After The Mizzou Protests, Students Ask Themselves: Now What?


A week after protests over racism at their school became the biggest story in the country, 300 students, faculty and community members marched through the University of Missouri, Columbia campus behind a banner that read "Mizzou United, Columbia United." Their goal: to keep talking about what's been going on here, and why.

The big national news outlets have moved on — to the bombing in Paris, to the raids in Belgium — but here, the campus community is trying to make sense of it all, and figure out how to move forward. Despite the resignation of Tim Wolfe, the university system's president, and a slate of new diversity initiatives, the atmosphere on campus is tense. Students and faculty say that won't change without some hard conversations.

At Sunday's march, recent grad Aliyah Sulaiman expressed support for a conversation she said is long overdue. Here's how she put it:

When Sulaiman was studying here, she says, she often talked with other black students about campus racism, but those conversations stayed private. Longtime professors, white and black, agreed there's nothing new about racial friction here. "People have talked for years behind closed doors about problems," said Spanish instructor Grace Vega, "but when you want them to come out into the open to support change, they're afraid."

But for a lot of white students here, talk of racism is new. Some have expressed anger online, in widely circulated social media posts and open letters. Others don't know what to think. A sophomore named Allissa says: "Me and my roommates are just confused about the whole situation. We don't really know how to approach it, and we don't really know how to communicate with other black students to know, like, what they were feeling and what they wanted to accomplish and what they still want to accomplish."

Allissa is white and grew up in Glasgow, Mo., a rural town of about a thousand people that's mostly white. She asked me not to use her last name because she's worried she'll be vilified for her views.
She told me she wants things to change if students of color feel uncomfortable on campus. It's just that before a couple of weeks ago, she had no idea there was anything wrong.

Sophomore Drew Mack grew up in St. Louis, one of two urban centers where most of the state's black residents live. His mom is white and his dad is black. He says he's been looking for opportunities to talk to students like Allissa because he wants them to understand why students of color are demanding change.

I met Drew and Allissa separately, and since they both told me they wanted to talk to other students about this, I asked if they'd like to talk to each other. They agreed.

First, they talked about the key incidents leading up to the demonstrations — the racist slur hurled at the student body president, the feces swastika (confirmed by a police report), how pleas from the Legion of Black Collegians to administrators had not gotten an adequate response — because Allissa felt she hadn't heard the full story.

Then Allissa asked Drew to help her understand something else: what it feels like to be black on campus.

Drew explained how he felt after threats against black students circulated on social media:

I can't put into words the fear that washed over me, hearing about that. The next day I went to class, but I was absolutely terrified to do so. I kept my phone on me and I kept my head up. Every time the door slammed open or shut, I jumped. And I realized that some of the people around me who were not people of color were not nearly as antsy.

Just the fact that people can see that being a possibility is such a testament to our campus climate and our mental health. That the thought of somebody shooting students of color on campus was such a possibility that people wanted their classes to be canceled, people stayed home, and people are paying thousands of dollars to feel unsafe. That's atrocious.

Allissa said talking to Drew helped her understand why students of color had demanded change in a way she couldn't grasp before.

Drew and other students here said it's vital to hold the school accountable for racist acts committed on campus. But the bigger challenge may be getting students like Allissa, who make up a big part of the student body, to acknowledge there's a problem. "Appointing new administration is definitely a great step, but it's not going to end there," says Drew. "Having these open dialogues is going to be as central to making the campus climate a bit less scary."

On Monday night, the Department of Black Studies hosted a teach-in. The room was packed. When chairs ran out, people crowded together on the floor. "I think everyone can agree this has been quite a semester," said professor Stephanie Shonekan, who moderated the panel of 11 faculty members from a range of departments.
English professor Clenora Hudson Weems was on the panel. She said these frank discussions about racism give her hope. "We can serve as a blueprint for other universities," she said. "That's the beautiful thing about it. Once that happens, we can all smile and say 'Hallelujah.'"

First, though, the plan is to keep the conversations going.

Torn Over Tactics: Activists Refine Their Demands as Protests Over Racism Spread

By Sarah Brown and Katherine Mangan

NOVEMBER 24, 2015

When confrontational protests and threatened hunger strikes prompted the dean of students at Claremont McKenna College to resign two weeks ago, not everyone was cheering.

Behind the scenes, some minority students cringed at the most strident expressions of activism that were roiling their campuses and the backlash they had unleashed. Many, however, were reluctant to speak out, either because they shared the protesters’ broad goals or because they feared being seen, as one student put it, as "race traitors."

But as the protests that started with the forced ouster of the president and chancellor of the University of Missouri on November 9 have extended to hundreds of colleges nationwide, more students have been willing to join the conversation.

Miles H. Robinson is a sophomore at Pomona College, which, like Claremont McKenna, is part of the consortium in California known as the Claremont Colleges. He said he was dismayed by the angry turn that demonstrations at nearby Claremont McKenna took, as well as one at Dartmouth College.

"When you see people swearing at professors or at the president of the college, or storming into the library and yelling at other students, that doesn’t seem like the best way to make progress," he said. "I can’t agree with the increasing polarization or demonization of students just because they happen to be white."

Experts on race relations and social movements say it’s hardly surprising that minority students who agree on the need for a more welcoming, inclusive campus environment
might disagree about the best way to get there. In some cases, those divisions have brought about a more-nuanced approach toward protesting, where some students of color have toned down their demonstrations and revisited their demands.

**Capitalizing on Momentum**

Nationwide, the black student population is "not a monolithic group," said Shaun R. Harper, executive director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. "Some people think it’s absolutely time to take it to the streets, and others feel a more behind-the-scenes approach to negotiating is the way to go," Mr. Harper said.

But at a time when social-media networks like Twitter and Facebook are turning grass-roots organizing into minute-by-minute activism, there is little time to build consensus.

"Students are worried that if they don’t act right now, while this is hot, that things are going to go back to business as usual on their campuses," Mr. Harper said. "Given the pace at which they’re pulling together their strategies, there isn’t enough time to vet them with a large segment of the student body." Students, he said, are motivated today by "a unique blend of inspiration and desperation."

June Beshea, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a member of a coalition of student organizers called the Real Silent Sam, said her group aimed to capitalize on the heightened attention during a protest last week. The group interrupted a forum on race that was organized by Carol L. Folt, the university’s chancellor, and read off a list of 50 demands, which included "the elimination of tuition and fees for all students" and "divestment from policing" altogether.

"We wanted to take up a lot of space and make people feel a little uncomfortable and really think about these issues," Ms. Beshea said.

