Barbara Shelly: Intimidation wins so far in Mizzou, Planned Parenthood saga

Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley won’t reverse bad decision on admitting privileges

Planned Parenthood files lawsuit to keep abortion license active

So far, a victory for intimidation

BY BARBARA SHELLY
bshelly@kcstar.com

Hank Foley, interim chancellor of the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus, did his best on Monday to tiptoe through shards of glass as he addressed the incendiary Planned Parenthood controversy confronting Mizzou.

In a statement, Foley noted the high emotions involved. He has been touched by the many communications his office has received on the subject. He is especially sympathetic to “women who have relied on Planned Parenthood for health care.”

Bottom line, though: He is standing by the decision of his predecessor, R. Bowin Loftin, to discontinue the category of privileges previously granted to Dr. Colleen McNicholas, a physician who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology and who had been performing non-surgical abortions at Planned Parenthood’s Columbia clinic.

Without admitting privileges at a hospital close to the clinic, McNicholas cannot perform abortions without violating state law. For the time being, abortion services will not be available in mid-Missouri.

Foley’s decision, though a triumph for intimidation, isn’t much of a surprise. As an interim chancellor, he’s understandably going to be reluctant to reverse a
decision that came from the medical staff of MU’s hospital, the University of Missouri Health system.

The problem was started by Loftin, who caved in to pressure from anti-abortion state lawmakers and ordered a review of the privileges, and then canceled them without giving McNicholas time to apply for a more standard category of admitting privileges at the hospital.

McNicholas held refer and follow privileges at MU’s hospital, meaning she could refer patients there and monitor their progress. It’s a useful category for doctors who rarely need to admit patients, and McNicholas was one of two physicians with that designation at the University of Missouri Health System.

“Obtaining privileges at a hospital is a tedious, not to mention, medically unnecessary requirement that can take six months, or even more, to fulfill,” Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said in a prepared statement Monday. “MU Health Care imposed an impossible timeline for our physician when it terminated Dr. McNicholas’ privileges just more than two months ago.”

Also on Monday, Planned Parenthood sued Missouri’s Department of Health and Senior Services to prevent its acting director, Peter Lyskowski, from revoking Planned Parenthood’s license to perform abortion services at the Columbia clinic. The health care provider contends the license should be kept valid but inactive until a physician can be properly credentialed to perform medication-induced abortions.

U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey granted Planned Parenthood a temporary injunction, pending a hearing in the next day or two.

Court papers filed Monday give some indication of the struggles of Planned Parenthood to continue to offer abortion services in mid Missouri.

Two doctors who have hospital admitting privileges in Columbia looked into the possibility of providing abortions at the clinic. But both decided they could not subject themselves and their families to the harassment that might result.

So what we have at the moment is a victory for political bullying at the expense of women.
State lawmakers, led by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Republican from Columbia who became an anti-abortion crusader when he decided to run for state attorney general, cowed Loftin into reviewing and revoking admitting privileges for McNicholas.

The Missouri Department of Social Services wants to hastily cancel Planned Parenthood’s license to perform abortions in Columbia, no doubt because the staffers there want to avoid being summoned for interrogation before Schaefer’s “sanctity of life” committee.

And two doctors who looked into the possibility of performing abortions backed out because they feared for themselves and their families.

Foley, in his statement, tried to split the difference by saying he would “support academic freedom” when it comes to clinical and research projects in cooperation with Planned Parenthood.

Schaefer has set his sights on a research project in which a doctoral student in the university’s School of Social Work is studying the impact of Missouri’s new law requiring women to wait 72 hours before obtaining an abortion. He claims, absurdly, that the project looks like “a marketing aid” for Planned Parenthood.

Based on Foley’s statement, it looks as though the research project will survive. But the right of women to obtain legal abortions in mid-Missouri is severely endangered. And, sadly, the cowardice shown by MU’s administration over the past few months is a big factor in that reality.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/barbara-shelly/article47226795.html#storylink=cpy

MU researchers receive $9.6 million grant for healthy relationships program
By Megan Favignano

Monday, November 30, 2015 at 2:00 pm

**University of Missouri researchers received a $9.6 million grant for a program that aims to strengthen relationships through classes and training in 21 Missouri counties.**

David Schramm, an associate professor of human development and family science and a University of Missouri Extension family specialist, is one of the professors leading the project. He said the Show-Me Healthy Marriages and Relationships program will target Head Start families and those most in need but will be open to all individuals and couples who want to enroll.

“Our job here is to reduce stress and give families tools and principles that can help improve quality of life,” Schramm said. “We’re trying to take a proactive approach and help things go right.”

All of the program’s participants will have to take a relationship education course. After that, individuals and couples will work with a case manager to select optional courses and training: parenting education, relationships in step-families, money management, job skills and “taking care of you,” which focuses on handling stress.

“It’s not a one-size-fits-all program. We really want to tailor the services to the needs of the individual or couple,” Schramm said.

MU partnered with Central Missouri Community Action in Columbia, Douglass Community Services Inc. in Hannibal and Cornerstones of Care — Healthy Families Program in Kansas City. All three agencies have received funding for relationship education programs in the past.

Those agencies will provide case managers and allow classes to be offered in 21 counties in the state. MU graduate students and specialists from the MU Extension will teach the classes.

Chelsea Garneau-Rosner, an assistant professor of human development and family science and the other professor leading the project, will oversee the program’s evaluation, which will use online surveys to measure participants’ improvement.

“The goal is that we’re going to be able to help create a stronger knowledge base to understand not just if the programs work, but for whom they work, under which circumstance they work and for whom they are most effective,” Garneau-Rosner said.

Knowing the program’s impact, she said, will help communities as they lobby for more resources.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families provided the grant to MU’s Department of Human Development and Family Science, which is housed in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences.
Schramm said classes will start in July and that the program will serve more than 2,000 families during the five-year grant.

“If we do well these next five years it will set us up to compete for additional funding to serve more families,” Schramm said. “We hope this is just the beginning.”

Program participants who need financial assistance to pay for babysitters and transportation so they can make it to class will receive between $40 and $60 per class. Anyone interested in taking classes can contact Schramm at schrammdg@missouri.edu.

Judge temporarily blocks Missouri from pulling Planned Parenthood clinic's abortion license

Dec. 1, 2015 • From staff and wire reports

COLUMBIA, Mo. • A federal judge has temporarily blocked Missouri’s health department from revoking the abortion license held by a Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia.

The temporary restraining order issued Monday by U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey is set to expire Wednesday evening, following another hearing.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri filed a federal lawsuit Monday to preserve the Columbia clinic’s abortion facility license from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The department had planned to revoke the license Monday evening.

The Columbia clinic last week stopped nonsurgical abortions induced with a pill because physician Colleen McNicholas no longer has privileges with the University of Missouri Health Care system, effective Dec. 1. The system’s medical staff voted to discontinue the type of privileges McNicholas and one other physician held amid a legislative investigation of abortion.

