Mizzou News

Daily Clips Packet

November 25, 2015
Missouri down to 1 abortion clinic after Columbia stops them

Nov. 24

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia has stopped performing abortions, leaving only one clinic in the state still offering them.

The clinic on Monday stopped offering non-surgical abortions, which are induced with a pill, because a clinic doctor was set to lose a crucial hospital privilege on Dec. 1.

State law requires physicians or centers providing abortions to have certain agreements with local hospitals for patient care, although lawmakers and health department officials are at odds over what specific privileges meet that requirement.

A panel of University of Missouri Health Care medical staff voted in September to stop offering so-called refer-and-follow privileges that Planned Parenthood used to obtain approval from the state health department to perform pill-induced abortions. The Health and Senior Services Department has said the Columbia Planned Parenthood will lose its license to conduct abortions without the needed hospital privileges.

Now, Missouri’s only abortion clinic is in St. Louis, which performs both surgical abortions and pill-induced ones; women in western Missouri can visit a Planned Parenthood facility in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas.

A legislative investigation into the disposition of fetal tissue in Missouri also put a spotlight on the relationship between the university and Planned Parenthood, the Columbia Tribune reported. The investigation came after videos were released, starting in mid-July, by anti-abortion activists who posed as representatives of a
biomedical firm. They sought to negotiate the purchase of fetal organs from some national Planned Parenthood personnel.

Planned Parenthood has denied seeking any payments beyond legally permitted reimbursement of costs. The Missouri investigation found "no evidence whatsoever" that the St. Louis surgical abortion facility sells fetal remains.

Former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin initiated reviews that brought about the cancellation of contracts for students to do clinical work at the city's Planned Parenthood office and the committee's decision to no longer offer the "refer and follow" privileges.

Abortion opponents released balloons outside the clinic on Monday, one for each abortion performed since the license was reissued this summer, said Kathy Forck of the 40 Days for Life campaign.

Planned Parenthood supporters, meanwhile, plan to hold a vigil Nov. 30 and then march to a University of Missouri administration building, said Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

She said they're hoping to pressure interim Chancellor Hank Foley into canceling or delaying the end of the "refer and follow" privileges. The university and medical board didn't respond to phone or email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

An extension through the end of February would provide enough time for the clinic's abortion provider to apply for other privileges or for Planned Parenthood to hire another physician with admitting privileges, McQuade said.

McQuade noted that a Texas law requiring clinical privileges for doctors and licensing as an ambulatory surgical center for abortion clinics is before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"If they are declared unconstitutional in Texas, depending on how the court rules, there may be implications here," she said. "We are watching that case very closely."

---

Looming loss of privileges ends abortions at Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic
The Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic on Monday stopped providing abortions because of the looming official cancellation of its physician’s privileges at University of Missouri Health Care.

Next Tuesday — barring a late reversal of the decision — MU Health Care will no longer offer “refer and follow” privileges it granted in December to obstetrician and gynecologist Colleen McNicholas. The privileges allowed the state Department of Health and Senior Services to issue a license in July for the clinic to offer medication-induced abortions.

To meet the requirements of a state law requiring a 72-hour wait for an abortion after a woman gives her consent, women visited the Columbia clinic on Thursdays for a counseling session and received their medication the following Monday. The clinic will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Supporters of Planned Parenthood plan to hold a vigil starting at 4 p.m. Monday in Speaker’s Circle at MU. The group then will march to Jesse Hall hoping to pressure interim Chancellor Hank Foley into canceling or delaying the end of “refer and follow” privileges, said Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

An extension through the end of February would provide enough time for McNicholas to apply for other privileges or for Planned Parenthood to hire another physician, she said.

“Chancellor Foley has the authority to reverse this decision or at the very least to extend the date,” McQuade said. “The university has stated in a letter directly to Dr. McNicholas that the privileging process would take significantly longer than the time allotted to us.”

Planned Parenthood first opened a clinic in Columbia in 1970 and began offering abortions locally in 1974. The clinic stopped offering abortions in 2012 after the staff doctor moved away. The clinic’s abortion license was renewed amid a national controversy over videos produced by abortion opponents who accused Planned Parenthood of commercially trading fetal tissue.

A legislative investigation into the disposition of fetal tissue in Missouri also dug into the new license and put a spotlight on the relationship between the university and Planned Parenthood. Former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin initiated reviews that brought the cancellation of contracts for students to do clinical work and the decision to no longer offer “refer and follow” privileges.

Under state law, a doctor offering abortions must have clinical privileges at a hospital in the community where the services are offered.
Abortion opponents protested outside the clinic Monday and released balloons, one for each abortion performed since the license was reissued in July, said Kathy Forck of the 40 Days for Life campaign.

“We give all the honor and glory and victory to God,” Forck said. “This is God’s victory.”

Unless the privileges are restored or McNicholas or another physician can obtain privileges at MU Health Care or Boone Hospital Center, abortions will be available in Missouri only at the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis.

A Texas law requiring clinical privileges for doctors and licensing as an ambulatory surgical center for abortion clinics is before the U.S. Supreme Court, McQuade said.

“If they are declared unconstitutional in Texas, depending on how the court rules, there may be implications here,” she said. “We are watching that case very closely.”

MISSOURIAN

Abortions no longer offered at Columbia Planned Parenthood

CARTER STODDARD, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — As of Monday, the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic is no longer providing abortions.

Monday was the last day for dispensing pills that induce medical abortions, Planned Parenthood confirmed. Thursday was the last day for in-patient abortions, Planned Parenthood confirmed.

The halting of abortion procedures is a direct result of MU Health Care no longer extending "refer and follow" privileges it previously offered to staff obstetrician and gynecologist Colleen McNicholas, Planned Parenthood confirmed.

Missouri doctors are not allowed to perform abortions unless they obtain admitting privileges — an applied-for agreement between a doctor and hospital that lets the doctor admit patients there.
Planned Parenthood supporters plan to hold a vigil Monday. The demonstration is meant to press MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley to delay or cancel the end of refer-and-follow privileges, which end on Dec. 1. They will begin gathering at 4 p.m. at Speakers Circle, and a march to Jesse Hall is planned for 4:30 p.m.

Law professor: Abortion case won't impact local Planned Parenthood

Posted: Nov 24, 2015 5:09 PM by Rose Schmidt, KOMU 8 Reporter
Updated: Nov 25, 2015 12:32 AM

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=31673&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - A Wisconsin federal appeals court has ruled it is unconstitutional to require abortion providers to get hospital admitting privileges in order to perform abortions. One University of Missouri law professor said the ruling should not affect Missouri statute.

"It really shouldn't mean anything out of the gate," Joshua Hawley said. "I mean, a federal court in Wisconsin - actually the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals - said that Wisconsin's admitting privilege law's unconstitutional."

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the case in Wisconsin Monday. The ruling upheld a Madison federal judge who struck down the law in March.

According to The Associated Press, earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court justices said they plan to hear a case regarding abortion law in Texas. The case looks at whether current abortion law protects
women's health or makes abortions hard to obtain. It will be the high court's first abortion case in eight years, with arguments scheduled for March.

Fourteen states require abortion providers to have some affiliation with a local hospital, according to data from Nov. 1 from the Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit group that supports legal access to abortion.

KOMU 8 News reached out to the University of Missouri to see how Wisconsin's decision to see how it could impact the university, but was told no one was available to talk.

Dr. Colleen McNicholas, the sole provider of medical abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood will no longer have "refer and follow" privileges with University of Missouri Health Care as of Dec. 1. McNicholas provided abortion services at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic twice a month.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri confirmed that Monday was the last day McNicholas could dispense the pills that terminate abortions. Planned Parenthood also confirmed Nov. 19 was the last day women could sign consent forms for abortions.

Planned Parenthood planned to hold a vigil next Monday to pressure MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley to reinstate McNicholas' "refer and follow" privileges.

**Why I've Chosen to Stick with Mizzou**

Posted: 11/24/2015 9:29 am EST Updated: 11/24/2015 9:59 am EST

**Arielle Cadet** [Become a fan](#)

Freshman at The University of Missouri in Columbia
As an African-American woman from the South, I thought that I would have experienced racism. But throughout my 17 years, I never came face to face with racial tensions, differing opinions, and threatening situations. But in just one week at The University of Missouri, I experienced all of that and more.

I've always loved to write, it has been a passion of mine since I was little. But it wasn't until my junior year of high school that I realized I wanted to pursue journalism. After a lot of thinking and research, I stumbled upon Mizzou and completely fell in love. It's strange to look back now at the first time I found out about the university. I never thought that I would end up here, but now I can't see myself anywhere else. I remember the day I got my acceptance letter and how I imagined the possibilities and experiences that I would have at my dream school. The experiences of the past few weeks were not on the list, but they definitely gave me a chance to take a step back to evaluate myself and the world around me.

Throughout the past month, I noticed several instances on campus. From the time our student president, Payton Head, was called a "nigger" one evening on his way to get some food, to when the Legion of Black Collegians homecoming court practice was disrupted when members were verbally assaulted with the same racial slur. I knew the Mizzou campus was different from any other environment I had ever been in. I then began to see the group ConcernedStudent1950, named for the first year an African-American student attended the university. In the weeks leading up to Tim Wolfe's resignation, I would see them and a large group of students marching through campus. They would start at the Black Culture Center and go to the student center, Memorial Union, dining halls - anywhere to have their voices heard. I became curious about the group and hungry to be part of the movement.

