Sign vandalized at Mizzou black culture center

A sign outside Mizzou's Gaines-Oldham Black Culture Center has been vandalized.

Someone appears to have used black paint or spray paint to cover the word "black" on the sign. The above photo was posted on Twitter by an account linked to Mizzou's Legion of Black Collegians. In 2010, someone spread cotton balls outside the Gaines-Oldham Center in what some perceived to be a hate crime.

MU leadership issues statement about threats on campus

November 11, 2015

The statement reads:

"Our campus has experienced significant turbulence, and many within our community have suffered threats against their lives and humanity. These threats are reprehensible.

"In the face of these threats, we are grateful to MUPD, which has worked tirelessly to keep our campus safe and secure. This is and will be our top priority.

"The process of making our campus as inclusive as it must be will not be easy. We have difficult conversations ahead, and we must all dedicate ourselves to learning together."
"Aware of the hard work ahead, we also must address immediate needs. First, we have additional counselors available at the Counseling Center, Student Health, and Employee Assistance Program, including counselors of color. Second, faculty and staff have already begun organizing learning opportunities for us all. Some of these are campus-wide events. Others are designed for smaller groups. On Friday, we will feature a panel of faculty who will share their teaching experiences this week. These will be the first of many more events occurring on our campus in the months, and years, ahead. More details about events this week and next will be announced as they become available.

"For those of you who are discouraged, we hope you will see what we have seen in the last fifteen months and especially in the last few weeks. We have watched faculty, many of whom have great expertise in social justice, act with extraordinary compassion to our students, and we have benefitted greatly from our amazing staff who are dedicated to making Mizzou the best it can be. Finally, we have witnessed our brave students who sacrificed their own needs to do work that should have been done long before they joined our community.

"We feel the weight of the world’s eyes upon us. We will not flinch from the work ahead."

Hank Foley, Garnett S. Stokes and Chuck Henson

MU increases counselors, leaders release statement after threats

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 3:45 pm

The University of Missouri has increased the number of available counselors and will continue to offer an after-hours phone line for students to call if they wish to talk with someone, according to a news release.
Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, said in the release that the Counseling Center’s full staff will be on hand and ready to help students and more counselors can be called in if they are needed.

“Counseling Center staff are actively reaching out to key student groups to offer assistance,” Scroggs said. “We know our students are still processing their emotions and feelings about the events over the last several days. I’m very thankful to our MUPD and our campus community for continuing to keep our campus safe.”

In a joint statement, Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, Provost Garnett Stokes and Chuck Henson, the newly appointed interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, said faculty and staff are working on "learning opportunities for us all," including campus-wide events and events for small groups. The statement said a faculty panel on Friday will share their teaching experiences this week, and details will be forthcoming.

"Our campus has experienced significant turbulence, and many within our community have suffered threats against their lives and humanity. These threats are reprehensible," the statement said.

The statement praised faculty who act with compassion for students and staff dedicated to "making Mizzou the best it can be." The administrators also hailed "brave students who sacrificed their own needs to do work that should have been done long before they joined our community."

"We feel the weight of the world’s eyes upon us," the statement said. "We will not flinch from the work ahead."

Students who want to contact a counselor can call the Counseling Center main number at 573-882-6601. Other resources include Student Health at 573-882-7481 and the Psychological Services Clinic at 573-882-4677.

The release and statement come after several tense days on campus with large demonstrations, resignations of top officials and anonymous threats Tuesday night toward black students. A 19-year-old man, Hunter M. Park, has been arrested on suspicion of posting threats to the anonymous app Yik Yak that targeted black people on campus.
MU leadership addresses threats, changes to campus

COLUMBIA - **MU administration released a statement Wednesday regarding the recent safety threats and changes to campus.**

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, along with Provost Garnett S. Stokes and Interim Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Chuck Henson, said that safety continues to be their top priority.

They said the threats made on the social media site Yik Yak were "reprehensible" and they are grateful to MUPD for the arrest of the suspect.

"All members of our community should know that we are working hard to make sure they have all of the university’s resources and services available to them as we move forward together," said administrators. "We are indebted to our stellar police, who have been working around the clock to maintain safety."

The statement also addressed changes made on campus since UM System Tim Wolfe resigned and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced his departure on Monday.

"We feel the weight of the world’s eyes upon us. We will not flinch from the work ahead," the joint statement said.

MU has added counselors at the Counseling Center, Student Health, and Employee Assistance Program, including counselors of color, per requests from Concerned Student 1950.

Leadership members said faculty and staff have begun to organize campus-wide events to address racial tensions. A panel of faculty will present on Friday to share teaching experiences from this week.

"The process of making our campus as inclusive as it must be will not be easy. We have difficult conversations ahead, and we must all dedicate ourselves to learning together," said Foley, Stokes, and Henson.
Protests Spread
At Ithaca, demanding a president's resignation; at Vanderbilt, seeking a professor's ouster; online, sharing what it means to be #BlackOnCampus.

November 12, 2015

By Scott Jaschik

The sustained protests at the University of Missouri, which led to the ouster of a system president and campus chancellor, are inspiring minority students at many campuses.

On some campuses, students are staging walkouts or protests to show solidarity with those at Missouri. Meanwhile, students are renewing campaigns to force out the president of Ithaca College and to dismiss a controversial professor at Vanderbilt University. Nationally, black students are going online to share information about their experiences at predominantly white institutions.

Among the campuses where students staged protests to back the Missouri students
Wednesday were Smith College, where 200 students and professors left classes at noon, and the University of Iowa, where students didn't walk out of classes but rallied at the Old Capitol (above right), wearing black to show their empathy with black students at Missouri.

**Targeting a President at Ithaca**

At Ithaca, students have been pushing for the removal of Thomas Rochon as president, citing what they consider his failure to adequately respond to several racially charged incidents, including one at a forum where two alumni referred to a third (a black woman) as “the savage” after she said, “I had this savage hunger” to build a successful career. Minority students have also complained about social events that make fun of black culture and an environment in which they feel unwelcome.

On Wednesday, hundreds of students and faculty members walked out of class and instead participated in a rally calling for the removal of Rochon, who has been pledging to do more to make the campus inclusive and welcoming for all students. On Tuesday, he announced that he is creating a chief diversity officer position. "It has become clear to me that, although we have taken some steps in the right direction, I will need the counsel and full-time focus of a strong and experienced leader with deep knowledge in this area in order to make progress with appropriate speed, inclusivity, accountability and transparency," Rochon said in a statement. "Other institutions have been able to engender lasting change by establishing this level of accountability, and I am confident that this is the right thing for Ithaca College as well."

But that was not enough to stop calls for his removal. The group POC@IC issued a statement that said in part, "The removal of a college president is possible and the reason why [that] should be considered by IC is very clear. The removal of an administrator brings influence back into the hands of the people. This push is not reactionary but strategic because now it brings the campus community directly into administrative affairs. It also opens the doors for the complete restructuring of top-down administration on college campuses. Is the president just a figurehead? Of course, but the point is that the campus body has removed that figurehead and has in turn opened the door for retrieving real sources of power."

The Ithaca College board chair, Tom Grape, gave a statement to The Ithaca Voice that said, "We understand that the issues are serious and significant, and we are listening. I
am certain that Ithaca College will emerge from this chapter stronger and more resolute in its direction forward, and the board and I are actively partnering with Tom Rochon and other campus leaders to make sure that happens.

Push to Suspend Vanderbilt Professor
At Vanderbilt, many minority students have in recent days renewed a push for the university to take action against Carol Swain (right), a tenured professor of political science and law, over a column she wrote in January after the terrorist attacks in Paris against the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

In the January column, Swain asked, "What would it take to make us admit we were wrong about Islam? What horrendous attack would finally convince us that Islam is not like other religions in the United States, that it poses an absolute danger to us and our children unless it is monitored better than it has been under the Obama administration?"

Many students and others said that the column stereotyped all Muslims in a way that was profoundly biased, but the university defended Swain's right to free speech. In the last week, students started a new petition to have her fired, saying that she engages in name-calling, that her use of the word "Professor" on her Facebook page suggests that she speaks for Vanderbilt and that her biases may lead to discrimination against minority students who are not Christian or straight. (Swain is black, but her conservative political views have angered many black people.)

The organizers of the petition then amended their request, calling for Vanderbilt to suspend Swain, not fire her. This change, the petition organizers announced, was "made to more clearly address Swain’s right to free speech."

Vanderbilt's chancellor, Nicholas S. Zeppos, issued a statement Wednesday in which he said that he did not agree with Swain's views, and that he was sorry if any Vanderbilt students felt hurt or unwelcome. Said Zeppos, "Vanderbilt also has a deep and longstanding commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom, which are the foundations of our university’s scholarly activities. Such freedoms necessarily allow for the expression of unpopular and offensive views. However, speech whose sole purpose or effect is to discriminate, stigmatize, retaliate, offend, foment hatred or violence, or cause harm has no place in this university."
On her Facebook page, Swain pointed readers to an article in National Review that calls the request to suspend her part of the "illiberal idiocy" popular at some campuses. "Swain’s apostasy is that she has made politically incorrect statements about radical Islam and her traditional Christian beliefs, statements that the petitioners deem intolerant and which the university, therefore, must not tolerate -- tolerance, of course, being a one-way street," says the article.

Swain introduced the article by writing on her Facebook page. "The petition itself is full of false allegations," she wrote. "The petition has gone from demanding I be fired immediately, to permanent suspension, to temporary suspension (I am on sabbatical already), to investigating my Facebook page for publicly shaming students (i.e. responding publicly to students who have gone to my Facebook page to insult me), to mandatory sensitivity training for all faculty. It's all logical, right?"

#BlackOnCampus
Also taking off this week is a Twitter hashtag, #BlackOnCampus, which students from campuses all over the United States are using when posting brief descriptions of their challenges being in the minority at predominantly white institutions. Some examples follow:
Tweets:

1. **Too Black**
   
   Too Black: When white students complain about Affirmative action and minority scholarships but don’t complain about "legacy" admissions #BlackOnCampus
   
   4:15 PM - 11 Nov 2015
   
   1,111 replies 1,596 retweets

2. **Afroamericanosunnyd**
   
   Afroamericanosunnyd: #BlackOnCampus feeling the need to tone down my emotions- including anger- because of the fear of being seen as "ratchet" or "ghetto"
   
   4:10 PM - 11 Nov 2015
   
   766 replies 1,209 retweets

3. **Kieran**
   
   Kieran: White teachers & students constantly amazed at how "eloquent" I am & surprised at how knowledgeable I am. #BlackOnCampus
   
   12:14 PM - 11 Nov 2015
   
   329 replies 325 retweets

4. **Daniel Johnson**
   
   Daniel Johnson: #BlackOnCampus Looking for Black Professors so I can see some Black Excellence in the faculty, only to be continually disappointed.
   
   12:14 PM - 11 Nov 2015
Racial Discrimination Protests Ignite at Colleges Across the U.S.

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS and JESS BIDGOOD

NOV. 11, 2015

The passion that ousted the heads of the University of Missouri after protests over racial discrimination on campus is spreading to other colleges across the country, turning traditional fall semesters into a period of intense focus on racial misunderstanding and whether activism stifles free speech.

Hundreds of students demonstrated at Ithaca College in upstate New York on Wednesday, demanding the resignation of the college president, Tom Rochon, for what they said was his lackluster response to complaints of racial insensitivity on campus, including an episode in which two white male alumni on a panel called a black alumna a “savage,” after she said she had a “savage hunger” to succeed.

At Claremont McKenna College in California, the junior class president resigned Tuesday after a furor over a Facebook photograph that showed her posing with two women who were wearing sombreros, ponchos and mustaches for Halloween. A campus demonstration followed on Wednesday.

And at Yale, the campus is still in turmoil about an overheard “white girls only” remark at an off-campus fraternity party, and debating over whether students had a right to wear transgressive Halloween costumes.

In interviews, students say they have been inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement that grew out of the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by the police in Ferguson, Mo. They say the victory of protesting students and football players at the University of Missouri has spurred them to demand that their universities provide a safe space for students of color.

In New Haven, Aaron Z. Lewis, a 21-year-old senior at Yale, used to spend his days studying cognitive science and thinking about what he will do after graduation. Now he is devoting his time to protesting and writing about racial injustice, particularly for black women, on campus and elsewhere.

Mr. Lewis and other students said the racism they had experienced or observed was often subtle rather than blatant, but no less disturbing and no less deserving of attention.

“I don’t think it matters what my own personal experiences are with this,” Mr. Lewis said. “What matters is that we all need to have empathy for the experiences that people of color have even if we don’t have those experiences for ourselves.”
He added, “It really is hard to believe because we want to believe that we’re a postracial society, but it’s just not true.”

At Smith, the protesting students gathered at noon in a tight circle, with umbrellas and parkas to shield them from the afternoon’s spitting rain. Some had left classes 10 or 15 minutes early.

“Systematic oppression affects us all,” said Tyahra Angus, a senior, speaking through a megaphone to the group, a mix of minority and white students.

The environs were a far cry from the University of Missouri. Smith’s undergraduate student body is all women and the institution itself is situated in a progressive college town. It is not in the midst of major upheaval.

But the students who gathered on Wednesday spoke of “microaggressions” — tone-deaf slights directed toward minority students — and continuing difficulties of being a student of color on a contemporary college campus, and encouraged their peers to raise awareness of them.

“It’s the microaggressions in classrooms,” Raven Fowlkes-Witten, a junior who organized Wednesday’s demonstration, said in an interview. “It’s students not feeling represented. It’s few faculty members of color,”

As Ms. Fowlkes-Witten addressed the group, she stood under an umbrella held by Donna Lisker, the dean of the college.

“I don’t think I ever want to fall into a false sense of security that things can’t happen here,” Ms. Lisker said in an interview after the demonstration, adding, “Being continually reflective about what you’re doing, and listening — that’s why I went today.”

At Ithaca, one of the issues is the on-campus panel on Oct. 8, in which Tatiana Sy, a 2009 graduate, said she had a “savage hunger” to do everything in college. Another panelist, J. Christopher Burch, the chief executive of Burch Creative Capital who is also an alumnus, responded, “I love what the savage here said,” according to YouTube clips of the event. The moderator, Bob Kur, a former NBC News correspondent, joined in, pointing to Mr. Burch, saying, “You are driven,” and pointing to Ms. Sy and saying, “You’re the savage.” The men are both white, and Ms. Sy describes herself as Afro-Cuban.

When Ms. Sy objected, Mr. Burch said, “It’s a compliment.” Mr. Burch later apologized.

Ms. Sy, the special events director for the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, said in an interview on Wednesday that she had been uncomfortable because Mr. Burch had continued to refer to her as “the savage” even after she reminded him what her name was. “You could sense that there was an energy in the room that everyone was uncomfortable with,” she said.

Nalani Haueter, 19, a sophomore and sociology major at Ithaca from San Luis Obispo, Calif., said Wednesday that she has been shocked by the numbers of people participating in protests and meetings. “Throughout the last couple of months, she said, “it’s grown into a large percentage of this campus being active and paying attention.”
In a statement Wednesday, Tom Grape, the chairman of the Ithaca College board, said the trustees took the issues seriously and would work with Mr. Rochon to address them. Mr. Rochon, who attended Wednesday’s protests, has promised changes, including the hiring of a diversity officer and the creation of a review board for complaints about the campus police.

In a campus email, the president of Claremont McKenna College, Hiram E. Chodosh, said, “I stand by our students,” and announced steps including a new leadership position on diversity and help for new students, especially first-generation college students, in adjusting to campus life. Mr. Chodosh said in an interview that one role of higher education was “to provide a very special home for our students as a bridge from their families to the truly adult and independent world.”

Roger Lopez, 19, a sophomore studying political science at Yale who grew up in New York City, said some students had been so upset and consumed by recent events that they had asked for extensions on major papers or exams.

Students had even started questioning whether it was appropriate to call the leaders of the university’s residential colleges “masters,” because they thought the term had connotations of slavery.

Missouri protests embolden student leaders on other campuses

Nov. 11, 2015
By COLLIN BINKLEY

BOSTON (AP) — In the ouster of the University of Missouri’s president, leaders of student groups on other campuses dealing with racial strife see an opening to press their own university administrators for better treatment of black students.

At schools including Michigan and Yale, students say the protests that led to the resignation of Missouri President Tim Wolfe are emboldening them to take a harder line.

"It shows administrations that this is something that they need to take seriously," said Eshe Sherley, a senior at Yale University, where more than 1,000 people joined a march this week in solidarity with minorities. "It also shows students that the work they're doing isn't in vain."
The issues vary from one campus to another, but many students say there's a common thread among campuses that can be inhospitable to students from racial minorities. Some are calling for more diversity among faculty and more spending on scholarships for minorities, as well as resources such as cultural centers.

"You can't just bring students in; you've got to have faculty and staff members in key positions and you've got to be current," said Roger Pulliam, senior faculty adviser of the National Black Student Union, based in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

The Missouri case is bringing attention to issues that have been simmering on other campuses for months or longer amid a national discussion of race relations and treatment of blacks in America.

Student activists say it also demonstrated the power of a united protest.

Ravyn Brooks, a junior at Missouri State University, is among students who confronted administrators earlier this year over issues including faculty diversity and the planning of a diversity center they heard about through the school's mostly white student government. When she heard about the Missouri protests, Brooks wrote an online post calling students across the country to demonstrate in support.

"This event on the MU campus shows other students how much power we actually have when we come together as a campus," Brooks said. "There's power in solidarity, there's power in a unified voice, and it exposes systemic racism in higher education."

Black students at the University of Michigan, who make up only about 4 percent of the student body, have pressured the administration to boost diversity. If it doesn't happen, students said, they'll take a lesson from Missouri.

"We will look to organize like Missouri students if the administration is not keeping their end of the bargain of what they promised," said Capri’Nara Kendall, a senior at Michigan. "We're not afraid to organize."

Students at more than 20 colleges are planning solidarity demonstrations this week, including at Harvard, Columbia and Syracuse universities. Inspired by the Missouri case, students at Loyola University in Chicago and other schools are preparing a list of demands for their administrators.

Hundreds of students walked out of class on Wednesday at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and at New York's Ithaca College, to protest racial injustice on campus and to support minority students across the country. Black alumni at Georgia Tech are crafting a letter warning the university president to stay committed to diversity.

At the University of Missouri, weeks of protests reached a boiling point this week when the football team announced it would refuse to play until the school's president, Tim Wolfe, quit. Protesters accused Wolfe of ignoring racist attacks against students, amid other alleged missteps. He resigned on Monday.

Universities have vowed to address racially-charged issues, holding forums on diversity and pledging to review what changes might be necessary.

Yale President Peter Salovey said Wednesday the administration is developing initiatives focused on improving the campus climate and fostering diversity at the Ivy League school. Students there took to the streets after an Oct. 28 university email warning about racially insensitive Halloween costumes prompted a professor to complain that Yale and other campuses were becoming "places of censure and prohibition."
MU protests spur Ithaca College to demand president's resignation

ITHACA, N.Y. — Just two days after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned, an activist group at Ithaca College is now calling for their president to step down.

People of Color staged a solidarity walk that included up to 600 members of students and faculty demanding President Tim Rochon to leave his post.

Earlier this week, the Student Government Association sent out an email asking for a vote of no confidence in Rochon, due on Nov. 30th.

The whole issue stems from several reports of racism on campus, with students claiming that Rochon's responses have been insufficient.
College students across nation show support for MU on social media

Posted: Nov 12, 2015 3:59 AM by Phil Bergman, KOMU 8 News
Updated: Nov 12, 2015 8:22 AM

COLUMBIA- **College students across the country are showing their support for MU students by changing their statuses on Twitter and Facebook.**

On Wednesday, students at universities from Boston to Chicago started posting inspirational messages on social media using the hashtags #insolidaritywithMizzou and #concernedstudent1950. Many students posted a message that looked like the following:

"To the students of color at Mizzou, we, student allies at (specific college or university), stand with you in solidarity. To those who would threaten their sense of safety, we are watching."

Another common hashtag used was #insolidaritywithYale, in tribute to the ongoing racial protests going on at the Ivy League university.
Our Republic Will Withstand College Students Protesting

November 12, 2015 - 3:55am

By

John Warner

When I gave three cheers for student protests on Monday, it was because, in my experience, students are far too deferential to institutional authority, often absorbing an ethos that removes any sense of personal agency or freedom, the practicing of which I believe to be central to the undergraduate experience.

I understand this flies in the face of some of the “new PC” and “coddled students” narratives floating around, but I see those problems rooted in a culture where students expect authorities to protect them and solve their problems, as opposed to using their power to solve problems for themselves. If we want students to stop being “coddled,” we have to encourage them to self-advocate as strongly as possible.

Judging from some of the public comments here, there, and elsewhere, in the wake of protests at the University of Missouri and Yale, we apparently have much to fear as student “mobs” consisting of “thugs” engage in not just “un” but “anti” democratic actions meant to intimidate and destroy their political opposition.

If this is true, I’m trying to figure out how in just over a year, students at an elite university like Yale turned from William Deresiewicz’s "Excellent Sheep" into dangerous radicals who have the power to tear our very republic asunder.
Fortunately, I encountered Mark Oppenheimer writing in Tablet about the current controversy at Yale surrounding dueling administrative messages over culturally insensitive Halloween costumes that triggered a series of student protests (clearly rooted in much longer-simmering problems), one of which targeted for dismissal a faculty couple, Nicholas and Erika Christakis, who serve as house “masters” at one of the Yale residencies.

Oppenheimer’s essay was enlightening to me because of his particular perspective, having received both undergraduate (’96) and graduate (’03) degrees at Yale, before returning as an adjunct lecturer in 2006. His vantage point as student in one era and faculty in another gives him a particularly acute insight into how the specifics of the culture at Yale intersect with larger social issues and attitudes.

Oppenheimer argues that there is an ongoing issue when it comes to inclusiveness and providing a secure environment for minority students at Yale, and that these issues need to be taken seriously. He also sheds light on why the controversy over Halloween costumes, something that from the outside seems trivial relative to other issues, flashed into such a heated dispute. Oppenheimer says that associate house master Erika Christakis’s letter, “upset so many students in good part because it came from an administrator, and Yale students have a peculiar relationship with their administrators, whom they see less as bureaucrats facilitating their education than as surrogate parents—an association that Yale historically has encouraged, indeed touted.”

Oppenheimer believes that the specific culture of Yale, which encourages a kind of extreme version of in loco parentis embodied by the house “masters” is at work, “As master and associate master of Silliman College, Nicholas and Erika Christakis are not just figureheads: To 450 students, they are the mom and dad, the ones who superintend conversation, bonhomie, and alcohol-free fun for women and men old enough to drive, to vote, and, in other countries, to be drafted into the armed services.”

For students of color, Oppenheimer argues that Christakis’s email read like a betrayal, “So, when an associate master appeared to side with white kids who might assemble offensive Halloween costumes over black or brown kids who would be offended, she was, in effect, siding with one sibling over another.”
In this context, those extreme emotional reactions that so many seemed to find out of the bounds of “rational” discourse take a different shape, not as a statement of political conviction, but a cry of distress as to what is viewed by the students as a personal betrayal.

Oppenheimer argues that within the particular dynamic of Yale, students are “residents,” but they are “never full citizens.” “Rather, they are—they choose to be, and covet their position as—junior participants.”

Oppenheimer notes the same phenomenon I observe in students, that Yale students are extremely deferential to the adult authorities in charge. Students show “obsequious fealty” and are all too often looking to appeal to authority, and in seeking redress for grievances often seek relief from administration itself, rather than engaging in direct action[1].

In the videos of students protesting in front of the Christakises, Oppenheimer sees “hope” and asks for more protests. Oppenheimer wants students to “feel some derision toward us. I want them to feel unafraid. I want them to be capable of swearing. I want them to see us as flawed peers, fellow grown-ups -- not as mom and dad. Because if they see us as fellow adults, with strengths but also grave weaknesses, then they may realize that the solution to undermining Greek life on campus, or offensive, racist costuming at Halloween, is going to come from the entire Yale community -- them included.”

I join these sentiments. I look forward to a future where students take actions that don’t require, in Oppenheimer’s words, “the strong fist of administrative authority.” Maybe we see something of that future at Missouri, where the protests have been student-led (including a hunger strike, and the football team threatening not to play) and rather than appealing to administration to fix longstanding problems, sought the actual replacement of an administration that had lost the confidence of the community. Many people find these events objectionable, but to me, the actions seem in concert with well-established norms for non-violent protest and direct action.

As happens, things got messy. Protesters, including faculty, at Missouri engaged in a heated exchange with student press that involved some shoving and a call for
“muscle” by Professor Melissa Click to remove photojournalist Timothy Tai from the scene.

Click was justifiably criticized. While journalists don’t have a right to specific “coverage” of an event (they can’t coerce cooperation from subjects, for example), they have as much right to occupy public space as anyone else, and any attempt to evict them is wrong, something even Click acknowledged upon reflection as she apologized to Tim Tai (who was exemplary in his knowledge of and calm insistence on his rights) and the community at large.

Perhaps I am an outlier on this, but for me, the dispute over press coverage and its aftermath are just as much a positive byproduct in terms of the broad educational mission of universities as the protests themselves[2]. Conflict arose, things got heated, discussions ensued, and this particular problem got sorted out as the protesters and Professor Click recognized both a tactical and ethical error. Professor Click apologizes, Tim Tai (a student) accepts it, and we move forward to whatever is next.

Based on my own observations of the last several days, and informed by the spirited discussion[3] of the comments in my own previous post, I come away with the following thoughts, all of which are subject to revision, but feel pretty solid to my way of thinking at the moment.

1. The best way to deal with student protest is to both encourage it and to take it seriously. Students deserve a seat at the table as part of their own communities. As Roxane Gay argues in *New Republic*, “Student Activism Is Serious Business,” and many of the grievances raised are legitimate and longstanding. At Missouri, in the wake of the protests, a man was arrested for “suspicion of making a terrorist threat,” against black students at Missouri after threatening on Yik Yak to “shoot every black person I see.” Maybe this is ridiculous, twisted, racist bravado, but regardless, if I was a black student, I would not have wanted to walk through that campus following that threat. I do not know what college administrations can do about these things, but I do know, thanks to the activists at Missouri, the university community will be tasked with answering this question.

Taking protests seriously also requires protesters to be serious, and means administrations must decide what they can and cannot due in response. Too often, the
administrative move is to either ignore or alternatively placate protesters by caving in to demands which may or may not be reasonable and consistent with institutional values[4]. Administrations need to do the work of education, rather than instant public relations calculus. This may get painful and messy at times, but it beats the alternative of lurching from crisis to crisis without a compass to guide decision making.

2. Students lack institutional power, but they have leverage. This is perhaps particularly true of student athletes in big money sports. While the protests at Missouri have been building for months and span numerous issues, the tipping point appears to be the actions of the football team. I sort of hope the NCAA is shuddering over the prospects of wide swaths of athletes recognizing that they have the power to grind the gears of a multi-billion dollar industry that is dependent on their labor to a halt.

3. Protests that occasionally descend into emotional overreaction by individuals inside of the protest should not be automatically invalidated by those actions. The idea that protests must religiously adhere to “rational discourse” at every turn seems to be…I don’t know…anti-human nature and an unreasonable standard for public discussion. We all lose it from time to time, and often regret it upon additional thought. We should grant protesters the same grace we’d like for ourselves from others[5].

4. These things are always more complicated than we can know. Mark Oppenheimer’s testimony, as well as things like this annotation of the Christakis letter by a Yale alumna show that there are very school-specific factors interacting with other larger social issues. While the internet makes it easy (and fun) to practice our cultural warriorhood on these incidents, there’s always going to be something virtual bystanders are missing.

In that vein, I hope that those of us who work in education remain open to listening to the testimony of students regarding their experiences. If students tell me that they do not feel safe in a way that prevents them from engaging in the work of the college or university, I am obligated to first listen before I judge. Many students of color at Yale and Missouri have given testimony that their own campuses are hostile. We cannot dismiss these concerns until we have investigated, while at the same time being honest with students about the institutional limits to provide “safety.” My hope is that among educators, concern for student welfare trumps politics.
5. We will never separate protests from politics, but we can try to maintain some healthy perspective and stay grounded in our individual values as we discuss these issues. In the *Inside Higher Ed* story regarding Professor Click, I was pleased to see that some regular *Inside Higher Ed* commenters who I know to be no friends of the liberal professoriate nonetheless recognized that Professor Click apologized and need not face additional punishment. That others are calling for not only Professor Click’s dismissal but her prosecution for “battery” would be distressing, if the hypocrisy weren’t so apparent.

6. The republic will indeed stand. In the history of student protests, our present examples are rather tame. The idea that politically correct run-amok young people are going to somehow subjugate the nation to their totalitarian ways is belied by the generations of college students (including those whelped during the original campus PC hysteria) who have managed to graduate and be assimilated just fine into our democratic capitalist society.

Yale is never going to stop producing more hedge fund managers than political radicals, I promise.

[1] An example Oppenheimer uses is students appealing to administration to censor fraternities that engage in inappropriate or sexist behavior, rather than organizing a boycott of the parties where these behaviors students find objectionable occur.

[2] It also raises the issue that “press” is not an objective third party, but an institutional actor that can be critiqued and interrogated as well. Many perspectives on this can and should be shared.

[3] We had some pretty good fun, a little high dudgeon, a little mockery, and some actual substantive back and forth, all of which I engaged in myself. And we did it all without any death threats.

[4] If a speaker is invited to campus, the speaker should speak, and protesters should protest. This happens all the time, so we should know how to do it by now.

[5] Nicholas Christakis agrees, saying on Twitter, “No one, no(t) students exercising right to speech should be judged just on basis of short video clip.” This statement and the fact that no specific action has been taken yet at Yale indicates to me that the community is in the midst of a difficult process of sorting through these issues. The final result is yet to be known, but I see this as encouraging.
Beyond Yale and Mizzou

November 12, 2015

By
Fabio Rojas

Last week, students and administrators at Yale University fought over a series of racial incidents. A fraternity at the university was accused of excluding nonwhite women from a party. Students and administrators also argued over whether it was appropriate to curtail potentially offensive Halloween costumes. That conflict escalated when students confronted a residential administrator and accused him of not being sufficiently interested in creating a safe environment for students.

Events at the University of Missouri reflect similar tensions -- there were multiple allegations that the system president and campus chancellor did not properly respond to bigoted incidents, which led to protest and the two men’s resignations.

Observers and critics have been quick to label these incidents as more tales of overly sensitive students rubbing up against the demands of free speech. But that analysis misses the larger issue: colleges have two very different standards for student-administrator relations that are often in conflict.

