Swastika drawn in residence hall with feces
This is the second incident of anti-Semitic vandalism that has occurred in the past year.
By Allyson Sherwin, Elane Edwards and Lauren Wortman
Oct. 29, 2015

Residential Life staff found feces smeared in the shape of a swastika on the floor and wall of a bathroom in Gateway Hall at 2 a.m. Oct. 24, according to a Residence Halls Association statement.

Residential Life then contacted the MU Police Department. MUPD completed a report of the incident, and Residential Life staff also filled out a Bias Incident Report, Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor said. MUPD could not be reached for comment.

“The university is aware of it, and the MUPD (is) actively investigating the incident,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email. “Anyone who might have information is encouraged to contact the MUPD.”

RHA President Billy Donley tweeted about the incident yesterday afternoon.

He later released a statement via Twitter detailing the incident.

“It is with regret that I am writing this letter to address an act of hate in one of the residence halls on campus,” Donley said in the statement. “I am not only upset that this happened but I am also upset that I found out via a flyer on the walls of Gateway addressed from the Department of Residential Life.”

Donley said he was dissatisfied with the way in which residents were notified. He said student leaders in residence halls should be notified immediately, and he should not have had to discover the incident on his own.
“We notified residents throughout the hall; we also confirmed our community and institutional values, and encouraged students to report any information to MUPD or staff,” Minor said.

This is not the first time a residence hall was vandalized with anti-Semitic images. A similar incident occurred in Mark Twain Hall last April, when a swastika was drawn on one of the walls in smeared charcoal. Shortly after the incident, freshman Bradley Becker, who was a resident of Mark Twain at the time, was arrested in connection with the vandalism. Minor said nothing currently indicates that the two incidents are connected.

Mizzou Hillel Executive Director Jeanne Snodgrass said the Jewish campus center is troubled and concerned by any hate message, including this most recent act.

“A swastika is particularly problematic for us because of its association with anti-Jewish sentiment,” Snodgrass said in an email. “I am glad that the university is taking the incident so seriously. Hillel and the Jewish Student Organization will continue to be available to provide support, community and dialogue to Jewish and interested non-Jewish students.”

Snodgrass said she is concerned about what seems to be an increase in anti-Semitic activity on college campuses nationally.

“The few incidents we have had at Mizzou are troubling in part because of the concern that they may be part of this trend,” Snodgrass said.

Donley said the vandalism was also impactful for those who intended Gateway to be a symbol of inclusivity because of its gender neutral bathrooms.

“I, personally, am exploring options into requiring each hall government to have a (Diversity Peer Educators) facilitation,” Donley said. “I don’t think a statement is enough. If I were to make it mandatory for every single floor in every single residence hall have a DPE facilitation, that would make a big statement.”

The investigation is still ongoing. Follow The Maneater for updates.
GEORGE KENNEDY: Conversation on race needs all parties to take part

GEORGE KENNEDY, 1 hr ago

The other day, I stumbled onto a little-known research fund that could almost stand as a metaphor for the tangled, troubled, tragic history of race relations at our university. It’s the James S. Rollins Slavery Atonement Endowment.

Mr. Rollins, of course, is the officially designated “Father of the University of Missouri,” which he helped found and fund in 1839. He was a state legislator, a federal congressman and a slave owner. By the accounts I’ve read, he did his best to preserve the institution of slavery until eventually he was won over and reluctantly voted for what became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That’s the one that freed the slaves.

The endowment was established in 2007 by his descendants to support research “including but not limited to slavery, race relations, civil rights or African American culture ….” It's a reminder that there’s no expiration date on atoning for such grievous wrongs.

The fund also is a reminder that we’ve come a long, painful way since the census of 1860 showed that more than 25 percent of the population of Boone County were enslaved. We were, and are, in the heart of Little Dixie.

Just how far we have yet to go has been demonstrated repeatedly in recent months. I sat in on a forum last March and heard black students speak passionately of the insults they hear, the inequality they perceive and the fear and anger they live with. Chancellor Loftin listened sympathetically and offered responses that sounded sincere and that promised action.

Fast forward to Monday, when aggrieved students met with President Tim Wolfe. The meeting didn’t go well. Wednesday’s Missourian reported the students’ statement:
“Wolfe verbally acknowledged that he cared for Black students at the University of Missouri. However, he also reported he was 'not completely' aware of systemic racism, sexism and patriarchy on campus. Not understanding these systems of oppression therefore renders him incapable of effectively performing his core duties.”

Meanwhile, the chancellor’s latest weekly update, which arrived in email inboxes a couple of days ago, led with a reminder that daylight saving time is coming to an end and included not a word about the real issues.

What we’re seeing — or not seeing — is a failure of leadership.

There is, however, at least one ongoing effort to come to grips with institutional racism. The Faculty Council Committee on Race Relations, led by my Journalism School colleague Berkley Hudson, seems to be asking the right questions and is beginning to suggest some possible answers.