I watched the video of the group protesting in front of Tim Wolfe's car at the homecoming parade in early October. As I watched the "original 11" members trying desperately - and peacefully - to display their wants and needs to the president of the university, it brought tears to my eyes. He ignored them, and watched as police took them away and threatened them with pepper spray. It hurt to see people who looked like me being treated like that. And it hurt even more to realize that the man who could change things for all of us wasn't doing anything about it.

After watching that, I took to Twitter and Facebook and began to share articles, videos, and posts about the events happening on campus. I wanted to get the word out and I wanted my friends and family to
know what was happening here. I thought if people outside of my campus knew about what was going on, change would come sooner.

In addition to watching the video, I learned and read about Jonathan Butler and his decision to participate in a hunger strike until Tim Wolfe resigned as president. I remember one day in class we were discussing the issue, and a girl expressed her ambivalence towards Butler’s decision. Although I personally respected Butler’s choice, I began to wonder if it was too drastic or too dangerous. But I knew that I wanted to support him and found myself becoming angry with people who criticized him, and avoiding conversations about the issue so I wouldn’t have to fight with anyone.

On Nov 8th, the football team announced that they were going on strike until Tim Wolfe resigned. Their announcement filled me with so much happiness and hope. I knew that the university could not look past this. And sure enough, the next morning Wolfe resigned, and my university was the top trending topic on Twitter. It felt so exhilarating to see the power students and student athletes can have if they all come together for a cause. I felt so proud of my school and my peers for standing up for what was right. It seemed like things were truly turning around. Members of ConcernedStudent1950 were rallying on the quad and celebrating, and I was lucky enough to be there with them during that amazing moment.

But after the overall surprise and shock of Tim Wolfe’s resignation, people began to ask the real question:

"Now what?"

As the day went on, I felt more and more discouraged by the overall mood on campus. Every time I went on social media my school was the top headline. It became extremely overwhelming. I would look at comments on Twitter and Facebook about Wolfe’s resignation and saw so many angry people saying they were disgusted with the university for letting students change their minds and how they no longer were proud to have Mizzou as an Alma Mater. Not only were alumni upset, so were a lot of my peers. And people were threatening black students on Yik Yak. I began to realize that Wolfe’s resignation was not going to automatically fix everything on campus.

Since that day, campus has never really felt the same. Panic had been instilled in all of us, and we were all scared for our safety and our lives. Our beloved school was being talked about on every media
platform known to man, and it became extremely frustrating. People were putting out false information about what was happening. No one seemed to be getting the story right, and the only ones who actually knew what was going on were the students.

People have asked me if I want to transfer schools, or consider attending a HBCU. And I honestly have considered. But the truth is, I love Mizzou today just as much as I did the first day I learned about it. My experiences over the last few weeks have only reinforced my feelings about how amazing the school is. I have been lucky to be on a campus where people have done something, have stood up for what they believe in and made their voices heard. I have never been so proud to be a part of student body that could promote such change not only on our campus, but on campuses all across the country. I have learned the importance of listening. A lot of us on campus have opinions about every single issue - from the Paris attacks to what is happening in our own backyards - and I have realized the only way that we are ever going to grow as a university, and as a community, is to listen to what everyone has to say. In the end, I know that it will take some time for the university to heal, but I know that I will still be here while it does.

Editorial: Racial isolation, ignorance linger — even in 2015

I spent the first part of my life in Sikeston.

The city of about 16,000 had a population that was about 26 percent black as of the 2010 census. I lived about a block from one of the city’s public housing projects. Given the economic realities of life in America, where children from minority families are much more likely to live in poor households, many of my neighbors were black. My bus stop was at a street corner in those housing projects.

My classmates mingled without regard to race or poverty, for the most part. Though I was the working-class grandson of a sharecropper and an auto mechanic and the son of parents with GEDs instead of college degrees, I hung out with wealthy white kids — we
bonded over baseball — poor white kids, poor black kids and wealthy black kids. Sikeston had them all.

It only took moving a little more than 20 miles to put me in a very different world.

I was a preteen when we moved to nearby Bloomfield, a town in the heart of Stoddard County. Bloomfield, and pretty much all of Stoddard County, is white as snow. In my graduating class of about 60 kids, there was not one black face in the bunch. In the 2010 census, only one of the 2,000 or so people who call Bloomfield home counted himself or herself black.

The place had a bad reputation — one of my brother’s best friends genuinely did not want to be in Stoddard County after dark.

The ignorance was staggering — racial slurs and the vilest of racist jokes were commonplace. Many of these kids had never really interacted with a black person, and it showed. People with dark skin were clearly “others” in this environment.

At first I thought my new peers were stupid or maybe just evil. I met them with anger.

Looking back, though, maybe the fault did not lie with those kids. They had so little interaction with people who were different from them. Perhaps the negative stereotypes they espoused so eagerly were also reinforced daily in their households by parents who had grown up in much the same racially isolated circumstances.

Believe it or not, there are still places in our state, in every state, where this kind of isolation still exists.

I recently read a blog post written by a man who spent his entire childhood in Stoddard County. The title — “I Never Spoke to a Black Man Until I Went to Mizzou.” This man, Jeff Huffman, now works as a meteorologist in Florida. His account sums up the experience of perhaps millions of white kids who grow up in homogeneous areas.

“There’s no denying that I grew up in a place where literally EVERYONE was the same color,” Huffman wrote. “This means that for the first 18 years of my life, when most behavior was learned, I was in an environment that (by its nature) did not promote inclusion, acceptance, or understanding of anyone different.”

**Huffman does not pass blame on anyone for this situation, but he does present a fact that speaks to the situation on the University of Missouri campus today. Out of 35,000 students, the vast majority of them white, how many of them grew up in a place like Stoddard County?**

There’s no cultural competency requirement for admittance to college. Many of these students are ignorant of other cultures and races. If recent events at MU are an
indication, the great meetup that is social media has not been enough to bridge the chasm.

When the Board of Curators introduced Mike Middleton as interim president of the UM System last week, his remarks at the end of the news conference resonated with me. He was speaking about a realization he had after reading the Supreme Court’s majority opinion in Brown v. Board of Education, which said segregation did damage to the hearts and minds of black children.

“Segregation in public schools, Jim Crow laws, and if you go back to the beginning, slavery, that whole continuum did damage to the hearts and minds of all children, in ways unlikely ever to be corrected,” Middleton said.

“I sympathize with white people who don’t understand” racism’s continuing legacy. “I don’t blame white people who don’t understand. I blame our ugly history, and I think it’s important that we learn that history and understand it, so that we can get beyond that history and build the institution, and the country, that we imagine, rather than the institution or country that is.”

Middleton had a great point. The only way to fix this thing is together, with understanding from both sides. To do so, we must acknowledge that segregation — intentional or not — still exists, and that some students, like Huffman writes, had never spoken to a black man or woman before they went to MU.

Matthew Sanders is the Tribune’s city editor.

University of Missouri protests gave birth to dozens more across the U.S., powered by social media

Student protesters are making effective use of social media to call attention to causes

Key way to get the word out on Twitter was #StudentBlackOut

National student “demands” include free tuition for black and indigenous students

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
When student protesters laid down on cold, wet sidewalks earlier this month at Ithaca College in New York, the revolution had already started in Columbia, Missouri, nearly 1,000 miles away.

Racial tensions had been building for months at the private school in New York’s Finger Lakes region. In September the school newspaper wrote about two altercations public safety officers had with students of color.

Then in early October during a panel discussion a white male alumnus reportedly referred to another panelist, a woman of color, as “savage” several times.

Students were angered by what they considered the administration’s slow response to their complaints about the incident. So, they borrowed a page from the Mizzou protest playbook.

“This with University of Missouri’s president stepping down, we demand (Ithaca President Tom) Rochon to do the same,” the students said in a social media post.

The success of the Missouri protesters in bringing about the resignation of two key administrators, including MU System president Tim Wolfe, has emboldened students nationwide.

“They got what they wanted,” JeffriAnne Wilder, an associate sociology professor at the University of North Florida, told the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder.

“If we have communities of color and marginalized (people) be specific with their demands...we might be further along in addressing our race issues.”

As news of the efforts in Columbia spread quickly through Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook and other social media, students harboring grievances over racial injustices, high tuition and other issues at their own schools have protested in support:

• At Yale, students protested after allegations surfaced that a fraternity had barred black women from a party the night before Halloween and after a Yale administrator (in an email about offensive Halloween costumes) seemed to suggest that acts of cultural appropriation were free speech expressions.
Grievances went even deeper from minority students who said they felt excluded at the school.

- At Claremont McKenna College in California, student protesters forced the resignation of the dean of students, Mary Spellman, with protests and a hunger strike. In October, Spellman responded to an essay in the student newspaper, written by a student from a working-class Mexican family, by saying she and her staff were “working on how we can better serve students, especially those who don't fit our CMC mold.” Those three words – “the CMC mold” – became a rallying cry for protesters who said they feel marginalized on campus.

- At Duke, more than 100 students, faculty and administrators protested and publicly aired grievances in solidarity with Mizzou. Problems mentioned: A death threat directed at a gay student, a female student having “monkey noises” yelled at her on campus and frustration over how slowly administration responds to acts of reported intolerance.

- At Harvard, a new group of black student activists describes itself as “a movement of students calling for the decolonization of our campus, the symbols, the curriculum and the history of Harvard Law School.” The group wants Harvard to replace the law school’s crest - the same coat-of-arms used by slave owner Isaac Royall Jr., whose estate helped establish Harvard Law. The move has met backlash: Someone recently defaced portraits of black professors at the law school with black tape.

- At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a group of protesters at a town hall meeting on campus last week – some of whom held a sign saying “UNC Stands with Mizzou” – issued a list of demands that included eliminating tuition and using SAT tests for admission purposes.