The first standard might be called the procedural protection model. Emerging from the late 1960s, the idea is that students are responsible for their own actions and deserve due process in cases of misbehavior. This approach to students replaced an earlier legal doctrine called in loco parentis, whereby colleges and universities treated students as children. Professors and deans could punish students in nearly any fashion. Institutions could expel students at will. That system is now seen as harsh, but it was defended by
many people at the time as an appropriate tool for quickly responding to complaints about student disruption and violence. In loco parentis was overturned after federal courts argued that college attendance was more akin to membership in a union or other organization that had procedural protections. No longer could students be expelled on a whim. Since then, we’ve seen colleges and universities develop handbooks, speech codes and internal judicial processes for judging misconduct.

At the same time, colleges created an entirely different model for student-administrator relations that might be called the “cultivated community.” In this model, students expect a college to go beyond its basic mission of providing advanced instruction in various academic disciplines. Administrators should provide comfort and security for students. We can see this in the wide range of services that colleges provide, including health care, counseling and entertainment.

Furthermore, many colleges promote the idea that the campus is a place for collaborative learning -- that even though we may have heated debates, those disagreements serve to make students part of a larger intellectual community, not exclude them. Thus, the administrator interacts with students via his or her role as the manager of a community designed to improve student satisfaction and well-being. Colleges reinforce this view when they recruit students. Brochures depict students happily talking with professors or smiling in a laboratory. They often show students in a well-furnished dormitory or relaxing on a lawn with friends. Rarely do they show students in anger with a professor or administrator who states a political view they disagree with. Nor do they show students learning the difficult lesson that freedom of speech protects virtuous speech and vitriolic speech.

Often, these two approaches to student life peacefully coexist. But at other times, they come into direct conflict, especially when the demands for procedural protection make it hard for a college to maintain the support that students expect as a normal part of their college education.

For example, the regime of procedural protection suggests that administrators should be wary of regulating student Halloween costumes. It is not the job of administrators to legislate dress. If it were, deans would need to develop a costume code and judge violations of that code. Not surprisingly, few, if any colleges, have such a code. Yet what may seem intuitive from a procedural standpoint can seem inhumane from the perspective of the cultivated community. The lack of a widely accepted rule about offensive costume means that there is a real possibility that every Halloween a boorish student will dress as a Klansman, a Nazi or some other horrific figure. It is not hard to
see how many students would not feel properly supported if they routinely see Klansmen and Nazis on the quad.

At the University of Missouri, someone painted a swastika -- apparently with feces -- in a restroom. Understandably, students would want swift action from the highest level of the administration stating that this was not tolerated. Rules designed to protect procedural rights could lead to a delay in the investigation and response, suggesting that administrators did not prioritize an atmosphere of safety.

It might be tempting to dismiss these concerns as matters of free speech. This misses the basic point, however, that colleges, like businesses or churches, are allowed to ask their members to adhere to certain codes. Given that is the case, colleges have to recognize that they have standards for student-administrator relations that are occasionally in conflict. The administrator who tolerates a wide range of behavior and investigates violations with all due process is not the administrator who can promise that students will always feel comfortable on the campus.

Until we in higher education acknowledge that basic truth, we will continue to have disputes between administrators who want to let students say what they please and students who demand that college provide a wholly supportive and nurturing experience.

More Than Words

Leaders of U of Kansas, trying to avoid becoming the next U of Missouri, hold intense, lengthy meeting with hundreds of minority students. Can the university deliver what they want?

November 12, 2015

By Colleen Flaherty
LAWRENCE, Kans. -- Tim Wolfe’s speech announcing his resignation as president of the University of Missouri System this week was instructive to anyone following closely. “We stopped listening to each other, we didn't respond and react, we got frustrated with each other,” he said, announcing he was stepping down amid calls from students that he’d failed to address urgent concerns about racism on their campuses.

Among those watching the events unfold at Mizzou were administrators a few hours to the west, at the University of Kansas. Partly in response to tensions at Mizzou and elsewhere, including at Yale University, Kansas organized Wednesday what students on many other campuses have been asking for: a serious dialogue with key administrators about racism and campus climate.

The event, originally planned for one hour, stretched for two and a half, and many students stayed afterward to speak with individual administrators. Hundreds of students filled an auditorium and overflow room in the campus union, with some holding signs saying “Black lives matter,” “We will not be silenced” and other expressions of concern. It’s unclear whether the event will stave off the kind of tumult that’s rocked other campuses. Students insist that they want real change -- and it remains to be seen what the university can do. Still, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who moderated the event, assured students they were at least being heard.

“As a university there are a lot of things we need to do and we have to do, and I am dedicated to making changes to make this a place that is more welcoming, that is a place that is affirming of the identity of the different people and groups of people we have here,” Gray-Little said in closing the session.

She added, “I think it is a loss to the university and to this community if you come here [and] find this an alien place and don’t grow as a person and are not able to contribute. ... I’ll make a commitment to work with you on this.”

At least on the surface, the Kansas student body doesn’t share the same level of frustration about diversity issues as students at Mizzou. There’s been no hunger strike here, athletes are not involved in protests, at least not yet, and, perhaps importantly -- in contrast to white male leaders forced out at Missouri (including Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who also resigned) -- Gray-Little is a black woman. But dig a little bit deeper at Kansas -- like many other major universities -- and tensions are revealed. Black students make up just 4 percent of the population, and their four-year graduation rate is depressingly low by any measure, at just 15 percent, compared to 45 percent for their peers. Black professors make up just 3 percent of the
faculty, but the state's African-American population is 6 percent -- already much lower than the national average.

The university has plans in place to close the graduation gap, and both student and faculty diversity has increased significantly over the last decade. But students say the rate of change is too slow, and that they face everyday instances of racism that make them feel unwelcome on campus.

A dorm calendar reportedly was covered in racial slurs last year, and a fraternity and sorority skit featured an unflattering depiction of a stereotypical Mexican character called Paco. Numerous students Wednesday reported being called racial slurs both on and around campus.

Others said faculty members had insulted them, such as complimenting them for being well spoken or intelligent, seemingly despite their race. One freshman reported a professor telling her to “pass” on campus because she looked white, so she’d enjoy more privilege. That student and many others said they were planning to transfer due to the environment here. Another freshman said she was leaving the university at the end of semester because she’s experienced more racism in three months in Kansas than she had in 18 years in Texas.

At times, the chancellor struggled to connect with students, as others criticized her for not responding more directly or emotionally to their accounts. Among those displeased with Gray-Little’s approach was Kennedi Grant, leader of the multicultural student group called Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk. Grant said she was called racial slurs and violently grabbed just off campus on Halloween by a several men, and her friends were threatened with a gun. She said the university failed to sufficiently address the incident, and called Wednesday’s forum more of a publicity stunt than any real expression of concern for students of color.

“Do not be fooled,” Grant said, noting that the venue for Wednesday’s event was changed to a bigger room and that Gray-Little had replaced another administrator as moderator. The group presented a series of demands, including the immediate hiring of a new director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, diversity training for all faculty, students and staff, prompt publication of a campus climate survey, and a ban on concealed weapons on campus. Gray-Little said she’d take them into account.

It was perhaps easy to be cynical about the motivations behind Wednesday’s event. Student activism, which was subdued at Kansas for several decades, has increased greatly in the year since the protests in Ferguson, Mo., over the death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man. And even though Mizzou draws many more of its students from the St. Louis area -- perhaps a factor in the larger protests there -- the
University of Kansas is a just a few dozen miles over the Missouri state line. So there’s reason for the administration here to want to appease student protesters.

At the same time, Wednesday’s event felt authentic in many ways. Gray-Little fielded questions and faced student outrage for hours. She also asked students exactly what kind of accountability they wanted to see from the university. While some criticized her, saying it was hardly students’ job to lead highly paid people with Ph.D.s toward progress, others offered concrete ideas: make ethnic studies classes mandatory, said one white student, and educate away the ignorance plaguing the campus. Make diversity training mandatory for students and faculty -- similar to sexual assault training, said another student.

Shawn Alexander, a professor of African-American Studies, said students are desperate to talk to faculty members about their concerns. “Stop shutting your doors -- open your doors,” he said. “It’s a Research I institution, but we are here to teach,” too.

Jennifer Hamer, chair of American Studies and a professor of African and African-American Studies, has helped organize some of the student events stemming from the events in Ferguson last year. Asked if Kansas could become the next Mizzou, she said, “I think it could happen anywhere.” Hamer said she was advising students not to focus only on immediate goals, but long-term progress. Part of that will be looking at how Gray-Little acts on the ideas she heard Wednesday, if at all.

“It's not that [Kansas] is worse than anywhere else,” she said. But “the university should respond in some way that's meaningful. Even if it's a small step, it should specifically address students' demands.”

Clarence Lang, associate professor and chair of African and African-American Studies, said students Wednesday successfully disrupted what they saw as the university’s “brand,” and that was definitely not business as usual. The challenge now, he said, “is whether students will be able to translate their demands into an actual changes in university policies and procedures, and for that they’ll need faculty and staff support.”
There’s a good reason protesters at the University of Missouri didn’t want the media around

Students wanted to create a safe space from not only the racism they encounter on campus, but the insensitivity they encounter in the news media.

Video of a confrontation between a news photographer and protesters at the University of Missouri on Monday led to a dispute between journalists and the activists’ sympathizers beyond the campus walls. In response to a series of racial issues at the university, a circle of arm-linked students sought to designate a “safe space” around an encampment on the campus quad. When they blocked journalist Tim Tai from photographing the encampment, reporters complained that media were denied access to a public space.

Certainly, Tai – like any journalist – had a legal right to enter the space, given that it was in a public area. But that shouldn’t be the end of this story. We in the media have something important to learn from this unfortunate exchange. The protesters had a legitimate gripe: The black community distrusts the news media because it has failed to cover black pain fairly.

As a journalist, I understand how frustrating it is to be denied access to a person or place that’s essential to my story. I appeared with other journalists on local media in New York City to discuss our frustration over Mayor Bill de Blasio’s sometimes standoffish attitude towards the press. He is a public figure whose salary is paid with tax dollars. He is obligated to be accessible to us.

That was not the dynamic Tai encountered on Monday. These student protesters were not a government entity stonewalling access to public information or a public official hiding from media questions. They were young people trying to create a safe space from not only the racism they encounter on campus, but the insensitivity they encounter in the news media. In the outsized conversation that erupted about First-Amendment rights, journalists drowned out the very message of the students Tai was covering.

As journalists, we should strive to understand the motivations of the people we cover. In this case, black students at the University of Missouri have had a string of racist encounters on campus: The president of the students’ association has been called the N-word and other black students have been racially harassed while participating in campus activities. A Missouri journalism professor wrote in the Huffington Post that she has been called the n-word “too many times to count” during her 18 years at the university. In February 2010, black students woke up
to cotton balls strewn over on the campus yard. The crime, carried out by white students, was
designed to invoke the image of plantation slavery. University president Tim Wolfe resigned
Monday after graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a hunger strike to protest the very public
racism he and many black students believe the school did little to address.

Establishing a “safe space” was about much more than denying the media access; it was about
securing a rare space where their blackness could not be violated. Yes, the hunger strike, the safe
space and other student demonstrations were protests, and protests should be covered. But what
was fueling those protests was black pain. In most circumstances, when covering people who are
in pain, journalists offer extra space and empathy. But that didn’t happen in this case; these
young people weren’t treated as hurting victims.

To be clear, my objective is not to impugn Tai’s character or journalistic integrity. I agree that Tai
was doing his job and his past outstanding work speaks for itself. But in this conversation over
“public space,” we’ve overlooked the protesters’ message — that conditions on campus make it
an unbearable environment for black students to live and learn. Their approach to creating a safe
space probably could have been better thought out, but the media should feel a responsibility to
understand their motivations and respect their pain.

Further, as reporters, we have to drop our sense of entitlement and understand that not everyone
wants to be subjects of our journalism. Our press passes don’t give us the license to bully
ourselves into any and all spaces where our presence is not appreciated.

In many communities that historically have been marginalized and unfairly portrayed by the
media, there’s good reason why people do not trust journalists. There’s a tendency in
news media to criminalize black people’s pain and resistance to racial oppression. We saw it in
coverage of Ferguson and Baltimore, when news stations provided more coverage of broken
windows in their communities than of black pain.

The unfair portrayal of black people in the news media is well documented. In one study
analyzing news coverage by 26 local television stations, black people were rarely portrayed
unless they had committed a crime. A 2015 University of Houston study found that this
imbalanced coverage may lead viewers to develop racial bias against black people because it
often over-represents them in crime rates. Recognizing this kind of bias in news media, black
Twitter users started the #IfTheyGunnedMeDown hashtag to call out news images of Mike
Brown that many felt criminalized him in his death.

That black students would be skeptical of media is understandable. We’ve already seen the kind
of headlines they undoubtedly feared. In an Atlantic piece headlined “Campus Activists
Weaponize ‘Safe Space’,” Conor Friedersdorf calls the protesters a mob and insists they are
“twisting the concept of ‘safe space.’” Again, a journalist criminalizes black people for
expressing their pain. It was another piece centering the reporter’s privilege over the students’
trauma. Friedersdorf’s piece completely ignores the intolerable racial climate that forced the
students to establish a safe space in the first place.
There were other ways to cover these students’ protest without breaching their safe space and without criminalizing them. The human chain students formed provided ample b-roll and still photos. Students could have been interviewed outside of that space. I would have pitched a story to my editors with the headline, “Why Black Students Were Forced To Secure A Safe Space On A Public Campus.” But to do that requires self-reflection and not a condescending, self-absorbed soliloquy about the First Amendment.

For journalists, the Missouri protests are a big news story. For the black students we’re covering, however, it’s a fight for their humanity and liberation. Tai is correct: he was doing his job. But in that stressful moment he may have failed to realize that the space he wanted to enter was a healing one that black people had worked to secure.

Black pain is not an easy subject to cover, but the lesson we can take from this encounter at Missouri is that our presence as journalists, with the long legacy of criminalizing blackness that comes with it, may trigger the same harmful emotions that led to the students’ protests in the first place.

Chicago Tribune

Policing free speech at the University of Missouri

At the embattled University of Missouri, where the president and chancellor are stepping down, university police sent students an e-mail Tuesday urging them to call and report if they "witness incidents of hateful and/or hurtful speech." The e-mail urged witnesses to provide descriptions of the speakers and, if safe, snap pictures of them with their phones.

The First Amendment applies at a state university campus, and those who speak hatefully or hurtfully can't be criminally punished. But they can be penalized or expelled if they create an environment that’s hostile on the basis of race or sex. There’s a serious tension between these interests, and the Missouri e-mail raises a pressing question: Does the use of campus police to enforce anti-discrimination advance the goal of knowledge or detract from it?

The legal issues follow from those I wrote about in March when the University of Oklahoma expelled two fraternity members for leading a racist chant. On the one hand is the First Amendment, which guarantees free speech against state actors like a public university. On the other hand are federal laws that, as interpreted by the Department of Education, require the university to ensure it isn't a racially or sexually hostile educational environment. In practice, that certainly requires regulating some harassing, discriminatory speech.

Reconciling the tension between these laws isn't easy. The prevailing theory that allows the government to outlaw discriminatory speech acts is that the government isn't actually prohibiting
speech. It's prohibiting a course of conduct, namely discrimination. Discrimination can be accomplished by a range of means, one of which is speech.

There's not much case law to clarify the right way for courts to think about this analysis. At one time, campus anti-discrimination provisions would have only had to satisfy "intermediate scrutiny," meaning that any rule must serve an important government interest and use means substantially related to achieving it. The reasoning would've been that these laws are aimed at conduct and only burden speech incidentally.

But in a hugely important 2010 case, Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would apply "more rigorous scrutiny" to laws that are aimed at conduct but are applied to speech. Arguably this special standard should be applied to campus regulations that punish racist or sexist speech. The government's interest would have to be more significant, and the means more closely tailored to achieving it.

The courts will no doubt have to address these issues. Until they do, the current practice on many public university campuses will no doubt be to enforce anti-discrimination regulation rigorously.

That brings us to the question of whether the campus police are the right people to do that job. One of the issues that drove the protests at Missouri was a student leader's description of having been assailed with racial epithets while walking across campus.

No doubt the decision by the police to enforce a nonhostile educational environment is intended to send students the message that the university takes such hostile speech acts seriously and will deal with them rigorously. This intention can only be described as laudable.

Nevertheless, there's surely reason for some concern about the use of campus police, who are state actors at a public university, to enforce regulations that directly affect speech. A spokesman for the University of Missouri campus police told Reason.com that the police can't arrest anyone for discriminatory speech, but can "take reports for violations of rules and regulations." The campus police are employees of the university.

That distinction is legally correct, but may be confusing to a student accosted by uniformed officers. In general, campus police have the power to make arrests, at least while on campus. In this sense they're real police -- genuine agents of state power.

Given this unique status of campus police, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that the approach described in the e-mail might chill some legitimate free speech.

Imagine, if you will, student protesters who are in support of the university administrators who've resigned. Imagine that, at an on-campus protest, they say things that are "hateful and/or hurtful" to students of color. Following the guidance of the police e-mail, other students are encouraged to take pictures of the protesters and report them to the campus police. The campus police then arrive to investigate and take reports to see if the speech has created a hostile educational environment.
In this scenario, the protesters might very plausibly decide they should shut up and shut down. The fact that their words would almost certainly be protected political speech under the First Amendment might be of secondary importance to them, concerned as they might be about approaching campus police. This hypothetical would represent a pretty clear example of chilling -- which is a real First Amendment concern.

The University of Missouri has a responsibility under the law to keep its educational environment nonhostile. But if it insists on using police to achieve that goal, it should be extremely careful to respect free-speech rights in the process. The university should specifically train officers in respecting free speech, announce its policies and be transparent about the training to the campus community.

Noah Feldman, a Bloomberg View columnist, is a professor of constitutional and international law at Harvard and the author of six books, most recently "Cool War: The Future of Global Competition."

ACLU urges University of Missouri to better protect students' free speech

COLUMBIA, Mo. – **Free speech advocates are expressing concern that instructions from University of Missouri police on how students should report "hateful and/or hurtful" speech could stifle legitimate differences of opinion.**

A campus email sent Tuesday instructs recipients to call university police as soon as possible and notes that while such speech isn't always illegal, students can nonetheless be punished by the Office of Student Conduct.

The university's student conduct code prohibits harassment, which it defines as "unwelcome verbal or physical conduct" against "actual or perceived membership in a protected class ... that creates a hostile environment." The conduct code also forbids bullying, retaliation and threatening or intimidating behaviors.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri responded with a statement calling for the university to not compromise the right to free expression in its efforts to fight racism. Its statement says, "Mistakenly addressing symptoms — instead of causes — and doing it in a way that runs counter to the First Amendment is not the wise or appropriate response."
A University of Missouri police official referred questions about the email to the school's media relations office, which did not immediately respond.

The school's email spurred a libertarian-leaning student group, Young Americans for Liberty, to set up a "free speech wall" in a campus walkway Wednesday. The chapter's president, Ian Paris, said school administrators seem intent on quelling free speech, and members encouraged passers-by to write whatever they wanted on the large strip of paper.

"Basically, if your feelings are hurt the police are going to crack down on whoever hurt your feelings," Paris said. "I think that's terrifying, because I have opinions every single day that people find offensive or hurt their feelings because I disagree with them."

Authorities on Wednesday arrested a 19-year-old student at another Missouri campus, alleging he posted online threats about shooting black people on the Columbia campus. The threats were posted Tuesday, a day after the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus announced they were resigning amid student-led protests over their handling of racial issues.

ACLU: Missouri needs to protect students' free speech rights

Nov. 11, 2015
By SUMMER BALLENTINE and ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

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**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

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**Student protesters now welcoming reporters**

By ALAN BURDZIAK

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Calling the events a “learning experience,” an organizer with Concerned Student 1950 on Tuesday apologized for the group directing protesters the previous day to block journalists from having access to its campsite as hundreds filled Carnahan Quadrangle in a massive demonstration.

One of the original 11 members of Concerned Student 1950, Ayanna Poole, said some faculty members had advised the group from its inception to not speak with the media and that the organizers took their advice because of the trusted relationship. The group had been camping out since Nov. 2 and sought the removal of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe for what they saw as his lack of action on issues of racism on campus. One organizer, Jonathan Butler, staged a weeklong hunger strike that ended when Wolfe quit Monday.

After protesters and some reporters and photographers clashed Monday — including a confrontation between University of Missouri staff and faculty members and a student journalist captured on video — that sparked debates about freedom of speech and drew national criticism of Concerned Student
1950’s tactics, the organizers on Tuesday reversed course, taking down “no media signs” at the campsite and inviting journalists to visit and engage with members.

“We just saw the experience of having that many media here,” Poole said of Monday. “We’re not used to that. The only people that are probably used to having that many media in their face is the athletics department. With us not being used to it, it was definitely a learning process.”

On Tuesday evening, the campsite was dismantled and much of it was moved to the basement of the MU Student Center.

Elisa Glick, an associate professor in the English and Women’s and Gender Studies departments, was at the campsite Tuesday afternoon. Glick said some students had told her they were concerned they would not be fairly and accurately represented in the media, which could have been a factor in the previous policy of not engaging with journalists.

A professor at Mizzou for 15 years, she said she first went to the site over the weekend and had been there Monday and Tuesday to show that faculty supported the students.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

ACLU: Missouri needs to protect students' free speech rights

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE AND ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

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Follow Summer Ballentine on Twitter at https://twitter.com/esballentine and Alan Scher Zagier at https://twitter.com/azagier
Reporter Tim Tai speaks on camera for first time since viral video

COLUMBIA - **The MU student who has gained national attention for a viral video is opening up to KOMU 8 News for the first time.** Tim Tai sat down with us Wednesday to talk about the incident.

It started on the Carnahan Quadrangle on MU's campus Monday morning, shortly after former UM System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation. Tai said he got down there just minutes later to try and document the crowd's reaction for ESPN.\n
"They kind of decided it was over, and they wanted the media to leave," Tai said. "Soon, students began linking arms and forming in a circle around the quad."

That's when video started rolling and things got more heated. Tai said he wanted to try and get pictures of students and demonstrators linking arms in front of the tents planted on Carnahan Quad.

"Immediately, there were people putting their hands in my face over my camera," Tai said. Protesters were seen on video telling Tai he had no right to take their pictures in the public area.

"We can debate the ethics of whether I should take the photo or not later," Tai said. "Saying you have no right to, is false."

The situation continued to escalate as another reporter was recording the incident the whole time. KOMU 8 News spoke to a demonstrator Tuesday who said Tai had gotten physical with those on the quad.

"He was like 'get out of my face' and he pushed her back," Briahna Martin said. "That's when that other student got really upset."

Tai denies that saying, "Personally, I don't think I was being aggressive. I never intentionally shoved anyone or pushed anyone. I did try to stand my ground when they were shoving me."
The confrontation quickly gained steam on social media and on YouTube. As of early Wednesday afternoon, the original YouTube video had more than 2 million views. Tai told us he did not want to become part of the story by shifting the focus away from the reason students were protesting.

"At a certain point you have to kind of accept that you are part of the story," Tai said. "I can't remove myself from being part of the story."

Tai said he had no idea the video would gain as much attention as it has. He said he knew someone was recording him, but he did not expect it to end up online. Moving forward, Tai said there are things he would change about the incident if he had the chance.

"If I had to do it over again, I wouldn't have engaged as much," Tai said. "It's unfortunate that what occurred was a bunch of shoving."

MU Assistant Professor Melissa Click was seen in the video asking for help to remove a reporter from the scene. Tai said he spoke to Click on the phone Tuesday and received an apology. Tai said he accepted the apology and has no hard feelings against her.

Click and MU employee Janna Basler both issued apologies for the conduct in the video Tuesday. The two said they are appreciative of journalists' work.

Column: To journalists covering Mizzou protests, please take a breath

Embrace complexity; sometimes a story is about more than right and wrong.

During Monday’s protests on Carnahan Quad, student protesters and faculty members clashed with reporters, notably a student photographer, over the protesters’ right to privacy. They attempted to restrict media with signs reading “No Media, Safe Space” or by physically restraining reporters by forming a human circle around the quad.

Most columns are arguments, but this isn’t an argument. It’s not as simple as right and wrong, one side or another. This is a plea. Not to see things my way or your way or their way, but in multiple ways. Let us strive for empathy in our thoughts and actions.

First things first, the behavior of the protesters and the university employees who aided them was illegal. MU is a public university, and Carnahan Quad is a public space. The First Amendment guarantees journalists the same rights to that ground as the protesters and gives the protesters no right to restrain the journalists in any way. That much is inarguable.
However, let’s ask all the indignant journalists to put away their newfound law degrees for a moment and think beyond what’s legal.

Try to put yourself in the shoes of a young protester or a college professor trying to shield those young protesters, especially protesters who are young, black and have something to say. They’re trying to have a human moment of celebration with the other people who engineered their victory, not the journalists who want to cover their victory. Wouldn’t you be scared of putting your message in the hands of a largely white group of professionals that has no apparent interest, other than their own good faith and professional responsibilities, to tell your stories accurately?

“There’s a lot of mistrust,” said Cristina Mislan, an assistant professor at the School of Journalism. “We (minorities) don’t necessarily always trust mainstream media to tell our stories the way we think they should be told because the history shows us that, time and again, we’ve had narratives that have demonized us or made us into violent people. There are so many different stereotypes, and those stereotypes continue to be told (in the mainstream media). And we know those stereotypes because we live them.”

Dr. Mislan teaches courses on qualitative research methods and cross-cultural journalism. She feels people of color and entire communities remember the mainstream media coverage of past protest movements.

“That mistrust comes from that historical relationship,” Mislan said. “We have concrete examples of it in Ferguson and Baltimore, and we know that — these communities know that. It’s kind of public knowledge.”

You can’t possibly understand what they’re going through unless you’ve been where they are, but you can try to cover the gap in understanding with empathy rather than aggression. Those people often suffer from misrepresentation in the media, and it’s not unreasonable for them to be wary of such misrepresentation here and now. Are you, as journalists, prepared to vilify a movement over the understandable, while perhaps ill-conceived, actions of a few well-intentioned protesters?

This is the point at which all journalists say, “Well, I’m not racist!” or “Well, I only want to tell their stories!” But how can they know that? How can they differentiate between those who intend to do good, honest work and those with an agenda? They can’t.

That’s not a personal indictment against individual journalists, but against the depictions of people of color in mainstream media. Think of how media, even beyond Fox News, portrayed those riots and protests in Ferguson and Baltimore over the past year. CNN and NBC, as mainstream as any media outlets, were just as guilty of searching out conflict for their viewers who expected to see angry young black men. Why should these protesters expect to be covered differently?

I know, you, the journalists, were trying to cover it fairly and accurately. I know you were trying to document important events in the history of this university. I know the protesters made serious mistakes, mostly choosing a public space and yet still expecting absolute privacy on their terms.
I know you had no intentions of telling a slanted story or portraying these protesters in a certain way. But look around at some of the coverage of these events already (see: Travis, Clay and Review, National). Maybe some media members were.

“Context, context, context,” Mislan said.

There aren’t two sides to every story. Sometimes someone is wrong and someone is right. But this isn’t one of those times; there are two sides to this story. Both are worth acknowledging and trying to understand.

Please, journalists, try not to make the story about your frustrations or your jobs. Not everything illegal is inherently wrong, not everything wrong is inherently illegal.

Empathy, empathy, empathy.

How 4 Missouri Professors Are Teaching About a Free-Speech Furor

After a faculty member drew widespread scorn for trying to block reporters from covering campus protesters, the incident came up in the classroom

By Katherine Mangan NOVEMBER 12, 2015

COLUMBIA, MO.

When protesting students at the University of Missouri handed out fliers to the news media this week welcoming their coverage, it was an abrupt about-face for a group that had been roundly criticized for ordering reporters and photographers away the day before.

For the students, who were flush with victory after the forced resignations of the university’s top two administrators, the First Amendment backlash that threatened to overshadow their accomplishment was a "teachable moment," they wrote.

This week faculty members across the university, but particularly in the School of Journalism, were taking that idea to heart, incorporating discussions about free speech and the rights of protesters into classroom discussions.
On Friday the university will ask some of those faculty members to share their lessons in a panel discussion with their colleagues.

One topic that students have been eager to talk about is the tension that erupted between the protesters and the national media, whose members descended on this campus after a graduate student’s hunger strike and a threatened boycott by football players intensified pressure on the administration to yield to the students’ demands.

A Viral Video, a Swift Backlash

Like many activists who communicate on social media, they initially treated the journalists as a threat and an unnecessary intrusion into their protest.

Student journalists, classmates of the activists at the university, were among those who were repeatedly warned to stay out of the protesters’ encampment. At one point, the activists formed a protective circle around the tent city, holding hands to keep outsiders away.

Organized under the name Concerned Student 1950, for the year the university admitted its first black student, the group tweeted to the news media: "We truly appreciate having our story told, but this movement isn’t for you."

In a video that went viral, an assistant professor of mass media, Melissa Click, ordered Tim Tai, a student journalist who was on assignment for ESPN, to leave, at one point asking for "muscle" to get him to back off.

The backlash was swift and severe, coming from faculty members at the university’s renowned journalism school and beyond.

On Tuesday, Ms. Click resigned from what the university described as a "courtesy" appointment at the journalism school, according to a written statement by the journalism dean, David Kurpius. That position had allowed her to serve on dissertation committees.

Ms. Click, who issued a formal apology this week, remains an assistant professor in the department of communication, which is separate from the journalism school.

Then on Wednesday, the university announced that Janna Basler, its director of Greek life, had been placed on leave pending an investigation of her conduct. She had been seen on the video angrily confronting Mr. Tai.
Teaching the Unrest

Following is a sampling, in their own words, of how a few professors at Missouri examined in their classes this week the issues raised by the dramatic events of recent days.

Brett G. Johnson, an assistant professor of journalism studies:

We brought it up yesterday in my "Principles of American Journalism" class to highlight the competing interests involved and to consider whether the human wall the protesters formed was protected speech or unprotected conduct. The protesters’ message was that they wanted to protect the sanctity of their tent city. But if creating a wall denies the press their First Amendment rights to cover the rally, that could cross over the line into unprotected conduct.

We compared it to the debate over burning the American flag or yelling "Death to America." The Supreme Court, in a divided decision, said both are equally protected because the message is closely tied to the means of expression. But when you burn the flag, you aren’t infringing on anyone’s right to revere the flag. When you form a human wall to keep the press out, you’re preventing them from doing their job.

These are sensitive and confusing enough issues for first-year constitutional-law students, but I thought our first-year college students handled it well. They said they really appreciated my not indoctrinating them but letting them debate the issues.