I recommend to you this website from the Faculty Council that provides videos describing its mission.

I’ve just watched the five short videos again, and I challenge you to sit through them without being touched and troubled. You’ll hear a black undergraduate talk about being called “nigger” as he walks through Greektown. You’ll hear recently retired Vice Chancellor Mike Middleton say the campus climate reminds him of how it was when he was a student in the 1960s with the “remnants of white supremacist philosophy” enduring.

More hopefully, you’ll hear Berkley remind us that what we really need to do is to apply to race relations the core values of respect, responsibility, excellence and discovery to which we regularly pledge allegiance.

I asked another colleague — like me an elderly white guy — to watch the videos and tell me what he thought. He responded in part, “Nothing they said will change any minds, but they probably didn’t hope to. Perhaps this is to start the conversation.” We have to hope so.
The students, it seems to me, are doing their part to communicate. The 12 members of the committee are listening and beginning to respond. But this is a conversation that must be joined by the rest of us — including those with the power to speak for the university.

**UPDATE: Mizzou gender studies class required to watch disturbing sexually explicit movie**

Peter Fricke on Oct 29, 2015

*Several students in a gender studies class at the University of Missouri were reportedly aghast at the explicit nature of Tongues Untied, a film they were required to view Wednesday.*

"Why is this pertinent to my education?"

Victoria Stroup, a student in the “Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies” course taught by Prof. Julie Elman, told Campus Reform that the class was not even given a trigger warning before being shown the film Tongues Untied, which she claimed managed to unsettle even some of her liberal classmates.

"I am a 45 year old gay black man who enjoys taking dick in his rectum, I am not your bitch...Your bitch is at home with your kids," one speaker says near the beginning of the film, recounting an argument he once overheard on a bus between two black, gay males.

At another point, scenes from a gay pride demonstration show a number of barely-clad individuals, some wearing nothing but leather chaps, as voices superimposed in the background chant “let me touch it, let me lick it, let me suck it, let me taste it.”

“There were a couple girls sitting around me, and I heard one of them say ‘Oh, my God’, ” Stroup said, noting that the same individuals are not normally fazed by the course’s content. “As we were walking out a couple of the girls were talking about it and didn’t know what to make of it.”

Elman had not responded by press time to emails from Campus Reform requesting comment, but Stroup said that the purpose of the video, as she understood it, was to introduce the class to a person of color’s perspective on gay history.

“This past week we’ve been talking about the AIDS epidemic and how it impacted the gay community, and how various different identities were impacted by it,” she explained. “We were talking about the new Stonewall movie that’s coming out, and [Elman] complained about the way gay history is viewed from the perspective of whites.”
Stroup noted that she and a small group of classmates have been uncomfortable with aspects of the course in the past—such as a reading assignment that she said “described sex acts somewhat graphically”—but that Tongues Untied was particularly objectionable.

She was careful to point out, though, that her objections to the movie have nothing to do with its subject matter, but rather with what she considered its gratuitous use of disturbing language and images.

“I grew up having a gay brother, so it’s not about me having an opinion on what people do in their personal lives,” she explained, adding that as a libertarian (she is a member of the school’s Young Americans for Liberty group) she doesn’t care what people do in private, but that she doesn’t particularly care to witness anyone’s bedroom activities.

“Today was just really explicit and profane, and I was just like, ‘why is this pertinent to my education?’” she remarked. “I don’t think we needed to watch this video with graphic images to get the point.

“I’m used to having to stifle my own beliefs because I’m around people who think differently, like, all the time, but some other people in class told me that I needed to say something,” she added. “Personally, I really do love this professor and the TA’s—they’re all very nice and very helpful—but it’s like I still have to act a certain way to get a desirable grade.”

UPDATE: Although her teaching schedule prevented her from responding to Campus Reform in time for publication, Prof. Elman contributed the following response Thursday by email:

"The course referenced in this story, titled Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, examines some major strands of critical gender and sexuality studies, relating them to and understanding them through the American cultural history of gender and sexuality. Students are informed at the beginning of the course that some of the material presented in the class might be controversial or could make them uncomfortable. University policy allows students the ability to drop a class during the first two weeks of a semester with a full refund and no negative mark on their academic record.

The film, Tongues Untied (1989), is a documentary that was originally broadcast on PBS in the early 1990s. It was screened during classes discussing the politics of sexuality and how gay activism influenced political policy and U.S. culture, especially during the 1980s and 1990s. The film provides students an opportunity to see how a marginalized group, specifically gay black men, are affected by political policies and cultural norms. Previously, classes have discussed the broader context of the film, and the professor summarized the controversy surrounding it when it was first screened in the early 1990s.