Those methods, however, have provoked the ire of some students. Both the demonstration and the demands at Chapel Hill drew widespread criticism on social media. And a similar interruption at a forum at the University of Kansas prompted its Black Student Union to issue a statement last week clarifying that the group was not affiliated with the protesters.

Such disrespectful behavior, said Brylan Donaldson, a junior at Kansas, "represents us as minority students, even though we’re not participating." When people ask Mr. Donaldson how he feels about the recent protests, he tells them: "Don’t even put me close to that."
Mr. Robinson, of Pomona, participated in a sit-in on his campus last week that ended with the college’s president agreeing to some of the students’ demands. The protest, he said, was largely a success, drawing attention to what he considers isolated instances of racism on the campus. Still, he felt uncomfortable afterward.

Watching the president apologize for systemic racism at the college seemed "absurd," said Mr. Robinson, who lived in Shanghai for nine years — an upbringing that he realizes gives him somewhat of an outsider’s perspective on the injustices his black classmates are describing. "It felt like during the Cultural Revolution in China, where teachers were forced to confess when their views weren’t in line with the party’s."

More-Attainable Demands

Hastily-drawn-up demands that seem rigid and uncompromising and easy fodder for critics have given way to more-realistic compromises on some campuses.

During a sit-in that lasted more than eight hours last week, the interim president of Towson University, Timothy Chandler, went through protesters’ list of demands line by line, and he and the students forged a compromise agreement. Similarly, during an overnight sit-in at Princeton University, protesters spent nearly six hours in a meeting with President Christopher L. Eisgruber and made some of their requests more attainable.

Even though some students of color at Princeton have criticized the methods of the protesters — who are part of a group called the Black Justice League — Destiny Crockett, a Princeton junior, stressed the importance of intense displays of activism. She said she and other members of the organization had met regularly with administrators for months about their demands.

"We got tired of sitting in meetings and nothing happening and no processes even beginning," Ms. Crockett said. For now, she is pleased, but not yet satisfied, with the administration’s commitment to their cause.

At Missouri, activists faced an intense national backlash for barring the news media from their encampment the day the president and chancellor resigned. The following day they posted signs and handed out fliers welcoming media coverage.

"We’ve had to become flexible," said Reuben Faloughi, a third-year doctoral student in psychology and one of the original 11 members of the group that calls itself Concerned Student 1950.
After meetings in which hundreds of students showed up to vent their feelings, "We’ve met super-late into the night, adjusting as we went along," Mr. Faloughi said. "The movement doesn’t stop, and all the time, you know you’re being watched."

Behind-the-scenes discussions also prompted a change in strategy at Amherst College, in Massachusetts. Activists who had faced criticism over their initial list of demands later stated that their goals "would be best met by collaboration with administrators, faculty, and staff over an extended period of time." They ended a sit-in after the college’s president, Carolyn A. (Biddy) Martin, issued a statement that they said "offered clarification and hope."

"The tactics and strategies are changing so quickly," said Angus Johnston, a historian of student activism at the City University of New York’s Hostos Community College. "Students are learning as they go."

Students have been reluctant to describe the debates that led to the compromises at Missouri and Amherst. "In most cases, the activists aren’t eager to air their disagreements in public," Mr. Johnston said. "They’re going to want to have those conversations behind closed doors so they can present a unified face to the world."

**Overarching Goals**

Still, the disagreement among black students about strategies should not delegitimize the overarching goals they share, said Clarence E. Lang, an associate professor and chair of the department of African-American studies at Kansas. In conversations with Kansas students, he said he didn’t think there was much contention about the need to foster a more-inclusive campus culture.

"I think oftentimes in these moments, there’s an impulse to want to dismiss or deflect the issues by pointing to the fact that, Oh, there seems to be disagreement among folks who are raising salient points," said Mr. Lang, whose recent book, *Black America in the Shadow of the Sixties*, relates the civil-rights era to contemporary black culture. "I think it is important that we stay focused on the concerns and grievances that have been expressed."

Mr. Donaldson has formed a new group at Kansas with three other students in hopes of doing just that. Its purpose, he said, is to identify questions the campus community has and then to use an entrepreneurial method known as design thinking to engage students, faculty, and staff in finding solutions.

The group — dubbed TEAMJayhawks — planned to tackle race and inclusion first, he said. He hoped to work with the Black Student Union and other campus
organizations. "We want to create an environment," he said, "where people feel safe collaborating on issues like these."

Forbes

Improving Diversity in Higher Education - Beyond the Moral Imperative

Seizing the Moment

We witnessed a pivotal moment for higher education last week with the resignations of Tim Wolfe, President of the University of Missouri System, and R. Bowen Loftin, Chancellor of the flagship campus in Columbia. Issues of diversity and inclusion have been challenging campuses for years, but I believe we have now reached a tipping point that will place this issue front and center on leaders’ agendas today and into the future.

As we think about the importance of last week’s events, one thing is clear: the efforts by the students at the University of Missouri will help fuel the much-needed nation-wide conversation on this important topic. Already, dozens of campuses are hosting diversity forums, hosting town hall meetings, and issuing statements to demonstrate the many initiatives they are investing in to create a more inclusive and diverse environment. My hope is that these conversations are sincere efforts to move the diversity agenda forward. It’s not just the right thing to do; it’s imperative for the success and sustainability of institutions. And there is no time to waste.

The statistics are clear and sobering. Black students and Hispanic students are the fastest growing segments of the student body. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the percentage of Black college students rose from 11.7% in 2000 to 14.7% in 2013. The percentage of Hispanic students increased from 9.9% to 15.8% over the same time period. However in 2013, only 6% of all full-time faculty were Black and 5% were Hispanic. Among full professors, the numbers drop to 4% for Blacks and 3% for Hispanics.

When we examine the diversity of university leadership, the numbers are similarly low. According to a 2008 ACE Study, “only 16 percent of senior administrators were people of color, including just 10 percent of Chief Academic Officers.”

Beyond the issues that can arise when university faculty and leadership do not resemble the student demographic—as has been well documented recently at the University of Missouri, Claremont McKenna College, Ithaca College, Purdue University, Yale University, and others—these demographics represent significant business challenges for universities.

The challenge is that today’s current students are the pipeline for tomorrow’s PhD students and eventual faculty and university leadership. When you factor in the graying of the professoriate
and impending retirement of hundreds of thousands of faculty and administrators, it quickly becomes apparent that the challenges we are facing today may create even wider gaps in racial and ethnic representation. When these students feel slighted and harassed at their own universities, what motivation do they have to join the ranks of the faculty and administration?

Protests may move from college campuses to ballot boxes

Campus unrest could become a major issue in the 2016 elections, particularly in Missouri

But, experts say, the concerns of students won’t become an agenda item if their protests are isolated and ineffective

Days after student and faculty protests rocked the University of Missouri, three Republican candidates for governor had something to say.