Sandra Davidson, a teaching professor in the School of Journalism and adjunct professor of law:

I teach about the First Amendment, and protesting is an important part of that. This was not the first time that the University of Missouri has seen students protesting racial inequities. In 1987 shantytown protesters built ramshackle little shanties on Francis Quadrangle to symbolize the poverty and oppression in South Africa.

Although 41 protesters were arrested for trespassing, only one stood trial — a journalism student. The defendant won. The defense against trespassing in this case was that the quadrangle is a public forum, open to the public 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The judge agreed.

We talked in class this week about how the students won in the shantytown case, and it’s fair to say our students scored another win this week. We talked about the doctrine of standing in: When someone is in a public forum in public view, he or she doesn’t have a reasonable expectation of privacy. This doctrine gives journalists or anyone else the right to photograph someone.
But we also talked about ethical restraint, particularly in times of tragedy or disasters. Just because you have the legal right to take pictures, should you? In the video that’s gone viral, you see a photographer, and the student says something to the effect of "You have no right to take pictures here." Yes, he did have a right. I always begin and end the class by saying "knowledge is power." When someone says you can’t do that, I want the journalist to know, Oh yes you can, so the journalist won’t back down.

Cristina Mislán, an assistant professor of journalism studies:

In my class in cultural journalism studies, I talked about the importance of understanding that students of color were concerned about their safety because they don’t have safe places on campuses. This was a way for them to have privacy in what was also their living space.

People of color make their own media because they don’t trust mainstream media to do anything other than treat them as stereotypes. When you look at the way the uprisings in Ferguson and Baltimore were described, we often see portrayals of ourselves that reinforce the idea that black people are violent and they just want to riot.

I think there was a concern that the media doesn’t know us and they think of us as angry black people and wonder why we’re protesting. What’s their big issue?

When the president’s resignation was announced, it was a really emotional moment, and then everyone descended on that space and it was a bit of mayhem. The journalists had a right to be in that space, but the activists did too.

The conversation is much more complicated than what you see in the video. The national conversation with journalists up in arms became kind of a distraction. We’ve gotten away from the real issue. We need to move forward to change the system and now we’ve gotten caught up in another conversation.

John Fennell, associate professor of journalism

One of the students in my intermediate writing class who had covered the events at Ferguson and had been at the rally emailed me and asked if we could use class time to discuss what had happened. So much of the debate was over what was right and what was not.

All of the students understood their role, and almost all were horrified by the videos of people not being able to cover the news. I expected more outrage. But generally they felt that, as reporters, they needed to be more sensitive to what was happening to this group.
They said that so many journalists had descended on the campus that these young kids were feeling a little threatened. When people are putting cameras in your face or recording your conversations with a television camera, it can be intimidating.

When I asked them what the most important takeaway for them was, it was that sometimes you have to be aggressive to get the news, but you can still be empathetic to the group you’re covering.

We also talked about the things that went wrong. There was nobody advising them. It was so spontaneous that there was no one with a megaphone to say, "Wait a minute guys — this is a public space." Like any kind of mob action, emotion takes over, and emotion combined with inexperience can lead to scenes like this.

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**Police request for reports of hurtful speech draws civil liberties group's ire**

**By ALAN BURDZIAK**

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

An email from the University of Missouri Police Department asking people to report incidents of hateful or hurtful speech and actions has drawn the ire of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri.

The email, sent Tuesday morning, directed people who witness any such incident to contact MUPD and give a detailed account but cautioned that hurtful and hateful speech is not a crime. Any reports that involve students will be sent to MU’s Office of Student Conduct for a disciplinary review, the email said.

Later in the day, Jeffrey Mittman, executive director of the ACLU of Missouri, issued a statement condemning the email. Mittman said the request “simultaneously does too much and too little.”

“Racial epithets addressed to a specific person in a threatening or intimidating manner can be illegal, and may require action by police and/or university administrators,” Mittman said. “No governmental
entity has the authority to broadly prohibit ‘hurtful’ speech — or even undefined ‘hateful’ speech, or to discipline against it.”

MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer said the department’s policy of taking reports on hate speech has been in place for “quite some time.” He said police take the reports and proceed depending on the circumstances. Administrative action might be taken against students who violate MU rules, policies or regulations, Weimer said.

Weimer said the department sent out the email to remind people about the policy. “It was simply to do what we’ve already been doing” and “to make sure that student faculty and staff know.”

Mittman said institutional racism and inaction does require something to be done, but “addressing symptoms — instead of causes — and doing it in a way that runs counter to the First Amendment is not the wise or appropriate response.

“Missourians can rightfully expect our public university to establish policies and practices that proactively educate administrators, faculty, staff and students about the causes of, and solutions to, systemic racism and inequality, and that comports with the right to free speech and expression,” he wrote.

Student group cancels Wednesday night march

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The ConcernedStudent1950 group has cancelled a Wednesday night march due to bad weather. The Twitter account (@CS_1950) for the group tweeted out Wednesday afternoon they planned on meeting at 5:30 p.m at the Black Cultural Center on the University of Missouri's campus.

ABC 17 News will have crews at that march. Tweets from the group's account also warn people not to donate money. They say people are asking for money on behalf of the group. ConcernedStudent1950 said they are not asking for donations.
When it comes to Concerned Student 1950, we cover because we care

By MATTHEW SANDERS

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The football players spoke, and the heavens opened up and showered the attention of the national media upon Columbia.

That was Saturday. Never mind that a University of Missouri graduate student already had been on a hunger strike for six days — the story really only took on major national significance when America’s biggest sport, football, became part of the plot and the power elite fell in the face of pressure it could not weather.

Sure, some of the more astute institutions of national journalism already had started to pay attention. The Washington Post, for instance, turned its gaze upon the Midwest before football came into the mix. But for the big cable news outlets, the pigskin drama was the real draw.

Within a few days, they’ll be gone. Maybe it won’t even take that long. However, the struggle here in Columbia will remain.

The University of Missouri’s leadership structure is now a smoking ruin that must be rebuilt. Meanwhile, students and activists will continue to push for policies to combat racism and create a more inclusive campus and city. And here in Columbia, we all will continue to live with the consequences of the past week’s events.

Just as the story will go on after the gaze of the big national media has turned elsewhere, it was happening long before those reporters knew it was happening. Last year, the MU campus ignited with protests after Michael Brown was shot by a white police officer in Ferguson. Students, black, white and all over the racial spectrum, demanded proper treatment of minorities, more diversity among the student body and faculty and more education about racial inequality across campus.

Some of them were the same students who would later become Concerned Student 1950.
What happened at MU this week wasn’t just a flash in the pan. It goes back a long time — decades even. The spark of Ferguson reignited the calls for social justice, and it took a little more than a year for them to reach a climax in this week’s leadership shakeup. I’m positive it won’t end there.

All along, local reporters — such as the talented professionals here at the Tribune — have been covering the story. We do not cover it because we see a sensational story that will get clicks and increase circulation. We cover it because we live here and we care about our community, and it’s our job to inform our readers about what is happening around them. We don’t circle like sharks who smell blood in the water. That’s not our style. We have to live here, too.

It’s understandable that the Concerned Student 1950 protesters want their story to go national, even international. They want to create change, and, for them, the more the better. That’s not unreasonable. The bright spotlight of big media spreads their message. Good for them.

Last week, one of our reporters covering a Concerned Student 1950 event came back with a troubling story. The protest leaders were loudly telling students, in front of reporters, not to speak to reporters. Reporters have an agenda and don’t care about their movement, they said. The message was loud and clear — they saw us as their enemies.

That animosity boiled over Monday, when protesters quarreled with and used their bodies to block journalists from covering the story in a public space. Within 24 hours, the tone had changed. Protesters removed “No Media” signs and distributed fliers to the campers telling them to welcome media and acknowledging reporters’ First Amendment rights to be on the Carnahan Quadrangle. That’s progress.

The protesters’ statements last week about reporters really are more applicable to the national journalists who on Monday descended on Columbia in a frenzy. The big media saw a glitzy story, with plenty of conflict, playing on possibly the biggest social issue in America today. Not to say our journalist cousins from major metropolitan areas don’t care about what’s at stake, but they parachuted in when things got crazy — they have not been here on the ground for these long months, recording what has happened, as evidenced by the many details the talking heads got wrong (It’s Tim Wolfe, not Tom Wolfe, for instance).

I won’t say the national media don’t care about the Concerned Student 1950 movement. But I can say without a doubt that we in the local media do care. As journalists, we do our jobs without injecting our biases and opinions into the process. But our lack of advocating for the cause does not mean we don’t care. Quite the opposite. We cover because we care. We cover because we live
here, and covering the story is our way of contributing something positive to the community. A society is undoubtedly made better by informed citizens.

Long after the spotlight has faded, we’ll still be here, writing the stories about what happens at MU, in Columbia and in Central Missouri. We don’t chase the big story from place to place — we slog away, writing about the exciting and the mundane.

We are not the enemy — we are as much a part of this as you are. I hope the students, the faculty and everyone else who cares about what has been happening here for so long remember that.

Reporters are people, too.

**Matt Sanders is the city editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune.**

**Concerned Student 1950 dismantles campsite on quad**

**By MEGAN FAVIGNANO**

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri students dismantled their campsite on Carnahan Quadrangle on Tuesday night, exactly one week after first setting up their tents.

Members of Concerned Student 1950, a group of student activists protesting a climate of racial tension at MU, started sleeping in tents on the quad last Tuesday as part of a larger effort calling for UM System President Tim Wolfe’s ouster. Student protesters said Wolfe had been negligent in dealing with race issues on campus.

Wolfe resigned Monday, but the campsite remained as students began discussing their next steps to push for a more inclusive campus.

Students decided to dismantle the campsite before storms were forecast to roll through the region Wednesday. Students taking down tents and packing up food Tuesday night said they were not sure whether the camp would be set up again after the storms no longer were an issue.
Michelle Froese, spokeswomen for Missouri Student Unions, said the university invited students with Concerned Student 1950 to store belongings from their campsite in the MU Student Center. Froese said students were allowed to sleep in the student center basement Tuesday night to ensure they were not camping outside when storms hit.

Froese said MU might extend the invitation to allow students to stay a Wednesday night if severe weather strikes.

A student at the campsite Tuesday, who would not give her name and only identified herself as Concerned Student 1950, said students were working on ways to stay connected. She said she became friends with students she would not have met without the campsite.

“Being with them these couple days, we’ve bonded,” she said. “We’re really good friends now, and I don’t want that to go away after this is over.”

This story was first published online on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 9:45 p.m.

MSA president apologizes for sharing false rumors of KKK on MU campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The Missouri Student Association president is apologizing for posting false information claiming the Ku Klux Klan was on the Mizzou campus.

On Tuesday night, Payton Head tweeted that he was "working with" University of Missouri Police, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the National Guard after the KKK had been "confirmed to be sighted on campus."
Head warned fellow students to take precaution and stay away from the windows in residence halls.

He deleted the statement later when the MU Alert system put out a statement saying there was no immediate threat to campus, and asked people to not spread rumors of threats. Head later posted a statement, apologizing for sharing misinformation. He said he was concerned for the students, and wanted to ensure that everyone was safe.

"I received and shared information from multiple incorrect sources, which I deeply regret," Head said. "The last thing needed is to incite more fear in the hearts of our community."

He said he takes complete blame and fault for his actions. Head advised people to only get their information from the MU Alert system's website or Twitter page.

Black campus community meets to discuss atmosphere after threats

Posted: Nov 11, 2015 9:41 PM by Alex Farkas and Jenna Middaugh, KOMU 8 Reporters

COLUMBIA - Members of the black campus community joined together Wednesday night to discuss the healing process following the recent events on the MU campus.

Students and out-of-town supporters marched and chanted from the Black Culture Center to the MU Student Center.

One participant said it was all about community building.
"I think students were able to connect with others," Reuben Faloughi said. "I think it can be, being at a predominantly white institution, it can be isolating some times. You can feel like you're the only one or nobody else understands your experience, but here I think you can come and share those lived experiences, no matter what color you are and build from there."

After marching to the student center, the students formed discussion groups to talk about the atmosphere on campus after threats on the social media app Yik Yak.

"It was traumatizing, particularly for the black community that was directly threatened and so we wanted to create spaces where people could process those feelings and thoughts because there's not many spaces on campus to do that," Faloughi said.

Faloughi said about 150 people participated.

He said an agreement was made with the university to keep the basement of the Student Center open for out-of-town supporters and others to stay the night.

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November 11, 2015 by Andy Thomason

#BlackOnCampus Draws Attention to African-American Students’ Experiences

Just days after helping to force two prominent University of Missouri leaders to resign, leaders of the activist group Concerned Student 1950 have put out a call for African-American students to share their college experiences on Twitter:

The call has resonated with many observers. Here’s a sampling of responses:
Twitter users are using the hashtag "#BlackOnCampus" to share stories of racism experienced on college campuses around the nation.

See more responses at: http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/blackoncampus-draws-attention-to-african-american-students-experiences/106580
These tweets come days after student and faculty protests influenced University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to step down. The hashtag also comes after a Northwest Missouri State University student was arrested on suspicion of making racist and violent threats on the anonymous messaging app Yik Yak.

Here are some of the tweets.

Jasmine
@Jazzysaywho

In the 5 years I attended Mizzou, living on and off campus, I never felt safe.
#blackoncampus
12:03 PM - 11 Nov 2015

JB.
@_JonathanButler

Black students being a population of 7% on a campus of 35,000+ #BlackOnCampus
Retweeted by Jazzysaywho
12:12 PM - 11 Nov 2015

@MannyIlogu

when you get the highest grade in the class and your professor accuses you of cheating #BlackOnCampus
6:39 PM - 11 Nov 2015

Brotha B
@BlakeDontCrack

Being #BlackOnCampus means that administration puts us on a "diversity flier" then the campus treats us like second class citizens.
5:52 PM - 11 Nov 2015
afroamericano sunnyd
@dejwej

#BlackOnCampus feeling the need to tone down my emotions- including anger- because of the fear of being seen as "ratchet" or "ghetto"
4:10 PM - 11 Nov 2015

\[ [...].\]
@antinewblack

#BlackOnCampus Tired of being the representative for your race in class, but knowing if you don't speak up for people of color, no one will
1:36 PM - 11 Nov 2015

Philip Lewis
@Phil_Cosby_

Sitting in lecture halls like #BlackOnCampus https://t.co/CMBB8GJK60

1:24 PM - 11 Nov 2015

Johnetta Elzie
@Nettaaaaaaa

I don't remember any black professors at my college. Even my African studies professor was an old white man #BlackOnCampus
Sophia M Echavarria
@Sechavar

Gets hair pressed out. "Why don't you wear it like that all the time?" #BlackOnCampus

TariqToure
@TariqToure

Freshman year of college I was accused of finishing math exam "too fast" by a white teacher at my HBCU and was given an F. #blackoncampus

Missouri Police Apprehend Suspect in Yik Yak Threats
November 12, 2015

The University of Missouri at Columbia announced Wednesday that police officers have apprehended the person they believe made threats Tuesday via Yik Yak. "The suspect is in MUPD custody and was not located on or near the MU campus at the time of the threat," said the alert from the university. Reports of online threats to kill black people at the university circulated widely last night and this morning. While the university has increased security on campus, the institution is operating on a normal schedule. Tensions at the university, where many black students say that they have experienced racist acts and a hostile environment, have run high amid protests that led to the ousters of the campus...
chancellor and system president. The university is encouraging people not to spread rumors and to report any security concerns.

Authorities identified the suspect as Hunter Park, 19, a sophomore at Missouri University of Science and Technology, and he was charged with making a terroristic threat.

Also charged Wednesday with making a terroristic threat on Yik Yak to kill black people was Connor B. Stottlemyre, a freshman at Northwest Missouri State University, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Authorities said that this threat did not specifically mention the University of Missouri.

Police apprehend second person in Missouri social media threats

Authorities in Missouri have apprehended a second person suspected of making threats on social media.

The Northwest Missouri State University student was taken into custody around midday Wednesday at his residence hall, campus police said.

"University Police had received a report that the suspect made threats on Yik Yak, a social media application, to harm others," a university statement said.

The developments came in the wake of protests at the University of Missouri that brought down two school officials.

Reports of racially charged threats have permeated social media. There was also a rumor the Ku Klux Klan had arrived on the Columbia campus, which turned out to be baseless.

Yik Yak is a social media app that allows users to share anonymous messages, or Yaks, with others in a 5-mile radius.
The first arrest was logged by campus police at the University of Missouri in Columbia, some 200 miles from Northwest Missouri State in Maryville. They said Hunter M. Park, 19, was arrested early Wednesday for also posting threats on Yik Yak and other social media.

Park, who is from Lake St. Louis and is not a Mizzou student, was transferred to the campus police department, charged with making a terrorist threat and transferred to Boone County Jail where he was held on a $4,500 bond, police said. He was "contacted" by police 90 miles away in Rolla.

It was unclear how police homed in on the suspect. One of the app's developers, Brooks Buffington, told CNNMoney earlier this year that while federal law prohibited the sharing of personal information, "in cases of imminent threat or harm or something like that, we work with law enforcement to do what we can."

Even before the arrest was announced, campus police had said there was no imminent danger.

"Students need to be aware of what is going on, but right now there is no active threat on campus," police spokesman Maj. Brian Weimer said.

"The campus is not on lockdown. There is heightened awareness due to the national attention we are getting, but again the reports you are seeing on social media are largely inaccurate."

Online Threats Against Blacks Net Arrest at Missouri Campus

A white college student suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty at the University of Missouri was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat, adding to the racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top administrators to resign earlier this week.

Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore studying computer science at a sister campus in Rolla, was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. at a residence hall, authorities said. The school said no weapons were found. Boone County prosecutors announced the criminal charge later Wednesday and recommended that he be held without bond.
Park, who is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, was jailed in Columbia, about 75 miles to the northwest.

The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app YikYak and other social media, threatened to "shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia.

Another threat said: "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow." The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

Because the county courts were closed for Veterans Day, Park was not expected to appear before a judge until at least Thursday. The prosecutor's office didn't immediately respond to an email asking whether Park had an attorney, and no information about the case is listed online. Prosecutors also didn't immediately release the probable cause statement, which would include more details about the case.

A message left by The Associated Press on Park's mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

Authorities were also investigating two other threats on YikYak involving other campuses in Missouri. One was leveled at the Rolla campus by someone saying, "I'm gonna shoot up this school." In the other case, a student at Northwest State University in Maryville was arrested Wednesday morning for allegedly posting, "I'm gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready." Northwest Missouri State spokesman Mark Hornickel told several media outlets that authorities hadn't linked the incident to threats at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus.

When the first threat emerged, the Columbia school's online emergency information center tweeted, "There is no immediate threat to campus," and asked students not to spread rumors.

Park has excelled academically in science. As a senior at Wentzville's Holt High School in early 2014, he was a member of the school district's robotics team when he won the honors division for a project titled "A Novel Method for Determination of Camera Pose Estimation Based on Angle Constraints."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the project advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.

A spokeswoman for the Rolla school, Mary Helen Stoltz, said she did not know whether the university planned to take any action against Park over his arrest.
On Wednesday, student foot traffic in Columbia was light as freshman Megan Grazman was on her way to class. Although she said she felt safe, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town. It's kind of eerie."

Yixiang Gao, a Chinese student from Shanghai, said he also felt safe, but he described the campus climate as "very heavy." He said his black roommate was not going to class.

Also Wednesday, the university said an employee who was among those who clashed with a student photographer during campus protests was placed on administrative leave while her actions are investigated.

Janna Basler is the school's director of Greek life. The videotaped clash helped fan a debate about the free press. Basler did not return a message seeking comment.

A communication professor also drew criticism for trying to stop a photographer from taking pictures. Melissa Click apologized Tuesday.

Months of protests culminated in a tumultuous week on the Columbia campus.

Back in September, the student government president reported that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing the protest movement. Last week, a graduate student went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Then more than 30 members of the Missouri football team refused to practice or play in support of the hunger striker. Those developments came to a head Monday with the resignation of Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the top administrator of the Columbia campus.

Some students, faculty and alumni have said the protests and top leaders' resignations are the culmination of years of racial tension.

Among other recent events, members of the Legions of Black Collegians, whose founders include a recently retired deputy chancellor, said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student while practicing for a homecoming performance.

The university has promised changes.

Chuck Henson, a black law professor and associate dean, was appointed Tuesday as the university's first-ever interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

The university system's governing body, the Board of Curators, also announced other initiatives, including offering more support for hiring and retaining diverse faculty and staff and performing a full review of all policies related to staff and student conduct.

The board met for three hours Wednesday evening in an emergency closed session, but made no announcement afterward.
Board member John Phillips emerged and said, "Nothing to share tonight. There may be something tomorrow afternoon."

Phillips was the only board member present on campus; he spoke with the other members by phone.

**The Washington Post**

**University of Missouri police arrest suspect in social media death threats**

A 19-year-old white man was arrested Wednesday by University of Missouri police for posting threats to the racially roiled campus on social media, authorities said.

Hunter M. Park was taken into custody around 1:50 a.m. Wednesday, according to MU police. He has been charged with “making a terroristic threat,” Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel Knight said in a news release, which was tweeted by a Columbia Daily Tribune reporter.

Police didn’t specify what the threats were, but the campus in Columbia was shaken Tuesday by anonymous threats directed toward students of color.

“I’m going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see,” read one post on the anonymous message app Yik Yak.

“Some of you are alright,” began another post. “Don’t go to campus tomorrow.”

“We’re waiting for you at the parking lots,” read a third anonymous post. “We will kill you.”

Also on Wednesday, Northwest Missouri State University Police arrested freshman Connor Stottlemyre on suspicion of making threats on social media, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Stottlemyre allegedly took to Yik Yak Tuesday to post the message, “I’m gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready,” university spokesman Mark Hornickel told the newspaper.

University of Missouri police said they “contacted” Park in Rolla, Mo., a city about 94 miles from the Mizzou campus, according to a news release.

“University of Missouri Police have apprehended the suspect who posted threats to campus on YikYak and other social media,” an MU alert posted Wednesday morning stated. “The suspect is in MUPD custody and was not located on or near the MU campus at the time of the threat.”
Park is a sophomore at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, a school in Rolla that is within the UM system, spokeswoman Mary Helen Stoltz said. He is studying computer science at the school.

“Threats of violence of any kind are not tolerated,” Missouri S&T Chancellor Cheryl B. Schrader said in a statement. “As a campus, we are grateful that this situation did not escalate. I thank both of the police departments for their swift action in handling this case. As always, the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our utmost concern.”

According to Boone County Sheriff’s Department records, Park is from Lake St. Louis, a suburb of St. Louis. His initial arraignment was scheduled for Thursday afternoon, a Boone County Jail employee said. No attorney for Park was listed in jail records.

Yik Yak co-founder and COO Brooks Buffington posted a message about the threats Wednesday, writing that “this sort of misbehavior is NOT what Yik Yak is to be used for. Period.”

“It’s our hope that the range of discussion on MU’s campus can help to bring about positive resolution and a better understanding within the community,” Buffington’s message stated. “But there’s a point where discussion can go too far – and the threats that were posted on Yik Yak last night were both upsetting and completely unacceptable.”

Mizzou was operating at a “regular schedule” following Park’s arrest, according to the MU alert.

“Safety is the university’s top priority and we are working hard to assure that the campus remains safe while information is obtained and confirmed,” it stated.

But local reports indicated that the campus looked anything but normal Wednesday.

The threats — and Park’s arrest — followed the resignation of Tim Wolfe, who had served as president of the four-campus University of Missouri System. R. Bowen Loftin also announced he would step down as chancellor of the flagship campus in Columbia, where students have been calling attention to the treatment of minorities.

During the unrest, graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a hunger strike, and Missouri’s football team threatened to boycott.
Amid Fears of Violence, Police in Missouri Arrest 2 Students Over Threats on Yik Yak

[Updated (11/11/2015, 7:07 p.m.) with news of the arrest of another student accused of making a terrorist threat on Yik Yak.]

The University of Missouri’s police department on Wednesday morning arrested a man on suspicion of making a terrorist threat on Yik Yak amid an upheaval over racism on the campus. The Columbia Missourian, citing the police, reported that the man, who was found more than 90 miles way, in Rolla, Mo., is a white student at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Later on Wednesday, the campus police at Northwest Missouri State University, in Maryville, Mo., arrested a freshman for the same reason. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the student’s Yik Yak post said, “I’m gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready.” A university spokesman told the newspaper that it was not clear if the racial tension at the University of Missouri’s flagship had prompted the post.

The police force on the Columbia campus had stepped up its security on Monday and Tuesday as national attention converged on Columbia because of protests that led to the resignations of both the university system’s president, Timothy M. Wolfe, and the flagship’s chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin.

Amid the fallout from the resignations were fears that black students would be targeted. On Tuesday the police department sent an email to students asking that they report any “hateful or hurtful” speech. Many students took to Twitter on Tuesday to express concern about threats, both real and perceived:
Kayla Reed
@RE_invent_ED

Black students are tweeting that they fear for their lives at #mizzou.
9:11 PM - 10 Nov 2015
405 retweets
120 likes

@nonbinarynegro

black students are terrified & are evacuating the campus.
9:09 PM - 10 Nov 2015
570 retweets
226 likes

I'm going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see.
41 SECS
1 reply

Woah dude
15s
Racist rhetoric on Yik Yak, an anonymous messaging app, helped fuel discontent over the university’s response to several racist incidents in recent months.

A New Faculty Challenge: Fending Off Abuse on Yik Yak

In a statement, Brooks Buffington, Yik Yak’s co-founder and chief operating officer, said the threats made at Missouri were “both upsetting and completely unacceptable.” He directed users to the app’s terms of service, which state that users who violate certain conditions can be banned or suspended.

The police said in a statement that the Missouri University of Science and Technology student they suspect of having made the threat, Hunter M. Park, was arrested early Wednesday and transported to Columbia.

Yik Yak social media service can reveal user data to police

Nov. 11, 2015 • By TAMI ABDOLLAH

WASHINGTON (AP) — Internet users of the Yik Yak social media app popular among college students aren't nearly as anonymous as they believe: Missouri police within hours arrested a student accused of threatening violence, the latest in a string of such arrests at colleges in recent months involving threats of mass violence posted online using the service.

Yik Yak provides a feed of anonymized comments from people physically around them, such as on the same college campus. It's by far the most widely adopted, anonymous, location-based applications at schools. It's also been used by students at dozens of campuses to make offensive comments and threaten mass violence.

Yik Yak's fine print says the service can disclose to police each user’s Internet protocol address and GPS coordinates, along with details about the phone or tablet, and date and time for each message. To help authenticate its customers, the service requires each user to provide a phone number to sign up.
Yik Yak spokeswoman Hilary McQuaide declined to discuss investigations or provide details about how often police ask for information. She said the company works with authorities.

Yik Yak tells police they must generally provide a subpoena, court order or search warrant to obtain information about its users, but in an emergency the company may provide details without those legal instruments.

**Missouri police on Wednesday quickly arrested Hunter Park, 19, a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, a sister campus to the main university in Columbia that was the scene of protests since last week. Park was arrested on suspicion of making a terrorist threat toward black students and faculty at the University of Missouri. The incident follows weeks of protest over how the university handles student racial concerns and resulted in the departure of two senior university officials this week.**

The Yik Yak message threatened to "shoot every black person I see.” Park, who hasn't been formally charged, did not respond Wednesday to an emailed request for comment from The Associated Press. A message left on his mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

The case is the latest in a string of such arrests at colleges in recent months involving threats of mass violence posted online.

On Monday, police arrested Charleston Southern University student JaShkira Dela Rosa, 23, on suspicion of threats to use a destructive device within roughly 12 hours of learning about her anonymous post allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a residence hall on Yik Yak, said John Strubel, a spokesman for the university. He said the university monitors content on the app, which usually includes mundane comments, such as students complaining about bad food.

Last week, police arrested 18-year-old Christian Pryor, a now-former Fresno State football player, on suspicion of making a terrorist threat within two hours of learning about his post on Yik Yak allegedly threatening to use a weapon to "release my frustrations.” Pryor, who posted bond, could not be located for an interview.

In October, 21-year-old Emily Sakamoto, who attends Emory University's Oxford College, was arrested for allegedly posting a shooting threat. She was accused of threatening to open fire on campus and warned others to stay in their rooms. Sakamoto did not respond to an email sent to an account associated with her in public records.

The timing of the arrests — frequently within hours of the initial report — indicates swift responses by Yik Yak to requests by police. Deputy Tony Moore, who works the Los Angeles County Sheriff's electronic communications triage unit, said his group has dealt with Yik Yak on only one occasion but "it was an exigent circumstance and they responded accordingly."

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Follow Tami Abdollah at http://www.twitter.com/latams
Missouri student accused of posting threats against blacks

Nov. 12, 2015
By SUMMER BALLENTINE

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top University of Missouri administrators to resign remained at the Columbia campus with the arrest of a white college student suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty.

Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore studying computer science at a sister campus in Rolla, was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat after his arrest at a residence hall. The school said no weapons were found.

Park, who is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, was jailed in Columbia, about 75 miles to the northwest. Because the county courts were closed for Veterans Day, Park was not expected to appear before a judge until at least Thursday.

The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app Yik Yak and other social media, threatened to "shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia.

Another threat said: "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow." The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

A message left on his mother's cellphone was not returned. And an AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

The prosecutor's office didn't immediately respond to an email asking whether Park had an attorney, and no information about the case was listed online. Prosecutors also didn't immediately release the probable cause statement, which would include more details.

A second student was arrested at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville for allegedly posting a threat on Yik Yak that read, "I'm gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready." Northwest Missouri State spokesman Mark Hornickel told several media outlets that authorities hadn't linked the incident to threats at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus.

Authorities also are investigating another threat on Yik Yak, this one leveled at the Rolla campus by someone saying, "I'm gonna shoot up this school."
Student foot traffic in Columbia was light as freshman Megan Grazman was on her way to class. Although she said she felt safe, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town. It's kind of eerie."

Yixiang Gao, a Chinese student from Shanghai, said he felt safe, but he described the campus climate as "very heavy" on the night the threats emerged.

Also Wednesday, the university said an employee who was among those who clashed with a student photographer during campus protests was placed on administrative leave while her actions are investigated.

Janna Basler is the school's director of Greek life. The videotaped clash helped fan a debate about the free press. Basler did not return a message seeking comment.

A communication professor also drew criticism for trying to stop a photographer from taking pictures. Melissa Click apologized Tuesday.

Months of protests culminated in a tumultuous week on the Columbia campus.

Back in September, the student government president reported that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing the protest movement. Last week, a graduate student went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Then more than 30 members of the Missouri football team refused to practice or play in support of the hunger striker. Those developments came to a head Monday with the resignation of Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the top administrator of the Columbia campus.