On Monday, University of Missouri Chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement that the university would not reverse its decision affecting the two doctors.

“I personally have given this issue much thought,” Foley said. “I am sympathetic to many of the situations and extenuating circumstances these women have found themselves in — situations and circumstances that lead to decisions most women will never have to make.”
Even with the restraining order, the clinic will not be able to perform abortions until a physician affiliated with the clinic has hospital privileges, Laura McQuade, CEO of the affiliate overseeing the Columbia clinic, told reporters in a teleconference Monday evening.

That’s why it’s important to maintain the abortion facility license in the interim, she said, because when a physician does receive hospital privileges, abortion services will then resume immediately. The licensure process can take up to six months, she said.

The Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis will be the only licensed abortion facility in the state if the Columbia clinic loses its ability to perform abortions.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday and the state’s requirement that a woman wait 72 hours before receiving an abortion after consulting a physician, abortion services at the Columbia location effectively stopped Nov. 23.

The University of Missouri, under then-Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, ended the doctor’s privileges effective Dec. 1 after eliminating the privileging type she was granted at the Mizzou hospital.

McNicholas is seeking to obtain a different category of privileges at the hospital, McQuade said.

It’s unclear if McNicholas plans to seek clinical privileges at Boone Hospital Center, operated by BJC HealthCare. McNicholas does have privileges at another BJC facility, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, in St. Louis.

June Fowler, a BJC spokeswoman, told the Post-Dispatch on Monday evening that credentialing is granted by individual BJC hospitals, not by the overall health system.

Under a state statute, a physician can perform or induce an abortion only if the doctor has clinical privileges at a hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care within 30 miles of where the abortion is performed.

“This is a medically unnecessary, legal and political hurdle,” McQuade said Monday of the hospital privileging requirement.

Two days each month, the Columbia clinic dispensed medications that induced abortions, according to McQuade. She said the clinic performed about 20 to 25 abortions each of those days. The clinic provides a range of other services including annual exams and STD testing.

In 2012, 699,202 abortions were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which amounts to 210 abortions per 1,000 live births, according to the CDC.
Temporary restraining order issued Monday will expire Wednesday night
Clinic’s doctor lost privileges with University of Missouri Health Care

If abortions stop in Columbia, St. Louis would be only place in Missouri performing them

BY JASON HANCOCK
jhancock@kcsstar.com

COLUMBIA - The Missouri Department of Health and Human Services has been temporarily blocked by a federal judge from revoking the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic’s license to perform abortions.

The decision, issued Monday, is the result of a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri asking the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri to issue a temporary restraining order that would allow its Columbia clinic to keep its license while it searches for a doctor who can obtain privileges with a local hospital.

Under state law, a doctor can only perform abortions if he or she has privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of where the abortions are taking place. Planned Parenthood’s doctor, Colleen McNicholas, would have lost her privileges with the University of Missouri on Tuesday, and the state had said it would revoke the clinic’s license at close of business Monday.

U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey issued the temporary restraining order, which is set to expire Wednesday after another hearing.

The lawsuit argues that there is no requirement under state law that the clinic’s license be immediately revoked due to loss of a physician with hospital privileges. In the past, the lawsuit says, the state has allowed the Columbia clinic to maintain its license to perform abortions while it searched for a new physician.

The lawsuit states that from June 2012 to September 2013 the clinic was without a physician and unable to perform abortions but it kept its license.

“It will take significant time for (Planned Parenthood) to find a new physician to provide abortions at the Columbia center, and even longer if that physician needs
to apply for and obtain local hospital privileges,” the lawsuit says. It says the health department’s license revocation does not give Planned Parenthood enough time to maintain its license and, in doing so, violates Planned Parenthood’s right to due process.

A spokesman said Monday that the state health department would not comment on pending litigation.

University of Missouri Health Care ended its relationship with Planned Parenthood’s doctor after facing political pressure from Republican lawmakers who questioned whether the publicly funded public university should associate itself with an abortion provider.

Planned Parenthood supporters had hoped public pressure would force interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley to reverse the school’s decision. But in a statement issued Monday afternoon, Foley said the university’s position remained unchanged.

“The issue of abortion invokes much depth of emotion and passion; I understand this,” Foley said. “However, as a state and federally funded university with a health system, we are required to follow applicable state and federal laws.”

The Columbia clinic in August began performing nonsurgical abortions for the first time since 2012.

McNicholas is an obstetrician and gynecologist who serves on the faculty of Washington University with privileges at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. If abortions stop at the Columbia clinic, the only Missouri facility still performing the procedure would be in St. Louis. Abortions are performed at a Planned Parenthood facility just across the Kansas line in Overland Park.
Judge blocks Missouri from pulling clinic's abortion license

COLUMBIA (AP) — A federal judge has temporarily blocked Missouri's health department from revoking the abortion license held by a Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia.

The temporary restraining order issued Monday by U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey is set to expire Wednesday evening, following another hearing.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri filed a federal lawsuit Monday to preserve the Columbia clinic's abortion facility license from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

The department had planned to revoke the license Monday evening, leaving the St. Louis Planned Parenthood the only facility in the state where abortions can be performed.

The Columbia clinic last week stopped non-surgical abortions induced with a pill because physician Colleen McNicholas no longer has privileges with the University of Missouri Health Care system. The system's medical staff voted to discontinue the refer and follow privileges McNicholas held amid a legislative investigation of abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri CEO Laura McQuade said the clinic saw a "dramatic increase" in care, citing somewhere between 80 and 100 abortions performed during the four month period from August through November in which McNicholas performed medication abortions on a two day per month schedule.

"Access to this service is needed. Women are traveling hundreds of miles to get to Kansas or St. Louis," said McQuade. "Missouri already has the highest burden to abortion care in the U.S. due to 72 hour waiting period."

MU's Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced his decision Monday not to restore the refer and follow privileges that allow abortions to be performed in Columbia's facility.

Chancellor Foley's decision goes into effect Tuesday.
COLUMBIA — Although MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Monday afternoon that he will not extend the hospital privileges at MU Health Care that allowed Planned Parenthood to provide abortions in Columbia, a federal judge also issued a temporary restraining order blocking the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services from revoking the clinic's abortion license.

State law requires that doctors who provide abortions have clinical privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of where the abortions are performed. MU Health Care announced in September that on Tuesday it would discontinue "refer and follow" privileges, the category that allowed Planned Parenthood doctor Colleen McNicholas to provide medical abortions in Columbia.

"The issue of abortion invokes much depth of emotion and passion; I understand this," Foley said in a news release Monday afternoon. "However, as a state and federally funded university with a health system, we are required to follow applicable state and federal laws."

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri filed a federal lawsuit Monday to preserve the Columbia clinic's abortion facility license. U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey responded by issuing the restraining order, which was scheduled to expire Wednesday after another hearing.