“We must stand up for the First Amendment, against pampered students who are there for seven or eight years and are still complaining about their surroundings,” Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder thundered at a GOP forum Nov. 14 in Platte County.

He called some of the university’s professors “tenured radicals,” and said that if elected “I would go on that campus, and I would confront those protesters, as Jay Nixon has been too cowardly to do.”

GOP governor candidates Catherine Hanaway and John Brunner quickly chimed in.
“Those students are being played by a faculty that has a liberal agenda, that has absolutely nothing to do with racism,” Hanaway said, to loud applause.

“These kids are telling me it’s so politically correct, you can’t talk, you can’t communicate,” Brunner said.

Two weeks after the resignations of the president of the University of Missouri System and the chancellor of the University of Missouri, an uneasy truce seems to have settled over the state’s largest college campus. Relative quiet seems to have returned to other campuses as well, although many underlying concerns about racial and gender attitudes and free-speech rights remain unresolved.

But political scientists and campaign professionals say that if student and faculty demonstrations expand and deepen this year or next, campus protests could become a key issue in next year’s elections. Indeed, that debate may now be inevitable in Missouri in 2016, when campus racial policies are likely to intertwine with a robust argument over the response to the disturbances in Ferguson.

“If journalists keep the story alive, and ask questions pertaining to student unrest and why, the issue will become an important issue that candidates will have to address,” said Kenneth Warren, a political science professor at St. Louis University. “It will likely be an issue in the Missouri’s governor’s race, as well as Missouri’s U.S. Senate race.”

Days of rage

Campus protests were a major political issue half a century ago.

Ronald Reagan made criticism of student demonstrations a centerpiece of his 1966 campaign for California governor. “When the so-called free-speech advocates … were allowed to assault and humiliate the symbol of law and order and policemen on campus,” he told an audience that year, “that was the moment the ringleaders should have been taken by the scruff of the neck and thrown out of the university once and for all.”

In his announcement speech, Reagan accused campus activists of “neurotic vulgarities” and promised to return order to the state’s colleges. His sharp
criticism of campus protesters likely led to his surprise victory, and one of the most important political careers of the 20th century.

“It’s well known among political observers that Reagan rode the tide of the general public’s dissent over protest activity on campuses,” said Robynn Kuhlmann, a political science professor at the University of Central Missouri.

For Reagan and his supporters, college protests reflected a broader breakdown of traditional American values.

“In his mind, the rambunctiousness of the students with respect to political issues overlapped with countercultural mayhem,” said Todd Gitlin, a professor of journalism at Columbia University in New York and author of “The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage.”

Other politicians soon followed Reagan’s example. In 1970, then-President Richard Nixon referred to campus activists as bums.

“The boys that are on the college campuses today are the luckiest people in the world,” he said. “Going to the greatest universities, and here they are burning up the books, I mean storming around about this issue. I mean, you name it, get rid of the war, there will be another one.”

Those messages held strong appeal for many Americans, Gitlin said, particularly as more students began attending college. “You begin to get this class resentment,” he said.

And, Kuhlmann said, “protests, in general, are the least liked forms of political participation in the United States.”

That resentment and anger may still exist, at least in Missouri.

One recent poll suggests wide disapproval of recent campus protests in the state. The survey, conducted by Remington Research Group for the political website Missouri Scout, found a solid majority of voters disagreed with the protesters’ actions at MU.

Only 20 percent of those surveyed agreed with the actions, the poll found, while 62 percent disagreed.

62 percent of Missouri respondents to a recent poll disagreed with protesters’ actions at MU.
20 percent approved of the protests.

84 percent of Republicans disapproved.

42 percent of Democrats approved.

Responses were split among racial lines — a majority of African-Americans said they agreed with the protests, while a strong majority of whites disagreed with the events. But responses were also deeply split among political partisans, illustrating the potential impact of the controversy in next year’s elections.

Fully 84 percent of Republicans surveyed said they disagreed with the students’ actions, while a mere 5 percent agreed with them. Democrats appeared much more tolerant of the protests: 42 percent agreed, while 34 percent disagreed.

Those numbers may explain why Republican governor candidates have emphasized their concerns about the protests at Missouri, while Democrats have downplayed them. Democrat Chris Koster, the party’s likely nominee for governor, called for a task force to “address issues raised” by the protests, but did not directly criticize the actions of protesting students or faculty.

Kinder and Hanaway, by contrast, explicitly referred to Reagan’s campus statements during their remarks Saturday.

“We have student protesters and radical faculty now running (the University of Missouri) into ruin,” Hanaway said. “If I were governor I would do precisely what Ronald Reagan did when he was governor of California ... I’d be there, I’d confront the protesters, and I’d restore order.”

Trump: ‘Crazy’ demands

As news of the Missouri protests spread, students on a handful of other campuses launched their own demonstrations. That suggested the political debate over campus activism might spread to other states, and eventually to the presidential campaign.

Donald Trump called the Missouri students’ demands “crazy,” their protests “disgusting,” and said the resigning officials had set a poor precedent. Ben Carson, also a leading GOP presidential candidate, criticized “political correctness” on campuses.
Other GOP candidates said they were less familiar with the events at the university.

Democratic presidential candidates expressed some support for the Missouri students who demonstrated. “It’s time to address structural racism on college campuses,” Sen. Bernie Sanders said in a tweet.

Yet when asked during last Saturday’s debate if Missouri’s protests could provide a template for other schools, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was vague.

“Oh, I believe that on a college campus, there should be enough respect so people hear each other,” she said. “It’s really a question for all of us to answer.”

But the focus on the Missouri protests by presidential candidates in both parties faded after the terror attacks in Paris. “Given the war on terrorism, it will likely remain a more minor issue on the national level in the presidential race,” Warren said.

Kuhlmann agreed. “Unless campus protests gain their momentum, it will more than likely be the focus of state-level officials and candidates,” she said. “This is especially true as new crises overcome old ones so easily in our modern times even if the old ones aren’t resolved. One example is the recent series of ISIS attacks and the attention to refugee placement in states.”

Others said the current protests differ in important ways from the 1960s demonstrations that Reagan used to his advantage. The current protests are less widespread, and involve different concerns — there are fewer demonstrations about the military, for example. And the concerns of minority students, while significant, are complaints of long standing.

“Institutional responses to student protests of the past ... have not resulted in steady progression,” wrote Lori Patton Davis, a professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. “At best, it is a case of three steps forward and two steps backward.”

Some conservatives have questioned the sincerity of the demonstrations. “This is the theater of the absurd,” conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham said. “This is not about learning or justice. This is about rabble-rousing and division.”
But others said a multichannel media world will allow protesting students to send their concerns across the nation, ensuring some discussion of current campus issues in the campaigns to come.