The MU protests provide communications experts a textbook case of how social media can power a protest movement. Students from coast to coast have rallied under the hashtags #InSolidarityWithMizzou and #WeStandWithMizzou.

“What is unique about these issues is how social media has changed the way protests take place on college campuses,” Tyrone Howard, associate dean of equity, diversity and inclusion at UCLA, recently told The Los Angeles Times.

“A protest goes viral in no time flat. With Instagram and Twitter, you're in an immediate news cycle. This was not how it was 20 or 30 years ago.”
Social media can build a movement at remarkable speed, according to researchers at the New York University Social Media and Political Participation.

They can help protest groups recruit new members, encourage people to participate, and once a protest is in full swing social media can spread information.

Social media can also trigger feelings in people, one of the NYU researchers, political professor Joshua Tucker, wrote in The Washington Post.

For instance the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter that sprang from the Ferguson protests created a strong group identity, sociologists say.

Hashtags have become modern-day battle flags in the high-tech era of protest. Earlier this month college students nationwide protesting high student loan debt rallied under #MillionStudentMarch.

One of the more popular hashtags to spring out of the Mizzou protests has been #blackoncampus, which inspired tweets like this:

In September, students at Howard University turned #TakeBackHU into a trending topic on Twitter.

They caught the attention of The Washington Post with “a gush of complaints on social media” about problems at the historically black university in D.C.

They tweeted about air conditioning breaking down around campus, high tuition, mold in dorms and bureaucratic run-arounds, according to the Post.

Tweeted one student: “Needed my transcript sent for a scholarship just to find out the registrar ‘forgot to mail it out’ & made me miss my deadline.”

The Black Liberation Collective, a new coalition of student groups across the country, is using Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr to coalesce and organize the varied demands from around the country.

The Black Liberation Collective – led by about 10 student activists, some of whom attend MU - launched its inaugural drive with the Mizzou protests.

Last week the collective organized a national “day of action” of rallies and protests at campuses from Berkeley to Michigan State.

A key way to get the word out? Twitter, with the hashtag #StudentBlackOut.
Difficult Dialogues seminar meant to help campus heal

CARTER STODDARD, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Faculty members in MU’s Department of Educational, School & Counseling Psychology want to talk about race, class and inequality and what it all means on a college campus — and they want students to talk, too.

Recent campus upheaval related to the Concerned Student 1950 movement and Jonathan Butler’s hunger strike has stirred up complicated emotions in many MU students, emotions they struggle to voice and process.

Sonia Dhaliwal, an assistant teaching professor, and her colleagues in the Educational, School & Counseling Psychology Department want to turn these powerful feelings into a constructive dialogue. This spring, the department is piloting a one-credit-hour seminar, Difficult Dialogues, led by MU graduate student Oscar Rojas-Perez.

Rojas-Perez said an understanding of how to properly engage in these difficult conversations of race and ethnicity is the main point of the course. He said the ability to participate in a conversation where voices and opinions are heard rather than imposing one's own values onto others is the key to a healthier campus environment.

"We're providing students with a space to share their personal values and beliefs," Rojas-Perez said. "A major focus will be taking everything students have learned in the course and applying these ideas to community interaction."

Christopher Slaten, an assistant professor of counseling psychology, said the course was born out of conversations the department's faculty engaged in with their students following the hunger strike.
"These talks were very cathartic," Slaten said. "Students had a lot that they were thinking through. We're trying to facilitate more of these genuine conversations."

In addition to the new course, the department continues to coordinate an international cross-cultural exchange program established in 1998 that aims to create a more culturally diverse campus.

"Through the Coalition of Cultural Competency, we partner with Beijing Normal University and National Taiwan Normal University," Dhaliwal said. "It's a great experience for them and for us to engage in cross-cultural relationship and learn to navigate the complexities of these relations."

The Difficult Dialogues class will be available only to graduate students, but faculty members think it will start a campuswide conversation.

Chris Riley-Tillman, associate division director of the department, said he hoped the students enrolled in Difficult Dialogues would go on to take the department's Experiencing Cultural Diversity in the United States course, where they could apply what they learned to help younger students engage in similar dialogues.

"We don't seem to be at a place at this university where these conversations are happening as often as they should be," Riley-Tillman said. "That makes sense, not a lot of people are trained to do so. This class will provide a forum to spread this type of interaction campuswide."

The seminar will be funded through department and College of Education funds, Riley-Tillman said.

For several years starting in 2006, a Difficult Dialogues initiative was offered to faculty to promote constructive dialogues on campus. In spring 2011, it was offered as a class called Difficult Dialogues: Controversial Subjects in Higher Education.

"When you're positively influencing hundreds of future teachers, that can have a heck of an impact," Riley-Tillman said. "No movement can be successful unless there's a strong framework
beneath it holding it together. That's what I see this class doing, building a legitimate framework to sustain this movement."

30 purported 'White Student Unions' pop up at campuses across the country

14 hours ago  •  Yanan Wang of The Washington Post

Last Friday night, the Union of White NYU Students, a "community" on Facebook, posted its first status update.

Linking to a student-run blog addressing diversity issues at New York University, the union's Facebook admin mused, "What does 'diversity' mean other than 'not white'? I'm not sure there is an answer to this. Is the word 'diversity' itself a discriminatory term against whites?"

Subsequent posts expressed sympathy for Rachel Dolezal, called studies of white supremacy "dehumanizing" and said that the page is "about celebrating whiteness, not denigrating others."

At around the same time, similar pages emerged in connection with other colleges in the U.S. and Canada — at the University of California Berkeley, Swarthmore College, the University of Missouri at Columbia, Washington University and the University of British Columbia. As of Tuesday morning, there are roughly 30 Facebook pages purporting to represent some form of a "White Students Union," all of which were created within the past few days, according to a user on Medium who referred to an online spreadsheet of the pages.

Several of the pages feature the same statement of purpose, beginning with a welcome to "students of European descent (and allies)" and concluding with a "vision" of a future in which "every ethnic group has the right to organize and represent themselves and their interests."

Despite the NYU group's mention of "weekly meetings," observers have speculated that these newly formed unions are largely fake, existing only in the realm of social media and without a real presence on the campuses to which they claim to belong.

"These White Student Union accounts are fake — or at least, the on-campus clubs they claim to represent are," the Daily Beast reports. "Anyone can make a Facebook page for a group at a college they do not attend."
NYU spokesman Matt Nagel said in a statement to NYULocal that the organization was never registered at the university and that the Facebook page was using the school's logo illegally and without permission.

"We reject — and we call on others reject — efforts such as this to derail or distort candid, thoughtful discourse on race," Nagel said.

Andrew Anglin, who runs the blog the Daily Stormer, which has been described as a "neo-Nazi website," wrote in an e-mail to The Washington Post that he has been encouraging the formation of such groups for years, though he denies being directly involved with their sudden rise over the weekend. While many have called the people behind the Facebook groups "trolls," Anglin's e-mail betrayed not a trace of irony about their mandates.

"Whites need to organize and protect their interests in the face of rising Black terrorism," he wrote. "The goal of a White Student Union would be to push back against this, and also to show Whites across the country that it is okay to be White, it is okay to defend your history and your civilization."

Anglin's e-mail is riddled with racist invective against "Blacks," including a claim that letting African Americans into universities is "charity."

His response matches the abrasive tone of the Daily Stormer, which is among the few websites that have been linked to Dylann Roof, who is facing both state and federal charges arising from the mass shooting at a Charleston, S.C., church. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks white extremist groups, has described the blog as a "neo-Nazi" and "white supremacist website."

The White Students Union wave appears to have started with the "Illini White Students Union," which accused the Black Lives Matter movement of "disrupting student daily life" and "marginalizing" white students.

The original page was taken down within hours of its formation, but another version went up shortly afterward. Administrators at Berkeley and Penn State University have issued statements noting that they have requested the pages be taken down.

"This page had no affiliation with our University and we found it disturbing and uncivil," the statement from Penn State read.

A letter signed by the chancellor of UC Berkeley iterated that the page appeared to be "a part of a national effort, and did not emanate" from the campus.

"While UC Berkeley honors First Amendment rights," the letter continued, "we do not endorse this attempt to create conflict and make light of the efforts of activists, locally and nationally, who have worked hard to hold us all accountable for providing a campus climate where every student is safe, welcomed and respected."
The user on Medium encouraged students on affected campuses to "troll the trolls" by responding to "white supremacist hate with dumb Vines" and blanketing the groups' Facebook walls with cat videos.

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

**White Student Unions Are Proving Black Student Protesters Right**

Racism is still alive and well on college campuses.

Posted: 11/24/2015 05:44 PM EST

Since black students at the University of Missouri began protesting the lack of administrative responses to racial tensions on campus, Facebook pages touting “white student unions” have appeared in affiliation with [over 30 campuses](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html), including [New York University](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html); the [University of California, Berkeley](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html); the [University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html); and the [University of Illinois](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html).

Unlike the White Student Union that formed at [Towson University in 2012](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html), these unions are unofficial, and no one has actually come forward to claim responsibility for trying to start them. Their founders are simply anonymous Facebook users -- who are possibly not even students -- creating pages to insist that white students are on the verge of becoming “a disparaged and voiceless minority.”

They're right about one thing: White people are on track to [become the minority race](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html) in the U.S. within the next 30 years. And as the white race’s numbers decline, its belief in reverse discrimination grows. Half of white Americans believe discrimination against their race is as big a problem as the discrimination black people and other minorities face, according to a recent [poll](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html) from the Public Religion Research Institute.