Foley also said in his Monday statement that he would support ongoing research being conducted at MU in cooperation with Planned Parenthood.
Demonstrators take abortion debate to University of Missouri campus

By Rudi Keller

Monday, November 30, 2015 at 8:13 pm

Neither terror at a Colorado clinic nor ambitious politicians pressuring the University of Missouri will deter supporters of Planned Parenthood, leaders said during a rally Monday that drew more than 200 advocates for abortion rights to the south steps of Jesse Hall.

On the Francis Quadrangle side of the building, a prayer vigil drew 20 abortion opponents who delivered letters and petitions asking MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley not to overturn MU Health Care’s decision denying privileges to the doctor providing abortions at the Columbia clinic. Just before the two groups gathered, Foley issued a statement that he would not change the decision that put the clinic’s license in jeopardy.

“We gather together in the shadow of terrorist violence at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs,” said Molly Housh Gordon, minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia.

Three people, including a police officer, died and six others were injured Friday when Robert Lewis Dear opened fire at the clinic and then barricaded himself inside before surrendering. News accounts quoted Dear saying “no more body parts” to officers after his arrest.

The Columbia clinic’s license was set to be revoked Tuesday until a federal judge blocked the action by the state Department of Health and Senior Services. The Sept. 21 decision to end “refer and follow” privileges, held by the clinic’s doctor and one other physician, takes effect at midnight Monday.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who has led a legislative committee investigating MU’s ties to Planned Parenthood, was singled out for criticism. He and other anti-abortion legislators “have bullied the University of Missouri into revoking training agreements and necessary privileges,” Gordon said.

The abortion opponents held their vigil before delivering several hundred letters — two previous deliveries totaled 4,379 signatures — asking Foley to uphold the decision ending privileges. The participants were thankful Foley had already decided not to intervene, Bonnie Lee of Columbia said.

“We are here celebrating,” she said. “We knew that would be the case, because the law is that our tax-funded university will not perform, assist or encourage abortions.”
Anti-abortion and anti-Planned Parenthood activists should not be blamed for encouraging Dear, Lee said.

“As you can see this group has nothing to do with violence,” she said. “Life-affirming people are appalled by murder of any type.”

There is no compromise on either side of the polarized debate over abortion. Those firm views on the basic issue — whether a woman should be legally able to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is viable — were on display in the disagreements between Planned Parenthood supporters and counter-demonstrators who mingled with them before the rally.

“They are not yet a person,” John Zemke, who described himself as a citizen, said to Chris Vas and Skyler Roundtree as they displayed signs opposing abortion.

“Is there something magical about a vagina that makes it a person when it is born?” Roundtree replied.

The court decision blocking revocation of the Columbia clinic license was cheered by the crowd at Jesse Hall, but M’Evie Mead, Missouri organizing director for Planned Parenthood, said it was a temporary victory. The decision only put it off for two days, she said.

“This is far, far, far from over,” Mead said.

MU interim chancellor won't extend hospital privileges to Planned Parenthood doctor

**Decision ends abortion services in Columbia**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Chancellor Hank Foley will not change the decision by MU Health Care to end refer and follow privileges to the doctor that works with Planned Parenthood.**

Also on Friday, a federal judge temporarily blocked Missouri's health department from revoking the abortion license held by the Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia.

This is the statement from Interim Chancellor Foley regarding Planned Parenthood:
"The purpose of this statement today is to address the pending deadline for discontinued refer and follow privileges at MU Health Care as well as to reinforce our support for academic freedom.

During the last few months many individuals and groups have contacted the University of Missouri with varying opinions regarding our university’s relationship with Planned Parenthood. Please know that I have heard your concerns.

I personally have given this issue much thought and have been touched by many of the emails and letters our office has received—especially those from women who have relied on Planned Parenthood for health care. I am sympathetic to many of the situations and extenuating circumstances these women have found themselves in—situations and circumstances that lead to decisions most women will never have to make.

However, I will continue to support the Medical Staff Executive Committee at MU Health Care. Thus, after a thorough policy review by MU Health Care, refer and follow privileges will be discontinued Dec. 1, 2015. Two physicians were affected by this, and neither requested an appeal. Any physician seeking privileges at MU Health Care goes through the same vetting process.

The issue of abortion invokes much depth of emotion and passion; I understand this. However, as a state and federally funded university with a health system, we are required to follow applicable state and federal laws.

In addition, the university has been challenged regarding an ongoing research project at Planned Parenthood. I will continue to support academic freedom and the rights and responsibilities of this great land-grant university to continue its missions of education, research and service. Many of our students engage in educational and clinical training in women’s health with a variety of clinical partners. Some of our students in nursing, social work or other health professions do clinical rotations at Planned Parenthood, but do not participate in the termination of pregnancies. Other students and faculty members also may have collaborations with Planned Parenthood. These are and have been approved through the appropriate channels in the colleges, or the Office of Research. Again, the university will continue to follow all applicable state and federal laws.

Finally, I respect those who will feel differently about this matter. And I respect their right to protest peacefully as they intend to do later today."

We'll have reaction to this story tonight on ABC 17 News on-air and online.
College president: ‘This is not a day care. This is a university!’

This fall, protests at Yale, Princeton, Duke and the University of Missouri — where the chancellor and system president resigned in the midst of turmoil — drew national attention to the concerns many students have about how minorities are treated on campus.

The protests have also prompted debate about freedom of speech and whether students should be protected from words and ideas that make them uncomfortable.

verett Piper, president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, weighed in with a letter to the campus community:

This past week, I actually had a student come forward after a university chapel service and complain because he felt “victimized” by a sermon on the topic of 1 Corinthians 13. It appears that this young scholar felt offended because a homily on love made him feel bad for not showing love! In his mind, the speaker was wrong for making him, and his peers, feel uncomfortable.

I’m not making this up. Our culture has actually taught our kids to be this self-absorbed and narcissistic! Any time their feelings are hurt, they are the victims! Anyone who dares challenge them and, thus, makes them “feel bad” about themselves, is a “hater,” a “bigot,” an “oppressor,” and a “victimizer.”

I have a message for this young man and all others who care to listen. That feeling of discomfort you have after listening to a sermon is called a conscience! An altar call is supposed to make you feel guilty! The goal of many a good sermon is to get you to confess your sins — not coddle you in your selfishness. The primary objective of the Church and the Christian faith is your confession, not your self-actualization!

So here’s my advice:

If you want the chaplain to tell you you’re a victim rather than tell you that you need virtue, this may not be the university you’re looking for. If you want to complain about a sermon that makes you feel less than loving for not showing love, this might be the wrong place.

If you’re more interested in playing the “hater” card than you are in confessing your own hate; if you want to arrogantly lecture, rather than humbly learn; if you don’t want to feel guilt in your soul when you are guilty of sin; if you want to be enabled rather than confronted, there are many universities across the land (in Missouri and elsewhere) that will give you exactly what you want, but Oklahoma Wesleyan isn’t one of them.