“Social media can easily make it clear that they aren’t alone — that students elsewhere feel the same way they do and that those students are taking action and making change,” wrote columnist Libby Nelson for Vox.com.

“The protests at Missouri,” she wrote, “will not be the last.”

Dershowitz: It’s Time to Stand Up to These Tyrannical Students

Watching student protests spread like wildfire across college campuses nationwide, a former Harvard Law School professor of 50 years is speaking out, warning that students are “moving to the absurd” and faculty and administrators are doing nothing to stop it.

“It’s gotten to the point where it is so abused and so hypocritical, and yet nobody is concerned,” Alan Dershowitz told The Daily Signal in a phone interview. “After 50 years of teaching at Harvard, I have never met a less courageous group of people than tenured faculty.”

“The last thing administrators or faculty want to do is get into fights with minority students, because then they’re perceived as being racists and sexists and homophobes, and these are epithets that are hard to respond to. So it’s much easier to go with the flow and be popular, particularly with the most vocal students.”

Dershowitz, a Jewish native of Brooklyn who’s been called “the nation’s most peripatetic civil liberties lawyer,” speaks to the protests from experience. Throughout his career, Dershowitz says his pro-Israel advocacy work triggered anti-Semitic and hateful protests from students when he would speak on college campuses.

But those protests, he said, you never read about in the news.

“At Johns Hopkins University, when I delivered the Milton Eisenhower lectures, I was defaced with Hitler mustaches painted on my face,” he said.

“There’s clearly a double standard. Minority students, gay students, transgender students, Arab students generally have a greater leverage and a greater voice, and their grievances are taken far
more seriously than the legitimate grievances of Jewish students, Zionist students, Christian students, conservative students.”

Dershowitz believes that protests are a legitimate exercise of free speech “as long as the protests don’t call for other people to lose their right of free speech.” But the recent protests sweeping across college campuses, he said, are anything but.

“It started at Harvard with Larry Summers being fired, and once the faculty and the students saw that they had this kind of power…it’s very hard not to use it, because if you don’t use it, you’re regarded as a sellout.”

“**And then it moved to University of Missouri, where apparently there were some racial tensions and problems. There may have been good reason for a transition of leadership. That may be correct.**”

But then you move to the absurd, where at Yale they’re spitting at somebody who was talking about free speech. Or where they ban the showing of “The Vagina Monologues” because it doesn’t take into account transgender.

Well, let transgenders write their own plays. Everybody should write their own plays. The idea that you can’t have a play about “The Vagina Monologues” because it doesn’t include transgender is just blatantly absurd.

The most recent example took place at Princeton University, where students are protesting to remove President Woodrow Wilson’s name from all school buildings because he supported racial segregation. Among other demands, Planet Princeton reported that students “called on the school to provide a dedicated space on campus for black students that is clearly marked.”

According to the Associated Press, Princeton University President Chris Eisgruber ended a 32-hour sit-in by signing an agreement with the students to “look into the legacy of alumnus and former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson.”

Dershowitz believes that all incidents of alleged racism and discrimination on college campuses should be investigated, addressed and used as a “teaching moment” for students. But by giving in to the protesters’ “abused” demands, he said, faculty and administrators are relinquishing their primary duty of ensuring that “the exchange of ideas, the free expression of points of view, is never compromised.”

“It’s time for some brave administrators to stand up to these student hypocrites, and these are tyrannical students who think the truth is on their side and there’s no reason to hear opposing points of view,” Dershowitz said. But that, he added, would require a “brave administrator or a brave faculty member.”

“I wish I were still back teaching actively, because I would be standing up to them.”
Now and then an episode occurs that perfectly encapsulates a situation that is completely out of whack.

One of those took place last week at Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

Last Wednesday, students at the small liberal arts school held a sit-in at the Smith College Campus Center to call attention to racism at Smith and other campuses in the wake of the high-profile protests at the University of Missouri, which led to the ouster of the University of Missouri system president and the University of Missouri-Columbia chancellor.

As you might expect, the students sought press coverage of the protest. But with a twist: only journalists who expressed solidarity with the cause were allowed in.

“We are asking that any journalists or press that cover our story participate and articulate their solidarity with black students and students of color,” Alyssa Mata-Flores, one of the organizers, told MassLive.com, a Western Massachusetts news website. “By taking a neutral stance, journalists and media are being complacent in our fight.”

And it gets worse: The article went on to say that "organizers said journalists were welcome to cover the event if they agreed to explicitly state they supported the movement in their articles."

**Supported the movement in their articles.**

So if they hoped to cover the event, the reporters not only had to pledge allegiance to the cause, they also had to promise to write sympathetically about the sit-in.
It's hard to imagine a more misguided understanding of the role of a free press in a
democratic society. And it's truly disheartening to see that view held by students at a highly
regarded institution of higher learning.

The job of the reporter is to cover the news, as fairly and, yes, as objectively as possible.
No matter how noble the cause, journalists should hardly be serving as its propaganda
arm. It's one thing for editorial writers, columnists, TV pundits and bloggers to opine, to
take sides. That's their job.

But we desperately need reporters to lay out the facts, as clearly, thoroughly and
dispassionately as possible, so the rest of us can make up our minds.

The Smith College occurrence would be bad enough if it were an isolated incident. But of
course it's not. It's part of an all-too-familiar pattern of intolerance for freedom of
expression on America's college campuses.

Just two weeks ago, students at the University of Missouri linked arms to prevent
journalists from gaining access to an area where protesters had set up camp. Never mind
that the demonstrations were front-page news across the country and were taking place on
public property at a state university. The students needed a "safe space."

Much of the coverage focused on the outrageous, aggressive behavior of a Missouri
professor and a campus official as they prevented student journalists from doing their jobs.
One of them, professor Melissa Click, called for some "muscle" to help her send a
journalist packing.

But there is another aspect of the confrontation, captured on video, that also is deeply
alarming. That's the smug, self-righteous attitudes of the students as they trample the First
Amendment rights of two of their fellow students.

At Yale, students have called for the head of lecturer Erika Christakis for writing, in the
midst of a discussion of Halloween costumes, "Is there no room anymore for a child or
young person to be a little bit obnoxious … a little bit inappropriate or provocative or, yes,
ofensive?"

And at college after college in recent years, students have rallied to block appearances by
speakers whose views don't jibe with current campus orthodoxy. Most of those
speakers, of course, are conservatives.