Prior to showing the film, the professor communicated with students that the film contained scenes and language that might be offensive. In her class, the professor allows students to miss three class periods for any reason and may choose not to write about material in a given week for any reason as long as they submit at least three papers by the end of the course. These accommodations, combined with warnings about the context of material provide students the flexibility to avoid material they find objectionable. They also are encouraged to voice any concerns about course materials."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Labor union protests changes to compensation structures, meets with UM System officials

ALEKSANDRA KOCHUROVA, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — About 25 people, including representatives of a labor union, met outside University Hall on Thursday afternoon, wearing orange shirts with union logos and holding up signs that said “We Want a Say About Our Pay” and “MU Respect Your Workers.” The group said it hoped to meet with University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe.

Wolfe was out of town, so the representatives of Laborers’ International Union of North America Local 773 Union discussed reopening negotiations about the union’s recent compensation structure changes with Zora Mulligan, chief of staff for the UM System.

The demonstration was a response to a recent change to merit pay for the service and maintenance workers of MU, University of Missouri—Kansas City and MU Health Care. The change took place on Oct. 11 after four months of negotiation, said Kevin Starr, business manager for the Local 773 Union.

The UM System introduced two compensation structures: one for the MU Health Care workers, which took effect immediately, and one for the workers at the MU and Kansas City campuses, which will be phased in over the next three years, according to the UM System compensation program proposal.

“As a union, we believe we represent all members in whole with one union, one contract, and they implemented two different compensation structures,” Regina Guevara, field representative for the Local 773 Union, wrote in an email. “We see it as divide and conquer, (which is) the reason we want to continue negotiation.”
The main difference in the change is the performance evaluation, which both Starr and Paul Prendergast, staff attorney for the union, called “subjective.” The change affects 163 union workers at the Kansas City campus, 422 workers at University Hospital and 781 workers on MU’s campus, Guevara said.

Starr said that, for example, workers shouldn’t receive better evaluations because they go fishing with their manager, or receive worse evaluations because they mostly keep to themselves at work. He said prior to the merit structure, the union representatives negotiated yearly pay raises for the workers based on their years of experience, step increases and job titles. The percent of the raise was equal across the board, Starr said.

Starr said that in the three meetings held between the union representatives and the UM System, he felt as through the representatives weren't given enough of a voice due to time constraints in the meetings.

“The University has put hundreds of hours into trying to work with the union to reach agreement, but unfortunately that hasn't happened,” John Fougere, chief UM System spokesman, said in an email.

Starr also said that, during the negotiations, he tried to add a neutral third party to the evaluation process to keep it unbiased, but he said his suggestion was voted down. He mentioned that the raise percentages the union proposed were lower than the raise percentages implemented, but what the union wanted was the right to negotiate its raise changes.

In the Thursday meeting with Mulligan, Starr said that in the beginning of negotiation he had asked UM System officials if they were going to try to move the pay to merit, and they said “no.”

“We were told one thing in the beginning of the process and at the end it was totally different,” Starr said in an interview before the meeting. “They have a credibility to uphold and we want to let the people know that the university did not negotiate with us.”
Fougere wrote that the university proposal focused on enabling their union-eligible employees to gain higher salaries and expand their pay ranges, which they might not have under the union structure.

“We want to have a way to reward our high performing union-eligible employees,” Fougere said. “We want to ensure employee pay is market competitive, compared to like jobs in the recruitment area.”

Starr said the change to merit pay left the workers and representatives feeling like they had lost a say in their pay and that it is no longer based on years of experience and fair performance evaluations.

According to Guevera, at the start of Thursday's meeting, Mulligan said she didn't think the UM System would be willing to open negotiations because the decision had been made. However, at the end of the 30-minute meeting, Mulligan reassured the union workers that the UM System has heard them “loud and clear,” Guevara said, and that elected officials have reached out to them regarding the issue.

The union representatives asked for a response from the UM System by Nov. 5. Guevara said there will be another demonstration from 7 to 8 p.m. next week at Memorial Stadium to further raise awareness in the community and student body.

The Wonderful Way Mizzou Sororities Are Challenging Stereotypes

So much inspiration written on two hands.

Tyler Kingkade Senior Editor/Reporter, The Huffington Post
The Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter at the University of Missouri is trying to challenge stereotypes about sorority sisters as a whole, and that individual members face from society, with a photo project called "Breaking Barriers."

The photo essay, posted to Facebook on Tuesday, pushes back on stereotypes about sorority women being "airheads" or "spoiled." It also challenges stereotypes about people dealing with suicidal thoughts, body image and race.

"Everyday we face the stereotypes that society gives us, and everyday we overcome these stereotypes," KKG wrote on Facebook. As of Thursday afternoon, the photo series had gotten more than 8,600 "shares" on Facebook, and over 8,000 "likes."

Society says sorority girls are airheads. But I'm a chemical engineer.

Society says I'm spoiled. But I have 3 jobs.