But these universities are still predominantly white, and given that [more white people enroll in and graduate from college](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/11/24/white-student-unions-black-protesters_n_8109252.html) than black people, these students aren't at any risk of losing that privilege.

**In recent weeks, activists have demanded their schools do more to support marginalized students at dozens of campuses, including the University of Alabama, the University of Missouri, Occidental College, Ithaca College, Berkeley and Yale. At many of the campuses, anonymous people harassed the students online. In a few cases, they actually threatened black protesters, resulting in arrests.**
The bulk of those anonymous commenters questioned how it was possible for students to say they were still oppressed, since segregation no longer formally exists, or asked why black people could use the "N-word" and white people can't. Others offered blatantly offensive remarks, like "time for the south to rise again," asked if they could make academic buildings "white safe spaces," or suggested that Black Lives Matter protesters should commit suicide. At the urging of Neo-Nazi websites, some of them then took the step of setting up unofficial "white student unions." Why?

The administrator of the Facebook page that appeared in connection with the University of Illinois told The News-Gazette that black student protesters "disrupt student daily life and activity far too much."

“We are in the United States and not Africa and we don’t desire to have an African flag on campus,” said the administrator, who wouldn’t give the paper his or her name.

The spokesperson for UNC's group told The Daily Tar Heel that their focus is the concerns and values of white students. “Many do not see White interests as legitimate, but as times change and European Americans become a smaller demographic throughout the country, it is inevitable that we will have to make it a priority to speak up for ourselves,” the spokesperson said.

What the people behind these unions are misunderstanding, however, is that white students cannot experience institutional racism, and that by establishing a group to cater to the needs of whiteness, they're also upholding white supremacy. (Maybe these white unions don’t understand what black students are protesting because most white people don’t have any close black friends.) They fail to grasp that black student protesters are bringing attention to policies, procedures and practices that function at the structural level for the benefit of white people.

The “white pride” touted by these pages, along with the idea that white students are being marginalized and discriminated against, was a direct result of black students calling out the racism on their campuses. Before then, the students behind these pages hadn't seemed to care about the issue enough to form a white student group.

These are people who only believe racism exists once they're its "victims" -- never mind that people of color don't hold the institutional power to oppress anyone. Meanwhile, they demand that black victimhood be endlessly explained and validated, even though the stories and voices of those who deal with racism on a daily basis are never enough to convince them it’s real.

The upside to the racist and ignorant posts is that they prove these sentiments exist on the campuses. Yik Yak requires users to be within a 1.5-mile radius of a location in order to post,
ensuring that whoever makes a racist remark on Mizzou's feed is either on or close to campus. So its hateful commenters, along with the white student unions, show the protesters had a point -- and surely upset the white students complaining there's no need for social justice initiatives.

Conservative columnists tried to cast doubt on students at Mizzou who said they've been called the N-word on campus, saying there's no video or audio to provide proof. But with Yik Yak, the proof is there, and the app's geolocation restrictions show the remarks came from someone nearby.

Jamil Smith, an editor at The New Republic, made this point on a recent episode of the "Reply All" podcast. When he was a student and reported someone calling him and other black students the N-word, Smith couldn't prove it had happened.

Now that social media is cataloging everything, there's no more denying racism is still alive and well on college campuses -- and black folks have every right to be angry about it.

Dozens of 'white student unions' appear on social media amid racism protests
Groups claim to speak for students at Stanford, New York University, University of Missouri and elsewhere, but their origins are uncertain

At least 30 social media profiles of so-called “white student unions” have been set up in the last week, in response to nationwide student protests demanding action to address campus racism.

The pages claim to represent students at universities like Stanford, New York University and UC Berkeley, as well as at the University of Missouri, where protests this month forced the ouster of president Tim Wolfe and inspired activism on campuses elsewhere.
It appears that the first of these WSUs was the “Illini White Student Union”, created at the University of Illinois just hours after students gathered for a black solidarity event on campus last Wednesday. Its page has since been taken down by Facebook at the request of campus administrators.

“The Illinois student union that came on last week made us jump at the chance of creating an online presence,” according to someone claiming to be a spokesman for the WSU at UT Austin, who would not give his real name. “We kind of kicked ourselves for not doing it beforehand.”

UT Austin’s WSU describes itself on its page as a “group to promote the ethnic interests of white students and to protect us from BLM [Black Lives Matter] terrorism”. The spokesman said the group started as a collection of like-minded friends who began meeting to discuss topics like pride in white heritage and a sense that, in college classes, students are “drowning in an anti-white narrative”.

Given the rapid speed with which they have emerged, some have questioned whether the groups are really created by students. In a Medium post by the author “Bears for Equity”, it was noted late Sunday that well known white-supremacist and Neo-Nazi blogger Andrew Anglin called for his followers to “[m]ake more of these White Student Union pages on Facebook for various universities. You don’t have to go there. Make one for Dartmouth, Princeton, etc.”

The spokesman for the UT Austin WSU denied any connection to Anglin, and said that Anglin’s call for more group pages “really makes me cringe” and “cheapens what we are doing”. He also noted that the first post on his group’s page was made Friday, one day before Anglin’s post.

Other groups contacted by the Guardian also denied any connection to Anglin. A representative for the University of North Carolina WSU told the Guardian that “we denounce Anglin’s call for ‘dummy’ WSUs” and said they do not want to be associated with Anglin’s blog “The Stormer”. Similarly, a representative for the UCLA WSU said that Anglin’s “views and website are not at all representative of what we believe”. The WSU at UC Berkeley also denied any affiliation.
None of the representatives contacted were willing to identify themselves, citing security concerns. All of them also refused requests to confirm their student status by sending a message from an official school email.

Several of the WSUs claim to be part of the “National European American Student Association”, which, according to the representative for the UNC WSU, was “founded late last month as an umbrella congress for white student unions”.

María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo, a professor at NYU’s School of Social and Cultural Analysis, said that the analogy the groups were making between white student unions and the student unions for black, Latino, Native American and other marginalized groups was a weak one. “The celebration of whiteness as a race has a particular history of racial violence, and exclusion,” she said.

In the late 1980s, according to the Journal of Higher Education, at least six white students’ groups emerged around the country, and, at Temple University and the University of Florida, even managed to become officially recognized by the schools. Several school administrators told the journal in 1990 that the students were largely inspired “by the conservative politics of Ronald Reagan”.

According to a spokesperson for the University of Florida, that school’s WSU had just five members and only lasted about a year, dissolving when its members graduated. Temple University did not respond to a Guardian request for comment.

In 2012, Townson University senior Matthew Heimbach briefly gained national attention for founding a white student union which sought to “create a safe space for members who have filed hate/bias reports and who have had anti-white language used against them”. Some other students, often claiming to be inspired by Heimbach, have launched similar efforts since, but not with the apparent frequency seen in the last week.
Some of the recent pages seem more likely than others to be fake. A recent graduate of NYU, who didn’t want to give his name out of fear of online reprisals, said that when he started engaging with posters on the NYU WSU page, he noticed many had online ties to the white supremacist website Stormfront, and were far from New York City, in places like Atlanta and Portland, Maine. “I think that it probably did originate on Stormfront,” he said, “and got picked up by people on 4chan who just get amusement out of riling up ‘social justice warriors’, as they call them.”

Saldaña-Portillo said that even if the NYU WSU group wasn’t “real”, it still presented a problem. “It’s a parody that wants to belittle the language of black student movements and to try to show them as ridiculous,” she said. “So they don’t get let off the hook if it’s a hoax, because the hoax is the point.

MU Alumni Association to revive Black Alumni Network

The University of Missouri Alumni Association is forming the Black Alumni Network after receiving requests to revitalize a chapter for black graduates.

Chelsea Drake Marks, a 2012 graduate, said she and other alumni wrote a statement calling for a black alumni network after talking about recent events at MU.

“It wasn’t something that came out of the protests, but we thought that in light of the protests, we wished we had a better way to organize,” Marks said. “A black alumni network would have made that easier.”

UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned this month after weeks of student protests over the racial climate on campus. A group of students calling themselves and their movement Concerned Student 1950 had called for Wolfe’s resignation at protests, saying he inadequately addressed race issues on campus. MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin also resigned after weeks of pressure from faculty and deans unrelated to race issues on the Columbia campus.

More than 1,000 alumni attached their names to the statement.
“While students at the University of Missouri, many of us found ourselves protesting similar incidents on campus and we find it highly unacceptable that many of these issues are not only continuing, but have become more pervasive,” alumni said in the statement. The statement said black alumni “stand together in support of the Concerned Student 1950, The Legion of Black Collegians, Missouri Student Association President Payton Head, Graduate Student Activist Jonathan Butler, the University of Missouri Football team and all other student activists.”

Mizzou Alumni Association Executive Director Todd McCubbin said the association had been talking about reviving a black chapter before Wolfe and Loftin resigned.

“Events over the past few weeks ramped up efforts,” McCubbin said. “Like a lot of our alums, they’re concerned with what they saw on campus. ... They wanted to help.”

The statement said alumni recognize the importance of staying connected to undergraduate students and that an official black alumni chapter could help them do so. Marks said alumni know this semester is not the first time students have spoken out about MU’s racial climate.

“For black alumni, we know these things have been happening for years and years,” Marks said. “Having alumni support is essential. You can’t know where you’re going unless you know where you came from.”

Marks hopes the Black Alumni Network will make it easier for current students to contact alumni. The Mizzou Alumni Association said in a statement on its website that students need alumni support as MU “moves forward with the process of healing and as the work of cultural change continues.”

Marks said having access to black alumni when she was an undergraduate student would have been beneficial. Marks was part of the Legion of Black Collegians on campus during her four years at MU.