All of which just seems so wrong. College should be a time and place for a freewheeling
exchange of ideas, for exploration, for putting your views to the test. Not for hunkering
down in a safe cocoon.
So a modest proposal: Just as Russia’s launch of the satellite Sputnik led to a major jump-start for the United States’ space program, it’s time for academia to step up and launch an ambitious crusade to spread the gospel of free expression and the First Amendment on the nation’s campuses.

As for Smith, it didn’t cover itself with glory in the most recent situation. It went along with the students’ plan. It said in a statement, "On balance, as strongly as the college prefers to err on the side of a campus open to media, the students’ opposition to it at their own event — which they had created and were hosting — was honored. Media relations staff told media that the access terms for the sit-in were established by the organizers, and introduced media to the organizers to make their requests."

It went on to say that didn’t mean it supported restrictions on the media.

Right.

Black leaders see disconnect between activism at MU and city at large

COLUMBIA — The protests of black MU students have thrust Columbia into the national conversation on race relations and systemic oppression, but black residents outside campus, removed from the spotlight, endure similar inequalities.

The black unemployment rate, gentrification and policing remain the focus of local social organizations and activist groups. The events that led to UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation have highlighted certain aspects of the black experience in Columbia, but beyond campus boundaries, a disproportionate number of black residents continue to struggle to find work and economic equality.

Mary Ratliff of Columbia, president of the Missouri NAACP State Conference, said members of her organization were on campus with Concerned Student 1950 during the protests. She said
Columbia's black population mostly supports the efforts of the student activists and said that racism at MU is an indicator of the racism in broader Columbia.

"When there is trouble on the university campus, there is trouble in the city," Ratliff said. "We've always supported our students."

Local government and black residents have not always seen eye to eye, but Ratliff said City Manager Mike Matthes' effort to reach out to the community and promote minority businesses and employment over the past few months has been a step in the right direction.

When Matthes introduced his city spending plan for 2016 in July, he said the unemployment gap between blacks and whites was the most alarming issue he encountered. In 2013, the black unemployment rate was 15.7 percent; the white unemployment rate was 4.4 percent.

As part of the proposed 2016 budget, Matthes emphasized the creation of jobs capable of supporting impoverished families. He proposed a $100,000 contract with Job Point for Vocational Training, among other items.

Forty-seven percent of blacks in Columbia made $20,000 or less in 2013, according to statistics from citydata.com. Twenty-one percent made less than $10,000.

Lorenzo Lawson, founder of the Youth Empowerment Zone on Fay Street, said stereotypes of those in impoverished communities are part of the unemployment problem. He said the racial climate in Columbia has barely improved throughout his lifetime, only citing the public school system as an area that has marginally progressed.

"It's still very dismal in Columbia," he said of race relations. "It's the haves and the have-nots."

Lawson is seeking to combat these unemployment rates by offering entrepreneurial classes and workshops at the Youth Empowerment Zone. He said the first step is planting the idea in the minds of impoverished black youth that they are capable of starting a business with the right resources.
"The thought that you can create your own business, that's what has died," Lawson said. "A lot of these kids put in application after application and get turned down and turned down and get discouraged."

He said that such discouragement often leads to criminal activity.

"The criminal industry will always hire them," he said.

Specifically, those in his classes are taught how to write business plans and budget expenses, among other skills.

The Youth Empowerment Zone also offers vocational training.

Lawson said several young black males in his program are interested in cars, so they are learning auto-mechanical skills. Next, he hopes to start a program where young adults can learn cosmetology and barber skills.

"At one time that was a very lively segment of our population," he said about black businesses. "We are bringing back that entrepreneur spirit."

Carl Kenney leads a group called Race Matters that meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Bethel Baptist Church. While one of the group's areas of focus is working with law enforcement to establish community policing practices, Kenney also noted the once lively black business portion of Columbia: Sharp End.

Sharp End was a black business district that was torn down in the 1960s under urban renewal initiatives. Kenney said the district was known to be a lively and successful cultural hub by its black residents. He said part of the economic inequality in Columbia stems from the destruction of Sharp End and the subsequent gentrification.

The city erected a plaque on a lot between Fifth and Sixth streets in May to commemorate the district and note its historical importance.
Offering possible solutions, Kenney said the city needs to focus on retaining black students who graduate from MU. Without a largely educated black populace, he said, it is difficult for blacks to rise above service level employment. The lack of black residents in leadership positions is a problem, he said.

"The students who are black who come to Columbia would never consider staying because there's no place for them to work," Kenney said. "And that is a sad reality, because that makes it impossible to build a community of educated, motivated and capable black citizens."

Kenney also discussed with his group how city government and black residents responded to the recent protests. He wasn't too impressed.

He said he has seen no interaction among MU, city government and most black residents about the protests and other matters of social justice.

In terms of activism, he said, "The University of Missouri is a place of entertainment through sports. There is not a connection between the university and the city, and that's got to change."

Kenney said black residents should view black students as one of them, linked by similar experiences.

"These are our children," he said. "And that's something we have not done. We have not embraced the students."

Suzan Franck, a member of Race Matters and a college algebra professor at MU, spoke to the Columbia City Council on Nov. 6 about the protests at MU and how they relate to the city.

"Acknowledging, understanding and addressing structural racism in the larger city of Columbia is needed just as urgently as it is on the Mizzou campus," Franck told the council.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp, also a member of Race Matters, said that while groups such as her own are making progress, she hasn't seen as much communication as she'd like between the city and university.
"I do not see collaboration," she said on the lack of interaction between city government and the university in response to the protests and broader racism in Columbia.

She said city government "has remained largely quiet, in my opinion. They haven't issued a statement or anything."

Wilson-KleeKamp said if the city wants to stay out of national news, there needs to be progress from the white community as well.

Understanding that systemic racism is generally caused by invisible forces, such as the impact of a disproportionately large white faculty at MU, and is not overt, could help white residents who have different experiences than black residents, she said.

"Our white community has some homework to do on equity," she said. "It's gonna be on the leaders to decide if we want to be the kind of community that receives this sort of national attention."

**Forbes**

**Hey Missouri, Show Me More Indiana-Like Policies**

In recent years, it’s become increasingly apparent that my alma mater state of Missouri could learn quite a bit from Hoosiers. As Missouri takes plodding steps toward reform, Indiana makes strong, long-term decisions – with positive outcomes evident even in the short-term. Case in point: the most recent State Business Tax Climate Index from the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, which for the third year in a row ranks Indiana among the top-ten most business-friendly states.