Online threats against blacks net arrest at Missouri campus

Nov. 11, 2015  •  By SUMMER BALLENTINE and JIM SALTER

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A white college student suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty at the University of Missouri was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat, adding to the racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top administrators to resign earlier this week.

Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore studying computer science at a sister campus in Rolla, was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. at a residence hall, authorities said. The school said no weapons were found. Boone County prosecutors announced the criminal charge later Wednesday and recommended that he be held without bond.
Park, who is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, was jailed in Columbia, about 75 miles to the northwest.

The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app YikYak and other social media, threatened to "shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia.

Another threat said: "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow." The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

Because the county courts were closed for Veterans Day, Park was not expected to appear before a judge until at least Thursday. The prosecutor's office didn't immediately respond to an email asking whether Park had an attorney, and no information about the case is listed online. Prosecutors also didn't immediately release the probable cause statement, which would include more details about the case.

A message left by The Associated Press on Park's mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

Authorities were also investigating two other threats on YikYak involving other campuses in Missouri. One was leveled at the Rolla campus by someone saying, "I'm gonna shoot up this school." In the other case, a student at Northwest State University in Maryville was arrested Wednesday morning for allegedly posting, "I'm gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready." Northwest Missouri State spokesman Mark Hornickel told several media outlets that authorities hadn't linked the incident to threats at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus.

When the first threat emerged, the Columbia school's online emergency information center tweeted, "There is no immediate threat to campus," and asked students not to spread rumors.

Park has excelled academically in science. As a senior at Wentzville's Holt High School in early 2014, he was a member of the school district's robotics team when he won the honors division for a project titled "A Novel Method for Determination of Camera Pose Estimation Based on Angle Constraints."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the project advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.

A spokeswoman for the Rolla school, Mary Helen Stoltz, said she did not know whether the university planned to take any action against Park over his arrest.

On Wednesday, student foot traffic in Columbia was light as freshman Megan Grazman was on her way to class. Although she said she felt safe, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town. It's kind of eerie."

Yixiang Gao, a Chinese student from Shanghai, said he also felt safe, but he described the campus climate as "very heavy." He said his black roommate was not going to class.

Also Wednesday, the university said an employee who was among those who clashed with a student photographer during campus protests was placed on administrative leave while her actions are investigated.

Janna Basler is the school's director of Greek life. The videotaped clash helped fan a debate about the free press. Basler did not return a message seeking comment.

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Back in September, the student government president reported that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing the protest movement. Last week, a graduate student went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Then more than 30 members of the Missouri football team refused to practice or play in support of the hunger striker. Those developments came to a head Monday with the resignation of Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the top administrator of the Columbia campus.

Some students, faculty and alumni have said the protests and top leaders' resignations are the culmination of years of racial tension.

Among other recent events, members of the Legions of Black Collegians, whose founders include a recently retired deputy chancellor, said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student while practicing for a homecoming performance.

The university has promised changes.

Chuck Henson, a black law professor and associate dean, was appointed Tuesday as the university's first-ever interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

The university system's governing body, the Board of Curators, also announced other initiatives, including offering more support for hiring and retaining diverse faculty and staff and performing a full review of all policies related to staff and student conduct.

The board met for three hours Wednesday evening in an emergency closed session, but made no announcement afterward.

Board member John Phillips emerged and said, "Nothing to share tonight. There may be something tomorrow afternoon."

Phillips was the only board member present on campus; he spoke with the other members by phone.

Associated Press writers Jim Suhr and Alan Scher Zagier in St. Louis and AP researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.
Northwest Missouri State freshman posted threat to Yik Yak to shoot black people, police say

Nov. 11, 2015 • By Joel Currier

A Northwest Missouri State University student was arrested Wednesday on campus in Maryville, Mo., on suspicion of making racist, violent threats on social media.

Connor B. Stottlemyre, 19, a freshman from Blue Springs, Mo., was arrested by campus police at his dormitory about 11 a.m. Wednesday after another student reported seeing a message on Yik Yak, threatening violence against blacks, a university spokesman said.

Campus police said the threatening message read, "I'm gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready," according to university spokesman Mark Hornickel.

Hornickel said university officials and police aren't sure what prompted the post and don't know if it was inspired by ongoing racial turmoil at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Stottlemyre was held at the Nodaway County Jail on suspicion of making a terrorist threat, officials said. He had not been charged late Wednesday.

Authorities are still investigating. Anyone with information is asked to call the school's police at 660-562-1254.

Lake Saint Louis man, 19, charged with making online threat against Mizzou

Nov. 11, 2015 • By Alex Stuckey, Kim Bell

COLUMBIA, Mo. • A student at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat on social media against the Columbia campus, which has been roiled by controversy this week.

The suspect, Hunter M. Park, 19, of Lake Saint Louis, is a computer science student. He was arrested at his dorm by university police about 1:50 a.m. and held in lieu of bail at the Boone County Jail in Columbia.
Various threats have added to the unease at Mizzou, where pressure from black students who alleged racism there led to the resignation of the system president and ouster of the campus president.

Maj. Brian Weimer, of the campus police at Mizzou, said the threat was made Tuesday on Yik Yak, an anonymous location-based online app. Weimer did not specify the threat, and records with details were not available because courts were closed Wednesday for Veterans Day.

A threat posted to Yik Yak by someone had said, “I’m going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see.” Another said, “Some of you are alright. Don’t go to campus tomorrow.”

Officials say they do not know if there is any connection to Wednesday’s arrest of a freshman at Northwest Missouri State University, in Maryville, Mo., on an accusation that he used Yik Yak to threaten violence against blacks there. Connor B. Stottlemyre, 19, of Blue Springs, Mo., was held pending consideration of charges. Police said his message read: “I’m gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready.”

Park is a 2014 graduate of Wentzville Holt High School, where he was known as a brilliant student. As a member of the school’s robotics team, he won many awards, and advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.

He is a sophomore majoring in computer science at Rolla, said Mary Helen Stoltz, manager of external relations there.

On his LinkedIn page, Park, describes himself as a student studying computer science and physics. He said he helps develop new algorithms for cell segmentation and is looking to attend graduate school in either computer science or mathematics.

No one answered the door at his home Wednesday. But Leslie Monahan, 55, a neighbor who flies a Mizzou banner in her front yard, told a reporter, “I can’t say enough great things about Hunter. Extremely bright. Nice young man.” She said he is a close friend of her son and she never heard Park make any racist comments.

Another neighbor, a woman in her 50s who would not give her name, called the arrest “a total shock.” She explained, “He’s a really good kid. If he did say that (a threat), I don’t think it would be with malicious intent. I just know of him being a pretty serious, studious kid.” She added, “This is totally out of character.”

After a night of threats of shootings and rumored Ku Klux Klan presence on campus, Columbia streets normally teeming with students had slowed down to a trickle Wednesday. Several restaurants, bars and coffee shops were shuttered, with handwritten signs proclaiming safety concerns, or simply “Closed.”

A school website said the campus was “operating on regular schedule.” But things were quiet, in contrast with the shouts and dancing that accompanied the resignation of university system President Timothy M. Wolfe on Monday.

“It’s definitely more dead than usual,” said John Gillies, 20, a computer engineering major, as he sat on a bench near the landmark Columns. He said none of his classes were cancelled but some had a lot of vacant seats. He said he was being vigilant — avoiding populated areas, like the student center — just in case.

Payton Head, president of the Mizzou student body and one of more vocal protesters, had used Facebook on Tuesday night to urge precautions and warn that, “The KKK has been confirmed to be sighted on campus. I’m working with the MUPD, the state trooper and the National Guard.”

But after several public agencies posted on Facebook that police found no evidence of the KKK, Payton posted, in part: “I received and shared information from multiple incorrect sources, which I deeply regret. The last thing needed is to incite more fear in the hearts of our community.”
Police on the Columbia campus said they traced online threats to Park, and asked officers on the Rolla campus for help in arresting him at the Thomas Jefferson Residence Hall there. Police said they found no weapons.

After Park’s arrest, Mizzou tweeted that the suspect “was not located on or near campus at the time of the threat.”

Missouri law defines making a terroristic threat as having “the purpose of frightening ten or more people or causing the evacuation, quarantine or closure of any portion of a building, inhabitable structure, place of assembly or facility of transportation.”

The crime is a first-degree felony, punishable by up to four years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

Some black students at Mizzou have said they feel unsafe on campus. A graduate student went on hunger strike. More than 30 members of the Missouri football team joined in the protest.

Wolfe resigned Monday and, hours later, the Columbia campus chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, was forced out.

Campus police began urging students Tuesday to report any hateful or hurtful speech, even if it wasn’t a crime. The MU police reportedly had increased its presence on campus even before hearing of the threats.

At Missouri S&T, Chancellor Cheryl B. Schrader said in a statement: “Threats of violence of any kind are not tolerated. As a campus, we are grateful that this situation did not escalate. I thank both of the police departments for their swift action in handling this case.”

Brooks Buffington, Yik Yak’s co-founder, weighed in online Wednesday morning, saying: “This sort of misbehavior is NOT what Yik Yak is to be used for. Period.”

“It’s our hope that the range of discussion on MU’s campus can help to bring about positive resolution and a better understanding within the community,” Buffington wrote. “But there’s a point where discussion can go too far — and the threats that were posted on Yik Yak last night were both upsetting and completely unacceptable.”

Kim Bell and Mark Schlinkmann of the Post-Dispatch staff contributed to this report.

Threats stoke fears at University of Missouri

Student at Rolla campus arrested as tension continues at Mizzou

In Columbia, university officials reassure students and faculty

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri campus police on Wednesday arrested a 19-year-old man suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty, adding to the racial
tensions at the heart of the protests that led to the resignations Monday of the university system president and campus chancellor.

Hunter M. Park, a sophomore and computer science major at Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla, was arrested at a residence hall there early Wednesday. No weapons were found.

Park was jailed in Columbia on a preliminary charge of suspicion of making a terrorist threat. His bond was set at $4,500. Because the courts were closed for Veterans Day, Park will not go before a judge before Thursday.

Posts on the anonymous messaging app Yik Yak and other social media Tuesday threatened to “shoot every black person I see.”

The volatile mood on the Mizzou campus remained apprehensive Wednesday after the threats of possible violence.

The Board of Curators met for three hours, but emerged Wednesday evening with no new announcements. The curators said they planned to meet again on Thursday.

In a statement, MU Police Major Brian Weimer said the campus remained safe with additional officers on patrol.

“We investigated a number of reports and tips and take every one of them seriously,” he said.

There were other threats, and authorities didn’t say if additional arrests are possible. Another threat said: “Some of you are alright. Don’t go to campus tomorrow.” The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

The posts were widely disseminated across the Internet and local media.

Weimer told The Associated Press that additional officers were already on campus before the university learned of the threats. University police were working with other state and local agencies to ensure the campus was secure, he said.

Vernon P. Howard Jr., president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Kansas City, said his group has been contacted by MU students saying they feel threatened by comments on social media. SCLC members are discussing traveling to Columbia to “stand by” students there who don’t feel safe.
University officials on Wednesday afternoon continued to reassure the campus.

“We are proud of our students for standing up for their ideals, and we want to support them while continuing to assure an atmosphere of security and opportunity for all,” said a statement from Garnett Stokes, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. “This can be a wonderful learning experience; we must treat each other with respect.”

Hank Foley, incoming interim chancellor, said the university was moving “toward a brighter future.”

“We must not lose perspective during this critical time when some may feel insecure,” he said.

The normally bustling campus was eerily quiet Wednesday morning. Many instructors canceled classes and many students avoided the university altogether.

“The truth is, despite all of the threats on social media, I would still probably feel safe on campus were we to have class,” Bradley Harrison Smith, an English instructor and doctoral student at Mizzou, said in a note to his students. “But that’s because I am a white man. I would not feel safe at all were this not the case.”

One professor, however, challenged his students to come to class in order to prevent the “bullies” from winning.

“If you don’t feel safe coming to class, then don’t come to class,” Dale Brigham wrote in an email to his Nutritional Science 1034 class. “I will be there, and there will be an exam administered in our class.

“If you give into bullies, they win,” his note to students went on. “The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose.”

The note provoked an angry response. Brigham later told The AP that he eventually backtracked and told students they could take the exam on a later date. In response, however, he also offered his resignation, although university spokesman Christian Basi told The AP that he didn’t know yet whether the school had accepted the resignation.

One student tweeted that only 50 students showed up for a 500-person lecture class.

Missouri student body president Payton Head circulated incorrect reports Tuesday that Ku Klux Klan members had gathered on campus. He later apologized for the mistake.
A black student who’s been part of the campus protest told The Kansas City Star that other black students were leaving, to stay off campus with friends. “Just trying to be safe,” the student said.

The resignations of MU President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin were preceded by reports of racial slurs. A protest movement grew out of dissatisfaction with the administration’s response. Graduate student Jonathan Butler staged a week-long hunger strike until Wolfe resigned.

The university has promised changes. Chuck Henson, a law professor and associate dean, was appointed Tuesday as the university’s first-ever interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

The Board of Curators also announced a number of other initiatives, including more support for the hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff and a full review of all policies related to staff and student conduct.

Also Wednesday, the Missouri Tigers were back to the business of football, though coach Gary Pinkel acknowledged the preparations for Saturday’s game against Brigham Young University at Arrowhead Stadium are not business as usual for the team. The Tigers boycotted football-related activities for two days as a show of support for student and faculty protests against the school’s leadership.

Pinkel said the current climate is anything but conducive to focusing on football, but he has asked his staff to stay in close contact with the players.

The school also announced Wednesday that it was increasing the number of available counselors and would continue to have an after-hours phone line for students to call if they need to talk with someone.

“In addition, Counseling Center staff are actively reaching out to key student groups to offer assistance,” said Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs. “We know our students are still processing their emotions and feelings about the events over the last several days. I’m very thankful to our MUPD and our campus community for continuing to keep our campus safe.”

Gaby Rodriguez, a senior, said she was at work when she heard about the online threats.

“It’s really disheartening and proves the point of why these protests and boycotts were necessary,” Rodriguez said. “I don’t think I’ve ever felt this unsafe at Mizzou.”

A Starbucks barista was asking customers to leave shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday. The store was closing early because it couldn’t find enough staff willing to come in and work.
The Campus Bar & Grill, a popular watering hole just across the street from the MU campus, was closed Wednesday morning.

“Stay safe Mizzou,” a sign stated.

But student Steven Loughrigge made his way to class as usual Wednesday morning. He said he never took the threats seriously because they appeared on social media.

“I’m just disappointed that it escalated,” said Loughrigge, a junior studying engineering.

The Star’s Mará Rose Williams and Matt Campbell and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

MU campus threats: social media fact and fiction

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Wednesday, ABC 17 News dug deeper into claims made on social media that created panic on the University of Missouri campus.

MUPD arrested the person responsible for a threat made on Yik Yak Tuesday night, but other claims were being made that ABC 17 News has found to be untrue.

It started with several tweets and a Facebook post swirling around on social media sites Tuesday night from Mizzou Student Association President Payton Head. The post read "Students, please take precaution. Stay away from the windows in residence halls. The KKK has been confirmed to be sighted on campus. I'm working with the MUPD, the state trooper and the National Guard." The post led to widespread concern as the message was shared and tweeted out multiple times.

Shortly after, Head deleted the post and made a second status update saying, "I'm sorry about the misinformation that I have shared through social media. In a state of alarm, I was concerned for all students of the University of Missouri and wanted to ensure that everyone was safe. I received and shared information from multiple incorrect sources, which I deeply regret. The last thing needed is to incite more fear in the hearts of our community. In the future, please receive emergency updates from MUalert.missouri.edu or @MUalert on Twitter ONLY."

ABC 17 News reached out to the Missouri State Highway Patrol regarding that first post. Sergeant Scott White with MSHP said the patrol was never in contact with Head and
that the patrol would never contact a student regarding incidents like that. He said they would immediately team up with MUPD to investigate.

Twitter began blowing up again as Jonathan Butler, the Mizzou Hunger Striker, was tweeting about death threats. Others also chimed in, demanding the University cancel classes, even after MUPD arrested 19-year-old Hunter Park early Wednesday morning for making threats on Yik Yak.

There were other posts circulating about the KKK on campus that were not true. Some of those tweets came from a fake MU Alert Twitter page. The fake page was reported Wednesday night.

ABC 17 News spoke to Major Brian Weimer with MUPD Wednesday night. He said if there are any direct or immediate threats, the information will be put on the MU Alert page, as well as the MU Alert Twitter page.

Weimer said all targeted threats on social media have been and will continue to be investigated.

MUPD said it wants to stress the importance of referring to MU Alert for factual safety information and not rumors on social media.

MU police arrest student in Rolla after social media threats

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF
Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri police have arrested a suspect in connection with threats posted on Yik Yak and other social media services that caused widespread fear on campus Tuesday night.

MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer said in a news release Wednesday morning that police arrested Hunter M. Park, 19, at about 1:50 a.m. on suspicion of making a terroristic threat. MU police contacted Park, who is white, in Rolla and brought him to Columbia, where they arrested him.
Park is a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology, according to a news release from the university. No weapons were found during the investigation, the release said.

Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight said in a news release Wednesday afternoon that Park was charged with making a Class C felony of making a terrorist threat, punishable by up to seven years in prison. He is jailed without bond. Park’s home is listed as Lake St. Louis, according to jail records.

Park was not on or near campus when the threats were made, MU spokesman Christian Basi said in a separate news release.

MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer was quoted in the release saying additional officers were on campus Tuesday night and that students were safe despite the threats. Several students called for the cancellation of Wednesday classes, but Basi said in the release that MU would operate on its normal schedule.

At least one of the threats targeted black students. Black students also were the target of threats posted on anonymous platforms Yik Yak and Erodr in December, when posters encouraged the burning of the Gaines Oldham Black Culture Center on campus after a demonstration against racial inequality.

Rumors of a Ku Klux Klan presence on campus ran rampant on social media Tuesday night. Several news outlets erroneously reported a KKK presence had been confirmed on campus, with some citing MSA President Payton Head as a source.

In a now-deleted Facebook post, Head said the KKK’s presence had been “confirmed” on campus and that he was “working with the MUPD, a state trooper and the National Guard.”

Head issued an apology for sharing misinformation, which he said came from “multiple incorrect sources.” The Missouri National Guard confirmed they had been contacted about the rumored KKK presence on campus Tuesday night, but an official — who declined to give his name — said they were “never working with anyone” to respond to the rumor.

“In a state of alarm, I was concerned for all students of the University of Missouri and wanted to ensure that everyone was safe,” Head wrote in a Facebook apology. “The last thing needed is to incite more fear in the hearts of our community.”
A separate threat forced the evacuation of the culture center Tuesday night while members of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus met with students, Rep. Brandon Ellington, D-Kansas City, said in a news release.

The caucus met with outgoing Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and student members of the group Concerned Student 1950, which led protests against racial inequality for the past several weeks on campus.

In a message posted on MU Alert at 7:44 p.m. Tuesday, police said they were aware of social media threats and had increased security. A follow-up message at 10 p.m. simply said police were investigating the threats.

Weimer said the MU Police Department had additional officers patrolling campus and would continue to staff extra officers Wednesday.

Elizabeth Hurst, a freshman at MU, said she considered skipping class Wednesday because of the threats.

“I’m afraid for my peers,” she said. “This shouldn’t be happening — it’s 2015.”

Barb Peterson, director of strategic communications with the College of Education, said attendance was abnormally low in classes Wednesday morning. She said undergraduate classes for the college had about a 30 percent attendance rate early Wednesday.

“As students receive the word that campus is safe, attendance should in theory increase throughout the day,” Peterson said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Businesses closed, classes canceled after threats to MU

CECILIA SALOMONE, ELIZABETH SAWEY, KATHARINE ROBERTS
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

COLUMBIA — Two Ninth Street businesses closed, organizations called off meetings and class attendance was low after threats were made against black students at MU on Tuesday
night. Many popular spots on campus were empty or less crowded than usual Wednesday morning.

The university did not officially cancel classes for Wednesday, but some professors opted to do so in light of campus tensions and concerns voiced by students. A suspect was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with making terroristic threats.

Professor of English and creative writing Aliki Barnstone, 59, did not have classes scheduled for Wednesday but said she canceled her classes on Tuesday so students could attend a rally.

"If I had had class scheduled, I certainly would not hold class, and I am debating what to do about class tomorrow," she said. "I don't know what things will be like tomorrow. I was thinking about maybe just opening my home to my students."

Barnstone struggled to find a comparison to anything she has experienced in the eight years she's taught at MU.

"I think it will go down in history as something very very big, and as such it’s frightening," she said.

"I don’t like to admit I’m afraid. But I think we are all afraid on this campus and in the community because of the overt racist threats," she said.

Lt. Colonel Todd Perodeau confirmed that ROTC has not been wearing their formal uniforms this week due to threats made against veterans and soldiers. He said they would not wear them for the rest of the week.

Students posted on Twitter about the lack of attendance in their classes today.

Starbucks on Ninth Street closed at 9 a.m. because seven employees were unwilling to come to work due to campus threats Tuesday night. Campus Bar & Grill posted signs on its doors saying that it was closed and might be closed Thursday.
Employees of the Memorial Union Starbucks confirmed that a few of its staff said they wouldn’t come in to work Wednesday morning, but the location remained open.

Several other on-campus facilities were closed or operating with a limited staff. The MU Women's Center told its staff that they did not have to come in, according to its Twitter account. Truman's Closet canceled its scheduled coat giveaway in the Student Center. Instead, the charitable organization set it would hand them out during its regular hours Thursday, according to its Twitter account.

The Legion of Black Collegians canceled its Senate meeting, according to its Twitter. Some MU Campus Dining locations announced they would be open with limited services due to staff shortages, according to MU Campus Dining's Twitter account.

Meanwhile, other organizations and facilities let the campus community know they were open.

"Hillel is an open space for anyone who needs somewhere to meet, or talk, or study," Mizzou Hillel Twitter posted.

MU Libraries tweeted that Ellis was "open and operating on a regular schedule." The Journalism Library announced that it would close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, seven hours early.

Stephens College sent a letter, pledging solidarity with #ConcernedStudent1950 and black students at MU.

The Counseling Center increased the number of counselors available to students, said Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, in a news release.

"We know students are still processing their emotions and feelings about the events over the last several days," Scroggs said. The center also said it would have an after-hours phone line students could call: 573-882-6601.

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed*
UPDATE: 19-year-old Rolla student charged with making a terroristic threat

COLUMBIA — A student at Missouri University of Science and Technology has been charged with making a terroristic threat Tuesday night that led to some cancellations on the MU campus.

At about 1:50 a.m. Wednesday, MU Police arrested Hunter Park, 19, in connection with a threat on Yik Yak, according to a department media release. Yik Yak is a social media application on which people can post anonymously. Yik Yak, though, maintains a log of the GPS coordinates and IP addresses from which every post is made, according to the company's website. The company may disclose the information to law enforcement "in response to a valid emergency," according to the website.

Park, a white sophomore, was arrested in his dorm on the Rolla campus and transported to Columbia where he was processed, according to a Missouri S&T media release. Park was being held in Boone County Jail as of 8:50 a.m. No weapons were found during the investigation.

Wednesday, the Boone County Prosecutor's office said in a statement that it had received a probable cause statement from MU Police and had charged Park with making a terroristic threat.

“Threats of violence of any kind are not tolerated,” said Missouri S&T Chancellor Cheryl Schrader in a statement released Wednesday. “As a campus, we are grateful that this situation did not escalate."

MU was operating on a regular schedule Wednesday, according to a Tuesday night notification from MU Alert.
The MU Student Recreation Complex, however, adjusted its hours, according to a tweet. It was unclear as of 7:20 a.m. Wednesday if other MU facilities would change their schedules or if classes called off by individual instructors would remain cancelled.

Rumors swirled on social media Tuesday night after the anonymous threats were posted on Yik Yak. Brooks Buffington, co-founder of the social media company, condemned the behavior in a release Wednesday morning.

"Let’s not waste any words here: This sort of misbehavior is NOT what Yik Yak is to be used for. Period," the release said.

**MU Alert** tweeted at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday, "There is no immediate threat to campus. Please do not spread rumors and follow @MUAlert at [http://mualert.missouri.edu](http://mualert.missouri.edu) for updates."

The MU Police Department was made "aware of social media threats and has increased security," according to an **MU Alert** message sent at 7:44 p.m. Tuesday.

No buildings had been evacuated on campus as of 9 p.m. Tuesday, MU Police Department Maj. Brian Weimer said. While there was increased security on campus, he said, it was not specifically due to the anonymous social media threats.

The MU Legion of Black Collegians tweeted around 9 p.m. that it would not hold a senate meeting Wednesday. "Stay home, Stay safe," the tweet read.

MU’s Army ROTC sent an email telling its students to dress in civilian clothes on Tuesday and Wednesday; Wednesday is Veteran’s Day. The ROTC canceled its Wednesday morning physical training session.

On Tuesday morning, a threat was called in during a meeting between members of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus and student activists at a closed meeting at MU’s Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. Weimer confirmed the incident, according to previous Missourian reporting.
"There was a call made to the black culture center today a little before noon," Weimer told the Missourian. "It was perceived as threatening and we're looking into it."

Supervising editor is William Schmitt.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

The Latest: Police ID Missouri man accused of online threats

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The latest on the protests and turmoil over racially charged incidents at the University of Missouri (all times local):

2 p.m.

A University of Missouri professor who challenged his students to show up for class despite fears over racially-motivated threats of violence or risk missing an exam says he has offered his resignation.

Dale Brigham told The Associated Press by email Wednesday that he ultimately backtracked and told students they could take the exam on a later date. His initial email to his Nutritional Science 1034 class urging them to "not give in to bullies" and warning that the test would be administered Wednesday whether students showed up or not sparked an angry response.

Brigham says he has offered his resignation, although university spokesman Christian Basi said he didn't know yet whether the school had accepted the resignation.

A student at another campus is accused of having made the online threats.
Free speech advocates are expressing concern that instructions from University of Missouri police on how students should report "hateful and/or hurtful" speech could stifle legitimate differences of opinion.

A campus email sent Tuesday instructs recipients to call university police as soon as possible and notes that while such speech isn't always illegal, students can nonetheless be punished by the Office of Student Conduct.

The university's student conduct code prohibits harassment, which it defines as "unwelcome verbal or physical conduct" against "actual or perceived membership in a protected class ... that creates a hostile environment." The conduct code also forbids bullying, retaliation and threatening or intimidating behaviors.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri responded with a statement calling for the university to not compromise the right to free expression in its efforts to fight racism. Its statement says, "Mistakenly addressing symptoms - instead of causes - and doing it in a way that runs counter to the First Amendment is not the wise or appropriate response."

A University of Missouri police official referred questions about the email to the university's media relations office, which did not immediately respond.

A man accused of posting online threats aimed at black University of Missouri students and faculty won't appear in court until Thursday at the earliest because county offices are closed for Veterans Day.
Hunter M. Park was arrested early Wednesday in Rolla, where he is a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He was jailed in Columbia on a preliminary charge of suspicion of making a terrorist threat. He hasn't been formally charged.

 Authorities say Park posted on YikYak and other social media sites threats to "shoot every black person" he sees on the university's flagship campus in Columbia. A black student group organized protests there that helped force the resignations Monday of the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus.

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10:25 a.m.

The 19-year-old man arrested for allegedly making online threats against black students and faculty at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus is a student at one of its other campuses.

Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla confirmed that 19-year-old Hunter M. Park is a student there. He was arrested Wednesday at a residence hall on the Rolla campus. The school says no weapons were found.

Park was taken by University of Missouri police to Columbia, where he is jailed. Formal charges haven't been filed.

The online posts on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over their handling of racial issues.

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10:15 a.m.
There are noticeably fewer people walking around the University of Missouri's Columbia campus despite the early-morning arrest of a man suspected of posting online threats against black students and faculty.

The campus green where crowds protested against the administration's handling of racial issues was devoid of students Wednesday morning.

Freshman communication sciences and disorders major Megan Grazman said she was heading to class and felt safe, but that it was clear many students weren't. She said, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town."

Sean Ficken, who has one black parent and one white one, said he's not worried but is being more vigilant than usual.

University police arrested a 19-year-old man early Wednesday suspected of posting anonymous threats online about shooting black people.

9 a.m.

University of Missouri police say the suspect accused of making online threats against black students and faculty is 19-year-old Hunter M. Park.

Park was arrested at 1:50 a.m. Wednesday by university police in Rolla, Missouri, and taken to Columbia, where he is jailed on $4,500 bond. Charges have not been filed. He is not a student at the Columbia campus.

Rolla is about 94 miles south of Columbia.

Police declined to release a photo of the suspect, citing concerns for his safety.
The online posts on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

Campus police Major Brian Weimer says additional officers are posted on campus to ensure security.

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over the university's handling of complaints about racism.

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6:55 a.m.

University of Missouri Police say the department has arrested a suspect accused of making online threats against black students and faculty.

A post early Wednesday on the university's emergency alert website says the suspect is in university police custody and was not on or near the university campus when the threats were made. A dispatcher at the university's police department says more information will be released later Wednesday.

The online posts discovered on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

Campus police Capt. Brian Weimer says additional officers are posted on campus to ensure security.

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over the university's handling of complaints about racism.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Threats and fear nearly bring MU campus to a standstill

STEPHEN DAW, KYLIE BOYCE, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU students responded to a series of threats and incidents overnight Tuesday largely by staying home. Most remained in dorms and apartments on Wednesday, though posts on Twitter indicated that a small number left Columbia.

After the first threat was made Tuesday evening, a growing sense of panic among students was fueled by a surge of social media posts.

Shortly after 6 p.m. Tuesday, threatening anonymous posts appeared on the Yik Yak app, targeting black students and warning others not to leave home.

“Some of you are alright. Don’t come to campus tomorrow,” read one post on Yik Yak, a social media platform that prides itself on keeping its user identities private.

“I’m going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see,” read another post.

The messages were widely distributed and quickly shared, leading to a flurry of alarmed posts from hundreds of students across campus. Some of the posts contained additional descriptions of threatening behavior, including one about a man screaming in Speakers Circle at MU and another about groups in pickup trucks driving around campus harassing students.

The posts and comments prompted the panic among students, perhaps also partly fanned by a Facebook post from MSA President Payton Head — later corrected — saying that the Ku Klux Klan was "confirmed" to be in Columbia. He later retracted that notice.
Via Twitter, students advised each other to remain indoors and offered rides home to anyone who needed one.