At OKWU, we teach you to be selfless rather than self-centered. We are more interested in you practicing personal forgiveness than political revenge. We want you to model interpersonal
reconciliation rather than foment personal conflict. We believe the content of your character is more important than the color of your skin. We don’t believe that you have been victimized every time you feel guilty and we don’t issue “trigger warnings” before altar calls.

Oklahoma Wesleyan is not a “safe place”, but rather, a place to learn: to learn that life isn’t about you, but about others; that the bad feeling you have while listening to a sermon is called guilt; that the way to address it is to repent of everything that’s wrong with you rather than blame others for everything that’s wrong with them. This is a place where you will quickly learn that you need to grow up!

This is not a day care. This is a university!

President of an Oklahoma University Says School is Neither "Day Care" nor "Safe Space"

Watch the story: http://video.stltoday.com/President-of-an-Oklahoma-University-Says-School-is-Neither-Day-Care-nor-Safe-Space-30006372

An Oklahoma university president has an incendiary message to politically correct students: Grow up or get out. "This is not a day care," Everett Piper, president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, wrote in a fiery blog post on the school’s website last week. Thanks to a new wave of political protests on college campuses — like the recent upheavals at the University of Missouri, Yale University and Ithaca University — many colleges are scrambling to provide safe spaces and broader discussions about cultural and racial tensions on campus.

SOURCE: NY DAILY NEWS
College President: ‘This Is Not a Day Care. It’s a University!’

NO MU MENTION

As calls for safe spaces on campuses continue to crop up in discussions at colleges and universities, one president says he doesn’t want his students to think of themselves as victims.

Everett Piper, president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, recently wrote a blog post on the university’s website entitled “This Is Not a Day Care. It’s a University!” In the post, he wrote that Oklahoma Wesleyan is not a “safe place” but “a place to learn.”

Mr. Piper’s remarks were spurred, according to the post, by a student at the Christian university who approached him after a chapel service to say he had felt victimized by a sermon’s message on love.

“Our culture has actually taught our kids to be this self-absorbed and narcissistic!” Mr. Piper wrote. “Anytime their feelings are hurt, they are the victims!”

He called feelings of discomfort “a conscience” and said that if students seek “to be enabled rather than confronted, there are many universities across the land (in Missouri and elsewhere) that will give you exactly what you want, but Oklahoma Wesleyan isn’t one of them.”

He went on to offer advice: Oklahoma Wesleyan is “more interested in you practicing personal forgiveness than political revenge,” Mr. Piper wrote. He continued: “We believe the content of your character is more important than the color of your skin. We don’t believe that you have been victimized every time you feel guilty, and we don’t issue ‘trigger warnings’ before altar calls.”

The post also appeared in the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, for which Mr. Piper is a weekly columnist. He shared similar opinions on trigger warnings in an essay two weeks ago.
"What happens on campus spills over to the community," James Dudley, a Columbia resident, said. "White folks are mad and are taking it out on us."

It was the day after UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned.

"My wife was pumping gas and a man chewing tobacco spit in her face," Dudley said. "It's a good thing I wasn't there."

Since that day, I've heard stories of white rage. They expose how overt racism shows up when silence is cracked by the unmoving sound of protest. I've been told students are overreacting. Racism isn't that bad. This is a response to a few incidents that prove black people are in love with being the victims rather than pulling themselves up from their bootstraps or 4-inch pumps.

I've listened to the stories of black people who have always lived in Columbia. They talk about being limited because of race. They talk about perceived intimidation and retaliation that comes with speaking up against racism. They talk about a lack of dreams and role models to lead the way.

They talk about white people taking things out on black people when things happen at MU.

I grew up within miles of MU. As a high school student, I walked on campus to play basketball at the old Brewer Fieldhouse. I knew the names of all the basketball players and listened to
games in my bedroom while passing the basketball off the wall as if making an assist to John Brown or Kim Anderson.

I remember wishing I could go to football games to watch Kellen Winslow dominate the game like he did in the NFL. I begged my father to take me, but he was too tired after working two jobs as a custodian during the week. His body seemed broken each night when he arrived just before midnight to get enough rest to start the cycle over again at 7 a.m.

There was a wall forged between the black and white students who attended Hickman High School. We were known by the places we lived, making class distinction something framed from the context of race. The few black people who lived on the other side of the tracks seemed beyond approach. We labeled them for acting white or for thinking they were better than the rest of the black students.

I felt the vast divide between the black students from my neighborhood and the black students who attended the university. They arrived from larger cities equipped with hope and the type of support that gave them reason to believe they could overcome.

Many of the black students arrived with a legacy of excellence. Their mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles attended college to prove there could be more for black youth. They seemed smarter than Columbia youth. The distance between their reality and my wish left me marginalized by those voices that kept me trapped by what I thought I was supposed to become.

Now, I'm back teaching at the school were I learned journalism. I'm teaching the same class I took back in 1985. Often, I close my eyes to remember how it felt being on the other side of the lecture. I seek a common bond between myself and the students I teach.

I can't find a student like me.

I was married. I was raising two children. I was older than any of my students. I struggled to provide for my family while taking classes. I'm black. I'm from Columbia. It's the combination of
all of the above that keeps me wondering about the systems that keep black residents out of conversations regarding change.

I've lived with black people remaining silent while being seduced into submitting to the cruel limits that come with being black. I've confronted the line drawn between the town and the university. I've endured the barrier between homegrown black people and the black people who come to the city long enough to obtain an education.

I've protested with students while seeking ways to encounter the systemic racism limiting the lives of the black people forced to stay. I understand the pain felt by students and members of the faculty. More than that, I have lived with the anxiety that comes with skirmishing to dig out from under the implicit biases that black residents face.

According to statistics from citydata.com, 47 percent of blacks in Columbia made $20,000 or less in 2013. Twenty-one percent made less than $10,000. Where do black people work? Who do they serve?

The protest for change on campus has elevated conversations related to racism at MU. Has anyone stopped to consider the quality of life among those who serve the students at MU? Did the call for change take into account the compensation of black people living in Columbia? What do we gain from protesting against racism felt by students while failing to address the racism that impacts the lives of those who live in the city?

The movement toward change demands a focus on class and academic privilege. I celebrate the efforts of students at MU. It is true that new approaches are needed to end systemic racism on campus. Fight for change, but when you do so, remember the brother and sister who served you at the student union. Think about how racism impacts those without the benefit of an MU education.

They need justice. They need peace.

They need solidarity.
CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — UNLV President Len Jessup said the school needs to keep "Rebels" as its nickname in spite of calls for its removal, citing newly released historical research that concluded the moniker is not a reference to the Confederacy.

Jessup issued a statement Monday saying the name embodies UNLV's entrepreneurial spirit, and noting overwhelming support for the nickname and the "Hey Reb!" mascot.