I've struggled with depression since I was 13. And I have nothing to be ashamed of.

Society says suicidal people are weak. But I find strength in waking up every morning.

Society says I should be skinny. But I rock my curves.
People say sorority girls are stupid. But I'm going to be a doctor one day.

Kappa Kappa Gamma at Mizzou
Organization · 1,776 Likes · October 27 at 5:08pm

Because I'm black, society says I should be angry at the world. But I'm excited to change the world.

(We also had to laugh at this one, which we take as showing they still have a sense of humor while getting a serious point across.)

Kappa Kappa Gamma at Mizzou
Organization · 1,776 Likes · October 27 at 5:08pm

Society says sorority girls don't have their priorities straight... but I get ice cream 7 days a week.

KGG's photo project went live about a week after the University of Missouri Panhellenic Association (PHA) held a "Taking Back Beauty" week, where members were encouraged to not wear makeup as a way of challenging female beauty standards, according to KOMU. PHA members at Mizzou posted photos on Twitter with the hashtag #IAmMore. They also displayed signs on campus featuring statistics about how women feel about themselves. The week coincided with the University of Missouri Women's Center "Love Your Body Week," which featured events about body positivity and beauty standards for black women.

McCaskill writes Mizzou fraternities that support a sex assault bill she opposes

By Chuck Raasch
Oct. 30, 2015

WASHINGTON • Sen. Claire McCaskill said Thursday she sent letters to three University of Missouri fraternities asking why their national organizations are supporting a different bill to address campus sexual assault than the one she is co-sponsoring.
The letters from the Missouri Democrat are part of a joint effort with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., the co-sponsor of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, to push back on national fraternity and sorority organizations that support a competing bill by Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz.

A coalition of those national groups called the Safe Campus Coalition has paid $210,000 to a powerful Washington firm, including former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, to lobby for the Salmon measure.

The coalition “is in receipt of communication from Senators McCaskill and Gillibrand,” Dani Weatherford, executive director of the National Panhellenic Conference, said in a statement. She said the group’s “overall interest is in making sure women’s voices are heard as a part of this ongoing conversation. NPC welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in conversation with the senators in the days ahead.”

The group includes the NPC as well as the North American Interfraternity Conference, and the national offices of three fraternities.

Salmon’s bill, the Campus Safety Act, would require allegations of sexual assault be reported to and adjudicated by police before campus disciplinary proceedings could proceed.

A spokesman for Salmon said that would ensure “due process” in the legal system. But McCaskill asserted that Salmon’s bill would intimidate victims from coming forward and lessen the chances of punishing those who commit sexual assaults on campus.

“This is misguided, and I think it is important we point out it is misguided,” said McCaskill, who was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity at the University of Missouri.

Her letters Thursday to three fraternities on the Missouri campus say “numerous organizations that work with sexual assault survivors on a daily basis have publicly said that (Salmon’s) legislation will be dangerous and will stifle reporting of sexual assaults to both campus authorities and the police.”

Salmon’s communications director, Tristan Daedalus, disputed that claim.

“It just boils down to we have a legal system that handles things, these problems, on a daily basis, and if you are on campus you should not forfeit your right as an American,” Daedalus said.

But McCaskill pointed out that the Salmon bill does not extend the same “due process” procedures to other campus infractions, such as theft. Her legislation, which has 33 other sponsors, would require the designation and training of sexual assault advisers, take discipline of student athletes away from athletic departments, and set guidelines on how colleges work with local police after reports of sexual assault.

McCaskill said in her letter to the three fraternities that she has had numerous sexual assault-related discussions on Missouri campuses.

“I was left with the impression that campus organizations such as yours were interested in solving this problem in a way that encourages reporting, supports victims and holds schools accountable for failure to act to protect students,” McCaskill wrote. “Representative Salmon’s bill addresses none of those priorities. The bill would instead stifle reporting and force victims down a one-size-fits-all pipeline against their wishes.”

McCaskill said she had not been lobbied by Lott on the issue.

“He is a good lobbyist, and I have nothing against Trent,” she said. “This is more about the people who have hired Trent, and them not understanding the nature of this problem.”

The McCaskill-Gillibrand bill has had a hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee, but advanced no further.
McCaskill critical of 'Greek' organizations for backing 'misguided' campus sexual assault bill

By JIM HOWARD • OCT. 29, 2015

NO MU MENTION

Two national umbrella organizations for sororities and fraternities were criticized Thursday by U.S. Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY. They're upset at the groups for backing legislation the senators say will leave students vulnerable to potentially dangerous individuals on campus. The legislation also would discourage victims from reporting sexual assaults and would keep schools from moving quickly to protect students, the senators say.

McCaskill and Gillibrand are the prime sponsors of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, a measure with at least 34 co-sponsors, significant bipartisan support and the backing of numerous national victim advocacy organizations.

