVa grads sue Rolling Stone over retracted campus rape story

By ALAN SUDERMAN
July 30, 2015

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Three University of Virginia graduates and members of a fraternity who were portrayed in a debunked account of a gang rape in a retracted Rolling Stone magazine story filed a lawsuit against the publication and the article's author, court records show.

The three men, George Elias IV, Stephen Hadford and Ross Fowler, filed suit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in New York. They are also suing Rolling Stone's publisher, Wenner Media.

A lawyer for the men said they suffered "vicious and hurtful attacks" because of inaccuracies in the November 2014 article, which was written by journalist Sabrina Rubin Erdely.

Also Wednesday, The New York Times reported that Will Dana, Rolling Stone's managing editor, will be leaving the magazine next month. Dana said in a statement to The Times that after 19 years at Rolling Stone, "I have decided that it is time to move on."

When asked whether Dana's departure was linked to the retracted story, a spokeswoman for the magazine's publisher, Jann Wenner, said that "many factors go into a decision like this," according to the report.

In the lawsuit, the three 2013 graduates said the article "created a simple and direct way to match the alleged attackers" from the alleged gang rape to them based on details provided in the story.

For instance, Elias' room at the fraternity house was "the mostly likely scene of the alleged crime" based on the details in the Rolling Stone article.

"Upon release of the article, family friends, acquaintances, co-workers and reporters easily matched (Elias) as one of the alleged attackers and, among other things, interrogated him, humiliated him, and scolded him," the lawsuit said, adding that Hadford and Fowler "suffered similar attacks."

In the lawsuit, their lawyer said each of their identities was listed online by anonymous users when the article first came out and each of their "names will forever be associated with the alleged gang rape."

"These claims had a devastating effect on each of the plaintiffs' reputations," their lawyer, Alan L. Frank, wrote in Wednesday's filing.
The men are suing on three counts, including defamation and negligent infliction of emotional distress, and are asking for at least $75,000 for each count.

Kathryn Brenner, a spokeswoman for Wenner Media, said the magazine declined to comment on the lawsuit. Erdely did not immediately return a request for comment Wednesday. A Rolling Stone representative couldn't immediately be reached late Wednesday for comment on the newspaper's report about Dana leaving the magazine.

The Charlottesville Police Department has said it found no evidence to back the claims of the woman identified in the story only as "Jackie," who said she was raped in 2012 by seven men at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house.

A U.Va. associate dean sued Rolling Stone magazine for more than $7.5 million in May, saying a debunked and retracted account of an alleged gang rape on campus cast her as the "chief villain."

A report published by the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism earlier this year said Rolling Stone failed at virtually every step of the process, from the reporting by Erdely to an editing process that included high-ranking staffers.

No one at Rolling Stone was fired as a result of the article, titled "A Rape on Campus." Dana posted an apology on the publication's website, and Erdely also apologized in a statement.

The article roiled the U.Va. community, sparking protests at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house and a wrenching period of soul-searching by the university. For the three former students, the article made them unable to focus on school and work, and embarrassed them about their association with the fraternity.

Despite its flaws, the Rolling Stone article heightened scrutiny of campus sexual assaults amid a campaign by President Barack Obama. The University of Virginia had already been on the Department of Education's list of 55 colleges under investigation for their handling of sexual assault violations.

The article also prompted President Teresa Sullivan to temporarily suspend Greek social events. Fraternities later agreed to ban kegs, hire security workers and keep at least three fraternity members sober at each event.

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**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Letter to the Editor: Students get much-needed financial aid increase**

July 30, 2015

**NO MU MENTION**

Some of our state’s most financially deserving students will have more money to pay for college this year.

Gov. Jay Nixon recently announced that the maximum Access Missouri award for four-year students will be $1,850, up from $1,500. The maximum award for two-year students will be $850, up from $660.
The Keep Me In College Coalition appreciates that Gov. Nixon has released the money that was being withheld from Access Missouri, making it possible to increase award amounts. Our coalition — a statewide grassroots organization of students, parents and educational leaders working to protect Missouri financial aid for Missouri students — hopes the governor will continue to work to restore the buying power that Access Missouri was designed to provide to the state’s neediest students.

Access Missouri grants are awarded to students with significant financial challenges, enabling them to choose the in-state college or university that best meets their needs.

State funding for this program decreased by $33 million between fiscal year 2009 and 2014. During this same period, an additional 10,000 students qualified for awards.

All of the career fields — energy solutions, bioscience, health sciences, information technology, and transportation and logistics — that are ripe for expansion require education beyond the high school level. Access Missouri ensures that Missouri will have the educated workforce that it needs to compete for the jobs of the future.