The association previously had a black alumni group. The group, which formed in 1979, became inactive in the mid 2000s, McCubbin said. The alumni association, which has more than 120 chapters and organizations, continued to have black alumni events, he said.
Missouri Alumni Association to revive Black Alumni Network

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri Alumni Association is responding to requests and forming a Black Alumni Network.

The announcement follows the recent resignation of University System President Tim Wolfe after weeks of student protests over the racial climate on campus. Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin also resigned.

Chelsea Drake Marks, a 2012 graduate, told The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/1IahW4d) that she and other Missouri alumni wrote a recent statement calling for a black alumni network after talking about protests and events at the university. More than 1,000 alumni attached their names to the statement.

The statement says an official black alumni chapter would help alumni stay connected to undergraduate students.

The alumni association previously had a black alumni group, which formed in 1979 and became inactive in the mid-2000s.

Forbes

The Real Winners In Campus Protests? College Administrators

Andrew Kelly, CONTRIBUTOR
November has been a turbulent month for American colleges. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

November has been a turbulent month for American colleges. At campuses across the country, students have taken to the quads and administration buildings to protest “institutional racism” on the part of college leaders.

At the University of Missouri, student protesters decried a series of ugly incidents and, with the help of the football team (and an aggressive mass media professor), ousted the president of the university system and the chancellor of the flagship campus. At Claremont McKenna, a dean resigned after students protested her poorly-worded response to charges that the college marginalizes minority students. At Amherst, student activists demanded that the president punish those who had posted flyers about the importance of free speech. And at Yale, a seemingly innocuous email about Halloween costumes, “cultural appropriation,” and free speech led to highly-publicized campus protests.

In most cases, cowed college leaders have agreed to some student demands. Critics have bemoaned the whole spectacle as further evidence that freedom of speech no longer applies on college campuses, and that our next generation of leaders is being educated in a dissent-free “safe space.” Even President Obama warned that activists’ hostility toward different viewpoints is a “recipe for dogmatism.”

The consequences for civil society are important. But the aftermath has implications for college costs and postsecondary opportunity, as well.

College execs typically respond in the way they know best: by promising to layer new deans, services, and centers onto an already enormous administrative apparatus. Ironically, protests against the administration will almost certainly grow the ranks, power, and budget of administrators, and somebody will have to pay for the additional overhead. More often than not, students will be stuck with the bill; higher tuition prices, in turn, may further depress access for needy students.

To be clear, student activism isn’t what’s causing administrative bloat. Colleges need little excuse beyond the changing of the fiscal year to hire more non-teaching staff. Data from the Delta Cost Project show that the number of non-teaching professionals at public research universities rose from 53 per 1,000 students in 1990 to 73 in 2010. The ranks of full-time faculty barely budged, moving from 62 per 1,000 to 64. At private universities, the average number of professionals went from 72 per 1,000 students to 102 over that same period. After evaluating spending patterns at four-year colleges between 1987 and 2008, economist Robert Martin concluded that growth in administrative spending and staffing (as opposed to teaching faculty) was a major driver of increasing college costs.

But crises—bad press, student protests, competition from rival schools—provide a more immediate reason for colleges to gin up additional administrative positions. Whether an additional dean and some support staff will “solve” the problems on campus (they almost certainly will not), hiring them signals to campus activists and the media that leaders are doing something. (To be fair, protesters’ demands call for some of this growth; at Mizzou, students have called for more “funding, resources, and personnel” for “social justice centers” on campus.)
Hence, Yale’s response to protests includes doubling funding for cultural centers and the creation of a new multicultural center (in addition to an existing $50 million campaign to increase the diversity of the faculty). Brown has promised a $100 million diversity initiative. Claremont McKenna will create “new leadership positions on diversity and inclusion” in the offices of academic and student affairs. At Ithaca College, site of more November protests, leaders announced the creation of a “Chief Diversity Officer.”

Such positions are not rare in higher education. As the Manhattan Institute’s Heather MacDonald has shown, the set of administrative jobs dedicated to diversity in the University of California system actually grew in recent years despite a steep decline in state appropriations (and equally steep increase in tuition). And additional executives often bring sizable staffs with them; Berkeley’s vice chancellor for equity and inclusion has seventeen staff members listed in the “immediate office.”

Now, activists will argue that not all of the new money will fund administrative positions, and that additional non-academic staff will help improve the rate at which minority and low-income students succeed. That may be true if spending goes toward productive ends like augmented student services. But it’s hard to see how simply adding a new administrative office will change longstanding incentives that lead colleges to exclude many qualified students in the first place.

It will, however, certainly introduce new fixed costs to a university’s balance sheet, increasing long-term spending. For a school like Yale, with a big endowment, the additional administrative expense may not affect tuition and financial aid much. But at institutions where resources are scarcer, additional administrative spending will likely be financed on the backs of students. Incoming students who manage to get in and pay the bill may find a more welcoming environment (though that’s far from certain), but others may find that there’s less financial aid money around to help them pay.

Obviously, student protests aren’t driving tuition increases, and that is not their intent. Colleges increase tuition just fine on their own. The point is that institutions’ standard response to strife does little to change the structural obstacles to opportunity that so upset activists, and it may even exacerbate some.

Protesters have every right to voice their concerns, so long as they respect others’ right to free expression. However, making college affordable and responsive to student needs has to be about more than adding middle managers with new titles. Activists would be wise to focus on changing the incentives that lead to scarcity of opportunity in the first place.
COLUMBIA — Eight doors lead into Verna Laboy’s dining room. On three of the doors, a plan to help marginalized public school students is outlined on white sheets of paper. It hangs there every day.

Laboy and her daughter Adrian Clifton formed the grass-roots organization Worley Street Roundtable in fall 2014. The group has six board members and one intern, all seeking to address student achievement through community engagement. The group is reaching out by engaging four groups: parents, schools, mentors and local organizations and businesses.

Since its formation, Worley Street Roundtable has developed a partnership with Columbia Public Schools, hosted teacher trainings to offer advice on helping marginalized students succeed and helped parents communicate with their children’s schools and teachers. Marginalized student groups primarily include racial and ethnic minorities and students coming from low-income backgrounds.

The organization also hosts a dinner at Laboy’s house on Sundays. The tradition stemmed from Laboy’s own weekly dinner, where she and her family would come together and eat after church.

For 36 years, the family has eaten around Laboy’s dining room table. The table is a wooden oval with six matching chairs. It's nothing fancy, Laboy said, but it’s durable.

Worley Street Roundtable’s big-picture vision is to thread local educators, parents, students and organizations together into one cohesive community. It’s something that's already happening on Sunday afternoons at Laboy’s table.

Who comes to the table?
Students studying education, Columbia School Board members, local kids and parents, business owners, retirees and teachers have all come to the table, but new people attend every week.

Gloria Williams, an assistant professor of Spanish and French at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, started joining the Sunday dinner in September.

"I've always wanted to do something to contribute to the community," Williams said.

A parent came to the table because her child needed help in school.

Cradle to Career director Pam Conway came because she said she is sappy about education and believes children deserve a quality experience that helps them reach their potential.

As a Worley Street Roundtable board member, Ellis Ingram attends every Sunday meeting. His wife is the executive director of Granny's House, a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that provides after-school activities for children, and he sits on Granny House's board.

Katelyn Botts, a senior studying sociology at MU, came to learn how to tackle social inequalities.

"I can read a book on how someone's experience is, but real learning is done by talking to them," Botts said.

Race, poverty intertwine

In annual state academic assessments, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education measures the progress of students living in poverty and students who identify as racial and ethnic minorities because, historically, these groups have underperformed academically.

These students are labeled "at risk," but the members of Worley Street Roundtable prefer to call them "at promise."

According to Columbia Public Schools demographic data, 38 percent of students are minorities and more than 41 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, which is a measure of poverty.
Guests at a Worley Street Roundtable Sunday dinner in September talked about the relationship between race and poverty. Members of the school district’s administration and local community leaders attended and weighed in.

District Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said that conversations about race have not been easy and that he finds that people are more willing to talk about poverty. "You walk up to a house and there are two doors." Stiepleman said. "The first door, you walk up to it and it’s creaky, it’s stuck, it’s hard to get in."

That is the door into the conversation about race, he said. The other door, the door into the conversation about poverty, is easier to open, Stiepleman said.

"The other door opens up and you walk in. They both go into the same room," he said. "We’re all at least in the room together instead of outside."

Jason McKinney, a doctoral student in MU’s College of Education, said it is better to open both the door into the discussion about race and the door into the discussion about poverty; he said the air can’t circulate through just one.

"If you have both doors open and the wind blows in, you can get a breath of fresh air," McKinney said.

Eight doors open into Laboy’s dining room.

Creating new traditions

Michelle Bollinger is a master’s student in human development and family studies at MU, oversees the College of Education’s career services and is Worley Street Roundtable’s first intern.

Bollinger hosted a training session in October where she taught a group of parents, student teachers and early childhood educators about creating holiday traditions in low-income families.
Members of Worley Street Roundtable host and speak at events like Bollinger’s training session to raise awareness of family backgrounds from which some students might come. For some families, the season of giving might take on a different form.

"A holiday tradition doesn’t have to be about buying presents," Bollinger said.

Bollinger said the holidays were difficult when she first started her family and money was tight. She and her husband didn't allow their son to watch television commercials during the holiday season. They wanted to avoid a situation where their son might ask for something they could not give.

Instead of emphasizing holiday presents, she created cost-friendly traditions such as crafting tree ornaments.

Bollinger said that working with educators to tackle the struggles facing students and families is one important purpose of the Worley Street Roundtable.