"It was coined as our young institution was fighting to establish its own identity, and it has come to represent the very independence and spirit that embodies both UNLV and Southern Nevada," Jessup wrote in a message to the UNLV community. "It is clear that 'Rebels' is central to our shared identity and represents the broadest definition of the term."

Some have called for the name and mascot to be changed, saying the mustachioed, cowboy hat-wearing character appears to be a Confederate soldier. The university embarked on a formal research effort this summer after Democratic Sen. Harry Reid said regents should re-examine the Rebel nickname — comments made in the aftermath of an allegedly racially motivated mass shooting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The mascot also became a flashpoint during an on-campus demonstration organized in mid-November to show solidarity with protesters at the University of Missouri.

UNLV Chief Diversity Officer Rainier Spencer finalized a 60-page research paper on the topic earlier this month, concluding the Rebel name emerged from southern Nevada students' frustrations in the 1950s that the Legislature wasn't investing as much in the south as it was in the University of Nevada, Reno.

"The Rebels nickname is not a Confederate reference, as it predates the first appearance of Confederate symbols, which was April 20, 1955," Spencer wrote in his paper. "Nevada Southern students were already known as Rebels before the application of those symbols; indeed, the symbols were applied because those students already had a non-Confederate Rebels identity, and also because of the north-south geography of the state."

Confederate imagery did appear in the following years. A winking wolf mascot named "Beauregard" is believed to be named after a Confederate general, and a Confederate battle flag appeared on the masthead of the student newspaper, "The Rebel Yell," in 1959.
The Confederate symbols fell into disfavor and were removed in the 1960s and 1970s, and the current "Hey Reb!" mascot was adopted in the 1980s. The character, developed by a committee whose guiding principle was choosing something with no Confederate connection, is supposed to be an 1800s pathfinder who leads travelers through the southern Nevada deserts on the way to California.

Jessup noted there's still one remaining image of the old Confederate-themed Beauregard mascot on campus — on the floor of the Barrick Museum that used to be the school's gymnasium. He said an interpretive sign near it gives context and explains that the university has disavowed any reference to the Confederacy.

"Rather than trying to erase our history, we must accept it, learn from it, and as we move on, strengthen our resolve for equity and inclusion," he said.

Jessup said he's also requesting the advisory board of "The Rebel Yell" evaluate the newspaper's name. But he added that the publication is independent and students have the final call on whether to keep it.

"Rebel" is far from the first school or team name to be criticized as potentially racist. Some have called for renaming Dixie State University, which uses a nickname for the cotton-growing region of southern Utah but is also linked to slavery.

Others have condemned the Washington Redskins football team's name as offensive to American Indians.

**MISSOURIAN**

Suspect in child abuse arrest disaffiliated with MU in July

ELAINA STEINGARD, 15 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **A Columbia man who was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of abusing a 14-year-old female relative for failing to wear her hijab is a former adjunct instructor at MU.**

Youssif Omar, 53, was arrested Wednesday evening at the 1700 block of Timber Creek Drive on suspicion of child abuse. Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Bryana Larimer said in an email statement that police were dispatched to Hickman High School at 3 p.m. that day in reference to the incident.

Larimer said that after Omar noticed the relative not wearing her hijab that he "grabbed her violently by the hair, pulled her outside and down a flight of stairs." He then slapped the girl in the face, pulled her by the hair again and put her into a vehicle, the report said.
Omar was taken to the Boone County Jail. He was later released after posting $4,500 bond.

Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said Monday that Omar has not been affiliated with MU since July 2015. He also refuted widespread media reports that Omar was an assistant professor, saying that Omar had never held a faculty position. The MU directory on Monday morning listed Omar as an adjunct instructor of Arabic in the Department of German and Russian Studies.

Basi confirmed that Omar had been an adjunct and said he also was a research assistant in the Department of Learning, Teaching and Curriculum and in the Campus Writing Program.

Omar is also the former managing editor of MU's Artifacts, a semi-annual journal of undergraduate essays sponsored by the Campus Writing Program. Essays published in the journal come from MU writing intensive and composition courses.

Each edition of the journal includes an introduction from the managing editor. Omar wrote essays titled "Good Will in Globalized World" in April, "Divine Matrix" in December, "Diversity" in August 2014 and "Importance of Art in Our Life" in April 2014.

Omar remained listed as the managing editor of the publication early Monday morning, but the website was later updated to show Bonnie Selting of the Campus Writing Program as the new managing editor.

The Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office said Monday that the case remained under review.

Correction: Graduate Assistant-Arrest story
Correction: Graduate Assistant-Arrest story

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — In a story Nov. 29 about a man accused of pulling a teenage family member out of school because she wasn't wearing a traditional headscarf worn by some Muslim women, The Associated Press erroneously reported that the man is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Missouri. The man's job as a graduate research assistant ended in July 14, 2015.

A corrected version of the story is below:

Ex-graduate assistant accused of assaulting teen over hijab

Former graduate assistant at Missouri accused of assaulting teen for not wearing hijab

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A former University of Missouri graduate teaching assistant is accused of grabbing a teenage family member by the hair and pulling her out of school because she wasn't wearing a traditional headscarf worn by some Muslim women.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports 53-year-old Youssif Omar was arrested Wednesday at his home on suspicion of felony child abuse. He was released from the Boone County Jail after posting $4,500 bond.

Police spokeswoman Latisha Stroer says officers were called to Columbia's Hickman High School Tuesday after Omar became irate when he noticed a 14-year-old family member not wearing a hijab.

Stroer says Omar grabbed the girl "very violently by the hair" and pulled her outside and down some stairs.

Omar didn't immediately respond to an email Sunday seeking comment.

MISSOURIAN

City will determine whether MU professor is prosecuted for assault

ELIZABETH CASSIDY, Updated 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — City Prosecutor Steve Richey is reviewing a report from the MU Police Department to determine whether MU professor Melissa Click should be prosecuted for an alleged assault on a news videographer.
The event was recorded in a Nov. 9 video by journalist Mark Schierbecker that went viral the day former UM System President Tim Wolfe and former MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned their respective positions. Click, a faculty member in the Department of Communication, is seen in the video trying to keep Schierbecker and another journalist away from the protesters' demonstration area on Mel Carnahan Quadrangle.

Toward the end of the video, Click is heard asking for help forcing Schierbecker from the area. "I need some muscle over here," she called out to those around her.

Janna Basler, the assistant director for Greek Life and Leadership at MU, is also seen confronting photographer Tim Tai in the video. Basler was put on administrative leave, and a Title IX complaint was filed against her and Click, but no reports on Basler have been filed with the city prosecutor, an administrative assistant said.

Schierbecker said he will meet with Richey at 1 p.m. Tuesday. He said Richey emailed him to say he wanted to meet with him before he makes a decision about whether to prosecute Click. Schierbecker said tomorrow would be the first time he's met with Richey.