On Thursday, the two held a phone conference with reporters from across the U.S. to highlight what they are calling a “misguided” piece of competing legislation. The Safe Campus Act is backed by the National Panhellenic Conference and the North American Interfraternity Conference. It would prevent schools from moving quickly under Title IX to protect students unless a victim has gone to police and until that law enforcement agency’s investigation is completed - a process that can be lengthy.

McCaskill is especially concerned that the competing legislation carves out an exception only “for sexual assaults and not any of the other violent crimes that could occur on campus.” That means a university could take action under Title IX for a woman robbed at gun point, McCaskill said. But if she was raped, the school would be prohibited from acting on its own unless the victim
agreed to go to the police. Some victims are hesitant to do so, fearing shame or retribution.

The McCaskill-Gillibrand bill lets victims control how they want their cases to be handled and requires schools to comply with requirements under Title IX to ensure campus safety and the proper treatment of both victims and the accused. That’s not the case in the competing bill, McCaskill said.

McCaskill said she and Gillibrand worked hard to ensure their bill provides due process to anyone who is accused, transparency for the process and training for the colleges in the right way to go about a Title IX investigation and determination.

She says the competing bill is particularly disturbing when you know the difference between what law enforcement is supposed to do in these circumstances and what schools are supposed to do under Title IX to protect students. “The prosecution process is about depriving someone of their liberty, putting them in prison, labeling them as a sex offender for the rest of their lives. The Title IX process is for campus safety and it’s a much different kind of process and it should be treated differently.”

McCaskill called on the National Panhellenic Conference and the Interfraternity Conference to “look at what they’re doing, and realize they’re really setting back the cause of campus safety in a way that’s unacceptable.”

Gillibrand echoed McCaskill’s concerns that sororities were backing the competing legislation. “Perhaps sororities are not fully aware of the situation, because this will overwhelmingly harm their members and harm the young women they represent, and I cannot imagine they would do so willingly or if they had the proper information. So, I think it is important to call them out on the misinformation now, so that they don’t get too far along in this process.”

Both senators said they had been members of sororities in college and because of that experience and their conversations with students and victims, in crafting their own legislation, they felt the need to let current sorority members know about the competing legislation being supported by their national organization. “It’s incredibly disappointing. I would be furious if I were a member of a sorority and my dues were going toward this effort,” McCaskill said.

They both also expressed confidence that their own bill would be approved in this Congress.
The executive director for the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), Dani Weatherford, sent an emailed statement to St. Louis Public Radio. “NPC is in receipt of communication from Senators McCaskill and Gillibrand. We appreciate efforts by lawmakers at the state and federal level to eliminate sexual assault and sexual violence in any setting. NPC’s overall interest is in making sure women’s voices are heard as a part of this on-going conversation. NPC welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage with the Senators in the days ahead.”

McCaskill press secretary, John LaBombard told St. Louis Public Radio in an email that the senator’s office had not been in contact with NPC as of late Thursday. Both senators also said they had not been contacted by NPC or the North American Interfraternity Conference prior to the groups' introducing their competing legislation.

“I would welcome a dialogue, and frankly I’m concerned that there wasn’t a dialogue before they did this. You know, I don’t understand why they wouldn’t have gotten input from all of us who have been working on this for so long before they did this,” McCaskill told reporters in the news conference.

The North American Interfraternity Conference did not provide a promised comment by the time this story was published late Thursday night.

October 29, 2015 by Sarah Brown

2 Senate Democrats Blast Greek Groups for Backing Contentious Sexual-Assault Bill

Two Democratic U.S. senators on Thursday slammed national fraternity and sorority organizations for backing a bill that would limit colleges’ ability to investigate sexual-assault cases.

Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand of New York have pressured Congress for more than a year to rally around their own campus sexual-
assault legislation, which would require colleges to do more to protect victims and accused students.

In a conference call with reporters on Thursday, they questioned whether most sorority chapters nationwide were aware that their dues were helping to pay for a lobbying campaign to support the competing measure, known as the Safe Campus Act. It was introduced in July by Rep. Matt Salmon, a Republican of Arizona, and four sponsors in the House — two Republicans and two Democrats — have since signed on.

The measure would prevent colleges from opening their own investigations into reported sexual assaults unless students making such allegations had also involved law-enforcement authorities. The North American Interfraternity Conference and the National Panhellenic Conference have hired a former U.S. senator, Trent Lott, to lobby for the bill.

Neither organization immediately responded to a request for comment.

Ms. Gillibrand said she couldn’t imagine that most sorority members would willingly support the bill, given that, in her opinion, the Safe Campus Act would harm women.

“For me, it almost felt personal,” Ms. McCaskill added, noting that she was a member of a sorority. “You have the leadership of the Greek organizations in this country taking this step that is so misinformed and damaging — I just felt the need to step out.”