"It's providing a voice that may not be often be heard," she said.

**Back to the beginning**

Adrian Clifton had been receiving calls daily from teachers about things her son had done and trouble he was getting into. She said Herman just wasn’t clicking with his teachers.

"He was labeled as having a behavior issue because he didn’t always sit criss-cross, raise his hand, go with the drill of school," Clifton recalled. "He didn’t know how to play the game."

Laboy had a similar experience with her son Chris after she moved to Columbia in 1989. She sought help from his school but received little support, she said.

"I went to the school and everyone just looked at me like I was invisible. No one offered me any support, any assistance," Laboy said. "It was my problem."
Chris struggled with one teacher in particular, so Laboy hired an MU student to sit with him in class and make sure he got an education, she said.

Clifton said she felt like schools often place too much of the blame on the child. Her experience teaching first grade at Rock Bridge Elementary School for five years helped her realize that local schools lacked resources to meet the needs of marginalized students, she said.

When Clifton brought her concerns about her son's struggles to Laboy's table, Laboy said she'd had enough.

"I couldn't allow what happened to my son and his experience in the public school system," Laboy said. "I could not afford to let this happen with my grandson."

Laboy hosted a Sunday dinner of about 40 friends and educators. The group talked about the issues facing marginalized students in the public school system and about how they can address those issues.

"I cooked, they came, we ate, and we talked," Laboy said.

Their 40 guests shared their same concerns. Clifton and Laboy said they realized that the struggles of marginalized students were a community issue and that the solution requires collaboration among everyone in the community.

"We understand that it's not just the teacher's responsibility to educate our children," Laboy said.

So they started an organization to work with parents, teachers, schools and local organizations in creating opportunities for Columbia's "at promise" students.

Clifton said she feels like Columbia has what it takes to help their marginalized students.

"I just feel like sometimes we need help getting there."
From Megaphones to Muzzles

Free speech is under fire on college campuses – and the attacks are coming from students.

By Susan Milligan

Nov. 25, 2015

It was students in California who birthed a new era on college campuses, one in which collegians would demand to be included, to be treated like adults and to have a very public say on such hotbed issues as civil rights and the Vietnam War. The Berkeley Free Speech Movement of 1964 became a defining moment in a nationwide trend, with students insisting they would not be silenced on some of the most controversial issues of the day.

A half-century later, campuses are again the site of unrest and tension, but it's not about making speech more free – it's about curtailing hurtful speech and expression, whether displayed in a dormitory name, a Halloween costume or the would-be reporting by journalists barred from covering a protest for fear they won't parrot the demonstrators' views. Instead of warring, united, against the campus administration and government officials, students are facing each other down, demanding both diversity and a separate place to express their differentness. Professors worry about offending students in class with provocative texts or topics, while college administrators – far from being asked to let the young adults fight their own battles – have been asked to step in as arbiters in the conflicts among the students themselves.

While the students' anxieties are clearly genuine (hunger strikes have been employed at the University of Missouri and Claremont McKenna College), their struggle is radically different from that of an earlier generation. The buzzwords of the antiwar students of the '60s – free speech, free love and down with the "Establishment" – have been replaced by phrases that make contemporary college life sound like a war zone. Safe spaces. Trigger warnings. Cultural appropriation.

Conservatives have derided the new campus environment as so-called political correctness run amok, with both professors and administrators forced to limit key college experiences – learning new things and being exposed to different points of view – in the name of preventing real or manufactured outrage over offensive comments or behavior.

But experts say there are many other factors involved. There's the inevitable vulnerability of the bubble-wrap generation, those young people whose baby boomer parents adjudicated fights their children had with their friends and defended their kids against complaints from teachers about behavior or study habits. There's the idea – not so new, notes Greg Lukianoff, who has written extensively on the topic of the modern campus environment – of the student as customer, a high tuition-paying consumer college
administrators don't want to agitate. There's also social media and the Internet, which have made young people accustomed to immediate responses (even in the midst of complicated conflicts), and which have enabled them to curate their own, reaffirming news.

"It's been frustrating, watching the sort of speech [suppression] shift over from administrators to students," says Lukianoff, author of "Unlearning Liberty: Campus Censorship and the End of American Debate" and president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which advocates for free speech on campuses. "Students should be aware that these tools are not always going to be on their side," he adds, referring to students seeking to quell hurtful speech and expression. "Make sure you imagine the [environment] you're creating."

Protests at the University of Missouri (where the president, Timothy M. Wolfe, resigned after complaints he had not responded adequately to racist and anti-Semitic acts on campus) have been accompanied by a slew of me-too demonstrations and campaigns across the country, largely at private institutions. Students at Yale University erupted in anger and frustration after a dormitory associate master wrote a lengthy email to the community suggesting that students did not need to have the administration telling them what Halloween costumes to wear, even if those costumes offended some fellow students. Students demanded that the writer of the email, Erika Christakis, (who did not defend potentially offensive costumes, but noted that students could look away or let the wearer know of his or her insensitivity) resign. University President Peter Solovey declined that demand, but did agree to create a multi-disciplinary center and proposed hiring four new instructors to teach the "histories, lives and cultures of unrepresented and under-represented communities."

Other protests occurred at Smith College in Massachusetts, Georgetown University in the nation's capital (where students held a sit-in to demand, successfully, that the university change the names on buildings named for university officials who participated in the sale of slaves), Ithaca College in New York, Claremont McKenna College in California, Princeton University in New Jersey, Purdue University in Indiana, Occidental College in Los Angeles, Vanderbilt University in Nashville and the University of Alabama. In many of the cases, students demanded the resignations of a campus president or dean, with limited success. And specific grievances have centered on matters that critics say fall into the arena of free speech: a costume choice, comments made by a professor in class or on social media (or even the subject matter of a class).

Freedom of the press, too, was challenged at two of the schools. In Missouri, students (and a professor, who has since apologized) sought to bar a student news photographer from a demonstration in a public space. At Smith, where students held a sit-in in solidarity with the Mizzou protesters, media was also banned unless, an organizer said, they agreed to explicitly state in their articles that they supported the students' movement. Smith College's administration did not agree, but did not interfere. "Smith does not support a ban on media. We do support the students' right to set the rules for their event," spokeswoman Stacey Schmeidel explains in an email.

At the University of Kansas, a communications studies professor has been targeted by students who are demanding she be fired after using a racial epithet in class, which they say fit with a pattern of
"unacceptably offensive" behavior. By many accounts, the professor, Andrea Quenette, did not use the word to attack or insult a student. During a discussion about race relations, she told the class that as a white woman, she had not seen visible evidence of racism on campus, noting specifically that she had not seen the n-word spray-painted on University of Kansas buildings.

Students experienced "shock, anger and pain" at her verbiage, protesters said in an open letter, and answered the n-word with the t-word – also potent after the recent attacks in Paris and Mali. "Most immediately concerning are the ways this terminology functions as terroristic and threatening to the cultivation of a safe learning environment," the letter reads. Quenette is on paid leave she requested while the matter is being investigated.

Students, too, are feeling silenced by what critics say is an overreaction to real or imagined slights against a demographic group.

Theo Menon, a 17-year-old freshman at the University of Minnesota, introduced a resolution in the school’s student association aimed at creating an annual September recognition for the victims of 9/11. It was shot down, Menon says, because people were worried the observance would contribute to Islamophobia. Menon, who is mixed-race and says he does not experience racism on campus, says he does not see his resolution as an attack on any religion, but simply an effort to honor the dead.

"To me, an institution of higher learning should be a place where I can have my ideas challenged and develop as a person," Menon says. "I can't believe this is happening on college campuses, where we are supposed to be engaging in discussion and debate about what we believe about the world." A spokeswoman for the student association, Emma Mazour, says in an email that the main discussion about the non-binding resolution centered on its implementation challenges. Menon says that is not the case, as he offered an amendment to create a simple shared remembrance (such as via a mass email) instead of a harder-to-organize moment of silence.

Regardless, muzzles have replaced megaphones on campus in many cases. And Bettina Aptheker, one of the leaders of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, is concerned at the trend.

"As abhorrent as some speech is, and I certainly think [some] is, the administration of a university should not be in the position of policing it, because it's a very slippery slope," says Aptheker, who is now a feminist studies professor at the University of California–Santa Cruz. "A lot of us liberal types or radical types could say racism is on the upswing, and I agree with that. But I don't think the solution to that is restricting freedom of speech," she adds.

Students in the recent demonstrations are looking not for liberty but for protection – a "safe space," in the modern lexicon. But that term (Lukianoff says he can't trace its origin) means far more than a dormitory impenetrable to intruders, also connoting a place where students, especially minority students, can be themselves, expressing their own struggles as an underrepresented or underserved group.
Paradoxically, that also means having minority groups deliberately segregating themselves from the rest of the campus on which they feel alienated.

"It's a place, either a physical space or not a physical space, where you're allowed to talk about these feelings without feeling you have to defend your position," says Rachel Lee, 21, a Korean national and a junior at Claremont McKenna College. Students at the college recently forced a dean to resign after she responded to an article by a Latina student from a working-class family – who wrote of feeling out of place at the small college – by saying the school needed to do more to welcome students who "don't fit our CMC mold."

"This is the case on a lot of campuses where people say, 'Maybe you're being too sensitive, or wrong in believing something,'" adds Lee, explaining the calls for campus cultural centers for African-Americans, Asians and Native Americans.

But calls for a "safe space" can also create a dangerous one for professors, says Lukianoff. In the Kansas case, for example, students calling for Quenette's dismissal say she is contributing to an "unsafe learning space." And the standard gets even more complicated with the demand for "trigger warnings," advance notice of a class topic or verbiage that might offend some students.