"He just wants to make sure I'm on board with the charges," Schierbecker said. He supports prosecuting Click.

Schierbecker said he doesn't think Richey will wait long to make a decision.

Click resigned her courtesy appointment in the Missouri School of Journalism shortly after the episode on the south quadrangle and just before journalism faculty were scheduled to vote on whether to remove her.

"Click has been fairly disciplined in every department except the one that matters, and that is her own," Schierbecker said. "I have given Click every opportunity to redeem herself, but due to a lack of communication or updates from her and her department, I plan on cooperating with the city prosecutor and the investigation."
A conviction for assault under City Ordinance 16-141 is considered either a Class A or Class C misdemeanor. A Class A misdemeanor could carry a sentence of a year in jail and a fine up to $1,000. A Class C misdemeanor could carry a sentence of 15 days in jail and a fine up to $300.
Why students foot the bill for college sports, and how some are fighting back

At Texas A&M University, the president’s proposal to charge all 50,000 students $72 a year to help pay for a $450 million football stadium renovation brought protests.

At Clemson University, the athletic director’s idea to charge all 17,000 students $350 a year to help him keep up with competition brought pushback from student government.

At the University of Kansas, a walk-on golfer’s push to eliminate a $50 fee all 17,000 students paid the increasingly wealthy athletic department brought a strong — and to some students, vindictive — response from administrators.

And at many of America’s largest public universities, athletic departments making millions more every year from surging television contracts, luxury suite sales and endorsements continue to take money from tens of thousands of students who will never set foot in stadiums or arenas.

Mandatory student fees for college athletic departments are common across the country. Often small line items of a couple hundred dollars on long, complex tuition bills, these fees make millions for athletic departments at larger colleges.

In 2014, students at 32 schools paid a combined $125.5 million in athletic fees, according to a Washington Post examination of financial records at 52 public universities in the “Power Five,” the five wealthiest conferences in college sports.

To rich athletic departments, these fees represent guaranteed revenue streams that, unlike ticket sales or booster donations, are unaffected by on-field success. To less flush departments, increasing student fees is one way to keep up.

Athletic directors defend fees as well worth what their programs give back to schools.

“Athletics is a common good, bringing people together, developing relationships, unifying the institution, bringing fantastic exposure,” said Virginia Athletic Director Craig Littlepage, whose department charges undergraduates $657 annually.

To advocates fighting to keep college affordable, however, athletic departments that continue to charge mandatory student fees as their income rises are making America’s student debt problem worse.
“These students are being forced to pay for something that they may or may not take advantage of, and then they have to bundle this into student loans they’ll be re-paying for 10 or 20 years,” said Natalia Abrams, executive director of the nonprofit Student Debt Crisis.

“It’s a huge problem in higher education,” said David Catt, the former Kansas golfer. “You think you’re paying for a degree and you wind up as a piggy bank for a semi-professional sports team.”

‘They do it because they can’

For the roughly 20 million college students in America, the money they — or their lenders — pay schools every semester covers much more than professor salaries and dorm upkeep. Many colleges tack on fees to tuition bills to fund complementary aspects of college life such as libraries, computer labs and campus buses.

For hundreds of thousands of students who attend Power Five schools, one of those departments that can charge a fee is making a lot more money from other sources than it used to: athletics.

From 2004 to 2014, the combined income of 48 athletic departments in the Power Five rose from $2.67 billion to $4.49 billion. The median department saw earnings rise from $52.9 million to $93.1 million.

As more money has come in, a few schools have gotten rid of student athletic fees, including both powerhouse Alabama ($147.2 million in 2014 athletics earnings) and middle-of-the-pack Missouri ($82.2 million).

“We take pride in the fact that we carry our own weight and pay our own way,” said Tim Hickman, Missouri athletics chief financial officer.

This fall, Kansas State athletics announced it would phase out its student fee by 2020. In 2014, Kansas State athletics made $72.4 million and charged $500,695 in student fees.

“If you look at the financial pressure on students, the increased cost of tuition . . . it was time to have those dollars be available for other things,” Kansas State Athletic Director John Currie said.

While all Power Five schools are making more from television rights contracts — which are paid primarily to conferences, who then split up the money among member schools — only some athletic departments, usually ones with strong football teams, also have been able to get ticket sales, endorsements and royalties to surge.

At Florida State athletics — which made $96.8 million in 2014 — officials justify a $237 fee that generates $8 million by pointing out students get free admittance to Seminoles football games. This is a benefit for the 16,000 students who snag student seats at Doak Campbell Stadium. There are more than 32,000 undergraduates at Florida State, though.
At some departments, athletic directors are increasingly dependent on student fees to help them keep up with big-spending rivals. At the University of Virginia, student fees for athletics generate $13.2 million per year that Littlepage said he needs to cover his budget.

From 2004 to 2014, under Littlepage’s watch, Virginia athletics spending rose from $50.3 million to $87.4 million, including significant increases in coaches pay (from $8.6 million to $18.1 million), and debt and maintenance costs on facilities (from $2.5 million to $15.2 million).

(All 2004 figures are adjusted for inflation.)

Littlepage has been unable to get earnings to rise enough to keep up. In 2014, Virginia athletics made $70.5 million, $17 million less than it spent. In a decade, Virginia has increased its student fee from $388 to $657.

“We’re all facing a lot of the same economic pressures, but it’s not an entirely level playing field,” Littlepage said.

For Paige Taul, a 19-year-old Virginia student who earns $8.25 per hour as a cashier at the campus bookstore, this means she works about 80 hours just to pay off her debt to athletics.

“Wow. That doesn’t seem fair,” said Taul, who expects to graduate with at least $30,000 of debt. Taul doesn’t go to football games, she said. She’s usually working.

At Rutgers, students pay about $326 each, generating $10.3 million.

“It’s crazy. It’s a struggle for me, every semester, to get the money together,” said Rutgers sophomore Eric Dillenberger, 20, who works summers as a short-order cook at a pizza shop. He expects to graduate with at least $25,000 in debt.

“It should be an option, whether you want to buy tickets or not,” Dillenberger said.

At many schools, fees aren’t controversial. At Auburn, administrators raised the student fee more than 400 percent in 2006, from $36 to $192 per year, and Athletic Director Jay Jacobs said students never complained.

Auburn students also have to pay for football tickets, but an athletics spokeswoman said the fee, which generates $4.4 million, allows Auburn to discount student tickets.

Outside the Power Five, athletic departments lacking annual windfalls from television networks are even more reliant on student fees.

Jeff Smith, a business professor at the University of South Carolina-Upstate who has studied financial records from hundreds of schools, estimates students across the country borrow nearly $4 billion per year to pay off athletic fees.

Some smaller schools charge more than $2,000 per year in athletic fees, Smith found.
“They do it because they can. Most schools, it goes through the student government . . . and you’re always going to have kids who like sports and don’t understand the big financial picture,” Smith said. “When you have a president or a dean saying ‘This is good,’ most students will just go along with it.”