The bill has drawn widespread criticism from groups that work with sexual-assault victims. Those advocates contend that it would not only discourage students from reporting incidents of sexual assault, but also prevent colleges from upholding their responsibilities under the federal gender-equity law known as Title IX.

One fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, withdrew its membership from the North American Interfraternity Conference this week. Its leaders did not specifically cite the Safe Campus Act as a reason but said in a written statement that “the NIC has recently elected to pursue counterproductive tactics that we believe are antithetical to our values, and we cannot support them.”

Ms. McCaskill and Ms. Gillibrand argued on Thursday that the revised version of their legislation, known as the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, already provides additional due-process protections for accusers and accused. Ms. Gillibrand pointed to provisions in the bill guaranteeing that both types of students would be entitled to the same representation and that all colleges would use the same investigative process.
“We are not interested in tipping the scales one way or another,” she said, adding that neither national Greek organization had contacted her or Ms. McCaskill before supporting the Safe Campus Act.

Under that bill, Ms. McCaskill said, college officials would not be able to take adequate steps to make their campuses safe — such as expelling offenders — until law-enforcement agencies had completed an investigation.

“As somebody who has worked in and around these cases — hundreds of them, for years — that is not necessarily something that occurs within a short period of time,” said Ms. McCaskill, a former sex-crimes prosecutor.

Neither senator said she believed that the Safe Campus Act would pose a significant threat to their bill, which has a bipartisan group of 34 sponsors. They said they still expected that their legislation would be included in the coming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The senators also said they planned to reach out to Greek leaders nationwide about the Safe Campus Act in the next week.

Interfraternity Infighting
October 30, 2015
by Jake New

NO MU MENTION

Facing opposition from Democratic lawmakers, campus safety groups and even one of its founding members, the North-American Interfraternity Conference this week continued its support of a controversial bill that would limit how colleges can respond to cases of campus sexual assault.

The proposed federal legislation, called the Safe Campus Act, would strengthen due process rights of students accused of sexual assault and prevent campus investigations from taking place unless a victim also reports the allegations to law enforcement. Yet if a student were to commit any other kind of crime -- such as selling drugs or physically assaulting someone -- they could still be punished even without police involvement. The bill would also make it tougher to kick a fraternity or sorority off campus without a proper hearing, and would bar colleges from forcing Greek organizations to become
coeducational.

When it was introduced in July, civil liberties organizations, fraternity and sorority groups, and the lobbying group representing them -- a frequent financial contributor to one of the bill's sponsors -- applauded the legislation as providing an avenue for “much-needed reforms.” But campus safety groups and victims’ advocates immediately decried the legislation as redundant and harmful.

The ranks of those criticizing the legislation have grown since then to include the Association for Student Conduct Administration, the National Women’s Law Center, the American Association of University Women, the Victims' Rights Law Center and every major victims advocacy group. The American Council on Education has refrained from taking a stance on the bill, but stressed that it does not support the legislation.

On Thursday, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat from New York, and Claire McCaskill, a Democrat from Missouri, held a phone call with reporters criticizing the North-American Interfraternity Conference’s and the National Panhellenic Conference’s support of the legislation. Both senators were members of sororities and said that they are personally “disappointed and disturbed” by the organizations’ lobbying.

The two lawmakers are the lead co-sponsors of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, a separate piece of legislation that would require confidential resources for victims of sexual assault and would impose fines on colleges who mishandle sexual assault cases. The legislation has 34 co-sponsors, including 12 Republicans.

The name of the new, opposing bill -- the Safe Campus Act -- is a misnomer, they said. “The goal of any campus sexual assault legislation should be to encourage survivors to report the crimes,” Gillibrand said. “This bill does exactly the opposite. The bill discourages students from reporting the crimes. Their bill would worsen our understanding of a violent crime that is already statistically underreported and reduce the school’s ability to address sexual assault.”

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 responding to 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.

Components of the Safe Campus Act conflict with some Education Department regulations. The bill 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. The new legislation would also allow colleges to choose what standard of evidence to use when deciding if a
student committed the assault, 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 proposed legislation would require a college to conduct a full discipline hearing before a chapter could be banned from campus. Interim sanctions, such as suspension, during this process could last only 10 days.

The Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee lobbied Congress for many of the protections included in the new bill, donating $500,000 to politicians in the last year.

The legislation was introduced by U.S. Representatives Matt Salmon, of Arizona, and Kay Granger and Pete Sessions, of Texas. All three are Republicans. 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.

A group called the Safe Campus Coalition has spent an additional $140,000 on lobbyists, hiring former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Kevin O’Neill, executive director of the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee. The coalition includes the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

The NIC’s lobbying efforts come amid what Lambda Chi Alpha, a founding member of the organization, calls “internal squabbling” within the group. Earlier this week Lambda Chi Alpha resigned from the trade association, ending a 106-year relationship.