At about 1:50 a.m. Wednesday, MU Police arrested Hunter Park, 19, a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology who has been charged with making a terrorist threat. At 5:07 a.m., the university's MU Alert system tweeted that the suspect had been arrested.

By then, plans were in place to return the campus to normal, but dozens of classes were hastily canceled on Wednesday and attendance at others was low. At least two Ninth Street businesses closed, and popular spots on campus were empty or far less crowded than usual.

A news release from Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, announced that the number of available counselors would be increased and an after-hours phone line would be staffed to handle consultations with students.

"We know our students are still processing their emotions and feelings about the events over the last several days," Scroggs said. "The Counseling Center has its full staff ready to assist and has additional counselors on standby as needed."

The center was also reaching out to key student groups to offer assistance, she said.

According to MU spokesman Christian Basi, the MU Department of Residential Life had taken steps to assess the security of its 24 on-campus residence halls and other university-owned student housing. Basi said the residence halls are largely protected by locked barriers between the lobby and living quarters that require key-card access.

Provost Garnett Stokes and Hank Foley, the newly named interim chancellor, sent a message Wednesday to the media that UM leaders were "working around the clock with students, faculty, staff and the MU Police Department to ensure that the campus remains safe. We have heard the MU community's concerns and are taking action."
The message, and several others sent to the university community throughout the night Tuesday, cautioned against spreading rumors. The MU Alert system sent a tweet at 6:50 p.m. Tuesday saying the system was the only reliable source in an emergency. Later, MU Alert tweeted that MUPD was investigating and urged anyone who felt threatened to call 911. A tweet from MU Alert at 10:19 p.m. said "there is no immediate threat to campus."

The suspect was arrested in his dorm on the Rolla campus and taken to Boone County Jail. No weapons were found during the investigation.

The online distress began around 7 p.m. Tuesday after a series of threatening posts to Yik Yak, a community-oriented social media platform that prides itself on keeping its users identities private.

“Some of you are alright. Don’t come to campus tomorrow,” read one post, a string of concerned comments underneath.

“I’m going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see,” another read.

Screenshots of those two posts prompted a panic on campus, perhaps also partly fueled by a Facebook post from MSA President Payton Head — later corrected — saying that the Ku Klux Klan was "confirmed" to be on campus. Via Twitter, students advised each other to get off campus and offered rides home to anyone who needed one.
The presence of a solitary, angry, shouting man between 9 and 10 p.m. Tuesday at Speakers Circle unnerved passersby and others who saw a brief video of him on social media. Police were seen keeping a watch on him.

At about 1:50 a.m. Wednesday, a 19-year-old man student from Missouri University of Science and Technology was arrested in Rolla and charged with making terrorist threats and taken to the Boone County Jail. His bail was set at $4,500.

But one of the lingering questions Wednesday, posed by Twitter users late Tuesday night and into the next day, was why a platform exists in the first place that allows people with racist or threatening messages to hide under the veil of anonymity.

The app, which launched in 2013 as a way to “make the world feel small again,” has a recent history of being a platform for violent speech. In October, an Emory University student in Atlanta was arrested for making terroristic threats after anonymously vowing to shoot up her school the following day. “Stay in your rooms,” she wrote.

That same month, a student at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, warned his peers to not go to the campus at a certain hour. He, too, was tracked down and arrested.

The same story played out again in November when a freshman football player at Fresno State University in California said he would “take a headshot at a hot blonde.”

According to a University of California-Santa Barbara scholarly article, “Whispers in the dark: analysis of an anonymous social network,” that sort of behavior comes with the territory.

“Critics argue that the lack of accountability in these networks enables and encourages negative discourse, including personal attacks, threats, and rumor spreading,” according to the paper. “Yet all parties agree that these tools have had a dramatic impact on how users interact and communicate.”
Gang Wang, a UC Santa Barbara doctoral student and co-author, said Yik Yak and apps like it can be problematic on college campuses because there’s no social link in user interactions. Unlike popular platforms like Facebook and Twitter, nameless posters don’t know who will read their words. This often leads to disengagement, Wang said, which can lead to threats made from the comfort of home such as those made at MU.

Another problem with Yik Yak relevant to Tuesday night’s events is its faulty location feature, Wang said. The app says users’ messages will only be read by people within a five-mile radius, but he pointed out that hackers can easily work around this by setting another GPS location remotely. Even slightly tech-savvy smartphone owners can set another location as their home.

The suspect in the Yik Yak threats Tuesday night is a sophomore computer science major.

“I think when people have a physical distance from a campus or school they are targeting, they feel that maybe it won’t be traced back to them,” Wang said.

MU Police Major Brian Weimer said he wouldn’t answer questions until Thursday about Tuesday night’s investigation, so it’s not clear how investigators tracked the suspect. Yik Yak posted a blog entry Wednesday morning reaffirming its policy of working with law enforcement to expose people who abuse the app and denouncing the behavior taken by certain anonymous users.

“The threats that were posted on Yik Yak last night were both upsetting and completely unacceptable,” part of the post reads. “Let’s not waste any words here: This sort of misbehavior is NOT what Yik Yak is to be used for. Period. It is not condoned by Yik Yak, and it violates our Terms of Service.”

“Open and honest conversation can be a great thing — but it’s up to each and every one of us to ensure that it remains constructive, too. Being a part of a herd means showing respect for one another, through our commonalities and our differences.”

Yik Yak uses the term "herd" for a geographic community.
The blog ultimately reminded its users that Yik Yak is a place where communities, “share news, crack jokes, ask questions, offer support, and build camaraderie.”

There was no mention of a plan to eliminate the problem, and the company did not immediately respond to requests for an interview Wednesday afternoon.

Ethan May, an MU sophomore, said he began using the popular app his freshman year and would often laugh about certain threads with his friends. He said its spontaneity appealed to him — that anybody could say anything at any given moment.

But that’s a double-edged sword, he said. Last year, he noticed people were shaming victims of sexual assault on campus and began to question its effectiveness, he said.

With the most recent news, he’s thinking about getting rid of the app altogether.

“I understand that Yik Yak has the mission that they want to keep it fun and good-natured,” he said. “I’m just starting to wonder if it’s inevitable that it will be abused.”

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Online threats against blacks net arrest at Missouri campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A white college student suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty at the University of Missouri was arrested Wednesday, adding to the racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top administrators to resign earlier this week.
Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore at a sister campus in Rolla, was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. at a residence hall, authorities said. The school said no weapons were found.

Park, who has not yet been formally charged, is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He was arrested by University of Missouri police and taken to jail in Columbia, about 75 miles to the northwest, where he was booked on a preliminary charge of suspicion of making a terrorist threat. Because the county courts were closed for Veterans Day, he will not appear before a judge until at least Thursday.

The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app YikYak and other social media, threatened to "shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia.

Another threat said: "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow." The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

Park, who is majoring in computer science, did not respond Wednesday to an emailed request for comment from The Associated Press. A message left on his mother's cellphone was not returned. And an AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

There were other threats, and authorities did not say if additional arrests were possible.

Additional officers were already on campus before the university learned of the threats, police Maj. Brian Weimer said in a statement.

"We investigated a number of reports and tips and take every one of them seriously," Weimer said.
The school's online emergency information center tweeted, "There is no immediate threat to campus," and asked students not to spread rumors.

Park has excelled academically in science. As a senior early last year at Wentzville's Holt High School, he was a member of the school district's robotics team when he won the honors division for a project titled "A Novel Method for Determination of Camera Pose Estimation Based on Angle Constraints."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the project advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles.

A spokeswoman for the Rolla school, Mary Helen Stoltz, said she did not know whether the university planned to take any action against Park over his arrest.

On Wednesday, student foot traffic in Columbia was light as freshman Megan Grazman was on her way to class. Although she said she felt safe, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town. It's kind of eerie."

Yixiang Gao, a Chinese student from Shanghai, said he also felt safe, but he described the campus climate as "very heavy" on the night the threats emerged. He said his black roommate was not going to class.

Months of protests culminated in a tumultuous week on the Columbia campus.

Back in September, the student government president reported that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing the protest movement. Last week, a graduate student went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Then more than 30 members of the Missouri football team refused to practice or play in support of the hunger striker. Those developments came to a head Monday with the resignation of Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the top administrator of the Columbia campus.
Some students, faculty and alumni have said the protests and top leaders' resignations are the culmination of years of racial tension.

Among other recent events, members of the Legions of Black Collegians, whose founders include a recently retired deputy chancellor, said slurs were hurled at them by an apparently drunken white student while practicing for a homecoming performance.

The university has promised changes.

Chuck Henson, a black law professor and associate dean, was appointed Tuesday as the university's first-ever interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

The university system's governing body, the Board of Curators, also announced other initiatives, including offering more support for hiring and retaining diverse faculty and staff and performing a full review of all policies related to staff and student conduct.

Associated Press writers Jim Suhr and Jim Salter in St. Louis and AP researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Some businesses closed, some classes canceled after threats to MU

CECILIA SALOMONE, ELIZABETH SAWEY, KATHARINE ROBERTS, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Two Ninth Street businesses closed, organizations called off meetings and class attendance at MU was low after threats were made against black students on Tuesday night. Many popular spots on campus were empty or less crowded than usual Wednesday morning.
The university did not officially cancel classes for Wednesday, but some professors opted to do so in light of campus tensions and concerns voiced by students. A suspect was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with making terrorists threats.

Professor of English and creative writing Aliki Barnstone did not have classes scheduled for Wednesday but said she canceled her classes on Tuesday so students could attend a rally.

"If I had had class scheduled, I certainly would not hold class, and I am debating what to do about class tomorrow," she said. "I don’t know what things will be like tomorrow. I was thinking about maybe just opening my home to my students."

Barnstone struggled to find a comparison to anything she has experienced in the eight years she's taught at MU.

"I think it will go down in history as something very, very big, and as such it’s frightening," she said.

"I don’t like to admit I’m afraid. But I think we are all afraid on this campus and in the community because of the overt racist threats," she said.

Lt. Colonel Todd Perodeau confirmed that ROTC members have not been wearing their formal uniforms this week because of threats made against veterans and soldiers. He said the members would not wear them for the rest of the week.

Students posted on Twitter about the lack of attendance in their classes today.

Starbucks on Ninth Street closed at 9 a.m. because seven employees were unwilling to come to work because of campus threats Tuesday night. Campus Bar & Grill posted signs on its doors saying that it was closed Wednesday and might be closed Thursday.

Employees of the Memorial Union Starbucks confirmed that a few of its staff said they wouldn't come in to work Wednesday morning, but the location remained open.
Several other on-campus facilities were closed or operating with a limited staff. The MU Women's Center told its staff that they did not have to come in, according to its Twitter account. Truman's Closet canceled its scheduled coat giveaway in the Student Center. Instead, the charitable organization said it would hand out the coats during its regular hours Thursday, according to its Twitter account.

The Legion of Black Collegians canceled its Senate meeting, according to its Twitter.

Some MU Campus Dining locations announced they would be open with limited services due to staff shortages, according to MU Campus Dining's Twitter account.

Meanwhile, other organizations and facilities let the campus community know they were open.

"Hillel is an open space for anyone who needs somewhere to meet, or talk, or study," Mizzou Hillel Twitter posted.

MU Libraries tweeted that Ellis was "open and operating on a regular schedule." The Journalism Library announced it would close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, seven hours early.

Stephens College sent a letter, pledging solidarity with #ConcernedStudent1950 and black students at MU.

The Counseling Center increased the number of counselors available to students, said Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, in a news release.

"We know students are still processing their emotions and feelings about the events over the last several days," Scroggs said.

The center also said it would have an after-hours phone line students could call at 882-6601.
Second student apprehended for threats on social media

MARYVILLE - For the second time in a single day, a Missouri college student has been arrested for making threats on the social media site Yik Yak.

Northwest Missouri State University announced Wednesday afternoon it has taken Connor Stottlemyre into custody.

Stottlemyre is accused of making threats overnight and was taken into custody at about 11 a.m. at his residence hall on campus. Stottlemyre has not be charged yet.

University police began an investigation after receiving a report that the suspect made threats on Yik Yak to hurt others. Students and employees received a notification email about the incident around 8:30 a.m.

Stottlemyre's apprehension comes on the same day that Missouri S&T student Hunter Park was arrested for making threats toward MU's campus.

Threats lead to fearful MU campus

COLUMBIA – A day after receiving online threats from anonymous posters, MU students shared their thoughts about the mood on campus Wednesday.

“It's very quiet, and people are very sad,” said MU student Darren Swanson. “People are worried about their safety.”
MU student Iyla Khan said, “Just disappointment in humans in general, that you would do a threat like that when you know how serious a threat like that is.”

Another student, Eunide Diallo said, “Everyone’s just at home because they’re afraid to be out.”

Tuesday night, multiple threats aimed at black students started circulating around social media. The threats originated from Yik Yak, a social media application that allows anonymous posting.

MUPD arrested Hunter M. Park early Wednesday morning for posting the threats to Yik Yak. Later in the day, Northwest Missouri State University announced it had taken Connor Stotlemyre into custody for making threats on Yik Yak.

**Many students were upset at the way MU and MU Alert handled the threats Tuesday night. The threats were described as not being an immediate danger to students.**

“People weren’t responding appropriately. I don’t think fairly. And then of course I was kind of forced to come to some of my classes just because I couldn’t afford to miss them,” said Swanson. “My concern is just getting the word out. I think it was an incredibly slow response.”

There was a noticeable absence of people across the normally heavy populated campus on Wednesday. Students who did show up had similar reasons for doing so.

Khan said, “I knew I was going to go to class. I am really intense about my education. I really believe all of this was just an empty threat.”

“Personally, I was scared, but I still have classes going on and I still have to go to them,” said Diallo.

While some professors did cancel classes individually, others left it up to their students to choose for themselves whether to attend.

One professor, Dale Brigham, sent an email to students saying he would not cancel an exam, which created vocal protests. He resigned Wednesday.

Multiple students told KOMU they noticed increased security around campus Wednesday. MU released statements Wednesday afternoon explaining the handling of Tuesday night's threats.
Columbia businesses near campus close due to threats

COLUMBIA – Two businesses in downtown Columbia closed their doors for the day on Wednesday after threats made on Yik Yak about the University of Missouri campus surfaced.

Campus Bar & Grill and Starbucks Coffee on 9th Street both left signs on their doors with nobody to be found inside them, saying that they would be closed for the day.

The sign on the doors of Campus Bar & Grill read: “Campus will be closed today. Please stay safe Mizzou.” MU Campus Dining tweeted on Wednesday afternoon saying, “Due to staff shortages, some of our locations will be operating with limited services. We are doing our best, and appreciate your patience.”

MU Campus Dining Marketing Manager Michael Wuest said having a short staff has been something they have been battling all semester.

“If you’ve dined with us this semester, it isn’t hard to see that we have had problems with staffing.”

Wuest said he was not sure if the threats made to the campus were a reason why there would be staffing problems on Wednesday.

“It is really challenging to have student staff,” Wuest said. “I haven’t talked to the managers today.”

One manager of Ingredient Restaurant on 9th Street said he talked to his general manager Wednesday morning to find out if they were going to be open.

“He didn’t hear about the threats until this morning, so when I told him, we called our corporate owners, and they said that we should operate normally,” he said.

KOMU 8 News reached out to Campus Bar & Grill and Starbucks for comment, but have not yet heard back from either business.

The threats were a reason for some students not attending class on Wednesday. Police said the threats came from Hunter Park, a 19-year-old University of Missouri Science and Technology student. Park was arrested with a bond set at $4,500.
Missouri Professor's Resignation for Email About 'Bullies' Rejected


A popular University of Missouri professor submitted a letter of resignation Wednesday following an uproar over an email he sent to students telling them they'd have to take an exam despite threats of campus violence. But the university said it rejected the resignation, NBC station KOMU of Columbia reported.

Dale Brigham, an associate professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, submitted his resignation as outrage among some students grew in the wake of his email message.

"If you give in to bullies, they win," Brigham wrote. "The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose."

That email sparked outrage among some students. Not long after, the professor announced he would step down.

"I made a mistake, and I do not want to cause further harm," Brigham told KOMU in an email earlier Wednesday as he awaited the university's response.

Late Wednesday afternoon, KOMU quoted Christian Basi, a spokesman for the university, as saying Brigham's resignation wasn't accepted. No reason was given.

Brigham's resignation was first reported Wednesday morning by The Washington Post. Neither Brigham nor the university responded to NBC News' requests for comment Wednesday night.

Until his email, Brigham had no apparent connection to racial unrest on the school's Columbia campus, where protests culminated Monday with the resignations of two top administrators.

During the celebrations that followed, activists — including faculty members — clashed with journalists, spawning a spinoff debate about freedom of the press. Two of the faculty members publicly apologized.
Then on Wednesday, police arrested a student who they said had threatened black students and faculty on social media.

That was when Brigham, who is white, waded into the firestorm with his email.

"If you don't feel safe coming to class, then don't come to class," he wrote his nutritional science students. "I will be there, and there will be an exam administered in our class."

Some students posted parts of the message on social media and shared their dismay.

"I am just trying to do what I think is best for our students and the university as an institution," Brigham wrote. "If my leaders think that my leaving would help, I am all for it."

The university's administration announced a series of steps to bring calm to the campus Wednesday. That will include a panel Friday with faculty "who will share their teaching experiences this week."

Missouri Professor Quits, But Resignation Not Accepted
November 12, 2015

As tensions continue at the University of Missouri at Columbia, a popular professor resigned Wednesday, but the university says it has not accepted his resignation. Dale Brigham, a professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, resigned after he was widely criticized on social media for sending his students email messages saying that he would give an exam as scheduled, even as many students were worried for their safety amid reports of threats to the campus. "If you give into bullies, they win. The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose," he said in his emails, according to press accounts.

Amid the criticism, he turned in his resignation, which he confirmed in an email message to Inside Higher Ed. But he also indicated that the university had not responded to his resignation yet. Brigham told KOMU News "I am just trying to do what I think is best for our students and the university as an institution. If my leaders think that my leaving would help, I am all for it. I made a mistake, and I do not want to
cause further harm." A spokesperson for the university said Wednesday evening that the resignation has not been accepted.

COLUMBIA • Janna Basler was placed on administrative leave and relieved of her duties as director of Greek life Wednesday as the Department of Student Life investigates her "recent actions," according to a statement from Student Life Director Mark Lucas.

Basler made headlines as one of several school faculty and staff members who tried to block student journalists from covering the protests in the Carnahan Quadrangle at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Protesters, calling themselves Concerned Student 1950, formed a circle there Monday to block the media from students who had set up tents.

In a cellphone video that's now gone viral, Basler can be seen confronting Tim Tai of St. Louis County, who was taking photos for ESPN. When he asked for her name, she responded only as "Concerned Student 1950."

Tai said he remains neutral about news of Basler's suspension, but he said the two talked on Wednesday and she had personally apologized to him.

"I'm disappointed that there was shoving going on and that professors and students responded in the way that was recorded in the video," he said. "But I don't know how to judge whether the suspension should happen or not.

"As a journalist I didn't think twice about that encounter or trying to get some kind of punishment out of that."

Tai said a member of the Student Life marketing department contacted him Tuesday asking if he would consider meeting with Basler — a message he said he didn't receive until Wednesday. When he agreed, Basler met him in person.

"It was a very positive conversation," he said. "She apologized and I accepted that. She was very nice about the entire thing. I told her I was very sorry that it's blown up the way it did, but there are no hard feelings about the matter. As a journalist, you treat it as part of what happens and move on to next part of the story."

Basler told Tai she was trying to protect students who were experiencing a rush of emotions at the moment when UM System President Timothy M. Wolfe resigned.

"She said she was trying to protect students from the media, but she didn't realize we weren't trying to invade the campsite," he said. "There were tensions, emotions, adrenaline going. Both sides got a little overexcited and too passionate about being there. There was a breakdown of communication about each other's intents. She was acting in the best interest of the student group that was trying to process what was going on."

During their meeting, Tai said Basler suggested that she and Tai plan a panel discussion about the incident and issues beyond the matter of free speech.
"I told her I was really sorry that she is getting a lot of flack as well, that's unfortunate," Tai said. "There is inexperience on both sides."

Tai said their discussion happened before news of her suspension was made public.

"I know a lot of people argued for that, but as a journalist, it's just one of things you deal with," he said. "This is not the first time I've been blocked or shouted at covering a school event. I'm going to let people make decisions as they feel fit."

November 11, 2015 by Andy Thomason

U. of Missouri Professor Offers to Resign After Declining to Cancel Class

A University of Missouri professor has offered to resign after he was criticized for declining to cancel his Wednesday class with the Columbia campus on edge amid rumors of violence and online threats. The local television station KOMU reported that Dale E. Brigham, an associate teaching professor in the department of nutrition and exercise physiology, had offered to resign, but that administrators had not accepted the resignation as of Wednesday evening.

“I am just trying to do what I think is best for our students and the university as an institution,” Mr. Brigham told the station. “If my leaders think that my leaving would help, I am all for it. I made a mistake, and I do not want to cause further harm.”

In a statement to The Chronicle early Wednesday evening, Mary Jo Banken, a campus spokeswoman, said Mr. Brigham was still employed by the university.

The controversy began when a student tweeted a screenshot of an email he received from Mr. Brigham on Tuesday night, when the campus was reeling amid news of a terrorist threat on Yik Yak:
Another Twitter user tweeted a screenshot of an exchange with Mr. Brigham, in which he said that students who missed class could take the exam, and that he was quitting:

My Teacher had the nerve to email me, "If we cancel class, then we let the bullies win." Like this is a game or something.

Like are you kidding me. pic.twitter.com/8tt10RiBDy

If you don't feel safe coming to class, then don't come to class.

I will be there, and there will be an exam administered in our class.

If you give into bullies, they win. The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose.

I know which side I am on. You make your own choice.

Dr. Brigham
The controversy occurred amid tension following the dual resignations of Timothy M. Wolfe and R. Bowen Loftin, the university system’s president and the flagship campus’s chancellor, respectively, over allegations they hadn’t done enough to stop racism on the campus.

Mizzou professor tells students he is quitting over decision to hold exam as racial tensions boil

Nov. 12, 2015 • By Joel Currier

A University of Missouri-Columbia professor may have quit his job as racial tensions continued to flare on campus.
Dale Brigham, a nutrition and exercise professor, caused an uproar with his email to students Tuesday night imploring them to come to class to take an exam despite the turmoil. Parts of that email were widely shared on social media. Brigham couldn’t be reached Wednesday but confirmed to the Washington Post that he wrote it. Photos circulating online Wednesday of emails to his students included a line saying he was resigning.

An MU spokeswoman said Wednesday afternoon that Brigham is still employed by the university. She did not elaborate.

Tuesday’s controversial email to his Nutritional Science 1034 class said: “If you don’t feel safe coming to class, then don’t come to class. I will be there, and there will be an exam administered in our class.

“If you give into bullies, they win,” he wrote. “The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose.

“I know which side I am on,” Brigham said in the email. “You make your own choice.”

Brigham was lambasted on social media and labeled a racist for wanting to hold class. Other current and former students took to Twitter to lament his possible departure, and praise his teaching.

He signed emails to his class Wednesday morning, saying “It is an honor to have been your professor. Good Luck, and Godspeed, Tigers!”

Photos of more emails to individual students were circulated on social media Wednesday. The emails said students could make up the exam later without losing points. “Also, I am resigning my position,” the emails said.

Later Wednesday afternoon, Brigham wrote another email to his classes, apologizing for his “lack of compassion for students who felt unsafe.” He said when he wrote the initial message, he had “failed to understand the depth of fear that students may be experiencing” and “not aware of the Yik Yak threats.”

He also said his class will be covered by other faculty.

Brigham has been an MU professor since the mid 1990s, according to his online résumé. He earned a doctorate in nutrition from Pennsylvania State University in 1995, a master’s degree in nutrition from Texas Tech University in 1985 and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Texas A&M in 1977.

**Greek Life director placed on leave**

Also Wednesday, Janna Basler was placed on administrative leave and relieved of her duties as the university’s director of Greek life as the Department of Student Life investigates her “recent actions,” according to a statement from Student Life Director Mark Lucas.

Basler made headlines as one of several school faculty and staff members who tried to block student journalists from covering the protests in the Carnahan Quadrangle at the university. Protesters, calling themselves Concerned Student 1950, formed a circle there Monday to block the media from students who had set up tents.

In a cellphone video, Basler can be seen confronting Tim Tai of St. Louis County, a student who was taking photos for ESPN. When he asked for her name, she responded only as “Concerned Student 1950.”

Tai said he remains neutral about news of Basler’s suspension, but he said she had personally apologized to him.
“I’m disappointed that there was shoving going on and that professors and students responded in the way that was recorded in the video,” he said. “But I don’t know how to judge whether the suspension should happen or not.

“As a journalist I didn’t think twice about that encounter or trying to get some kind of punishment out of that.”

Tai said a member of the Student Life marketing department contacted him Tuesday asking if he would consider meeting with Basler — a message he said he didn’t receive until Wednesday. When he agreed, Basler met him in person.

“She apologized and I accepted that,” he said. “She was very nice about the entire thing. I told her I was very sorry that it’s blown up the way it did, but there are no hard feelings about the matter.”

Basler told Tai she was trying to protect students who were experiencing a rush of emotions at the moment when UM System President Timothy M. Wolfe resigned.

“I told her I was really sorry that she is getting a lot of flack as well, that’s unfortunate,” Tai said. “There is inexperience on both sides.”

Koran Addo and Christine Byers of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.

Professor, staff member apologize for actions at protest site

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A University of Missouri Department of Communication assistant professor on Tuesday evening resigned her courtesy title at the School of Journalism, the day after a video of her confronting a photojournalist on Carnahan Quadrangle went viral.

Melissa Click quit before the faculty in the School of Journalism could vote on whether to rescind her courtesy title. She never held a teaching role in the school, Suzette Heiman, a journalism professor and director of planning and communications at the school, said in an email. Click can be seen on video telling others at the protest site to use force to remove a student journalist from the area.

Earlier on Tuesday, Click said in a written statement that she had watched the video and offered apologies to the journalists involved. She said she also told them she regretted her actions. Janna
Basler, an associate director in the Department of Student Life also seen in the video confronting a student journalist, also issued an apology late Tuesday.

“I regret the language and strategies I used, and sincerely apologize to the MU campus community, and journalists at large, for my behavior, and also for the way my actions have shifted attention away from the students’ campaign for justice,” Click said in the statement released by the Department of Communication. Click said she apologized to one of the reporters in a phone call and that he accepted her apology.

Calls to take action against Click, an assistant professor of mass media, grew after video was posted on YouTube that showed her telling others at the protest site to “get this reporter out of here” after a confrontation with MU student journalist Tim Tai. Students with Concerned Student 1950, a group pushing for better treatment of minorities on campus, were gathered at the site after University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced his resignation in response to the group’s demands.

The chairman of the Department of Communication issued a statement Tuesday afternoon but did not mention the embattled department professor.

In the written statement, Professor Mitchell S. McKinney said the department “supports the First Amendment as a fundamental right and guiding principle underlying all that we do as an academic community.” McKinney went on to say the department applauds student journalists who were working at the protest site Monday and that “intimidation is never an acceptable form of communication.”

However, McKinney said, “we will not be able to comment on any personnel matters.”

Earlier Tuesday, MU School of Journalism Dean David Kurpius said journalism school faculty were taking immediate action to review Click’s courtesy appointment with the school. The journalism school and communication department are separate, and Click is not a member of the journalism faculty.

Basler’s apology said she respects journalists and is “deeply sorry for what happened.”

“Yesterday, I allowed my emotions to get the best of me while trying to protect some of our students,” Basler wrote. “Instead of defusing an already tense situation, I contributed to its escalation. I regret how I handled the situation, and I am offering a public apology to the journalist involved.”
Tuesday evening, Department of Student Life Director Mark Lucas said in a statement he and Vice Chancellor Cathy Scroggs were reviewing videos and will have conversations with people who were at the protest site.

“We will take any appropriate actions at that time,” the statement said. “In accordance with University Collected Rules and Regulations, we will not comment on any personnel matters.”

MU employee put on administrative leave over confrontation with photographer

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 4:30 pm

A University of Missouri employee caught on video physically confronting a photographer was placed on administrative leave Wednesday, soon after a leading state lawmaker called for her to be fired and prosecuted for assault.

Janna Basler was “relieved of her duties of director of Greek Life while we conduct an investigation regarding her recent actions,” Mark Lucas, director of the Department of Student Life, said in a one-sentence news release.

Basler was one of two university employees recorded on video who used force or threatened to use force to evict journalists from Carnahan Quadrangle, the public space where protesters were camped in support of Concerned Student 1950 and graduate student Jonathan Butler, who had been on a hunger strike to force the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe.

Basler joined a group that surrounded photographer Tim Tai, walking forward and bumping against Tai to force him back. Basler has issued an apology.

The other was Melissa Click, an assistant professor in the Department of Communications, who ordered videographer Mark Schierbecker to leave Carnahan Quadrangle during protests on Monday. When he refused, his camera caught Click shouting “I need some muscle over here.”

Click also has issued an apology and resigned her courtesy appointment in the School of Journalism as well as her affiliation with the Student Publications Committee, which suggests policies and regulations related to the Maneater to MU’s vice chancellor for student affairs.
Both should be fired, state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said in a news release.

“‘It is incumbent on the University of Missouri to send a strong message that acts of intimidation and violence will not be tolerated on campus’,” Schaefer said. “The University’s employment of Melissa Click and Janna Basler should immediately be terminated for their violations of MU’s code of conduct and their actions referred by MU to the City of Columbia or Boone County Prosecutor for appropriate action.”

Schaefer filed a report with the University of Missouri Police Department, which is investigating the incident.

The criminal violations, Schaefer said, are third-degree assault and attempted false imprisonment. Third-degree assault occurs when a person “knowingly causes physical contact with another person knowing the other person will regard the contact as offensive or provocative” or places the other person in fear of immediate physical injury.

False imprisonment occurs when a person “knowingly restrains another unlawfully and without consent so as to interfere substantially with his liberty.”

Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight could not be reached Wednesday for comment on the call for prosecution.

Mitchell McKinney, director of the Department of Communications, declined to comment on what, if any, action had been taken against Click. She taught her scheduled classes on Tuesday, said Jordan Yount, spokesman for the College of Arts and Sciences.

In her apology on Tuesday, Click said she regrets “the language and strategies I used, and sincerely apologize to the MU campus community, and journalists at large, for my behavior, and also for the way my actions have shifted attention away from the students’ campaign for justice.”