Rani Neutill, a former Brandeis University professor who once taught a class on sex and the cinema, wrote in a Salon post about how a student requested she give notification in an email the evening before class about any material in a film clip that might set off a student with a particular sensitivity. At Duke University, a freshman wrote on Facebook earlier this year that he would not read the book "Fun Home " as assigned for class because its sex scenes, which include lesbian sex, would force him to compromise his "personal Christian moral beliefs."

And it doesn't stop there. "Cultural appropriation," or adopting an element of someone else's culture, is also under fire on campus. That concern led the University of Ottawa to drop a yoga class designed to include students with disabilities because the age-old meditative exercise is taken from a culture victimized by colonialism. It's also why it's just not right, for example, to wear a glitzy sari for Halloween if you're not actually Indian, says Susan Scafidi, a Fordham University law professor who teaches a class in fashion law. "Cultural appropriation really goes beyond the idea of mocking someone. It has to do more with the commodification or true assumption of someone's culture," she says.

The Associated Students of the University of Washington this year prepared a six-minute video advising students on what not to wear for Halloween to avoid cultural appropriation, including grass skirts and leis (which the students say offend Pacific Islanders), drag attire (unless you actually are gay and are expressing that side of yourself) and karate outfits (unless you've earned the belt).

Lukianoff thinks the protections don't prepare students for post-college life. "I think we're teaching this generation of students the intellectual habits that will make them anxious and depressed," he says. "If they think there will [always] be someone out there with the power to police" speech, "that's setting students up to be constantly enraged and frustrated with the world."
While the Halloween costume hysteria has been lampooned in the press, Lee says there are much more serious issues facing minority groups on campus – and that the discussions of cultural appropriation and names on buildings are merely easier outlets for students’ frustrations. Indeed, the Yale student magazine DOWN includes powerful and disturbing descriptions of discrimination against African-American female students, suggesting minority students’ sense of alienation is very real, and can't be fixed by renaming buildings and policing Halloween attire.

"I think part of the reason why this movement has been so hard is because it's really hard to pinpoint what's wrong, what exactly is the cause of the problem," Lee says. "Why do people feel so alienated? It's not like they don't have friends from other races."

"Although the dean [at Claremont McKenna] has resigned, you can't say it's the dean's fault," she adds. "It's a campus climate sort of thing that is inevitably formed by the students."

Whether the beleaguered university presidents and deans can solve the problem is another question. Meanwhile, the battle over free speech rages on.

---

**College football coaches grapple with marijuana ‘epidemic’**

Florida State defensive back Greg Reid was supposed to be a first-round NFL draft pick.

Florida defensive back J.C. Jackson was supposed to be an elite playmaker in the Southeastern Conference.

Central Florida running back Will Stanback was supposed to help carry the Knights’ offense during what has turned out to be a dismal season.

Instead, their links to marijuana altered the trajectory of their promising careers.

At least 12 UF players have been linked to marijuana use by law enforcement since the start of former Coach Will Muschamp’s tenure in 2011, and the number is not considered exceptionally high for major college football programs. Arrest figures were much higher during former Coach Urban Meyer’s tenure. When schools announce that football players have been suspended for undisclosed rule violations, many immediately suspect marijuana was involved.
Marijuana use among college football players is part of what Florida State Coach Jimbo Fisher, Meyer and a long list of other elite coaches call “an epidemic.” Many coaches say athletes enter college addicted to the drug that they’ve seen widely used in many of their communities or, in some cases, even in their homes. Schools are stuck enforcing the rules of a college football system that hasn’t embraced some of society’s growing acceptance of marijuana use.

The consequences are real, sometimes forcing coaches and schools to suspend or expel athletes who could most benefit from college football’s structure and education opportunities.

Fisher said he hopes he can make it clear to his athletes that they simply have to stop smoking marijuana in college.

“You’ve got to prevent it,” Fisher said. “You’ve got to help the ones you do” see test positive. ... “Where they come from, a lot of times it’s accepted. You’re trying to help someone, not throw someone out. You can catch anyone doing anything anytime you want to, but it’s about helping educate those kids and getting a better life for themselves.”

Florida Coach Jim McElwain said he’s focused on teaching players how to make the right decisions about everything, including marijuana.

“I would say the biggest piece is the education piece,” he said. “We’re certainly not here to be the police. What we’re here to do is help” players make “choices, teaching the effect, knowing what it can do. And if there is a true, sincere problem, obviously reaching out to get help. You can’t be naive. It’s everywhere, and yet, that’s not an excuse, either.”

And UCF Coach George O’Leary said the lack of consistency disciplining college football players for marijuana-related violations has perpetuated the belief that it can be acceptable.

“I think the schools and coaches need to be tougher and stop trying to hide,” he said.

More than a dozen major college football head and assistant coaches interviewed said it’s not easy to deal with college football’s growing marijuana problem.

Arkansas Coach Bret Bielema recalls the first time he had to call a player into his office to discuss a positive marijuana test.
He had never dealt with the issue as an assistant coach, but he figured he would explain the test and penalty before talking about the role the athlete’s family could play in getting him back on the right track.

“|I knew this kid; I knew his family,” Bielema said. “And what shocked me was, I kind of threw at him, ‘What are you parents going to say?’ This is something we’re going to make everyone aware of and battle it in the future.

“And to be quite honest, the” drug “use had happened in the home. It threw me for a loop. I hadn’t quite envisioned that.”

At FSU, Fisher said he knows marijuana was just as prevalent as alcohol in the homes where some of his players grew up.

“When they step into their house, people are smoking marijuana like you do cigarettes from the time they’re 3 years old until they’re 18,” Fisher said in 2012, one of many times he has spoken out about marijuana use among players.

If athletes haven’t been exposed to the drug by the time they reach college, it’s typically available on college campuses.

Daily or near-daily marijuana use was reported by 5.9 percent of college students in 2014, the highest rate since 1980, according to the University of Michigan’s Monitoring the Future study. The rate of use is up from 3.5 percent in 2007. The study, which was compiled from a series of national surveys, indicates that 1 in 17 college students is smoking marijuana daily or near-daily.

Reid is a prime example of how marijuana can derail a promising career.

The cornerback and punt returner at FSU was on the radar of NFL scouts and executives entering his senior year, but that changed on July 10, 2012.

Reid was pulled over by a Georgia patrol officer while driving to Tallahassee from his hometown of Valdosta, Ga., for window-tint and seat-belt violations. During a search, the officer found less than an ounce of marijuana on Reid and marijuana paraphernalia.

Reid, who did not respond to a request for comment, was charged with marijuana possession. Soon after the arrest, FSU expelled Reid.

He transferred to Division II powerhouse Valdosta State later that summer, but his college career ended within weeks after he tore his anterior cruciate ligament. He underwent a second surgery to repair the knee injury in May 2013.
The St. Louis Rams took a chance on Reid, signing him to a contract in 2014. Reid’s legal problems, however, followed him to the pros, and he was cut by the Rams on Aug. 30, 2014.

Reid was signed by the Jacksonville Sharks of the Arena Football League in April and was named the league’s rookie of the year despite joining the team six weeks into the season.

It was a glimpse of what could’ve been.

At Florida, Jackson was arrested in April in connection with an armed robbery.

According to a Gainesville police report, Jackson called the resident of the apartment and spoke to him about “hanging out and smoking cannabis.” The resident was a suspected drug dealer.

Jackson entered the apartment followed by two men, according to the report. The victims told police Jackson then left the apartment to take a phone call, while the other men pulled a gun and robbed them of $382, marijuana and two video-game consoles.

The State Attorney’s Office has charged Jackson with three counts of home invasion with a deadly weapon and one count of burglary of an occupied dwelling.

Each charge carries a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of life in prison.

Jackson has denied he was involved in the robbery. He was dismissed from the Florida football program and is awaiting trial.

At UCF, Stanback, who won first team All-American Athletic Conference honors and was slated to help anchor the Knights’ inexperienced offense, was dismissed from the team in September. Media outlets, including ESPN, have reported that Stanback’s dismissal was due to failed marijuana tests.

**Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel said it doesn’t help that athletes are seeing marijuana accepted, legalized and celebrated in the world around them.**

“There’s some states where you see it advertised on TV and they’re selling it,” Pinkel said. “It’s legalized in those states. There’s some real mixed messages out there. ... The young kids tend to experiment more because, shoot, if states are legalizing it, what the heck is wrong with it?”

Though there may be a pro-pot movement brewing, it remains illegal under federal law for marijuana to be consumed on college campuses and is against NCAA rules.
The NCAA tests a random sample of football players for illegal drugs at bowl games, including the playoff semifinal and title games. In other sports, testing occurs during championship events. Positive tests force athletes to miss the games and half of the next season.

Most schools do additional testing throughout the year, but they are not required to report those results to the NCAA and instead enforce their own rules for positive results. NCAA officials suggest that allows schools to take what they deem appropriate action, including steering players to drug-treatment programs, to help solve the problem.

It results in varying punishment for marijuana-related offenses across the country.

**Food on the table**

It’s a common sight in grocery stores: costumers combing through the piles of fruit to find those without blemishes or seeking out the food that has the most remote use-by date.

Most of the customers who do it think nothing of it. But while those blemished fruits or that close-to-expiring bread loaf isn’t for them, it is for someone else. Those overlooked pieces of produce might end up on the shelves of The Central Pantry, 1007 Big Bear Blvd., and might end up feeding a family in need in Columbia.