The NIC experienced an additional shake-up in August, when its longtime president and CEO suddenly stepped down, leaving the organization without a top executive for weeks. Pete Smithhisler, the former president, declined to comment on the reasons for his resignation other than saying he plans to start his own nonprofit consulting group.

He also declined to discuss Lambda Chi Alpha leaving the NIC, saying the “decisions have nothing to do with or are as a result of my departure.” Smithhisler is an alumnus of the fraternity.

In a statement Tuesday, the Lambda Chi Alpha Board of Directors said that the NIC’s goals were no longer “consistent with the best interests of our campus communities.” “For more than a century, we have supported the NIC’s efforts and advocated for its stated principles and values,” Fletcher McElreath, chairman of the board, stated.

“Unfortunately, the NIC has recently elected to pursue counterproductive tactics that we believe are antithetical to our values and we cannot support them.”

When asked if the tactics in question included the NIC’s lobbying in support of the Safe Campus Act, Tad Lichtenauer, the fraternity’s director of communications, declined to elaborate, but added that Lambda Chi Alpha is “against all lobbying efforts.”

McCaskill said she is not concerned that the fraternity- and sorority-backed bill will become law, noting that the bill still has just four sponsors. Her concern, rather, is that
the umbrella groups for the vast majority of the country's fraternities and sororities would throw their collective weight and money behind such proposed legislation. She said she worries that many fraternity and sorority members may not even be aware that the North-American Interfraternity Conference and the National Panhellenic Conference are backing the bill or that the bill exists.

“I’m incredibly disappointed,” McCaskill said. “As a member of a sorority, I would be furious if the dues I paid were going to this effort. The notion that they’re spending this kind of money on something that is so misinformed, I would be very upset.”

WHY SMOKING AND DRINKING OFTEN GO TOGETHER

October 28, 2015

Past research shows that more than 85 percent of US adults who are dependent on alcohol are also dependent on nicotine, but why do the two go hand in hand?

Now, a new study with rats finds that nicotine cancels out the sleep-inducing effects of alcohol.

“We know that many people who drink alcohol also use nicotine, but we don’t know why exactly that is,” says Mahesh Thakkar, associate professor and director of research in the University of Missouri School of Medicine’s neurology department and lead author of the study.

“We have found that nicotine weakens the sleep-inducing effects of alcohol by stimulating a response in an area of the brain known as the basal forebrain. By identifying the reactions that take place when people smoke and drink, we may be able to use this knowledge to help curb alcohol and nicotine addiction.”

Thakkar’s previous research has shown that when used in conjunction, nicotine and alcohol increase pleasurable side effects by activating an area of the brain known as the reward center, which can lead to increased alcohol consumption.
During the most recent study, rats were fitted with sleep-recording electrodes and given alcohol and nicotine. The researchers found that nicotine acts via the basal forebrain to suppress the sleep-inducing effects of alcohol.

“One of the adverse effects of drinking alcohol is sleepiness,” Thakkar says. “However, when used in conjunction with alcohol, nicotine acts as a stimulant to ward off sleep. If an individual smokes, then he or she is much more likely to consume more alcohol, and vice-versa. They feed off one another.”

According to the World Health Organization, more than 7 million deaths each year are attributed to alcohol and nicotine use.

The study appears in the *Journal of Neurochemistry*. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the National Institutes of Health funded this work. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

*Source: University of Missouri*

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**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**OCTOBER 29, 2015**

**Times are changing for women in agriculture**

Female farmers in Missouri make up almost one-third of the state's farming workforce.

In Kansas, women accounted for 28 percent of farm jobs as of 2012.

Colleges have seen a spike in female interest in their agriculture programs.

**BY TRACI BADALUCCO**
It’s 5:30 a.m. when Chris Chinn’s alarm goes off. She pulls on her blue jeans, T-shirt and dark brown Ariat boots. On this particular day, she heads out to the feed mill to update the diet plan for her sows. By midafternoon, it’s time to bottle feed one of the calves. Her wardrobe is always the same, but there is no routine to her seven-day workweek.

“You might start out with a plan to go weaning, but you might walk into the barn and you find that the water line is broken,” said Chinn, a fifth-generation hog farmer.

Chinn is just one of thousands of female farmers in Missouri, making up almost one-third of the state’s farming workforce.

A town of 786 people, Clarence, Mo., is home to the Chinn family’s 320 acres of farmland, where Chris and her husband, Kevin, raise, breed and care for 1,600 sows and 75 cows and produce row crops such as soybeans and corn.

A Missouri native, Chinn studied journalism at Truman State University in Kirksville and jumped right into her husband’s family farming business when they married in 1995.

Work on the farm is endless. That’s why the Chinns’ two children, Rachelle, 17, and Conner, 14, help out when they’re not in school. As for Chris and Kevin’s hours, “we really don’t count them,” Chinn said.