Sometimes, students don’t. In the last few years, students in Texas, South Carolina and Kansas have looked at their tuition bills and the surging amount of money flowing into athletics departments and asked administrators variations of the same question: Why do you need my money?

Normal doesn’t apply

With a devoted fan base and deep-pocketed donors, Texas A&M athletics had gotten by for years without a student fee.

But as A&M planned an ambitious $450 million stadium renovation — which included a new 7,700-square-foot high-definition video board and a luxury suite section featuring a baby grand piano and crystal chandeliers — former university president R. Bowen Loftin decided it was time to change that.

In late 2012, Loftin’s administration put together a financing plan that called for $75 million from students over 30 years, through increased ticket prices and a new $72 fee.

Spread across all students at Texas’s largest public college, the fee would generate about $3.6 million per year.

It’s difficult to overstate the popularity of football at Texas A&M, where many traditions center around Aggies football, including midnight “yell practice” before games. But when the administration approached students about a fee to support their beloved Aggies, the students balked. A poll found 65 percent of students opposed.

Kyle Field’s expanded student section would hold 30,000. A&M had 50,000 students. Some conservative students began condemning the fee as a tax.

“It’s unfair to make people who will never use that stadium pay to make my football game experience better,” said Scott Bowen, 25, a former member of A&M’s student senate.

Cary Cheshire, 23, another former student senator and conservative activist, agreed.

“College administrations need to view students as students, rather than walking checkbooks,” Cheshire said.

When Loftin took the proposal to A&M’s board of regents in May 2013, a few students protested, some holding signs that read “STOP WASTING MY MONEY” and “REPEAL LOFTIN’S SLUSH FUND.”
The board approved the fee. But in two years since, A&M has not added it to tuition bills.

“As we predicted, the university had no trouble at all funding [the stadium] out of the money they already collect,” said Bowen, now a chemical engineer in Houston.

Loftin, who left and took over as chancellor at the University of Missouri before resigning that post earlier this month, did not respond to multiple requests to comment.

In an interview, A&M spokesman Shane Hinckley said while the university has not needed the new fee yet, that doesn’t mean it never will.

“We have not needed to impose it at this time, but that doesn’t mean we won’t need to impose it down the road,” Hinckley said.

About 1,000 miles away in South Carolina, Clemson Athletic Director Dan Radakovich ran into trouble when he started pushing for a new $350 student fee last year.

In a series of meetings with the Clemson student government, Radakovich failed to win over then-student president Maddy Thompson. In a telephone interview, Thompson said Clemson athletics officials were vague about why their department — which generated $70.4 million in 2014 revenues, up from $49 million a decade before — needed another $6 million from students, who get into football games for free.

“All they would say was their costs had gone up,” said Thompson, now a law school student at the University of North Carolina. “We just didn’t think it made sense. . . . Do we really want all students paying so they can recruit better athletes?”

In an interview, athletics department spokesman Joe Galbraith noted that Clemson is the only public school in the Atlantic Coast Conference or Southeastern Conference that does not charge a student fee and also doesn’t charge for student tickets.

A few months after the last meeting between student government and athletics, Radakovich appeared before the South Carolina legislature. He needed approval to buy a new private jet for Clemson athletics. Radakovich promised legislators he wouldn’t need student fees to pay for the $4.5 million Cessna Citation CJ2, and lawmakers approved the purchase.

About 1,000 miles to the west in Lawrence, a battle to eliminate a student fee at the University of Kansas ended differently.

In two years as a walk-on golfer, Catt got an inside view of Kansas athletics and began to wonder why the department needed $50 from each student every year in addition to ticket payments.

In two years, Kansas athletics spent $9 million in severance on fired football coaches Mark Mangino and Turner Gill. When Catt did not notice any corresponding layoffs or cutbacks, he decided to do some research.
Catt reviewed financial statements that showed Kansas athletics income rose from $50.8 million in 2005 to $93.6 million in 2013. In early 2014, Catt sent a 35-page report to the student senate, arguing that the fee, which produced about $1.1 million for athletics, should be eliminated.

“Students were seeing a rise in tuition, more student debt . . . and the athletics department was making more and more money every year. It just didn’t seem like they needed it,” Catt said in an interview.

Catt’s report was persuasive. Students voted to kill the fee. Athletics administrators fought back, though, and eventually won a compromise from the chancellor that kept a reduced $12 fee. Ultimately, the change cost Kansas athletics about $350,000.

Kansas athletics administrators weren’t satisfied. A few months later, they eliminated one of the best student sections at men’s basketball games — 120 seats right behind the Jayhawks’ bench — and gave the seats to donors who contributed at least $25,000 per year.

“When the student government proposed [eliminating the fee] . . . it made it very clear that it wanted the athletic department to find other ways to raise revenue,” Kansas athletics spokesman Jim Marchiony told a local newspaper. “That’s what we did.”

When Catt talks about the experience today, one comment from a deputy athletics director sticks out in his mind.

“He told me, ‘We’re in the business of being great, and it costs money to be great,’” Catt recalled.

A few months later, Kansas fired football coach Charlie Weis, who won just six of 28 games at the school, taking on another $5 million in severance.

“It became clear in our meetings,” Catt said, “that normal economics don’t apply to anyone in Kansas athletics.”

It all adds up

These public Power Five athletic departments took in the most money in 2014 from mandatory student fees. For poorer programs, increasing fees is one way to keep up with big-spending competition.

MISSOURIAN
FROM READERS: Eat Mo Carp tries to keep Asian carp from rivers and onto more menus

MARK MORGAN/MISSOURIAN READER, 1 hr ago

Mark Morgan is the project director of Eat Mo Carp and an associate professor for the MU School of Natural Resources.

Eat Mo Carp is a marketing-based strategy designed to promote awareness and consumption of Asian carp in grocery stores and restaurants in Missouri. I developed this idea after traveling to China, Vietnam and Thailand where I learned that carp are eaten regularly and highly revered in Asian culture, often featured in artwork and literature. In contrast, silver and bighead carp are regarded as “trash” fish in the U.S., mainly due to their appearance and boniness which makes them very difficult to fillet.

High densities of Asian carp throughout the Mississippi–Missouri River Basin pose serious problems for aquatic ecosystems. Asian carp are plankton-eaters, thus reducing primary food sources for native species such as catfish, paddlefish, buffalo and gizzard shad. Massive die-offs affect the enjoyment of our nation’s waterways because of bacterial contamination and the odor emanating from dead fish. Moreover, silver carp tend to leap from the water when disturbed, causing property damage and personal injury to recreational boaters. Efforts are underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, threatening a multi-billion dollar commercial and recreational fishing industry. Immediate attention is needed.