Indiana’s strongly entrenched position within the Tax Foundation’s top-ten should provide a case study for reform-minded Missouri legislators looking to boost the Show-Me State’s economy. Thanks to legislation rooted in former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels’ legacy and shepherded by current governor Mike Pence, Indiana’s corporate tax rate and individual income tax rate both dropped last year. Both decreases came as part of a scheduled multi-year reduction that will see the corporate income tax rate cut to 4.9% by 2021 and the individual income tax rate reduced to 3.23% by 2017.
Importantly, the promise of Indiana is far more than fiscal. Thanks to forward-thinking leadership in the education space and the civic world, the state’s appeal is amplified. Former Governor Daniels now serves as the President of Purdue University, where he requested a salary less than that of his predecessor, reduced the total cost of attending the school (a rarity among Big Ten universities), and decreased total student loan debt by $40 million. Daniels also interacts with students daily and, just this week, met with protestors concerned about the school’s racial climate in order to hear and address their concerns. While Daniels admitted that change would not be immediate, he committed himself and the university to finding a common ground— a move that would have helped avoid much of the tumult at the University of Missouri.

Without question, the smart decisions and due diligence of Governors Daniels and Pence continue to pay dividends, even beyond the tax-decrease plans. Governor Pence announced last month that Indiana’s economic conditions and continued upswing allow the state to pay off a $250 million federal unemployment insurance loan— thereby saving Indiana businesses $327 million in additional taxes in 2016. That penalty would have equated to $126 for every single employee in the Hoosier State.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kevin Brinegar lauded the savings and underscored the significance to the business community, saying, “In the last few weeks alone, we’ve heard from several hundred businesses all across the state about how important this early payoff is to them.”

The friendly business climate appeals to far more than Hoosiers. In fact, Indiana’s economic opportunity is drawing in companies and workers from my very own backyard. AEP River Operations, headquartered in Chesterfield, Missouri, is shuttering its Show-Me State offices and moving its 100-plus employees to Indiana. AEP ships approximately 45 million tons of products annually via the nation’s waterways. The move will leave nearly 41,000 square feet of suburban St. Louis office space vacant—a sobering and very visible reminder of what can happen when Missouri companies head for greener pastures. (The relocation of AEP River Operations also represents a loss to the community, as the firm was a strong corporate citizen that committed a quarter-million dollars to the Veterans Honor Park in Chesterfield, among other donations.)

As the only Midwestern state on the Tax Foundation’s top-ten list, Indiana occupies an enviable position. But it will take more than mere envy to reach the same growth potential that the Hoosier State enjoys, with is low tax rates, AAA credit rating, and now-penalty-free federal unemployment insurance rate. States, including my home of Missouri, must take steps to make themselves more welcoming to businesses. Until then, companies will do what Japan-based automotive-part manufacturer NTN Driveshaft did this month—namely, bring hundreds of good-paying jobs to Indiana. This is the fifth Japan-based company to announce expansion plans this fall; the others are Indiana Packers Corporation, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Toyota Tsusho, and Daiei. In all, these five companies are on pace to create more than 1,800 new jobs and invest more than $316 million in their Indiana operations.

All told, Indiana has gained 59,700 jobs so far in 2015, and the state benefits from a projected 18 million in national auto sales. All Midwestern states should be dedicated to reclaiming their
legacies as places that make the goods people need and ship those goods worldwide. Clearly, it’s working for Indiana. The time has come for the Show-Me State to step up its game.

Facebook group for NYU White Student Union is a fake, school says

A so-called “NYU White Student Union” launched Friday as a platform to “celebrate whiteness” and members of “European descent” turned out to be a hoax, but it didn't stop people from finding it offensive.

The faux group was among several similar supposed student organizations springing up at colleges nationwide.

“It's totally inappropriate and insensitive given the conversations going on right now,” international relations student Prem Cohly told the Daily News on Monday. “Racism is still very real, even here in New York City. There’s such a history of white supremacy that this is troubling.”

“It's not OK. It’s not right,” graduate student Moria Sutherland said. “We have an obligation as a community and a school to be open to diversity and all people. I'm tired of all the hate in the world. And I'm sure a lot of people are.”

Despite widespread criticism, the “group” continued to amp up the rhetoric in a new Facebook post at noon on Monday.

“When people say that Students of Whiteness don't face any unique challenges or obstacles we should think about this,” read the post. “White students are the only group to be labeled as ‘problematic’ simply for existing and to have University classes dedicated to attacking their identity. This is why we are reclaiming the word whiteness and not letting the campus thought police define our identities for us.”

The Facebook page had accumulated at least 375 followers as of Monday morning, and probably many more horrified reactions online.

“I hope this is a joke,” one user wrote on the Facebook page.

It seems to be, according to NYU.

“There is no such organization as this at NYU, the Facebook page is using NYU’s logo illegally and without permission, and we have contacted Facebook to demand the NYU logo be
removed,” NYU Director of Public Affairs Matt Nagel said in a statement to The News on Monday. “We reject — and we call on others to reject — efforts such as this to derail or distort candid, thoughtful discourse on race.”

Some social media users pointed to a 4Chan post from Sunday as proof the page might be a sick joke. The anonymous post calls for Internet trolls to make “European students union” pages at “the most leftist colleges and universities in the western world.”

The page says it intends no “harm” to other ethnic groups, calling itself a “community for NYU students of European descent.”

“We condemn the cowardly campaigns of moral subjugation and propaganda that seek to instill self-hatred and surrender within European-American youth and justify the continued invasion and degradation of the lands, institutions, and cultural heritage that is rightly ours,” the Facebook page says.

The page’s owner is not identified and did not return requests for comment. But the supposed founder told The Tab he or she is a liberal arts undergrad at the school, hailing from Montclair, N.J.

“The atmosphere on campus now is very racially charged,” the founder said.

“Race is all that is being talked about. But white people effectively have no voice here because our voice is systematically excluded from discussion.”

White students are by far the biggest ethnic group at NYU, representing 38.5% of its 56,000 students, according to the school's latest stats. Asians comprise 14.5% of the student population, while the percentages for all other ethnicities are single digits or decimal points.

**The Facebook group follows a wave of white student pages appearing at schools including the University of Missouri, University of Illinois, the University of California-Berkeley and UCLA, all of which started in the past few days.**

Most of the pages feature identical Europe-loving language and criticize the racially charged protests at schools like Yale, Mizzou and Ithaca College.
Listen to the discussion here: http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kwmu/audio/2015/11/112315aweb.mp3

From the first amendment discussions that came out of the University of Missouri protests, to governors’ attempts to block Syrian refugees, to the challenge of Missouri Senate Bill No. 5, it’s been a busy month for legal questions in the state of Missouri.