In Basler’s apology, she said she respects journalists and is “deeply sorry for what happened.”
Click resigns courtesy appointment, still employed

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Two days after she was caught on camera harassing a student journalist, Assistant Professor Melissa Click is still employed with the university. Click issued a statement Wednesday afternoon confirming that she was resigning from her courtesy appointment with the university's School of Journalism, and stepping down from Chancellor's Student Publications Committee.

In her statement, Click said she regrets that her "involvement in the Concerned Student 1950 protests had an impact on the University of Missouri School of Journalism".

Effective today, I have resigned my affiliation with MU's School of Journalism and the Chancellor's Student Publications Committee to allow them to continue their important work without further distraction," Click's release stated.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: MU faculty member resigns courtesy appointment, apologizes for photojournalist incident

November 11, 2015

COLUMBIA — MU faculty member Melissa Click and MU staff member Janna Basler have apologized. And Tuesday night, Click resigned her courtesy appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism.

Click teaches mass media in the Communication Department. The School of Journalism is a separate entity.

Click was caught up in an incident Monday between a freelance photographer and protesters near the Concerned Student 1950 camp on Mel Carnahan Quadrangle.

"Yesterday was an historic day at MU — full of emotion and confusion. I have reviewed and reflected upon the video of me that is circulating, and have written this statement to offer both apology and context for my actions," Click, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon by the College of Arts and Science.

"I have reached out to the journalists involved to offer my sincere apologies and to express regret over my actions. I regret the language and strategies I used, and sincerely apologize to the MU campus community, and journalists at large, for my behavior, and also for the way my actions have shifted attention away from the students’ campaign for justice," the statement said.
"Courtesy appointments with doctoral faculty are basically honorary in nature," Esther Thorson, the journalism school's associate dean for graduate studies, said in an email Wednesday.

Thorson said doctoral dissertation committees are required to have at least one person from another academic discipline.

"A person does not have to be a courtesy appointment holder," Thorson said. "However, Courtesy appointments may serve EITHER as internal OR external members, providing more flexibility for our doctoral students."

Ten communication faculty members serve in courtesy roles, Thorson said. Five other non-journalism professors have courtesy appointments with the journalism school.

Courtesy appointments in the journalism school require nominations by doctoral faculty and are voted on by the journalism school's promotion and tenure committee before going before Dean David Kurpius for final approval, Thorson said.

The Journalism School's Executive Committee, including Kurpius, met Tuesday morning to discuss the vote and prepare a statement on Click's actions Monday as seen in footage of an incident between the photographer, Tim Tai, an undergraduate in photojournalism, and the protesters — including MU’s Greek Life and Leadership Assistant Director Janna Basler.

On Tuesday night, Click attended a meeting with the doctoral faculty* and the journalism school's promotion and tenure committee. Kurpius said Click resigned her courtesy appointment before a vote was taken. Kurpius said the committee discussed other matters, but that Click's appointment was the only item for which a vote was planned.

Click left the meeting, which began around 5 p.m. in the basement of Switzler Hall and ended just after 7 p.m., at around 5:45 p.m. As she left the meeting room, she said she had no comment to make. At that time, she had not yet resigned.
Prior to leaving, Kurpius said, Click discussed her perspective and her reasons for resigning; he declined to elaborate, saying Click would be releasing additional comments on Wednesday after putting together a "clarifying statement."

"One of the things of good journalism is to get all the facts, and we wanted them directly from her to have context and understanding," Kurpius said.

A vote on whether to end her appointment was about to start, Kurpius said, when Click offered her resignation via telephone.

"She's not a bad person," Kurpius said in an interview Tuesday night. "... She wanted to explain what happened. I thought it was very appropriate. She was intelligent and thoughtful and apologetic for many of the things that had happened."

Also, the MU Police Department increased its presence on campus after threats were made against Click.

About 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, MU Police Maj. Brian Weimer confirmed the department is "aware that there have been threats made against her (Click)." He said the department has "stepped up patrols" and was performing "walkthroughs" across campus.

Kurpius said he had heard about Click receiving "horrific threats." He called such threats "unacceptable" and said he hoped Click would be treated respectfully.

Click was seen at the end of the video asking for assistance and for "muscle" to remove MU junior Mark Schierbecker, who filmed the interaction and uploaded his footage to YouTube. Basler was seen pushing and berating Tai in the video.

Angela Dahman, MU's Division of Student Affairs marketing and communications manager, said Basler would not be available for an interview Tuesday.

"We are focused on securing her family's safety right now," Dahman said in an email.
At 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, the MU Office of Greek Life released a statement attributed to Basler.

"As a student affairs professional, I take my responsibility to students very seriously," Basler said. "Yesterday, I allowed my emotions to get the best of me while trying to protect some of our students. Instead of defusing an already tense situation, I contributed to its escalation. I regret how I handled the situation, and I am offering a public apology to the journalist involved.

"I have the utmost respect for journalists and the profession of journalism. I have devoted my career to helping students learn and develop outside the classroom. What happened on Carnahan Quadrangle has been a lesson for me. I am deeply sorry for what happened."

Mark Lucas, Department of Student Life director, said in a statement that he and Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs, were "reviewing videos and will be having conversations with individuals present in order to understand what happened."

Kurpius and Thorson characterized Click's actions as a clear violation of First Amendment rights. Kurpius said taking actions that might escalate a peaceful protest was "unwarranted."

Click has been an assistant professor at MU since 2008, serving as a resident instructor and visiting instructor between 2003 and 2008. She earned her Ph.D. in 2009 from the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Click chairs MU's Student Publications Committee, the job of which is "to recommend to the vice chancellor for Student Affairs policies and regulations regarding the publication of the Maneater and Savitar." The Maneater is MU's student newspaper, and Savitar was the school's yearbook, which was discontinued.

On Tuesday afternoon, Thorson said in an email that the doctoral faculty met at 1 p.m. after indicating via email that they wanted to meet face to face.

"The discussion has not concluded, and no decision has yet been made about the courtesy appointment," Thorson wrote at the time.
Kurpius said he was not aware of Click ever having taught a journalism class at MU, adding that she might be able to teach a cross-listed course.

"Dr. Click does not teach journalism courses," Thorson said in an email. "She serves on some doctoral committees."

Thorson said "the complexities and ethical challenges are such" that the faculty "has not made a decision and will continue to meet." She cited "issues of pushing a student" and "issues of saying something inflammatory" as well as the notion of a "safe space" on public property.

Kurpius said it was the responsibility of any faculty member "to support the First Amendment rights of all students and staff."

Attempts to reach Click earlier on Tuesday were unsuccessful; a call to her university phone number indicated that her voicemail inbox was full.

In an email to Chris Bennett, an attorney in Austin, Texas, and an MU graduate, College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O'Brien said, "I in no way condone what Dr. Click did, but I hope (key word) that we can chalk this up to inflamed passion and inexperience."

O'Brien indicated that he and Mitchell McKinney, who chairs the Department of Communication, would be meeting with Click.

"Faculty (and students) have a right to express their views, but they do NOT have the right to intimidate others," O'Brien wrote in the email. "This has been an awful time for the university, but that in no way condones intimidation."

Bennett, who graduated in 2005 with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, emailed O'Brien on Monday night, saying he was "absolutely horrified" to see the video of Click.

"I just let him know that I thought it was absolutely unacceptable for a member of the faculty to threaten violence against any journalist, and especially a student journalist," Bennett said Tuesday in an interview.
Click was not tenured, McKinney said in an email Tuesday night. On Tuesday afternoon, the Department of Communication released via Twitter a statement attributed to McKinney.

"The University of Missouri Department of Communication supports the First Amendment as a fundamental right and guiding principle underlying all that we do as an academic community," McKinney said in the statement. "We applaud student journalists who were working in a very trying atmosphere to report a significant story. Intimidation is never an acceptable form of communication.

"We reiterate our commitment as communication scholars to the transformative power of dialogue; we believe words shape our realities and that engaging multiple perspectives is vital. According to the University's Collected Rules and Regulations (HR 114), we will not be able to comment on any personnel matters."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

The Latest: Missouri professor offers to resign over email

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The latest on the protests and turmoil over racially charged incidents at the University of Missouri (all times local):

2 p.m.
A University of Missouri professor who challenged his students to show up for class despite fears over racially-motivated threats of violence or risk missing an exam says he has offered his resignation.

Dale Brigham told The Associated Press by email Wednesday that he ultimately backtracked and told students they could take the exam on a later date. His initial email to his Nutritional Science 1034 class urging them to "not give in to bullies" and warning that the test would be administered Wednesday whether students showed up or not sparked an angry response.

Brigham says he has offered his resignation, although university spokesman Christian Basi said he didn't know yet whether the school had accepted the resignation.

A student at another campus is accused of having made the online threats.

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1:50 p.m.

Free speech advocates are expressing concern that instructions from University of Missouri police on how students should report "hateful and/or hurtful" speech could stifle legitimate differences of opinion.

A campus email sent Tuesday instructs recipients to call university police as soon as possible and notes that while such speech isn't always illegal, students can nonetheless be punished by the Office of Student Conduct.

The university's student conduct code prohibits harassment, which it defines as "unwelcome verbal or physical conduct" against "actual or perceived membership in a protected class ... that creates a hostile environment." The conduct code also forbids bullying, retaliation and threatening or intimidating behaviors.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri responded with a statement calling for the university to not compromise the right to free expression in its efforts to fight racism. Its
statement says, "Mistakenly addressing symptoms - instead of causes - and doing it in a way that runs counter to the First Amendment is not the wise or appropriate response."

A University of Missouri police official referred questions about the email to the university's media relations office, which did not immediately respond.

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1:30 p.m.

A man accused of posting online threats aimed at black University of Missouri students and faculty won't appear in court until Thursday at the earliest because county offices are closed for Veterans Day.

Hunter M. Park was arrested early Wednesday in Rolla, where he is a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He was jailed in Columbia on a preliminary charge of suspicion of making a terrorist threat. He hasn't been formally charged.

Authorities say Park posted on YikYak and other social media sites threats to "shoot every black person" he sees on the university's flagship campus in Columbia. A black student group organized protests there that helped force the resignations Monday of the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus.

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10:25 a.m.

The 19-year-old man arrested for allegedly making online threats against black students and faculty at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus is a student at one of its other campuses.
Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla confirmed that 19-year-old Hunter M. Park is a student there. He was arrested Wednesday at a residence hall on the Rolla campus. The school says no weapons were found.

Park was taken by University of Missouri police to Columbia, where he is jailed. Formal charges haven't been filed.

The online posts on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over their handling of racial issues.

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10:15 a.m.

There are noticeably fewer people walking around the University of Missouri's Columbia campus despite the early-morning arrest of a man suspected of posting online threats against black students and faculty.

The campus green where crowds protested against the administration's handling of racial issues was devoid of students Wednesday morning.

Freshman communication sciences and disorders major Megan Grazman said she was heading to class and felt safe, but that it was clear many students weren't. She said, "There's nobody out. It's a ghost town."

Sean Ficken, who has one black parent and one white one, said he's not worried but is being more vigilant than usual.

University police arrested a 19-year-old man early Wednesday suspected of posting anonymous threats online about shooting black people.
9 a.m.

University of Missouri police say the suspect accused of making online threats against black students and faculty is 19-year-old Hunter M. Park.

Park was arrested at 1:50 a.m. Wednesday by university police in Rolla, Missouri, and taken to Columbia, where he is jailed on $4,500 bond. Charges have not been filed. He is not a student at the Columbia campus.

Rolla is about 94 miles south of Columbia.

Police declined to release a photo of the suspect, citing concerns for his safety.

The online posts on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

Campus police Major Brian Weimer says additional officers are posted on campus to ensure security.

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over the university's handling of complaints about racism.

6:55 a.m.

University of Missouri Police say the department has arrested a suspect accused of making online threats against black students and faculty.
A post early Wednesday on the university's emergency alert website says the suspect is in university police custody and was not on or near the university campus when the threats were made. A dispatcher at the university's police department says more information will be released later Wednesday.

The online posts discovered on YikYak and other social media Tuesday threatened to "shoot every black person I see."

Campus police Capt. Brian Weimer says additional officers are posted on campus to ensure security.

The threats follow the resignations Monday of the university system's president and the Columbia campus' chancellor after student protests over the university's handling of complaints about racism.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**UPDATE: MU director of Greek Life put on leave; Title IX complaint filed against her and Click**

RUTH SERVEN, WILLIAM SCHMITT, Updated 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — One of the MU employees seen physically forcing a freelance photographer to move at a Concerned Student 1950 camp Monday has been placed on administrative leave, effective immediately.

Mark Lucas, director of the Department of Student Life, sent the following statement late Wednesday afternoon: "Effective Nov. 11, 2015, Janna Basler has been placed on administrative leave and relieved of her duties as Director of Greek Life while we conduct an investigation regarding her recent actions."
In a video by MU student Mark Schierbecker, which has been widely circulated, Basler is seen with her arms outstretched walking toward and eventually touching Tim Tai, a student photojournalist on assignment for ESPN. Basler issued an apology Tuesday night, saying she regretted how she handled the tense situation at the campsite and that she respected journalists. Schierbecker is a senior photographer for The Maneater, a student newspaper at MU.

The other MU employee, Melissa Click, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, also apologized Tuesday. In the video, she is seen telling Schierbecker to leave and calling for some "muscle" to move him away from the camp.

On Wednesday night, Schierbecker said he filed a "municipal simple assault" complaint against Click with the MU Police Department. He claims she physically and verbally assaulted him.

After exchanging emails with Click, Schierbecker said he went to Switzler Hall on Tuesday to meet with Click in her office, where she apologized to him.

Schierbecker said he was accompanied by Danielle Muscato — his publicist and the former public relations director for American Atheists — and Ian Paris, the president of the MU chapter of Young Americans for Liberty. Schierbecker said he was not allowed to record his conversation with Click and said Paris waited outside Click's door.

Schierbecker said he thought Basler should resign, "and if not, she needs to be removed."

"Click should also go. Even more so," he said. "That's my number one priority at the moment, is making sure she never teaches ever again."

Click resigned Tuesday night from a courtesy appointment in the Missouri School of Journalism, which allowed her to serve on graduate committees. She has also resigned from the Chancellor's Student Publications Committee.
Another MU employee appearing in Schierbecker's video has been identified as Richard "Chip" Callahan, who chairs MU's Department of Religious Studies. In the video, Callahan can be seen talking to Tai and raising his arms to block Tai's camera view.

Tai said in an interview Tuesday that Callahan and Click have apologized to him. Tai said he had "a good conversation" with Callahan and that he harbored "no hard feelings" toward either professor.

Tai said that Basler also apologized to him when the two met on Wednesday afternoon at the MU Student Recreation Complex.

**Title IX complaint**

After seeing the video, Brian Brooks, a former associate dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, filed formal complaints against Basler and Click with the Title IX office at MU.

Brooks said Wednesday he filed reports early Tuesday afternoon, adding Wednesday that he hadn't received a response from the office. As a part-time MU employee, Brooks is a mandated reporter of possible Title IX incidents, which involve discrimination based on sex.

"The university gave all of us training based on Title IX, and any kind of harassment was to be reported," Brooks said in an interview Wednesday.

He said Click "has proven herself unfit to teach at the University of Missouri."

He said a non-MU attorney had since told him the incident didn't qualify as a Title IX offense, which he said was "probably true, but if it is, it's a serious hole in Title IX. Racial harassment is what I would call it."

Brooks said he'd seen the video several times and said he considered Basler to have committed assault and battery against Tai, and Click to have verbally assaulted Schierbecker. He said the case could be made that because Tai was pushed, battery occurred.
"Apparently, in the eyes of MU, it is OK for a staff member or faculty member to assault a student without ramifications," Brooks said Wednesday in an email. "At the very least, the two should have been suspended Monday pending completion of an investigation."

Attempts to contact Basler, Click, Lucas, MU spokesman Christian Basi, MU Title IX Director Ellen Eardley and MU Police Department Maj. Brian Weimer were unsuccessful.

Brooks said he had not spoken to an attorney about whether Basler's or Click's actions qualified as assault or battery. He said he took issue with their behavior because they acted to escalate the interaction between press and protesters, saying Basler and Click "effectively tried to incite a riot."

He said this was the first Title IX complaint he had filed since he became a mandatory reporter at MU and said he hopes MU "gets serious about dealing with racism" as a result of his report.

"I think the (Concerned Student 1950) group has outlined a lot of things that could possibly be done, including more diversity training," he said. "I also think the university needs to deal more forcefully when incidents are right there in front of them. ... Looks like to me, you've got video. It's a cut-and-dried case."

Brooks said he was particularly emotional after watching the video because he recruited Tai to MU.

"I know (Tai) and I know what a good student he is," he said. "It just pains me to see him treated that way, right in the shadow of Jesse Hall."
MU Nutrition Science professor staying on faculty
SARAH WYNN, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU teaching associate professor Dale E. Brigham will take a break from teaching his nutrition science class instead of resigning his position, according to a statement sent to his class Wednesday afternoon.

Brigham was criticized Tuesday night for his response to emails from students who wanted a 10 a.m. Wednesday exam rescheduled due to threats on campus. A screenshot of Brigham's email, in which he said he would not postpone the test, circulated via social media.

"If you give into bullies they win," Brigham wrote in the email. "The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose."

Brigham, who has taught at MU since 1997, apologized in another email on Wednesday afternoon. He said his initial response "conveyed a lack of compassion for students who felt unsafe."

Mary Kate Terry, a sophomore in Brigham's class, said she was offended when she saw the first email on social media. She had already decided she wouldn't take the exam the next morning.

"I didn't feel comfortable or safe on campus," she said.

Wednesday morning, Brigham sent out an email to students rescheduling the exam.

“It is an honor to have been your professor. Good Luck, and Godspeed, Tigers!” said the email.
The sign-off sparked questions about Brigham's future at MU.

“(The statement) made it sound like he would no longer be our professor,” said MU sophomore Cara Passi.

“Based on the fact that his email kind of went all over the place on social media and everyone kind of had a really rough reaction with it, I wouldn’t be surprised (if he resigned),” Passi said.

Christopher Hardin, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, said via email that Brigham's initial email was in no way meant to be insensitive but instead reflected the professor's frustration toward those making threats.

Brigham also apologized for his choice of words and his unawareness of the nature of his response.

"The last thing that I wanted to do was to dishonor the University of Missouri and our amazing students," Brigham said in an email. "My actions have caused concern and distress. For this, I am deeply sorry."

Brigham declined to comment in a phone call Wednesday night.

Brigham has been a teaching associate professor at the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology since 2012 and has been at MU since 1997 as a state nutrition and fitness specialist and assistant professor of nutrition and fitness and State Extension Specialist.
Multiple petitions have been created calling for the removal of two MU employees after a video surfaced documenting an incident on Monday, Nov. 9 in which they demanded that journalists leave the Concerned Student 1950 campsite.

Assistant Director of Greek Life and Leadership Janna Basler and Assistant Professor of Mass Media Melissa Click can be seen in the video shouting at MU student and former Maneater staffer Tim Tai and other journalists. Students formed a human barricade to prevent the journalists from approaching Concerned Student 1950 members and Basler can be seen raising her arms above her head shouting at Tai.

Later in the video, Click can be seen grabbing the videographer’s, MU student Mark Schierbecker, camera and shouting, “You need to get out.” She then shouted to other protesters, "Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here? I need some muscle over here!"

Click released a statement Tuesday afternoon apologizing for her actions. She said that she reached out to the journalists involved to apologize.

“I regret the language and strategies I used, and sincerely apologize to the MU campus, community, and journalists at large, for my behavior, and also for the way my actions have shifted attention away from the students’ campaign for justice,” Click said in the statement.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, Click released another statement resigning both her courtesy appointment to the School of Journalism and appointment to the Chancellor’s Student Publications Committee. “I have enjoyed working with the faculty, staff, and students in both groups and deeply respect their missions,” the statement read. “Effective today, I have resigned my affiliation with the MU School of Journalism and Chancellor’s Student Publications Committee to allow them to continue their important work without further distraction.”

A statement was also released on Nov. 11 by Department of Student Life Director Mark Lucas that said Basler had been placed on administrative leave and relieved of her duties as Director of Greek Life while an investigation was conducted.

Click has been widely criticized on social media for her actions and two petitions have been started calling for her removal. The petitions have each garnered close to 1,000 signatures.
Additionally, a Facebook page titled “Hey Hey Ho Ho Melissa Click Needs to Go,” was started, playing off of the “Hey hey! Ho ho! Reporters have got to go!” chant that activists shouted. Within 13 hours of its creation, over 250 people had liked the page.

“I started the page because I was outraged at the actions of these protesters, especially Melissa Click, an assistant professor in the mass media department, in their confrontation with the student journalists,” Kevin Moore, a St. Louis area resident and creator of the Facebook page, said in an email.

A petition has also been started to remove Basler from her position, but has garnered significantly less signatures. Much of the response from media and students has been centered on Click because of her positions as a mass media professor.

“As an 'advisor' to Mizzou students, and as a faculty member who should understand first amendment rights, her actions were shameful and could have caused these students to be harmed,” Moore said.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, School of Journalism Dean David Kurpius released a statement praising Tai. He clarified that as a professor with the mass media department in the College of Arts and Science, Click is not a faculty member with the School of Journalism and instead holds a “courtesy appointment.”

“She is a member of the MU Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Science,” Kurpius said in the statement. “In that capacity she holds a courtesy appointment with the School of Journalism. Journalism School faculty members are taking immediate action to review that appointment.”

Mitchell McKinney, chair of the department of communication, also released a statement, saying that the department supports student journalists and the first amendment.

“The University of Missouri supports the First Amendment as a fundamental right and guiding principle underlying all that we do as an academic community,” McKinney said in the statement. “We applaud student journalists who were working in a very trying atmosphere to report a significant story. Intimidation is never an acceptable form of communication.”

Click and Basler could not be reached for comment.

A joint statement was made by the three MU Greek councils in support of Basler.

“We understand the importance of upholding students’ First Amendment rights and were disappointed in the video uploaded yesterday, but we do not feel as if her actions at that time were reflective of her intentions to support students,” the statement read. Lucas declined to be interviewed. McKinney said in the statement that he “will not be able to comment on any personnel matters.” This is in accordance with University Collected Rules and Regulations.
Lucas released a statement Tuesday afternoon, saying Student Life and the Office of Greek Life "are saddened to see the efforts of our students being overshadowed during this critical time for our community. MU is committed to the First Amendment, free speech, academic freedom and the robust exchange of ideas and knowledge."

He added that he and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs are reviewing videos from the demonstrations and will be having conversations with "individuals present in order to understand what happened."

**Missouri Senator calls MU to fire faculty, staff after video**

COLUMBIA - State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, announced Wednesday he believes that [MU professor Melissa Click and staff member Janna Basler should be terminated for their violation of MU's code of conduct during Monday's Concerned Student 1950 protests.](#)

Click and Basler gained national attention after a video went viral showing the two confronting a student photographer.

Schaefer said Click and Basler committed acts of third degree assault and attempted false imprisonment.

The video shows Click asking students for "muscle" to help remove a photojournalist from the campsite area.

Click is an assistant professor with the MU Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Science. She resigned her courtesy appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism after national backlash for violating First Amendment rights.

Click issued an apology statement on Tuesday.
MU faculty call for dismissal of Click and Basler

COLUMBIA - Many members of MU's faculty and staff are asking the University of Missouri to fire assistant professor Melissa Click and Student life leader Janna Basler. The Department of Student Life placed Basler on administrative leave late Wednesday afternoon.

They were involved in an assault on a student reporter during Monday's protests on MU's Carnahan Quad. The assault was caught on video and has gone viral. Click is heard on video asking fellow protestors for "muscle" to remove the journalist from the scene.

Click is an assistant professor for the MU Department of Communication and Basler is a Student Life Associate Director.

Brian Brooks, a journalism professor at The University of Missouri said he is upset with how the university has handled the situation.

"I saw a case of assault and battery against a student and here we are two days later and I haven't heard of the university police doing anything that the whole world saw by a videotape. What we have, once again, is the university dragging its feet on responding to a misbehavior by somebody on campus," Brooks said.

Brooks himself recruited the photographer, Tim Tai, to the Missouri School of Journalism and said he is one of the best students on campus. Brooks said he waited two days to speak on the matter, saying that was plenty of time for the university to react. He said it is unconscionable that nothing has been done.

"If I were a student, I would be very disappointed a professor who works on campus assaulted a student."

Click did resign her courtesy appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism, but remains with the Department of Communication.

One student said he isn't sure as to what reaction Click will receive from her students.

"Students I know in her class said she did not attend yesterday," Jake Schmeisser said.
Update: Resignation not accepted from MU professor who sent email

Posted: Nov 11, 2015 5:41 PM by Samantha Kummerer, KOMU 8 Digital Producer

COLUMBIA - A University of Missouri spokesperson said the resignation was not accepted from a professor who came under fire for an email he sent to a student after threats against the university surfaced on social media.

MU Nutrition & Exercise associate professor Dale Brigham's email challenges them to come to class, saying "If you give into bullies, they win. The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose."

Brigham's response upset many students.

Anonymous threats on a social media app directed towards the MU campus Tuesday evening left many students fearing for their safety.

"I am just trying to do what I think is best for our students and the university as an institution," Brigham said to KOMU 8 News. "If my leaders think that my leaving would help, I am all for it. I made a mistake, and I do not want to cause further harm."

In Missouri, the Downfall of a Business-Minded President

By Bruce Joshua Miller and Ned Stuckey-French NOVEMBER 11, 2015
Timothy Wolfe should never have been president of the University of Missouri. He was a computer-company executive with no advanced degrees or experience in academic administration. Like so many other unrepresentative, politically appointed boards, Missouri’s Board of Curators chose a private-sector manager to run a public university. Wolfe had virtually no experience with students or scholars.

If he had, one of his first major decisions as president in the spring of 2012 would not have been to shut down the University of Missouri Press. The internationally respected press had been in existence for 54 years and had published over 2,000 titles. These titles included the definitive edition of the collected works of Langston Hughes and the premier series of Mark Twain scholarship. No American writers have written more insightfully about race than these two sons of Missouri, but Wolfe was going to sell off the rights to these titles at garage-sale prices.

A few weeks later, the Board of Curators approved Wolfe’s decision to close the press, ostensibly to save its annual subsidy of about $400,000 (later estimated to be much less). At the same meeting, it announced Phase 1 of a $200-million plan to upgrade Mizzou’s sports facilities.

By committing the university to an athletic arms race and running it like a corporation, Wolfe and the board were heading down a disastrous path. More than 5,000 people signed an online petition opposing the closure of the press, scores of authors claimed breach of contract and demanded that the rights to their books be returned, Missouri’s principal newspapers supported the protest movement, and Wolfe and the university found themselves in the national news. By fall, Wolfe was forced to reverse his position and reinstate the press.

We can see now that these events presaged what has happened in Columbia this fall. Public universities are public trusts, not private corporations. They are a public good in which we must all invest. We used to view them this way. Forty years ago, about two-thirds of their revenue came from state appropriations; that figure is now down to about a fifth. Administrators have tried to wring these lost revenues out of already strapped middle-class parents and their children through higher tuition and enormous student-loan burdens. In the meantime, the number of administrators has skyrocketed, and their compensation packages have swelled to private-sector levels.

On campus, tenure is attacked, teaching is shifted to poorly paid adjuncts and teaching assistants, and students are treated shabbily. Their demands for safe campuses, challenging classes, and basic respect are too often ignored. The privatization of public higher education led Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who has since agreed to step down, to yank medical insurance away from graduate assistants, and it led President
Wolfe to rush to meetings with big donors while ignoring the concerns of African-American students.

Fortunately, such bottom-line thinking has also led students, faculty, and staff to fight back. This fall Missouri provided us all with the brave example of student leaders (including athletes) who were willing to risk everything in order to make their university the place of learning it should be. Our hope is that the Board of Curators will pick new administrators who see the University of Missouri as a public institution to which we have entrusted our children and our society’s future rather than as a corporation that puts money and skyboxes first.

Making this happen will be difficult. State governors appoint the boards, and the boards appoint the presidents and chancellors. Such a system, as we have seen recently at Purdue, Iowa, the University of North Carolina, and Florida State as well as at Missouri, has led to the appointments of businesspeople, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and politicians as university presidents. Such appointments do not bode well — but students, faculty, and staff at the University of Missouri have demanded something different.

We cannot thank them enough.

Missteps, not student revolt, led to Mizzou chancellor's demise

Nov. 12, 2015 • By Koran Addo

Even as it became clear Monday morning that Timothy M. Wolfe would not stay on as president of the University of Missouri System, he continued to have broad support from his bosses, the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

That was true up until the moment he resigned. Multiple people with knowledge of the situation say the curators were ready to stand behind Wolfe even as he’d become the focus of intense student outrage over his perceived failure to adequately respond to racist incidents on campus.

Ultimately, Wolfe resigned voluntarily, walking away from his job without a severance package, an indication that he wasn’t forced out by the curators.

The same can’t be said for University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

Just hours after Wolfe’s resignation, the board voted to assign Loftin to a lesser role — a less messy way of firing someone who’s still under contract.
Outside of Columbia, the perception is that both leaders were victims of the same student revolt. But people on campus point out the key differences behind their respective exits.

Wolfe — who was hired in 2011 on the strength of his business career — was done in relatively swiftly by an activist group, a student on a hunger strike and a pledge from the football team not to take the field again until he resigned.

Loftin’s demise was longer in the making. Over time, he made a series of missteps, making enemies out of deans, faculty and graduate students before the curators ultimately decided it was time to move on.

“People say it was about the students, but his undoing was really about the faculty,” one university leader said on the condition of anonymity.

Three other leaders also said privately Loftin’s troubles mounted over time. Loftin, they said, frequently blindsided the curators with his decision making, stirring up controversies then having to backtrack.

His legacy, they said, is that of a master of public relations but a disaster in management.

The fact that anger over a series of racial incidents on Loftin’s campus, bounced off him and stuck to Wolfe, is a testament to Loftin’s political maneuvering, they said.

The fact that he couldn’t persuade the curators to keep him in his job is evidence of his abrasive leadership style.

**EARLY STUMBLES**

Some people on campus started sensing trouble for Loftin dating back to last year during the height of the Ferguson protests.

He came from Texas A&M University where he had recently stepped down as president to return to teaching. Not long after filling the Mizzou post in 2014, he was criticized for doing only the minimum — showing up to rallies, but speaking without conviction, and seeming more interested in scrolling through his phone than participating in discussions.

The perception on campus, however, is that Loftin recovered from those early stumbles, and has since been very adept in relating to students.

“That’s really his strength,” Ben Trachtenberg, chairman of MU’s Faculty Council said. “He’s built up his credibility with students. He’s listened and you get a sense that he’s sincere.”

But the skill he’s shown in relating to students has been absent in his relationships with others on campus.