Will Megl • St. Charles

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Letter to the Editor: Students should borrow what they can afford for college

July 30, 2015

NO MU MENTION

My compliments to Jim Gallagher for his column "Don't be a slave to student debt" (July 19). This excellent, to-the-point column reminded me of my college expenses and loan over 50 years ago. Yes, it does relate to present-day student college expenses and loan support.

To Mr. Gallagher's points, borrow what you can afford and don't expect to gain more income by attending a higher-cost college that would require borrowing more money (i.e., higher debt) for expenses.

Total college debt no more than your expected annual salary, paid back with 10 percent or more of your salary per year for 10 years, makes sense and can be achieved.

Community college enrollment for the first two years to cover the basic course requirements makes sense if you cannot afford four years' expenses at a four-year college. Attend a college you can afford with no more total debt than your expected annual salary upon graduation.

Gerry Baker • Weldon Spring
The Real Reason behind Skyrocketing College Tuition

Bob Sullivan
July 30, 2015

NO MU MENTION

Sara Goldrick-Rab is among the loudest critics of America’s structures designed to fund college education. She’s a professor of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working for a state school that is squarely in the cross-hairs of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s plans to cut funding and eliminate tenure. Her writings include “Reinventing Financial Aid: Charting a New Course to College Affordability,” with Andrew Kelly, for Harvard Education Press. When a recent Federal Reserve study found that increased student loan aid fueled tuition inflation but may not have helped students, Goldrick-Rab told Credit.com that the reality is a lot more nuanced than that. The real reason college costs have risen far faster than inflation is that low-cost options, like inexpensive state schools, are disappearing, she says. Here’s our interview with her.

You believe the entire structure of American college financial aid should be changed. Why?
Higher education doesn’t work like a normal business. It’s much harder to get the results you want out of the investments you make. In my book with Andrew Kelly, Reinventing Financial Aid, I have a chapter where I go back to the inception of the financial aid system and I work through the set of decisions that were made and put in place at the beginning. (There was the question) “Should you send aid directly to students or to schools?” The thinking at the time was—led by economists, including Milton Friedman—we should not send the money to schools, but to students. They argued that doing this would exert control over schools the way we think vouchers do today.

But the thing is (it doesn’t) end up working in the way vouchers were intended. The customers (college students) have a very hard time extracting accountability. Institutions don’t seem constrained at all. I argued in that chapter that we made a critical mistake. By not sending money to the schools we (state and government agencies) gave up the ability to hold schools accountable. But I don’t think we can back our way into that now by attaching a bunch of new rules to existing programs. I think we have to create financial aid version 2.0.

Despite all the criticism of high student loan balances, you think part of the problem is that students aren’t allowed to borrow enough. Why?
One of our biggest issues is the many students who start school but don’t finish. There are people so constrained by lack of credit that they aren’t finishing school. For them, I’m worried about an under-borrowing problem, not an over-borrowing problem.

A recent study suggests student loans merely help colleges raise tuition, that it doesn’t help students at all. You think the truth is more nuanced. Why?
There’s this idea that maybe if we lower federal loan limits, prices would come down, but it’s not really clear. These things only seem to hold true in private schools. At private, not-for-profit schools, it’s clear that they look to those loans as a source of revenue. But the publics don’t do that in the same way. All the rising prices we see in publics, the vast majority comes from the removal of government subsidies. Public and private
schools act extremely differently. The 2-year and 4-year schools act differently. The land grant schools and community colleges are not acting like the other entities, but the public gets completely lost in the conversation about college tuition inflation.

You reserve some of your biggest criticism for private schools that rank in the middle of the pack and big state “flagship” universities. What is it? They are never happy. They cannot just see themselves as doing a job and doing it well. They have to constantly compete. Instead of constantly looking to do more to measure up to the “Ivies,” they could just be good at being what they are. But the truth is, students at those schools are not the ones defaulting. The tuition-dependent, nonprofit private institutions, you could go after (the way they are funded), but that’s not going to change the (student loan) default rate. To really reduce the default rates, you’d have to go after the for-profits.

Many people look at resort-like dorms and dining halls and blame tuition inflation on that. Yes, the amenities race. People think that. But if you look at the data to see how much of this (increase in tuition) is due to amenities, it’s going to be relatively small. At community colleges, there is no amenities race. I wish this were the problem; then we would know what to do.

So what do you think it is the solution to skyrocketing tuition? The No. 1 driver of the rising price is that we stopped providing lower-cost public options to students. Even going to community college now requires going into debt. If we go back to a situation in which states do pay (for public options), that would be a cost-effective change. The state is going to end up having to pay for services for people who don’t get jobs anyway — they will pay on the back end for the lack of investment now. I am deeply in favor of the free community college movement.