On Monday’s Legal Roundtable on “St. Louis on the Air,” host Don Marsh led a panel discussion about the most pressing legal questions of the day. Joining him for this monthly segment:

- Esther Seitz, counselor at law at Donald M. Craven, P.C.;
- Mark Smith, associate vice chancellor and director of the Career Center at Washington University;
- Bill Freivogel, professor in the school of journalism at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale

Some of the issues that were discussed:

- The lawsuit against Missouri Senate Bill No. 5, which limits the percentage of revenue municipalities can collect from fines
- St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger’s move to standardize procedures among 57 county police departments
- First amendment issues in light of Mizzou, Yale and other campus protests across the country
- U.S. governors’ attempts to block Syrian refugees and states’ rights
- SCOTUS updates: Roe vs. Wade, police use of force
- St. Louis Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce asked for a special prosecutor to look at a fatal police shooting that took place last January

The monthly Legal Roundtable segment on "St. Louis on the Air" addresses Missouri Senate Bill No. 5, first amendment issues at Mizzou, governors attempts to block Syrian refugees and more.

MISSOURIAN

Cancer specialists say annual mammograms after 40 still the way to go

LAUREN KELLIHER, 2 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — Should you, or shouldn't you?

And how often?

Those are just two of the lingering questions about mammograms after an article in the October issue of the New England Journal of Medicine said that the go-to diagnostic tool for detecting breast cancer has had no effect on reducing the incidence of metastasized cancer. That's because mammography screening doesn't detect all types of breast cancer early on.

According to the Journal article, since 1988, the rate of metastatic prostate cancer has decreased by half. By contrast, the rate of breast cancers that was at advanced stages when detected has been unchanged since 1975.

“The lack of change in the incidence of metastatic disease is consistent with the hypothesis that breast cancer is a systemic,” — meaning affecting the entire body — ”disease by the time it's detectable,” the article's authors say.

And that's just the latest installment in the confusing news about mammograms.

In 2010, controversial mammogram recommendations were released. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force suggested that women over 50 get screened every other year instead of annually. Before age 50, women are encouraged to weigh the benefits and risks with their doctor.

In October, the American Cancer Society released its guidelines. These recommend starting annual mammograms at age 45. At 55, a woman should begin to get biannual screenings, the organization recommends.

The bottom line is that regular screening can detect cancer early, before it has spread. Unfortunately the most dangerous forms of breast cancer might not be detected by a mammogram.

What is a mammogram?
A mammogram is the most cost-effective way to detect breast cancer. It is essentially an X-ray of the breast that detect masses in the tissue. Some masses are cancerous, some are not. Regular mammograms can help find cancerous masses at an early stage while it is most treatable and before physical symptoms occur or the cancer becomes metastatic. Breast cancer is detected in about five of 1,000 patients screened, said Megha Garg, a professor of clinical radiology and director of breast imaging at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. However, the density of breast tissue can affect the sensitivity of the screening, Garg said.

Should women get annual screenings?

Cancer is unpredictable. Some cancers are slow growing, and some are fast growing. Young women often have faster-growing cancer because their natural hormones fuel tumors and speed their growth, said Terry Elwing, a radiologist at Boone Hospital Center. Faster growing cancers may develop in between yearly screenings. In that case, an abnormality would be detected during a self-exam.

A problem with detecting cancer early enough is that too few women get yearly screenings as recommended. Only 40 percent of women get them, Elwing said, but there is no study that proves there are benefits from anything other than annual screenings. When women feel a mass, it is most likely advanced metastatic cancer at presentation. Elwing said that cancers you or your physician can feel have already spread to the lymph nodes, which are organs important to the function of your immune response.

And 70 percent of women who develop breast cancer do not have any risk factors for the cancer, Elwing said.

When should women start screening?

If a woman is at high risk, has a significant family history of breast cancer or had radiation of her chest at a young age, she should start annual screening around age 25 to 30. If a woman is not at high risk, there isn’t any benefit to beginning screenings before age 40, Elwing said.
The American Cancer Society's recently released guidelines spurred confusion among women and debate among doctors. The guidelines suggested that women with an average risk of breast cancer should start yearly mammogram screening at age 45, five years later than the originally suggested age 40. Once a woman reaches 55, she should only have mammograms every other year.

Garg said the MU hospital follows the guidelines of the American College of Radiology and the Society of Breast Imaging. Those guidelines suggest women still start annual screenings at age 40. Elwing said Boone Hospital Center also suggests women begin annual mammograms at age 40.

How else is breast cancer detected?

Ultrasounds and breast MRIs are more sensitive diagnostic tools than mammograms. MU Health Care's Ellis Fischel Cancer Center and Boone Hospital Center use these tests for high-risk patients or those with dense breast tissue. They can also be used to take a closer look at abnormal findings, along with a possible biopsy. Adding an MRI or ultrasound to a high-risk patient’s annual screenings can improve cancer detection, Garg said.

An MRI will detect more than a mammogram but will also detect benign masses. According to the Radiology Society of North America, “It is estimated that a woman who has yearly mammograms between ages 40 and 49 has about a 30 percent chance of having a false-positive mammogram at some point in that decade and about a 7 percent to 8 percent chance of having a breast biopsy within the 10-year period.”

Unnecessary treatment or a false positive diagnosis is deeply stressful. According to previous reporting, the issue of overdiagnosis is complicated because it is possible to identify and treat some cancers that ultimately would not have made the patient ill. In those cases, intervention may only have a negative effect, former task force member Michael LeFevre said. Because of this, the task force's guidelines suggest weighing the benefits and risks of mammography before age 50.
Another way to detect breast cancer is by feeling an abnormality during self-examinations.

**Maggie Van Loo, a registered nurse and family nurse practitioner at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, explained how to perform a breast exam in a two-part process. Once a month is the recommendation for self exams.**

**Part one:** Observe yourself in the mirror unclothed. Lean slightly forward with your hands on your hips and look for skin or nipple changes and anything unusual from your previous month’s exam such as dimpling or rashes. Extend your arms above your head and push your hands together. Look for the same changes.

**Part two:** Lie on your back. Using the opposite hand to the breast, press your finger pads down in circular motions. Examine for anything tender, firm, round or different from the previous month. Anything hard, poorly delineated or fixed to the skin or underlying tissue should be checked out. Also look for any dimpling, nipple deviation or retraction or nipple discharge.

If a woman detects an abnormality, Garg said she would recommend a mammogram or an ultrasound depending on the woman’s age. Elwing said that a woman under 30 would most likely start with an ultrasound and a woman over 40 would start with a mammogram. Often both are performed. If either test detects an abnormality, a biopsy would be the next step to determine the presence of breast cancer.

MU Health Care gynecologists follow the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommendation that patients receive a breast exam as part of her yearly appointment, said Breton Barrier, an obstetrician/gynecologist at MU Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

Ultimately the decision to do so is up to the patient, Barrier said.