Earlier this year, Loftin angered Mizzou’s graduate assistants when the university stripped them of their health insurance subsidies and scaled back their tuition waivers, just before the start of the school year.

Graduate assistants conduct research, grade papers and teach classes. They take the burden off of full-time faculty and are considered indispensable to a well-functioning university.

Loftin eventually backtracked, restoring the subsidies and extending the tuition waivers for another year. But there’s been no movement on restoring the affordable housing and child care graduate assistants used to enjoy.

Loftin’s next two controversies came in September when MU School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine abruptly resigned after less than a year on the job.
No explanation has been given for his sudden departure, but it’s believed that personality clashes between the two men led Delafontaine to step down.

The same month, Loftin discontinued the clinical privileges for a Planned Parenthood physician and terminated multiple relationships with different Planned Parenthood affiliates.

The moves came after Loftin took heavy criticism from conservative members of Missouri’s Legislature amid national controversies over the nonprofit’s handling of fetal tissue. On campus, the perception was that Loftin caved to political pressure.

Later, Mizzou restored some clinical privileges to three nursing students to work with Planned Parenthood on a limited basis.

Those missteps, plus a general feeling among some that Loftin is an ineffective manager, resulted in members of the MU’s English Department issuing a vote of no confidence in Loftin earlier this month.

The Faculty Council also piled on, issuing a public letter of concern regarding Loftin.

“We had concerns about his leadership,” Faculty Council member Martha Steffens said.

TWO EXITS
Monday morning’s curators meeting opened with Wolfe’s abrupt announcement of his resignation. But later, as the curators met behind closed doors, Wolfe remained in the room.

In what probably sealed Loftin’s fate, all nine of MU’s sitting deans sent a letter to the board of curators — revealing it to the public even as curators met. The letter asked for Loftin’s resignation over what the deans described as the “chancellor’s failed leadership.”

Among their complaints was Loftin’s role in “creating a toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation.”

It’s a stark contrast to the perception Loftin has created publicly as the genial bow-tied chancellor, prone to popping up at social events and known for taking selfies with students.

The letter from the deans likely gave the curators the cover they sought to move Loftin out of the chancellor’s seat, and into some unspecified research role beginning in January.

“It was the deans that did him in,” one university leader said.

Even so, on Monday, after Wolfe’s expected resignation, it was believed by some that Loftin would be spared. The thinking was that he’d used his public relations prowess in successfully outmaneuvering Wolfe.

People who know the two said their relationship was lukewarm at best.

As the marathon closed-door session progressed, Loftin’s luck turned.

The chancellor was summoned to appear at the meeting Monday afternoon, entering through the back door.

He emerged later, stripped of his title.
Wolfe still acting president until curators name interim leader

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A spokesman said Wednesday morning that Tim Wolfe, who in a high-profile speech Monday said he was resigning from his job as University of Missouri System president, is working as acting president until the university’s governing board can name an interim leader.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators “is hoping to have an announcement of an interim president very soon. Tim Wolfe remains acting president until that happens,” UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email Wednesday.

The curators called a special closed session meeting for Wednesday afternoon. The board cites exemptions to Missouri’s open meetings and records law allowing closed meetings for communication with lawyers and consideration of negotiated contracts and personnel matters in a meeting notice posted on the University of Missouri System’s website.

The meeting will be held two days after Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced their resignations. Loftin’s is effective Jan. 1. The resignations came after growing calls for Wolfe to step down over his response to racial incidents at MU.

Attempts to contact members of Concerned Student 1950, which led the protests that eventually led to Wolfe’s Monday announcement, were not successful before the Tribune’s Wednesday morning deadline.

MU Policy Now, a group of graduate and professional students, said on Facebook it has started a campaign pushing for curators to name Deputy Chancellor Emeritus Michael Middleton interim president.

Middleton, 68, retired in August and moved into a part-time role to help Loftin design and implement the next step for MU to address inclusion and diversity on campus.
MU Policy Now sent a letter of endorsement to the Board of Curators. The letter listed reasons the group feels Middleton would be a good fit for the role.

“Given the recent turmoil, Deputy Chancellor Emeritus Middleton is a strong transitional figure. He has a great depth of experience and knowledge relevant to institutional issues currently affecting all four campuses,” the letter said.

During his tenure at MU, Middleton helped improve diversity among MU's faculty and assisted the university in turning its women's studies and black studies programs into their own departments.

Middleton earned his bachelor’s degree from MU in 1968. Middleton was among the first black graduates of MU’s law school, graduating in 1971.

Multiple student organizations signed MU Policy Now’s recommendation letter to the curators, including the Graduate Student Association, the Forum for Graduate Rights, The Graduate Professional Council and the Legion of Black Collegians.

Faculty Council on University Policy chairman Ben Trachtenberg said when the president’s office came open, he thinks two names came to the minds of faculty members: Stephen Owens, UM System General Counsel, and Middleton.

“Either one of them would be quite good,” Trachtenberg said.

Ruth Tofle, chairwoman and professor in the Department of Architectural Studies, said she endorses Middleton as interim president.

“He is a thoughtful problem-solver and change-agent capable of transforming and advancing our institution,” Tofle said in an email. “He is widely respected and admired because of his ethics, values and loyalty to our University and State of Missouri. He is an outstanding communicator and listens to diverse perspectives.”
MU Board of Curators make no decision Wednesday, plan Thurs. announcement

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri System Board of Curators ended a closed executive session meeting Wednesday night without any decisions made. Members of the board voted around 4:40 p.m. Wednesday to go into closed session.

Around 7:30 p.m., ABC 17 News learned the MU Board of Curators would break for the night. UM System spokesman John Fougere said the board would announce its next meeting on Thursday.

Members must still select an interim president.

An interim chancellor and vice chancellor of inclusion, diversity and equity have been named. Dr. Hank Foley will take over as MU's interim chancellor on January 1, as outgoing chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will take a new position in the UM System. Chuck Henson will serve as the UM System's brand new vice chancellor of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

The last search for a president took nearly 11 months in 2011, with the Board of Curators eventually hiring Wolfe amongst 100 other candidates. Fougere said the search cost the UM System $237,217.

During the 2011 search, UM System General Counsel Steve Owens served as interim system president, most notably leading the system's Columbia campus from the Big 12 Athletic Conference to the Southeastern Conference. Owens took his old position in February 2012, when Wolfe started as president.
University of Missouri curators pledge Thursday announcement

By Megan Favignano

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 8:15 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators will make an announcement Thursday after curators met in closed session for almost three hours Wednesday evening.

The board met in closed session starting at 4:30 p.m. at University Hall, two days after UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said they were resigning. Wolfe did not specify a date, and Loftin said he'll step down Jan. 1. The past month, MU students had increased calls for Wolfe to resign or be fired over his response to racial incidents at MU.

Immediately after Wednesday's meeting ended, Curator John Phillips said the board had no statements, but would make an announcement Thursday afternoon. He did not comment more specifically.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email Wednesday the board hopes to name an interim president soon. He also said Wolfe remains acting president until an interim is selected.

Phillips and UM System General Counsel Stephen Owens were at University Hall for Wednesday night’s closed session. All other curators joined the meeting via conference call except for David Steward.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM Board of Curators: nothing tonight, something tomorrow

EMMA VANDELINDER, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Twenty reporters stirred inside University Hall waiting for the University of Missouri System Board of Curators to end their executive session Wednesday evening.

“Nothing tonight. Nothing to share tonight,” Curator John Phillips said after a three-hour closed session. “There may be something tomorrow afternoon, and you will get notice of it in the morning.”

The Board of Curators are the governing body of the four-campus UM System.

The open session began at 4:30 p.m. and after taking roll, the curators moved into an executive session, which is closed to the public and media. Missouri Sunshine Law allows the curators to hold closed sessions when they discuss personnel matters. Any decisions made by the curators concerning hires, fires, promotions and discipline must be made available to the public within 72 hours after the meeting ends.

Most of the reporters who were present at the beginning of the meeting were there when it ended, anticipating the announcement of the appointment of an interim president to take over for UM System President Tim Wolfe, who resigned Monday.

At Wolfe’s announcement Monday, he said his resignation was effective immediately. However, UM System spokesman John Fougere said Wednesday the president is “technically still the president until an interim president is named.” So Wolfe remains acting president.

General Counsel Steve Owens and Curator John Phillips were present at the meeting Wednesday afternoon. Other curators — Ann Covington, Donald Cupps, Maurice Graham, Pamela Quigg
Henrickson, Phillip Snowden and David Steelman — phoned in. Curator David Steward was not present.

Wolfe’s resignation Monday was the culmination of a number of events at MU, including numerous demonstrations by the social justice group Concerned Student 1950 and a week-long hunger strike by graduate student and campus activist Jonathan Butler, calling for Wolfe’s removal.

A number of academic departments and organizations expressed their support and solidarity with Butler and Concerned Student 1950. Some members of the Missouri football team also supported the group by boycotting participation in football-related activities until Butler began eating again.

**MU Board of Curators holds special meeting**

Posted: Nov 10, 2015 6:10 PM by Jenna Middaugh, KOMU 8 Digital Producer and Nick Komisar, KOMU 8 Reporter

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri Board of Curators held a special meeting Wednesday.

The meeting was held at University Hall at 4:30 p.m. to discuss general business. The meeting then went into closed session to discuss “confidential or privileged communications with university counsel, negotiated contracts and personnel matters.”

After the meeting, board member John Phillips said he had nothing to announce, but added the board plans on having an announcement Thursday.
The meeting was held a day after a UM System spokesperson said the board is planning to name an interim president within the next few days.

It is not known what was discussed during the meeting.

We Live Here: The Mizzou student demand that hardly any U.S. colleges are meeting

By TIM LLOYD, KAMEEL STANLEY & BRENT JONES • NOV. 11, 2015

The activist group Concerned Student 1950 has vowed to keep pushing for change in the wake of resignations by both the University of Missouri system President, Tim Wolfe, and chancellor of the Columbia campus, R. Bowen Loftin.

Among their demands is increasing the number of black faculty members at Mizzou from 3 percent to 10 percent over the next two years. Enrollment at the Columbia campus is 34,972, of which 2,542 (7 percent) are African American. Several protesters say that roughly 16 percent of the state's population is African American, and they want the school to better reflect the state's population. At the same time, an analysis of federal data shows the underrepresentation of black faculty is hardly unique to MU.

Here are some big picture numbers from the 2013 school year that were collected by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

- There are more than 700 four year and above colleges and universities receiving federal money.
- Only 66 of those schools had 10 percent or more black faculty members.
- More than half of those 66 schools were Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) which have far higher percentages of black faculty members.
- Once HBCU's are taken out of the mix, it leaves only 27 American colleges and universities that can say at least one in 10 faculty members are black. That's roughly 4 percent of all schools.
How Many Black College Instructors Are There?

Using information from a Department of Education database, we looked at the number of black instructors at colleges across the country. The data are from Fall 2013, and includes campuses classified as four-year and above that applied for or received federal student aid.

The National Picture

Across the country, there are fewer than 18,000 black instructors, making up about 5 percent of the total workforce.

- 703 federally funded 4-year and above campuses that reported employment stats
- 351,663 total instructors
- 17,896 total black instructors
- 5.09% percentage of black instructors
- 11 median number of black instructors per campus
- 66 number of campuses with 10% or more black instructors
Without Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The 40 historically black colleges and universities make up about 6 percent of the campuses in the data, but employ more than 25 percent of all black instructors. Without these HBCUs included:

- 663 campuses
- 342,701 total instructors
- 12,981 total black instructors
- 3.79% percentage of black instructors
- 10 median number of black instructors per campus
- 27 number of campuses with 10% or more black instructors
Without Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The 40 historically black colleges and universities make up about 6 percent of the campuses in the data, but employ more than 25 percent of all black instructors. Without these HBCUs included:

- **663** campuses
- **342,701** total instructors
- **12,981** total black instructors
- **3.79%** percentage of black instructors
- **10** median number of black instructors per campus
- **27** number of campuses with 10% or more black instructors
UM System

Within the University of Missouri System, black instructors make up just over 4 percent of all instructors. None of the four campuses has more than 10 percent black instructors.

- 4 campuses
- 3,400 total instructors
- 139 total black instructors
- 4.09% percentage of black instructors
- 38 median number of black instructors per campus
- 0 number of campuses with 10% or more black instructors

Source: U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
Credit: Brent Jones | St. Louis Public Radio
Missouri Schools

At 13 campuses in Missouri, including Harris-Stowe State University and Lincoln University (both HBCUs), there are 249 black instructors.

- 13 campuses
- 6,077 total instructors
- 249 total black instructors
- 4.10% percentage of black instructors
- 17 median number of black instructors per campus
- 2 number of campuses with 10% or more black instructors
Sasha Menu Courey's parents support protests, football boycott at Missouri

Two people who have been watching the events in Columbia, Missouri, this past week with keen interest are the parents of former Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey -- Lynn Courey and Mike Menu.

Courey and Menu were made aware Tuesday that graduate student Jonathan Butler told ESPN he knew Menu Courey, and her experience at the University of Missouri was a motivating factor for him, which he shared with football players on Saturday before they boycotted.

Courey became emotional upon hearing the story.

"I knew I felt a connection to him," she said.

Butler also tweeted about Menu Courey on Wednesday.

Sasha Menu Courey was a biracial Missouri scholarship swimmer who, according to an ESPN investigation last year, was allegedly sexually assaulted by one or more Missouri football players in the spring of 2010 during her freshman year. As she was attending counseling, she was removed from swim team activities in January 2011.

Menu Courey's mental health continued to spiral downward, and she was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. She attempted to take her life in a Columbia motel in April 2011 and was involuntarily committed to the campus hospital.

According to hospital records, while under police guard and heavily medicated, Menu Courey was presented with a university withdrawal form by an athletic department official, which she signed, placing her athletic aid in jeopardy.

Menu Courey died by suicide in a Boston hospital two months later.

"I am supporting 100 percent the students and athletes from Mizzou," Courey said via text message. "The university needs to not only change but transform the way they support their students when they are struggling with racial assault or mental health issues, and not wait until
they die by suicide or the media get involved before giving 100 percent support to their students."

At the time the ESPN investigation aired, former University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe responded swiftly and helped usher in policy changes in the University of Missouri system in regard to both sexual violence/harassment and mental health care. Courey and Menu said Wolfe has called them directly on multiple occasions.

"It's not Wolfe; it's that institution," Courey said Tuesday. "There's a lot more that needs to be done with this university to change the power structure."

During the university system's board of curators open session on Monday night, ESPN asked Wolfe how much of a factor the football team's boycott was on his decision to resign earlier that day.

"None," he answered. "I was considering all the implications of what was happening on our campus. Again, this decision was out of love. I love this place; I love this town; I love this university. ... It just didn't happen in the last couple days; it's been progressive."

"I really believe if the football team wouldn't have been involved, nothing would have happened," Courey said.

Menu added that the situation "should have been addressed before the football team got involved."

"It shows that things change when money is in play," he said. "It's the power of money. ... It's too bad, when can they make change for the sake of change and not just because money is at risk?"

Menu Courey was of French-Canadian and Haitian descent, and friends and family told ESPN that she began to self-identify more as black upon her arrival at Missouri and explore her Haitian background.

Former boyfriend and close friend Rolandis Woodland said Wednesday via text, "She felt at home and comfortable with her race at Mizzou."

Butler told ESPN that he and Menu Courey traveled in the same circles. Woodland, a former wide receiver for Missouri's football team, said he and Butler are fraternity brothers as well.

When asked whether he was aware of Menu Courey experiencing any racial incidents at Missouri, Woodland responded, "None that I know of. Everybody loved Sasha."
In Hank Willis Thomas’s provocative photo "The Cotton Bowl," a football player is in a three-point stance at the goal line facing a black sharecropper picking cotton in the end zone. The point of the image, part of the artist’s "Strange Fruit" installation, is that the exploitation of black bodies for profit without adequate pay continues in the 21st century. The king crop — collegiate football — must be harvested.

The University of Missouri football program generated more than $35 million in revenue in 2014 and netted roughly $14 million in profit. So, while university administrators may not wholly believe that black lives matter, it does matter to them that certain black lives are on the football field. Within 48 hours of the players’ announcement that they would not labor in the field for the university until the president was removed or resigned, he was gone.

I applaud their courage and their wisdom. It is difficult to applaud the University of Missouri’s governing board, however, because members were aware of the campus climate of vitriol and of the ex-president Timothy Wolfe’s refusal to act. They ignored a letter received from a graduate student, Jonathan Butler, outlining the abuses; they remained quiet when a white student spewed epithets at members of the Legion of Black Collegians in October; and they were mute when members of Concerned Student 1950, a protest organization, surrounded Wolfe’s car during the homecoming parade demanding to have their marginalized voices heard.

Why was there was no action from the board after the student-body president, Payton Head, reported that racial slurs had been shouted at him? The pattern of inaction continued after Butler went on a hunger strike, vowing not to eat until Wolfe stepped down or was fired.

The board was lax in responding to all but one thing: the football players’ threatened boycott.
Why? Not only does money talk, but when the oppressed rise up and attack the purse strings of the powerful, things happen. To be clear, Wolfe’s resignation was less about morality than about money: If Missouri were not to play Brigham Young University this Saturday, it would have to pay $1 million in damages to BYU and potentially would lose at least that much in game revenue.

And now that Wolfe is gone, I wish the players had vowed not to return to the field until most of their demands had been met. These three can be immediately addressed: (1) The university meets the Legion of Black Collegians’ demands from 1969 for the betterment of the black community. (2) The university creates a strategic 10-year plan by May 1, 2016, to raise retention rates for marginalized students, sustain diversity curriculum and training, and promote a more safe and inclusive campus. (3) The university increases funding, resources, and personnel for the social-justice centers on campus to hire additional professionals, particularly those of color, expanding outreach, and increasing campus-wide awareness and visibility.

These courageous young athletes deserve applause for taking an enormous chance. Like the Northwestern University football team, which demanded to be unionized, the Missouri players are using their power as college athletes to bring attention to injustice in the world.

Perhaps the Missouri basketball team will apply pressure to help get the list of demands met. Or maybe during the college-football playoff or bowl games, or the NCAA basketball tournament in March, players from other teams will protest by sitting on the bench or refusing to play.

The NCAA’s president, Mark Emmert, likes to remind us that these players are "student-athletes" and therefore undeserving of pay. Maybe athletes in football and basketball will decide to leverage the moment for a bigger piece of the financial pie. Perhaps Clemson University’s football players will follow Missouri’s lead and strike to get their president, Jim Clements, to respond to the list of grievances that a student group, the Coalition of Concerned Students, gave him in January to deal with a pattern of social injustice.

Regardless of what happens next, my hope is that this is only the beginning. For now, the Missouri players have shown us the power of sport in American culture. Their stand reminds us of what we learned during the Montgomery bus boycott: Those who control systems of power have a different meter of morality when it comes to money than when it comes to people.
Will more college athletes take on the establishment?

Nov. 12, 2015
By JIM LITKE

NO MU MENTION

College athletes have more power than ever before, almost everyone can agree on that. What is up for debate is whether that will lead to overdue change, or whether it will throw programs into turmoil.

Protests have been rare during the college athletes' eight-decades and counting campaign for a bigger piece of the pie — and successful protests have been rarer still.

But the winds of change buffeting the power structure of college sports are stronger than at any time since the mini-revolts of the late 1960s and early '70s that focused largely on civil rights. More and more, today's athletes are showing a similar willingness to test the limits of their power through protests, organizing efforts and smart use of social media.

Even before a threatened strike by Missouri football players helped lead to the resignation of the school's president, student athletes were showing their strength off the field.

Two years ago, Grambling State's football team went public with their complaints over the sorry state of the facilities by forfeiting a game against Jackson State. Last March, Oklahoma's football team walked out of spring practice in response to a video showing white fraternity members singing racial slurs. In June, a barrage of tweets by former Illinois lineman Simon Cvijanovic ("WHEN @coachbeckman is fired," one tweet began, "you'll hear plenty more stories...") sparked the investigation that actually did get coach Tim Beckman fired three months later.

"People said this before, but I feel like college sports is in very dangerous territory right now," said Gary Barnett, a former head coach at Northwestern and Colorado now a radio analyst for Sports USA network. "The schools and athletic departments have plenty of problems as it is; add this battle over athletes' rights to the health issues, like concussions, that are already on the table, and it looks tough to continue on the track we're on. ...

"My greatest fear is what will happen if the tail is wagging the dog," Barnett added. "But that's what it feels like from a distance."

Yet the same image that threatens some in the status quo looks like a positive from the other side of the prism. They say it's no coincidence athletes are flexing their vocal muscles at the same time a steady stream of
challenges to the authority of the NCAA. Major conferences are moving through the courts and federal agencies seeking to expand athletes' rights and how they're compensated.

"I think they have a real sense now of the power they can wield," said Ramogi Huma, the former UCLA linebacker and executive director of the National College Players Association (NCPA), which led the unsuccessful fight to organize football players at Northwestern. "What happened at Missouri is that athletes who train and prepare and love to play demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice to advance a larger cause. In their case, it was to fight against racism.

"Now the question becomes will players prove willing to do the same to address unjust NCAA rules? To fight for better medical coverage? Or more just compensation? ... The seeds have been planted before," he added. "We'll see if they bear fruit this time around."

The stakes couldn't be much higher. College football and men's basketball are the bedrock of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise that has enriched TV networks and coaches, and turned some university athletic departments into nation-states. No one claims to be in favor of disrupting those games. And the powers-that-be have taken some steps to address issues ranging from safety to scholarship costs.

But two men who might not agree on much else — Big XII Conference commissioner Bob Bowlsby and Huma — both said recently they wouldn't be surprised to find athletes on a picket line in the not-too-distant future. What that might accomplish is anyone's guess. If the past is any indication, the answer is not much.

Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sports management at Drexel University, recently compiled a history of labor-management set-tos in college sports dating back to the 1930s and it's not a very distinguished one. In those early years, student-athletes from Howard, LSU, Pitt and Syracuse all tried or threatened to withhold their game-day services in exchange for a better deal and wound up folding, usually for very little.

In one memorable instance, at the 1961 Liberty Bowl, all it took to derail a threatened strike by Syracuse's players was a gift of commemorative watches for the players.

But there were small victories, too, most notably perhaps, the members of the 1969-70 Syracuse football who came to be known as the "Syracuse 8." They staged a lengthy and sometimes-divisive protest seeking academic, medical and on-field equality for black players, a fight that carried implications for athletes everywhere in those racially charged times.

"There are different issues today, and social media has been a game-changer for players already," Staurowsky said. "They're a different generation and they're just beginning to grow into their story, to find where they fit, in a way that may be empowering to them. ..."

"So," she said, "if we don't see more activism coming out of this era, then it will make me wonder whether it will happen at all."
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel’s decision to back his African-American players who briefly boycotted team activities to support a campus protest seems to have polarized opinions among Mizzou fans, but not among his coaching peers.

Though most admitted they didn’t know the full scale of details behind MU protest group Concerned Student 1950, coaches around the Southeastern Conference lauded Pinkel’s response to Saturday’s player strike.

“The Missouri football team and Coach Pinkel made a stand for something they thought was right,” Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason said on Wednesday’s SEC teleconference. “It was really bold by Coach Pinkel, and I believe when you mentor and coach young men and invite them into your family you want to do everything you can to protect them. … Watching from afar, I believe Coach Pinkel is a man of integrity who not only understands his kids but the issues surrounding his institution and his program.”

Bret Bielema coaches the SEC team that’s supposed to be Missouri’s top rival in the conference, but the Arkansas coach couldn’t help but praise Pinkel, too, calling his support of MU players “another shining example of what Coach Pinkel is.” Bielema noted Pinkel’s bland interview style as proof of his unyielding approach.

“What I love is I hear him on these interviews and he has a plan, has an idea and sticks to it,” Bielema said. “You guys ask him a question and you know what you’re going to get before you ask it.

“He’s a man that stays true to who he is. I got to know him a little bit last year with a Nike event and admired him even more. I have the utmost respect for who he is and what he stands for. In our business, to stand united with your players is a really special feeling because there’s so many things that try to divide you. When you can bring something together on such a bigger stage than we can even imagine, from afar it was very admirable to watch and probably even better for him.”

PINKEL FOCUSED ON MU’S FOCUS

After their involvement with the protest group, will Pinkel’s Tigers be ready for Saturday’s game against Brigham Young in Kansas City? He called that “the million-dollar question.”

“That’s always going to be the concern,” he said.

Missouri missed Sunday’s practice during the boycott but got back on schedule Tuesday. Pinkel’s greatest worry is that players were too distracted to study game film on their own the last few days. Players have their playbook and video clips downloaded on iPads to take home.

“It takes a lot mentally to make sure you get yourself in the right frame of mind to play,” Pinkel said. “With all the distractions going on, those are the things that I’m concerned about. We’ll practice well. I know that. Can we lock in and focus and play our best?”
SPURRIER WILL BE ABSENT

When Florida coach Jim McElwain and South Carolina’s Steve Spurrier flew to Bristol, Conn., to visit ESPN’s headquarters this summer, Spurrier couldn’t resist showing the SEC rookie head coach a photo of a game ball in his office.

It was from South Carolina’s 2010 victory over Alabama. McElwain was the offensive coordinator on the losing team that night in Columbia, S.C. It was Alabama’s first loss since falling to Utah in the Sugar Bowl after the 2008 season. The “Head Ball Coach” couldn’t resist needling his fellow passenger.

“I think we had a 19- or 20-game winning streak going in there. They beat our tail,” McElwain said. “He was quick to remind me. Good thing I’m not playing in this game.”

But Spurrier’s not coaching either. Spurrier stepped down last month, meaning Saturday’s Florida-South Carolina game will be missing a usual presence on the sideline. Between his years coaching at both schools, Spurrier has been the head coach in 20 of the last 23 Gator-Gamecock games.

Spurrier will be rooting for the Gamecocks, he told GridironNow.com, but won’t be near Williams-Brice Stadium.

“It’s not a game about me,” he said. “It’s a game about the players on Florida’s team and South Carolina’s team. All the attention should be on those guys. That’s one reason I stepped away in midseason. I didn’t want all the attention on me every game: ‘Spurrier’s last game here,’ ‘Spurrier’s last game there,’ ‘Blah, blah, blah.’”

GAME OF THE WEEK

Alabama at Mississippi State, 2:30 p.m., KMOV (4)

If the Bulldogs want to stay alive in the SEC West race they’ll have to upend the Crimson Tide. No easy task for coach Dan Mullen’s team, even though Alabama could be vulnerable to Mississippi State’s up-tempo, no-huddle passing attack. Alabama has played more games (99) and produced more wins (77) against Mississippi State than any other opponent.

SEC POWER POLL

1. Alabama
2. Louisiana St.
3. Florida
4. Mississippi St.
5. Arkansas
6. Mississippi
7. Georgia
8. Tennessee
9. Auburn
10. Texas A&M
11. Kentucky
12. S.Carolina
13. Vanderbilt
14. Missouri
Pinkel concerned with distractions, rumors

Nov. 11, 2015 • By Dave Matter

UPDATED, 1:55 p.m.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • After an awkward interview Tuesday that might have cast more criticism on his handling of the last few days, Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel struck a more composed tone on Wednesday’s SEC teleconference and showed a better understanding of Mizzou’s troubled campus.

Late Tuesday night, rumors and unfounded reports of violence spread on social media, including a warning from Mizzou’s student body president claiming the Ku Klux Klan was on campus. (Payton Head, the MSA president, later apologized for his inaccurate Facebook post.) According to the school’s emergency information center, there were no immediate threats found on campus, though on Wednesday morning, MU police arrested a 19-year-old Rolla student on suspicion of making a terrorist threat on social media site Yik Yak.

After missing practice time Sunday as part of the boycott tied to student protest group Concerned Student 1950, Pinkel’s team returned to practice Tuesday in preparation for Saturday’s game against Brigham Young.

With a game to play in three days, Pinkel was asked how his players are focusing on football with so many distractions surrounding them.

“That’s the million-dollar question right now,” he said. “That’s always going to be the concern. There was a lot of social networking of misinformation about our campus last night. For the most part, it’s my understanding, the campus was very calm. But there was a lot of misinformation. There was one particular person the police caught that was suggesting some violent things happen here. They caught that guy, which is really good. They did a great job.

“You’re sitting at home on a normal Tuesday night and there’s nothing normal about that. You’d be watching your video, doing your homework, getting all your stuff done and all this stuff’s going on.

“You’re right, I’m really concerned. We’re going to address that as a football team today. We’re going to go out and have a good practice.”

The Tigers only lost a small amount of practice time on Sunday during the boycott, Pinkel said. For the rest of the week, the team will go through its normal schedule for a Saturday game.

“The bigger concern as a head football coach is the video study,” he said. “Not that (the coaches) do but that they do on their own. They all have it on their iPads. It takes a lot mentally to make sure you get yourself in the right frame of mind to play. With all the distractions going on, those are the things that I’m concerned about. We’ll practice well. I know that. Can we lock in and focus and play our best? Hopefully we can do that.”

During this time of campus unrest, Pinkel said it’s important his staff keep in touch regularly with players about more than football.

“Anytime you’re going through something like this your sensitivity is important,” he said. “You have to be sensitive to everyone’s feelings. You have to show your concern for your players all the time. Communication is huge, staying in touch, calling them, texting them. ‘Are you OK? Can I help you?’ All those things are important to let them know you care.”
“They’ve got our phone numbers. We’ve got theirs,” he added. “We text. They call their (position) coach if they’re concerned. Their coach calls them back or they text. It’s hugely important, the communication. Anybody could feel scared and not very secure. Most people stayed in and bunkered up (Tuesday night). It’s unfortunate that all that social networking is the way it is, but I don’t have an answer for that.”

That concern isn’t limited to black players, Pinkel said.

“I think it could be (for) both, African-American and white players,” he said. “I don’t think it’s who would be safe and who would not be safe, more so because of the social networking, not just what happened. The campus, the security was really good last night, from my understanding. All the stuff you get on social networking now, you don’t know what’s true and what’s not true. The rumors could be passed around for an hour that this ugly thing has happened and it really hasn’t. To me, that’s the most difficult thing.”

Pinkel said he talked to five recruits who are verbally committed to MU’s 2016 class on Tuesday night to discuss the situation on campus.

“And they were fired up, excited,” he said. “The theme I got from them is, ‘You care about your players. That’s what you told us, this is a family atmosphere and it’s obvious you do that.’ A couple players said, ‘My mom and dad are very proud of Mizzou for doing the right things for kids.’”

Pinkel said he and his coaches have received similar messages from the parents of current players, including a note from the mother of senior tailback and team captain Russell Hansbrough.