With nearly 46,000 female farmers in Missouri in 2012, the women’s agricultural workforce grew 2.7 percent from 2002, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In neighboring Kansas, women accounted for 28 percent of farm jobs in 2012, up from 24 percent in 2002.

“The perception is that it’s a male-dominated career, and it’s really not,” Chinn said, recalling the stares she gets when shopping for farming equipment parts.

Colleges across the Midwest have seen a spike in female interest in their agriculture programs in recent years.

**Enrollment at the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri went up 143.6 percent among women between 2004 and 2014. Kansas State University saw a 91.4 percent rise in its College of Agriculture in the same period.**
“The traditional role models are being broken,” said Kevin Moore, associate professor of agriculture and applied economics at the University of Missouri.

Moore said he has seen consistent participation every spring from women in his Returning to the Farm course. In his classroom, students create business plans for existing and future farms and attend workshops with family members to improve business and communication back on the family farm.

Although some women hope to return to the family business with college degrees, many are finding successful careers stretching beyond traditional farming roles, said Don Boggs, associate dean at the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University.

In the past 20 years or so, Boggs said, colleges have made efforts to attract more women to science and math courses that are helpful in agricultural degree programs. The idea is to prepare students for positions in agriculture communications and economics, as well as research and sales.

According to 2014-2015 data aggregated by Iowa State University, recent graduates — women and men — from 17 universities in agriculture and related disciplines reported average starting salaries of $36,173 in communications/public relations, $50,206 in farm management, $58,625 in marketing/public relations and $48,276 in sales.

Experts say recent trends in “farm to table” initiatives for restaurants and home kitchens are bringing more foodies to the agriculture field.

“Small farms are being romanticized by the local foods movement,” said Kelly Smith, marketing and commodities director at the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation.

Smith said women also play vital roles in the marketing arena because they “don’t get as emotional over an acre of soybeans as the man does.” It’s common, he said, for farmers to get “wrapped up in what they’ve raised,” and women are able to look strictly at the facts when it’s time to sell.

Times may be changing for women in agriculture, but back at the Chinn farm, it is business as usual this fall. November will bring breeding season, and having a woman’s hands ready to help is more important than ever.

“Sometimes we have that maternal instinct to reading the animal’s body signals,” Chinn said.
In the meantime, Chinn continues to roll with the punches and brush off comments such as “You’re the prettiest farmer I have ever seen.”

“We can do any job that a man can do,” Chinn said with a laugh.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**OCTOBER 29, 2015**

Readers react to abortion, breaking news and the Royals

Clay M. Anderson writes about a MU decision he finds “cowardly”

**Costly decision**

_A national special-interest group writes a purely political boilerplate bill, taken up by a right-wing Missouri legislator, and soon a Missouri law allows safe, legal, medical abortions in Columbia only if the physician has medically unnecessary “refer and follow” privileges with a local hospital, in this case University of Missouri Hospital (9-26, Editorial, “MU’s disgraceful cave-in”)._

Now, months later, under pressure from the same legislator, the university decides to revoke that physician’s “refer and follow” privileges for no apparent reason other than recent debunked accusations against Planned Parenthood.

As a physician, alumnus and progressive, I am flabbergasted and ashamed that my alma mater would make a cowardly and purely political physician-staffing decision under pressure from an extreme moralist zealot elected official.

Unless this cowardly decision by the university gets reversed or explained as rational and clinically appropriate in an open venue, the University of Missouri can expect no further donations or support from me or my family and can expect me to request the same response from my colleagues, friends, acquaintances and fellow Missourians.
Instead, those charity donations will go to increased Planned Parenthood contributions and for similar helpful organizations.

Clay M.

Anderson, M.D.

Liberty

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

KBIA to become all-news station starting midnight Monday

REID FOSTER, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Things are soon going to sound different when Columbia residents tune in to two local FM stations.

KBIA, 91.3 FM, is slated to become an all-news station on Monday. Classical music, a longtime staple of KBIA, is scheduled to begin airing at midnight Friday on 90.5 FM, which MU purchased a year ago from Stephens College for $50,000.

There were two motivating factors to the changes: the allure of having an all-day classical station, as well as the ability to provide a better experience for Missouri School of Journalism students.

"If a student was working on a story that was a breaking news story at 10 o'clock in the morning, we didn't put it on the air until 3 because that's when the news started next," KBIA general manager Michael Dunn said. "Now it'll go on the air as things happen, and that's how a real newsroom operates."

BBC and NPR programming will fill the void created on KBIA left by the elimination of classical music. Shows from those two outlets will be concentrated from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and after 7 p.m. on weekdays.
KBIA will produce hourly newscasts between 9 a.m and 3 p.m. These newscasts also will be broadcast on KMUC.

MU spent $50,000 on new equipment to accommodate the move.