Are mammograms effective?
The article in the New England Journal of Medicine states that “the stable incidence of metastatic breast cancer suggests two things. First, the underlying probability of developing this form of breast cancer is itself stable. Second, screening mammography has been unable to identify at an earlier stage, before symptoms appear, cancers that are destined to become metastatic.” Mammography isn’t sensitive enough to detect these cancers early. Unfortunately, more thorough forms of screening such as MRIs or ultrasounds are more expensive than mammograms.

Although the study called into question the effectiveness of mammography, they have helped reduce breast cancer in the U.S. by nearly one-third since 1990, according to the American College of Radiology. Not all breast cancers can be detected by mammography, according to the Radiology Society of North America. Often, a mammograms will result in a false positive. This controversy leaves many women confused on what to do.

Mammograms aren’t meant for detecting advanced cancer, Elwing said. Mammography detects cancers when they are small, before becoming metastatic to the lymph nodes or the rest of the body. Ninety percent of cancers detected by mammograms on women undergoing annual screening are treatable, Elwing said.

The University of Missouri is considering a new degree program that would combine science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, courses with other disciplines on campus.
Leszek Vincent, an adjunct assistant professor in plant sciences at MU, is leading the degree initiative. Vincent said the program aims to fill a gap between traditional academic training and practical experience in the science workforce.

“We need scientifically trained graduate students,” he said. “The country needs them from the government level through business and industry.”

This multidisciplinary degree initiative — the professional science master’s degree — would be composed of about 21 STEM credits; about 12 professional development credits that include finance, marketing, management and communication; and an internship.

The earliest MU could offer the degree is spring 2017. Vincent said students would pay about $35,000 for the 18-month degree program.

MU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Trulaske College of Business, College of Arts and Science and the Truman School of Public Affairs have expressed interest in the degree initiative. STEM programs would collaborate with several schools and colleges on campus to create professional science master’s tracks or emphasis areas.

Those emphasis areas might include biostatistics, science and politics of pharmaceutical production, science and politics of food production, digital humanities and natural resource management/conservation.

Vincent said business skills will be valuable, particularly for students who are considering entrepreneurship.

“A lot of startup companies have really good ideas,” he said. “But if you’re weak in running a business and understanding how a business functions beyond the science, you’re vulnerable to failure.”

The professional science master’s degree is not a new idea, Vincent said. These programs first started popping up at universities in 1997 when the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a not-for-profit based in New York City, first awarded grants to schools adding the program.

The National Professional Science Master’s Association reviews programs for quality. Kiriko Komura, administrative director with the association, said 10 programs were founded in 1997. That number grew to 343 programs at 160 institutions this year.

“It has become an important trend in STEM higher education at the graduate level toward educating the future STEM workforce,” she said.

Komura said some of the most popular fields nationwide for professional science master’s graduates are biotechnology, bioinformatics and environmental science.
Of the 34 public universities in the Association of American Universities, a prestigious group that includes MU, 13 have professional science master’s degrees. Vincent said the new degree program might bolster MU’s efforts to raise its AAU status.

Vincent is developing a full proposal, which the provost and chancellor will review. Before the program can be created, Vincent said he will have to work with the campus curriculum committee and eventually gain approval from the UM System Board of Curators.

Once the program is approved, an advisory board of faculty and industry members would oversee each professional science master’s track. Vincent said the advisory board would ensure the program is responsive to industry needs and changes.

Is this Missouri's next head football coach?

With the University of Missouri's current football coach, Gary Pinkel, set to retire at the end of the season, much speculation has been made about whether the team's first-year defensive coordinator and Missouri alumnus will take the top job.

Barry Odom has voiced his interest in becoming a head coach, according to the Kansas City Star, he's just not sure if it will come next year at Missouri.

“I’ve said it a number of times. I’m going to be a head coach. I don’t know when, don’t know where, but, yeah, that’s what I want to do,” Odom told the Star.

As a 1999 graduate of Missouri, Odom still ranks in the top 10 for the program's list of career tackles with 362.

Pinkel announced his retirement earlier this month when he said he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The university said he had received treatments in May and June.

Missouri faces Arkansas this weekend with a chance to go to its 10th bowl game in 11 seasons. Missouri is 5-6, with a 1-6 record in SEC play.
MISSOURIAN

House creates intern ombudsman position to combat harassment
CARTER STODDARD, 13 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY — An intern ombudsman position within the Missouri House of Representatives has been created to address sexual harassment and to provide better oversight of interns.

The House Administration and Accounts Committee Chair Mike Leara, R-St. Louis, said the position needs to be filled soon because the next legislative session begins Jan. 16. The ombudsman will be selected by a panel made up of several members.

The new position and other changes to House policy were set in motion in October when House Speaker Todd Richardson recommended reforms to the Capitol's sexual harassment policy. Among the changes are a formal ban on relationships between representatives and interns and mandatory sexual harassment training for all members and staff, including interns.

Richardson's recommendations come five months after the resignation of former House Speaker John Diehl, who was caught in a series of sexually charged text conversations with a 19-year-old statehouse intern. After Diehl's departure, Sen. Paul LeVota was accused by a House intern of making inappropriate sexual advances. Following an internal investigation, LeVota resigned in July.

Chief Clerk of the House Adam Crumbliss said the ombudsman will coordinate with interns, House staff and university programs in charge of placing interns.
The ombudsman will be classified as a Title IX reporter, meaning he or she will be required by law to report any instance of harassment or abuse, Crumbliss said.

Complaints from House staff or interns will be referred by the ombudsman directly to House administration.

The ombudsman will also be responsible for helping interns adjust to their work environment.

"Say a student is interested in environmental legislation but doesn't feel they are gaining much experience in that area," Crumbliss said. "The ombudsman could help put them in contact with another legislator elsewhere in the Capitol who is doing that type of work."

Crumbliss said the ombudsman will be key to formalizing the intern process. Now, there is very little oversight of interns in the Capitol, he said. A professor may refer a student to a legislator, and some interns volunteer their time independently of any educational institution. Crumbliss said this makes reporting abuses very difficult as there is often no way to track which intern is assigned to a specific office.

The ombudsman will maintain regular communication with each university's internship program and ensure that every intern is fully aware of the Capitol's code of ethics and officially registered with the House system.

Leara said he believes the position is an "integral aspect" of the new policy because it offers interns a safe outlet, free from the influence of people who have power over them.

"It's likely that a human resources representative would fill that position," Leara said. "But we have not made that decision yet."

Leara said that the panel would likely hire a person already on the House payroll who had experience with either supervision or the field of human resources.

"We want it to be a comfortable and positive experience for young people at the Capitol," Leara said. "The House needs to be a safe place for them to learn."