“She said she’s so proud Russell’s there and that you take care of my son,” Pinkel said.

Several other SEC coaches shared their thoughts on Missouri’s situation and Pinkel’s handling of the last few days, including his former teammate at Kent State, Alabama’s Nick Saban. "I haven’t been able to keep up with the details of it all, so it wouldn’t be fair for me to comment other than the fact that we all in our organization, and I’m sure Gary is the same way, try to promote equal rights and equal opportunities and fairness for any group," he said. "I would assume that’s what he’s doing. That’s certainly what he would do."

Like Saban, Vanderbilt’s Derek Mason didn’t know all the details of the situation at Mizzou, but he was impressed with his fellow SEC head coach.

"Here’s what I do know," he said. "The Missouri football team and Coach Pinkel made a stand for something they thought was right. It was really bold by Coach Pinkel and I believe when you mentor and coach young men and invite them into your family you want to do everything you can to protect them. ... Watching from afar, I believe Coach Pinkel is a man of integrity who not only understands his kids but the issues surrounding his institution and his program. Just watching from afar, I really respect how that situation was handled by him and his program."

"I believe student athletes have always had power from the standpoint of understanding who they are," Mason added, "who they represent and begin able to utilize that brand and help their institutions along with themselves to obtain all that there is to obtain in college athletics as well as an education."

Also, Arkansas’ Bret Bielema, who coaches the team that’s supposed to be Mizzou’s top rival in the SEC, shared the strongest words for Pinkel.

"I don’t know the extent of the details, but it’s another shining example of what Coach Pinkel is," he said. "He’s been able to sustain his success as a head coach for so long because … what I love is I hear him on these interviews and he has a plan, has an idea and sticks to it. You guys ask him a question and you know what you’re going to get before you ask it. He’s a man that stays true to who he is."
"I got to know him a little bit last year with a Nike event and admired him even more. I have the utmost respect for who he is and what he stands for. In our business to stand united with your players is a really special feeling because there’s so many things that try to divide you. When you can bring something together on such a bigger stage than we can even imagine, from afar it was very admirable to watch and probably even better for him."

Athletes, bands take student protests to another level

Nov. 12, 2015

By JESSE J. HOLLAND Associated Press

WASHINGTON • Few paid attention when a black student started a hunger strike at the University of Missouri to protest racial strife on campus. As soon as the football team supported that hunger strike by refusing to practice for or play in the school's lucrative NCAA games, the university's president and chancellor were forced out and changes were discussed.

The stand taken at Missouri illustrates a new trend for college millennials. Frustrated with what they perceive as insensitivity by school administrators, they are taking their generation's penchant for social media protest to the next level: Using their on-campus celebrity to pose a threat to the bottom line.

"They forced the administration to take the protest seriously given the money that is generated via athletics. To say that you will not play on Saturday is tantamount to a major donor pulling their funds," said D'Andra Orey, a political science professor at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

Students have been organizing and protesting racial strife at universities all year — from a noose being found on Duke University's campus, to spray-painted swastikas and nooses at the State University of New York's Purchase campus, to a fraternity video at the University of Oklahoma using a racial slur to describe how the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity would never accept black members.

Last month, a popular marching band at Howard University, one of the nation's premier historically black colleges, wore all black during a halftime football show in a show of solidarity with students frustrated about financial aid and other problems.

This week at Yale, students took to the streets after an Oct. 28 university email warning about racially insensitive Halloween costumes prompted a professor to complain that Yale and other campuses were becoming "places of censure and prohibition."

But nowhere have students been able to force change like they have at Missouri, the state's flagship university and a relatively new member of one of the nation's premier football conferences, the Southeastern Conference.
The student government president reported in September that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing a weeks-long protest movement by concerned students. On Nov. 2, with little fanfare, graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

On Nov. 7, more than 30 members of the Missouri football team went on strike in support of Butler's protest, with support from their coach.

That act got attention. A disruption of the Missouri football schedule — the Tigers play the Brigham Young Cougars in Kansas City, Missouri, on Saturday with at least two more games in the season — could have cost the school millions in revenue and penalties, not to mention negative publicity to outsiders and potential recruits.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill and other lawmakers issued statements and the national media flooded the Columbia campus. Wolfe resigned, followed hours later by the top administrator of the Columbia campus, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

"It's much easier for them to ignore students that aren't in the public eye than for them to ignore those who are in the public eye," said Sarah Jackson, a communications studies professor at Northeastern University.

Protests on college campuses are nothing new, even during a year marked by a nationwide debate over police brutality. Universities and colleges are used to protestors going back to the Vietnam and civil rights era, and have developed methods to deal with objections.

Institutions know they can offer to set up committees and discussion groups to bleed off the passion and publicity of student protesters with minimal changes and negative publicity. But that approach doesn't work as well when applied to student athletes, band members and other school representatives who help bring much-needed publicity and funding to the institution.

"Universities increasingly care about the bottom line," Jackson said. "They care about students wanting to come to their universities."

Putting financial pressure on an organization is a tried-and-true pressure tactic, said Lonnie Bunch, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opens in next year.

In the 1920s through the 1960s, civil rights organizers put together "Don't Shop Where You Can't Work" campaigns, organized sit-ins at lunch counters and refused to ride in public transportation that forced blacks to sit in the back — including the famous Montgomery bus boycott. The goal was to change Americans' hearts and minds but also to damage the profit margin of discriminatory businesses, Bunch said.

"Hurting the financial bottom line is a long tradition," he said.
Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said Wednesday he had asked his coaching staff to stay in close touch with the team in a tense week that included a player plan to boycott and the arrest of a student following online threats against black students and faculty.

The Tigers play BYU in Kansas City on Saturday, one week after they threatened to stay on the sidelines without changes at the campus. The boycott threat vanished Monday when the university system president resigned.

Still, it was anything but normal at Missouri and the campus was strangely empty Wednesday as classes were canceled in some cases amid news that a white college student at another campus, in Rolla, had been arrested on suspicion of posting the online threats.

Pinkel said he asked his staff to stay in close contact with the players through texts and phone calls. Sometimes so-called distractions and off-the-field issues can galvanize a team during difficult times.

"Kind of a circle-the-wagons-type thing. I certainly hope it goes that way," Pinkel said.

Missouri brings a four-game losing streak into Saturday's game at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium against the Cougars (7-2).

Pinkel said it is impossible to predict how his team will respond to a most unusual week.

"That's the million-dollar question right now. That's what's going to be the concern," he said. "There's nothing normal about that. All this stuff is going on. We're going to address this today."

Former Missouri defensive end Shane Ray, now with the Denver Broncos, said he was proud of his former teammates for taking a stand, though he admitted to not being close enough to the situation to make a judgment on the issues.

"And I just told those guys more importantly be safe and don't make any (rash) decisions that are going to cost you your life or anything," Ray said. "And be smart about how you handle the situation. Your guys' voice has already been heard."

The Tigers last played on Thursday, losing at home in the rain to Mississippi State. They practiced Tuesday and were set to do so again Wednesday and Thursday.
"Obviously there's potential for big distractions," Pinkel said. "That's where you rely on your leadership."

On Saturday night a group of players told Pinkel that they wanted to go a football strike to support hunger-striking Missouri graduate student Jonathan Butler, who said he would not eat until university system President Tim Wolfe resigned. Protesters were unhappy with Wolfe's response to their complaints about racial tension on campus and other issues.

Pinkel and athletic director Mack Rhoades suggested other means of supporting the cause such as a team walk through campus, wearing helmet stickers with Butler's initials or possibly armbands during their next game.

"We tried to find a couple alternatives," Pinkel said. "They were very, very emotional."

Pinkel also acknowledged that there were likely players who didn't back a boycott.

"I'm not naïve to think that internally there are players that raised their hand and said 'I'm in,' but really just are in because of the team and just because of how much they care about their teammates," Pinkel said. "How much healing is going to take place on our team? I don't know."

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AP Sports Writers Arnie Stapleton and R.B. Fallstrom contributed to this report.

Basketball players considered taking a stand before Wolfe's resignation

By STEVE WALENTIK

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

K.J. Walton noticed the tents last week as they began popping up on Carnahan Quad.

“I didn’t know what it was about,” the freshman guard said.

Walton, like many of his Missouri basketball teammates, was unaware that a group of Missouri student activists calling themselves Concerned Student 1950 were camping out while protesting the racial environment on campus at a time when graduate student Jonathan Butler was staging a hunger strike to force the resignation of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe.

It was only Saturday night, when Missouri football players threatened a boycott of all football activities, that Walton and his teammates learned in greater detail about the protests.
Senior forward Ryan Rosburg said he saw the scale of the protest growing, as measured by the number of the tents and students occupying them, on his way to classes at nearby Cornell Hall. But he had no idea any of his fellow athletes were about to get involved.

“I was with some buddies, and I got the ESPN notification,” Rosburg said. “I was like, ‘Wow, that’s crazy.’ ”

Rosburg said basketball players engaged in a group chat together Saturday night after Anthony Sherrils became the first Missouri football player to tweet a picture of him and more than 30 of his teammates standing with their arms locked alongside Butler, who was on Day 6 of his hunger strike. But a more substantive conversation occurred before practice Sunday when they met with Athletic Director Mack Rhoades and Coach Kim Anderson.

Perhaps the reason they weren’t better versed about the movement before then was the overall youth of a roster that includes eight underclassmen and six newcomers. They hadn’t established the same connections on campus as MU football player J’Mon Moore, who had met with Butler last Wednesday.

“Mack Rhoades and Coach Anderson did a really good job of clearing everything up for us,” freshman forward Kevin Puryear said. “We took in the information and really hadn’t had a whole bunch of time to really talk about it other than that.”

Anderson said the Tigers went forward with practice on Sunday but agreed to reconvene on Monday — a scheduled off day — to have further discussion if any of the players wished to take a stance similar to what the football players did.

“The main thing I wanted them to do, that is if they wanted to do something — which again, I would have supported it — just make sure that they’re fully informed of what they’re doing and that they are together as a group,” Anderson said.

But by the time the basketball players met on Monday afternoon, Wolfe had already announced his resignation, Butler had ended his hunger strike and all signs pointed to the football team returning to practice.

“We discussed it as a team, and luckily it was all over with before we could come to a decision,” Puryear said. “But I think what the football players did was really good for our university, and it definitely helped Jonathan Butler eat, so that was great.”
WISHING THEM WELL: Anderson was asked his feelings about Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin leaving their jobs as a result of the protests. Both men played a role in him emerging as the leading candidate during the search for Frank Haith’s successor 18 months ago.

“You could tell that these are two men who really cared a great deal about the school, about the university,” Anderson said. “I think you could tell that from some of their remarks yesterday. I didn’t get to hear all of them, but I think both of them put what’s best for the university and the campus before themselves or they did what was best for the university and the campus. I’m appreciative to both of them for giving me the opportunity to be the head basketball coach, and I wish both of them well.”

ROUGH START: Missouri is preparing to open its regular season against Wofford, the reigning Southern Conference champion coming off a 28-7 season that saw it finish in the top 50 in the Ratings Percentage Index. Wofford lost by only three points to Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament.

The Terriers have lost two starters, including leading scorer Karl Cochran, from that squad but still represent a dangerous season-opening opponent for a Missouri team coming off a 9-23 season with eight underclassmen and six newcomers.

“With this team, we would probably rather play a team maybe not quite as good as Wofford, but it is what it is,” Anderson said when asked for his reaction to the matchup, which is an early round game in the CBE Hall of Fame Classic. “I think it will be a great challenge for our guys, though. One good thing about it, sometimes you go into an opener and your guys are like, ‘Oh, yeah, we’re playing this team, this team, this team.’ For sure, they’ll know who this team is. They’ll know that Wofford lost by three at the buzzer to Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament, and they had two really good looks at the end to tie it.”

Friday’s 8 p.m. tipoff is the first of three games in five days for the Tigers, who play Maryland-Eastern Shore at 5 p.m. Sunday in another early round game in the CBE Hall of Fame Classic and then visit Xavier for a 5:30 p.m. game on Tuesday.

“That kind of stress, I’m not really used to that because in high school there’s nothing like that ever,” Puryear said. “I’m kind of embracing it, just enjoying the ride. I’m really excited about that stretch. It will definitely see what we’re made of. There will be some adversity, so I’m interested to see how we get through that and if we can stay together.”
ALL HANDS AVAILABLE: Anderson reiterated that sophomores Namon Wright and D’Angelo Allen would be available Friday night after missing last week’s exhibition against Missouri Western.

“D.A. these past few weeks, he’s been playing really hard for us,” freshman guard Terrence Phillips said. “Namon, he’s been shooting the heck out of the ball in practice, so having just another shooter and another aspect and another threat on the floor is going to be really huge for us.”

At University of Missouri, Black Students See a Campus Riven by Race

By JOHN ELIGON  
NOV. 11, 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. — At first, Briana Gray just chalked up the comments and questions from her new roommate at the University of Missouri to innocent ignorance: How do you style your hair? What do you put in it?

But then her white roommate from rural Missouri started playing a rap song with a racial slur and singing the slur loudly, recalled Ms. Gray, a black senior from suburban Chicago. Another time, the roommate wondered whether black people had greasy skin because slaves were forced to sweat a lot.

Then one day, Ms. Gray said, she found a picture tacked to her door of what appeared to be a black woman being lynched. When her roommate said a friend had done it as a joke, Ms. Gray said she attacked the girl and her friends. The police broke up the fight and no one was arrested. But Ms. Gray said her view on race relations had been indelibly changed.

A handful of racially charged episodes on the Missouri campus this fall, including someone smearing a swastika on a wall with feces, have touched off protests, a hunger strike, the threat of a boycott by the football team and, on Monday, the resignation of the university system’s president and the chancellor of this campus. Similar protests erupted Wednesday at other colleges across the country.
But well before that cascade of events here, many black students say that racial tensions were already woven into the fabric of everyday life at this, the state system’s flagship campus.

Some black students say they are greeted with piercing stares when they walk by white-dominated fraternity and sorority houses. Others mention feeling awkward when other students turn to them in class when discussion turns to black issues. And then there are the tenser moments when white students talk disparagingly about the neighborhoods where many black students come from, whether the South Side of Chicago or the North Side of St. Louis.

“It can be exhausting when people are making assumptions about you based on your skin color,” said Symone Lenoir, a 23-year-old black senior in interdisciplinary studies. “It can be exhausting feeling like you’re speaking for your entire race.”

So exhausting, she said, that some mornings she asks herself, “Do I even want to go to class and sit with people?”

That uneasiness spread on Wednesday after threats to black students were posted anonymously on the social media site Yik Yak. The police arrested Hunter M. Park, a white 19-year-old whom they said had posted the threats from Rolla, Mo., about 90 miles from here. Some classes were still canceled here, and many black students decided to stay away from campus. Later Wednesday, the police at another college, Northwest Missouri State University, arrested a white student, Connor Stottlemyre, 19, on charges of making threats against black students on Yik Yak.

In some ways, the grievances of black students here mirror those on other campuses across the country. But Missouri, where the state university began accepting black students in 1950 and hired its first black faculty member in 1969, has faced distinct challenges in overcoming racial divisions.

With Kansas City to the west and St. Louis to the east, the state has two urban hubs that account for most of the state’s black residents, about 12 percent of the population. The rest of the state is overwhelmingly rural and white. Both blacks and whites are underrepresented at the university compared with the demographics of the entire state. Eight percent of students are black, while nearly 80 percent are white, compared with about 84 percent of the state.

Educational outcomes at the university have also not always been equal. While about 83 percent of black freshmen return for their sophomore year, nearly 88 percent of whites and 94 percent of Asians do. And black students have the lowest graduation rate of all races, less than 55 percent, compared with 71 percent for whites.

“There’s a culture shock, each group of new students who come in,” said Scott N. Brooks, an associate professor in black studies and sociology at Missouri.
Before coming to the University of Missouri, Ms. Gray said she did not usually view people through a racial lens because her high school was diverse. But her freshman year changed that.

“After that experience, if I was telling my friends a story, I’d be like, ‘Why did this white girl in my class say something?’” rather than referring to the girl by her name, said Ms. Gray, now a 21-year-old senior studying health science. “It made me differentiate the two. It made me not feel comfortable around them.”

It is not just black students who complain of cultural isolation.

“I can absolutely see why some students would feel uncomfortable on campus, because as a student coming from a small rural community, I’ve felt like I didn’t belong on this campus,” said Lauren Reagan, a white senior from Jonesburg, a town of about 745 people in eastern Missouri. “It can be hard to find people with the same values and beliefs that understand you.”

Ian Paris, the head of the university’s chapter of Young Americans for Liberty, a libertarian group, described a confrontation recently when he was signing up students to support Senator Rand Paul in a campus plaza. A group of activists protesting the administration’s handling of racial tensions came onto the plaza shouting their message through a megaphone.

When Mr. Paris complained to a friend about the activists, one of the demonstrators overheard him and told them to “take their white privilege and leave,” Mr. Paris said. A loud argument ensued.

“You can’t just have one side of the conversation,” said Mr. Paris, a 21-year-old white senior, who on Wednesday erected what he called a “free speech wall” on campus for people to write their opinions. “I’ve had students tell me that they’re afraid to express their opinion because they are afraid they’ll be criticized.”

The university has been criticized for being slow or ineffective in addressing racial tensions.

The chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, who will take a research job with the university at the beginning of next year, held town hall meetings over the past year and appointed a faculty committee to address race relations. But students complained about the pace of change, saying there was plenty of talk but not enough action.

Chris Williams, a black student from Chicago, said he confronted Mr. Loftin at one of the forums last year after the chancellor made what he believed was a racially insensitive comment. The chancellor later invited him to a private meeting at his office, Mr. Williams said.

“In the meeting, he’s telling me how his experiences as a white male in the South are essentially the same as my experiences in the inner city of the South Side of Chicago as a black male,” Mr. Williams recalled. “I remember leaving that meeting, thinking, like,
there is no recourse with administration if the guy in charge doesn’t get it and in his attempts to be well-meaning he’s just propagating that we’re the same.”

Mr. Loftin said Mr. Williams had mischaracterized the exchange. “I did share my experiences growing up only as a means of reciprocating for his telling me his story,” Mr. Loftin said in an email. “I recall the conversation as one of my listening to him primarily and his offer to help me do things at Mizzou that would improve our climate.”

Like several other black students, Mr. Williams said he decided to attend Missouri because he had received a university scholarship for minority students. He said he came to campus hoping to make friends of other races. But students, black and white, said that the campus was very segregated. In the student center, people refer to an area where mostly black students sit as “the black hole.”

Racial divisions were sometimes unwittingly reinforced in conversations with white friends, Mr. Williams said. He recalled a conversation freshman year when three dormmates talked about the houseboats their families owned. Another time, he said his white friends dismissed some of the reasons he gave for the poor academic performance of his high school, including segregation and underfunding.

Mr. Williams and other black students here said that hiring more minority faculty members would help improve racial understanding. About three out of four faculty members on this campus are white, and only about 3 percent are black.

Ms. Lenoir, the interdisciplinary studies senior, said the university should require all students to take courses that address issues of race. She remembered the effect that her Black Families course had on several white women. It helped them learn that “as a human race, we have more in common,” Ms. Lenoir said.

“They came out on the other side with true insight.”
Report: Leadership atop FBS schools still mostly white, male

ORLANDO, FLA. - The top leadership positions among Football Bowl Subdivision schools and conferences remains significantly white and male, according to the report released Wednesday by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

The annual report indicates huge disparities in the percentage of gender and racial minorities serving as school presidents, athletic directors and faculty athletic representatives for the 128 FBS institutions in the 2015-16 academic year.

Overall, whites held 342 of the 385 campus leadership positions (88.8 percent). White men held 101 of the 128 president positions (78.9 percent). Sixteen women and 11 non-white males currently serve as presidents in FBS — down from 19 and 13, respectively, in 2014.

Report author Richard Lapchick said the impact of those disparities was highlighted this week when University of Missouri president Tim Wolfe resigned amid growing concern about his lack of awareness of racial tensions at the school.

"What seems to have happened at the University of Missouri I have found to be common on many campuses I that I visit," Lapchick said. "Students feel there is a disconnect between people of color and women and the administration on college campuses. Yet you can look on any college website in the country and I would think any one of them would have diversity listed among their key values.

"But women and people of color would say that there aren't enough people who look like them in the faculty and in the athletic department."
The report by the institute at the University of Central Florida indicates among athletic directors, white men hold 102 of 128 jobs (79.7 percent), an increase of 2 percent. Seventeen were non-white males, with no female African-American, Asian, Latina or Native American athletic directors at FBS schools.

Nine white women are athletic directors in charge of athletic departments that oversee football. The University of Texas has a female director of women's athletics.

Lapchick also noted a lack of diversity among faculty athletic representatives. In that position, 116 of 129 representatives are white and only 43 are women.

"It's discouraging because it's almost always an appointment of the president," Lapchick said. "It is a key position, because they are the liaison between the athletic side and academic side. They are definitely in an influential position."

Lapchick said the positive news in the report came at the league level with the hiring of Judy MacLeod as Conference USA's commissioner in October. She becomes the first woman to lead an FBS conference.

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**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

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**Heads have rolled**

**For better or worse?**

*By HENRY J. WATERS III*

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

I hope this will be the last editorial I write for a while about racial strife on the MU campus. I hope so, but I doubt it. We should not expect utter serenity. The trick is to meet unfortunate incidents with quick, productive reaction.

Concerned Student 1950 and other protesters, including most members of the MU football team and hunger striker Jonathan Butler, successfully brought down UM President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin because the two leaders were “unresponsive to demands” for redress of racism on campus. It was quite a coup, highlighting a need for campus leaders to be more creative. It also could bring a counterproductive backlash.
If anything is needed right now it is a moment of — nothing. A time of inactivity and quiet while everyone gathers their wits. Protesting students must resist the temptation to rub it in, giving new management time to take a breath. The “establishment” community must resist the temptation to retaliate against what many may think was unfair griping and punishment for the president and chancellor.

The coup was brought in a quick flurry. Cultural improvement will take much more time.

Protesters must give credit for management effort. They must recognize the limits in how much management can do about racial slurs from individuals. Systemic actions like Loftin’s mandatory diversity training are indicated but likely to be regarded by many as useless lip service.

Management will tacitly ask, “What do you expect us to do?” Protesters will have to be reasonable collaborators in finding answers. Managers will do their part by sincerely and actively joining the search.

Wolfe and Loftin got into trouble because for too long they ignored the growing concerns of many campus constituents. Today, those constituents are sensitized, aware and vigilant. It’s a challenging moment for new campus management, but it’s an exciting opportunity for progress, as well.

Pray all hands will seize the opportunity, giving each other some slack, believing everyone pursues the same goal. The onus is on management at the moment, but the protesters have just as much responsibility to help the cause. They’ve done the exciting part. Are they in it for the long, boring, sometimes frustrating slog? If not, their temporary gain will be wasted.

HJW III

I don’t know that there are any short cuts to doing a good job.

SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR
The MSVA supports veterans transition from the military to school life

“The MSVA is always there, and that’s the main reason I got involved,” McLafferty said. “If it weren’t for the MSVA and the Veterans’ Center, honestly I would have transferred out of Mizzou.”

Missouri Student Veterans’ Association President Sean McLafferty and Associate Vice President Traci Howells agree that the transition from military to civilian life, especially as a student, can be very difficult.

After serving 12 years in the military, Howells began her undergraduate studies in strategic communication through the School of Journalism. She was 31 years old when she began her first semester on campus.

“I went through my whole first semester walking around campus not knowing anyone,” Howells said. “After six months of not having the connection to the military that had been a big part of my life, I felt a little bit lost.”

A current graduate student, McLafferty first became involved with MSVA when he came to MU for his undergraduate degree in the spring of 2009. After finishing his military service, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, PTSD affects 11 to 20 percent of service members involved in recent conflicts.

“I noticed that I sat in the back right in the large lecture halls and would run into other veterans there,” McLafferty said. “That was because of open spaces and stuff like that.”

For both Howells and McLafferty, MSVA made them feel more at home because the organization allowed them to connect with people who understood what they were going through and had similar experiences in the military.

“It does create a community for giving us a place to go and people to talk to and helping us along the way with our paperwork and filing our financial aid and registering for classes,” Howells said.

McLafferty said that even though not everyone has suffered through PTSD, traumatic brain injury or other disorders, members of MSVA relate to the stories and understand military jargon that other people would most likely not understand.
“The MSVA is always there, and that’s the main reason I got involved,” McLafferty said. “If it weren’t for the MSVA and the Veterans’ Center, I would have transferred out of Mizzou.”

The MSVA characterizes itself as a “one-stop shop” for veterans, who are typically non-traditional students who return from service with a set of different experiences and expectations. The office is located in Memorial Union and is run by two full-time staff members and six work-study students who are all veterans or active duty members.

The organization works as a support system, McLafferty said. They help with mentoring, tutoring, housing, finances, and are connected with outside resources to help veterans if they need disability or health services.

Another focus of the MSVA is to give back to the community and highlight what the organization does, Howells said.

“(For) a lot of the events we’ll do a blood drive, we have a speaker coming,” Howells said. “We’ll just give other students a glimpse like ‘oh, here we are.’ A lot of students don’t even realize the veteran presence on campus. Everyone gets caught up in their little worlds. It just happens.”

One of McLafferty’s favorite examples of how MSVA gives back is Operation Free Lunch, an annual spring barbecue held on Lowry Mall where members of the organization pass out free food to students.

“It’s kind of like us trying to be part of the community,” McLafferty said.

The MSVA has expressed issues that student veterans face on campus to administration and student organizations like Graduate Professional Council and Missouri Students Association. McLafferty said they have been supportive of veterans and addressing concerns.

McLafferty used MSA as an example of outreach, as they scheduled a meeting with MSVA earlier this year to discuss concerns.

“They were like, ‘What is the concern for veterans, what are some things that we can do?’” McLafferty said. “I told them what I thought were the No. 1 concerns. Feeling embraced by the campus culture, that’s one. PTSD, TBI (traumatic brain injury), disability issues are extremely important. I never want those to go underneath the radar. They sat down with me, it was great.”

Howells believes Columbia in particular does a satisfactory job of providing resources to veterans.

“I think in this town especially and with our MSVA, we have the Mission Continues organization that really gives back a lot and gets the veterans together, we have Welcome Home homeless shelter,” Howells said. “I can’t really speak for the whole nation, but it seems that we should keep doing more for veterans.”
Mizzou alumni reflect on their race experiences, project hopes for future

By LINDA LOCKHART • Nov. 11

For many former students of the University of Missouri-Columbia, events of recent weeks bring back memories. Some are good, but many are not. For those alums, racial bias has always been part of the sub-text of their Mizzou experience.

And while some alumni welcome announcements this week that Tim Wolfe, president of the University System, is leaving, and R. Bowen Loftin, chancellor of the Columbia campus, is changing jobs, others question whether those actions alone will be enough to solve long-standing problems.

“I think (Wolfe) is the scapegoat for a larger issue,” Rochelle Aaranson, of Chesterfield, told St. Louis Public Radio “The items that the protesters want addressed will be more long term. If people are looking for instant gratification, they are going to be disappointed.”

Aaranson, a 1986 graduate of the School of Journalism, shared her own stories of discrimination. “I am Jewish, so it was not easy for us either,” she wrote. “I remember sitting in the Commons and people would push their agenda on us all the time. Campus Crusaders (for Christ) was big back then, and they were very religious, Christian zealots. My son is a student at Mizzou, and the whole climate is very disturbing right now. I just want him to be safe and to be able to go to school.”

Recent signs of racial strife include reports that a swastika formed with human feces was found on a wall in a dorm bathroom.

In addition to Aaranson, several other alumni shared their reactions with St. Louis Public Radio through the Public Insight Network. Following are samples of responses we received; they have been edited for length and clarity.

Describe the racial climate and your college experience.

My first day in nursing school, I was made to walk around the room and show my fellow classmates my hands. My instructor asked the class to pay close attention to my nail beds. She went on to tell them that they will notice that it is a little darker around the cuticle and when bathing a black person, do not mistaken that for dirt. I was appalled.

— Felicia Butler, Florissant, was told by an academic adviser that she would never get into the nursing program because she was not smart enough. She has a master's degree in nursing and is a nurse practitioner.
Coming from St. Louis in the early 80s, the realities of race were no surprise. ...The coping is different, though the issues of racial discomfort continue for many students, and not just at Mizzou. For the record, I loved Mizzou. I only had to protest one time and that experience taught me a valuable lesson about the difference between commitment and conviction.

— John Harris, Lincoln, Neb., is a retired administrator at the University of Nebraska

There were very few black students when I was at Mizzou 1977-1981. I noticed it even then, because I grew up in Webster Groves, where we had a nice mix of black and white. ... I joined the sorority that I did because I thought the song leader was black ... ended up she was just really tan with curly hair.

— Kathy Bernard, St. Louis. She said it was 35 years or so, nationwide, before she saw black people in her sorority magazine.

**What is your reaction to the resignation of President Wolfe and Chancellor Loftin?**

If the alleged incidents are bona fide, and if alleged apathy (by Wolfe) is true, then HOOOORAAAAAY! As the leader of a major educational institution, he should be setting an enlightened example for his staff, instructors and students. If he wouldn't or couldn't, then he should be replaced.

— Terry Smemo, Kansas City, Mo., attended Mizzou in the mid-1970s.

I think this was about much more than race. This was about leadership. In the end, I think Tim Wolfe did a great thing. He put his love for Mizzou before his personal situation and set a tone for healing.

— Bruce Lemmie, Sugarland, Texas, is from Rock Hill and attended to Webster Groves High School.

It was a necessary decision. The recent racial tension at the Columbia campus is concerning, and his inability to engage in timely dialogue further exacerbated the situation.

— Terry Blastenbrie, Olathe, Kan., earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1999.

I am so proud of the students, faculty, football players and their coach for banding together to bring this issue to light. It sends a strong message that people in power cannot ignore or becoming apathetic about racial intimidation on college campuses. Black students pay just as much to attend Mizzou as white students. They should not have to be subjected to racial intimidation.


Enrollment at the Columbia campus is 34,972, of which 2,542 (7 percent) are African American. Among other ethnic groups, 1,213 (3 percent) are Hispanic and 779 (2 percent) are Asian. Fewer than 1 percent of the students are American Indian/Alaskan native or Pacific islanders. Seventy-seven percent of the students -- 26,903 -- are white.
Whiteout shirts no longer available for Mizzou football game

COLUMBIA – The Whiteout shirts intended for the BYU vs. Missouri football game on Saturday have been pulled off the shelves.

The Tiger Team Store and the Mizzou Store stopped selling the Whiteout shirts on Wednesday. The Mizzou Store is no longer selling the shirts online either.