The Central Pantry receives donations from supermarkets, restaurants and even Quik Trips every day. The pantry has collected more than 700,000 pounds of food since June 1 alone. And that’s just locally. The Central Pantry is a pantry for The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, which often buys food to stock shelves as well.

Pantry staff member Kevin Butterfield said the donations they receive locally vary in quality.

“We get what we can get,” he said. And the pantry staff tells customers “it is what it is.”

Some fruit comes in as ripe as it is going to be — some even has to be thrown out once it gets to the pantry. But sometimes stores donate food that is still ahead of it’s ripening or expiration date. It just depends on the store’s managers and budget.

Butterfield is grateful for all the donations because that food would otherwise be thrown out. With the pantry, it gets a second chance.
Donations don’t just come from big stores. They can come from people, too. Earlier this fall, a farmer donated 24 pallets of zucchini. A man dropped off a bushel of apples at the front counter.

Any donation helps because The Central Pantry serves 170 people or families every day, six days a week.

Sean Ross, pantry supervisor, said most clients come once a month to get a range of items. Half of the customers use the Supplement Nutrient Assistance Program, or SNAP, to buy their groceries. Or some might have just happened across a period of bad luck.

**In 2010, about 50 percent of food pantry users lived in a household with no working adults. The other half included working adults, but some were not always fully employed, according to a study published by the University of Missouri’s Institute of Public Policy.**

“When one” adult in the household “is laid off or” gets their “hours reduced, we’re the first link to that safety net,” Ross said.

The Central Pantry relies on 20 volunteers a day and a few staff members to help stock the shelves and keep the operation moving smoothly.

Volunteers work in various departments, from the meat counter to produce and behind the scenes in Tom Powderly, 55, works at the Central Pantry four days a week. Thirty years ago, he experienced a ruptured aneurysm. For the past 25 years, he has been on disability.

Working in the meat section, Powderly parcels chicken, fish and pizza based on a client’s family size. A family of five, for instance, gets five pounds of chicken, five pounds of fish and five pizzas.

“I’m helping people, and it gets me out of the house,” he says.

Tom Vernon works the meat counter on alternate days to Powderly. A Central Pantry volunteer for eight years, Vernon and his wife, Marilyn, volunteered together, he said. She died three years ago, but Vernon continues volunteering three days a week.

**Vernon retired from the University of Missouri 20 years ago at the age of 65. He worked in the School of Medicine teaching social and behavioral science to first- and second-year medical students.**

After retiring, “We wanted to do some traveling, and we did.”

Beyond travel, he said the couple “wanted to do something for the community.”
Now 85, Vernon has structure in his life through volunteerism. “Different people have different needs. When you get to be my age, I needed to have structure in my life in some way.”

George Brooks, 51, volunteers at The Central Pantry to give back to a place he sometimes has to use.

Brooks is on Medicaid for an injury. He has used the pantry to get food since being placed on the assistance program. Six months ago, he decided to give back.

“It’s something to do,” he said. “Something to give back to.”

Brooks’ main job is stocking the bread shelf. He places four cartons of bread on a cart and pushes it out to the bread shelf in the pantry. Brooks makes sure there is a variety of bread types — wheat, white, rye — and styles — hamburger and hot dog buns and regular loaves — on the shelf at all times.

He also sometimes works in produce and at the meat counter.

While Brooks works, he often talks to other volunteers and customers. “It’s a pretty nice atmosphere,” he said. He likes meeting the customers.

“The people that come in here are very appreciative of what they get,” he said. “They really need it.”

Brooks volunteers four days a week at the pantry, usually taking Wednesdays and Thursdays off.

Delbert Gaines, 58, volunteers at the pantry three days a week for four hours each day just to get out of the house.

“It gave me something to do,” he said. “I’m not a big soap opera fan.”

Gaines has volunteered at the pantry for almost eight months. He always works in produce. And it’s a never-ending job.

He ensures the two tables full of zucchini, apples, bananas, cantaloupe, potatoes and onions are always stocked.

When he is not bringing new produce out to the floor, Gaines sifts through the cartons of vegetables and fruits to pick out the over-ripe ones. The pantry has to throw out produce that is too ripe.
Gaines likes to jokes with other volunteers in the back warehouse as he grabs the produce to stock the tables. He said he likes “meeting the people” who volunteer and shop at the pantry.

David Simpson, 60, drives the delivery truck for The Central Pantry. He has been doing so for 10-1/2 years.

He helped the pantry develop relationships with store managers to receive donations. He also played an integral part in determining the route he drives, starting at 4 a.m. every day.

“He knew the town,” staff member Butterfield said. “He designed the route and expanded what times to pick up.”

Simpson goes from stop to stop to pick up food that grocery stores and restaurants either don’t want or don’t need anymore. Each store has a specific time period that he is allowed to stop by, so it’s important he makes his schedule.

Once he is done with his route, he heads back to the pantry to drop off the food. Volunteers will sort and stock the food from there.

How Much Can Campus-Crime Reports Tell Us About Sexual Assault?

By Kelly Field

NOVEMBER 25, 2015

NO MU MENTION

The statistic was shocking: Nine out of 10 colleges reported no rapes on their campuses in 2014.

That finding, released on Monday by the American Association of University Women, seemed to contradict recent surveys of female undergraduates, as well as an oft-cited — and controversial — statistic that one in five women are sexually assaulted during their time in college. Advocates and researchers agreed something was amiss.
But what do the low rates of rape reports — drawn from the campus-crime-reporting law known as the Clery Act — really mean? Here are three possibilities:

1. Students still aren’t comfortable reporting rape.

That is the explanation embraced by the association, which argued in its analysis that "the extraordinarily high number of zeros" that colleges reported to the federal government "suggests students may not feel comfortable coming forward to report such crimes."

The fact that some colleges reported several types of sexual violence, while others reported none, "suggests that some schools have built the necessary systems to welcome reports, support survivors, and disclose accurate statistics — and others have not," the association added.

Dana Bolger, co-director of the victims'-rights group Know Your IX, agrees with that interpretation. She says the association’s findings are "damning because they show just how many schools aren’t empowering survivors to feel safe reporting."

"A school with zero reported rapes isn't a safer school: It's a school that isn't helping victims understand where or how to report, or is flat-out discouraging them from doing so," she wrote in an email.

While many colleges have strengthened their systems for responding to sexual assault in recent years, many other institutions still aren’t meeting their responsibilities under the Title IX antidiscrimination law, according to Tara Richards, an assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Baltimore. Her research has found that many colleges still don’t have a Title IX coordinator, a confidential victims' advocate, or an assault-prevention plan.

Even at colleges that are complying with the law, "there are still a lot of victims that are skeptical of the system," said Peter F. Lake, director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University. Convincing them that things have changed could take years, he said.

"So many victims have been pushed away that it's not going to be an overnight success," he said. "It's going to take a generation."

2. Students aren’t reporting rape for some other reason.

Another possibility is that victims aren’t coming forward because they’re too traumatized or too ashamed to report the crime.
A recent survey by the Association of American Universities found that nearly one in four female undergraduates had been victims of sexual assault or misconduct, yet fewer than one-third of those respondents had reported the incidents. While some didn’t think anything would come of a complaint, many said that they were too embarrassed to report the crime or felt that their experiences were not serious enough to warrant a report.

Other students who have been assaulted may find the reporting process intimidating, said Howard Kallem, director of Title IX compliance at Duke University.

"The school can have the best procedures available, but it's still not going to be any fun for a student to go through them," he said. "It’s a stressful process."

While colleges could take steps to make that process easier, "there are a whole range of reasons why a student may not make a formal report, many of which are beyond the school’s control," he said.

3. Rapes aren’t being counted — or they’re not being reported to the feds.

Under the Clery Act, colleges must count only crimes that occur on campus property. If a student is victimized on a city street or at a house party, the incident won’t be included in the numbers. That means that nonresidential campuses, including a majority of community colleges, are likely to have reported no rapes. (According to the AAUW, 76 percent of the nearly 4,000 "main or primary campuses" — including community colleges’ main campuses — made zero rape reports in 2014.)

In other cases, victims may have sought help from individuals who aren’t obligated to report alleged crimes, such as pastors or professional counselors. (Campus health and counseling centers are supposed to report aggregate data, though.) Or they may have told friends who then told the college. Such secondhand reports wouldn’t have been counted, either, unless they could be verified.

Other complaints may have been left out of formal Clery Act reports because of a lack of coordination among campus officials. If faculty members, resident advisers, and other "campus security authorities" aren’t routing reports of rape to the campus police or another office compiling the data, the official numbers will be off, said Laura L. Dunn, executive director of SurvJustice, a victims' advocacy group.

The low numbers "may suggest schools are not properly training their ‘campus security authorities,’” she wrote in an email. "It may also suggest that campus counseling centers are not tracking data like they ought to."
Brett Sokolow, who advises colleges on risk-management practices, said he suspects that’s what happened with the latest data. "I think this is more dysfunction than malfeasance," he said.

So what’s the solution?

Some researchers and victim advocates say the latest data make the case for more campus-climate surveys, which allow students to report crimes anonymously.

"The annual security report is never going to be a good measure of sexual assaults on campus," said Ms. Richards, the University of Baltimore researcher. Surveys — especially statewide ones — allow colleges and policy makers to compare similar campuses to see what works, she said.

Mr. Sokolow argued that colleges should be compelled to designate a senior administrator to collect the crime data and "sign off that the numbers are correct," much as they're required to name a Title IX coordinator.

"This is something we absolutely have to fix," he said. "If you look at the surveys, and then look at the numbers colleges are reporting, it looks like a massive cover-up."

"Our days of ineptitude have to be done," he added. "Congress is going to shove it down our throat if we don’t do it ourselves."