Invasive species such as Asian carp are difficult to eradicate once they occupy an ecological niche. Angling is not a solution since they cannot be caught by rod and reel. Carp tournaments only provide temporary relief. Commercial harvest is a viable option, but the supply of fish is much larger than current demand. Some uses include fertilizer, bait, fish oil and pet food. Human consumption is a solution if the image “problem” can be overcome. Schafer Fisheries in
Thomson, Illinois, makes a 100 percent boneless product, similar to ground turkey. It looks great and no bones, bingo!

Silver carp are a plentiful, healthy and cheap source of protein. The white meat has a mild flavor which contains omega-3 fatty acids. It accepts spices and seasonings quite well. Silver carp have low levels of toxins, such as mercury, because of their mid-stream feeding behavior (people often confuse them with grass and common carp, both of which are bottom-feeders). Use of locally grown, harvested and processed food, such as Asian carp, is a good way to create consumer demand and address an important environmental issue in our nation’s waterways. This was a unique opportunity for me to merge social science with natural resources. All too often we hear of stories that pit jobs against the environment. Carp, in this context, represents a win-win situation.

Although education is important, it is not sufficient to change attitudes and behavior. Taste wins. Our research team conducted a blind taste test on campus and found that silver carp beat catfish by a significant margin (catfish is Missouri’s state fish). Armed with this new information, we gave some ground product to the MU Fisheries Club. They put the fun in fund-raising and made some serious cash by serving carp chili and tacos. I talked Eric Cartwright, executive chef of campus dining services, into preparing some flying fish dishes for hungry college students. They swallowed it, “hook, line, & sinker” so to speak. As a result, Mizzou became the first in the nation to serve Asian carp on campus, thus battling a different kind of foe.

We also offered free carp samples at Moser’s Discount Grocery in Columbia and received some positive feedback from shoppers. Moser’s started carrying frozen one-pound tubes in October 2013, and sales have been steady ever since. Bass Pro in Springfield, Missouri, asked our team to be a food vendor at several outdoor events, including the 2015 National Bowfishing Tournament. Carp fear us.

Broadway Brewery in downtown Columbia has adopted and fully endorsed our project. After agreeing to the idea, we convinced them to kick-off their new menu with a benefit concert in June. It was a smashing success — 75 people attended the event, ate some delicious carp cuisine and listened to several local musicians. We provided T-shirts, and Bass Pro gave us some silent
auction items. Since that time, carp spring rolls have outsold every other appetizer on the menu. Executive chef Eric Seidler has become the poster-child for Eat Mo Carp. Eric prepared carp for several of our events and is working on some recipes for a soon to be released cookbook.

The carp craze is catching on in grocery stores and restaurants in Missouri. You can become an active conservationist by simply embracing your inner carp. It’s a delicious way to remedy this environmental “problem” in the Midwest, one forkful at a time.

Carpe diem!

MAGGIE STANWOOD, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A popular gift hitting the shelves this holiday season might be the next fly to swat for local governments across the United States.

The Ashland Board of Aldermen is attempting to be a step ahead by regulating model aircraft drones, which can be purchased for as low as $30 at major retailers such as Target or Walmart.

The board approved the first reading of the ordinance unanimously on Nov. 17. The ordinance would limit the height a drone can fly to 130 feet, ban drones from within a five-mile radius of the Columbia Regional Airport, and require permission from a property owner to fly the drone over a neighbor's land, acting City Administrator and Police Chief Lyn Woolford said. The height limit was chosen to keep the small aircraft from flying above Ashland's water tower, he said.

"We expect an increase in the number of drones in Ashland not only this year, but as time goes on," Woolford said. "The purpose of the ordinance is to provide some guidelines as (drones) become more popular."
Any city guidelines would have to be at least as restrictive as the current federal guidelines, said Bill Allen, an assistant professor of science journalism at MU. Allen teaches a class about drones called "Drone Issues, Application and Flight."

"I can understand Ashland and other communities wanting to do something about it in the absence of a federal policy that makes sense," Allen said.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration's website, drones, or "unmanned aircraft systems," must:

- Remain below 400 feet
- Avoid any obstacles
- Avoid any manned aircraft systems
- Not fly out of its operator's field of vision
- Not fly within five miles of any airport
- Not fly near any people or stadiums
- Not weigh more than 55 pounds
- Not be careless or reckless, which could be a danger to others

These rules only apply to those using drones for hobby or recreational purposes. Those who want drones for public or private operations, such as drone use by a police department for surveillance or a business owner seeking to advertise respectively, must follow different processes and regulations.

The Ashland Board of Aldermen decided to address the issue after an anonymous resident turned in a drone he or she found in his or her backyard with a note expressing concern for privacy, Woolford said.
The guidelines are designed to be general so issues with the drones can be addressed individually as they come up, Woolford said.

"You want to work with the residents, but if it became a problem we would go to enforcement," Woolford said. "This is an education process. It may be a moot point; we may not have any issues with these things."

The final vote on the regulation will be 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Southern Boone Fire Protection District Training Facility, 815 E. Broadway, Ashland.

Taking a Stand for Free Speech

Dozens of Yale faculty members issue open letter decrying substance and tone of recent discussions of a controversial email -- and urging civil discussions of difficult issues.

December 1, 2015

By Scott Jaschik

NO MU MENTION

Several dozen Yale University faculty members on Monday issued an open letter defending the right of free speech, and offering support for Erika and Nicholas Christakis, whom some students want ousted from their positions leading a residential college.

The statement is a reflection of frustration of some faculty members at Yale and elsewhere that the current round of campus protests on racial issues -- while raising important and valid issues -- has also included stances that they view as counter to principles of free speech. They argue that the campus protest movement's response to an email on Halloween costumes sent by Erika Christakis, associate master of a residential college at Yale, is one of those stances.
That email came in the week leading up to Halloween, when officials at many campuses (including Yale) were advising students to avoid costumes or party themes with ethnic or racial overtones so as to not offend minority students, who in years past have objected to many such costumes and themes, such as the use of blackface, or parties with "ghetto" themes.

In her email, Christakis said, "Even if we could agree on how to avoid offense -- and I'll note that no one around campus seems overly concerned about the offense taken by religiously conservative folks to skin-revealing costumes -- I wonder, and I am not trying to be provocative: Is there no room anymore for a child or young person to be a little bit obnoxious ... a little bit inappropriate or provocative or, yes, offensive? American universities were once a safe space not only for maturation but also for a certain regressive, or even transgressive, experience; increasingly, it seems, they have become places of censure and prohibition. And the censure and prohibition come from above, not from yourselves! Are we all okay with this transfer of power? Have we lost faith in young people's capacity -- in your capacity -- to exercise self-censure, through social norming, and also in your capacity to ignore or reject things that trouble you?"

That set off calls for her to be dismissed, with many saying she belittled the pain felt by minority students when their backgrounds are stereotyped or mocked. Further, in an incident that captured widespread attention, Nicholas Christakis, master of the college and a professor at Yale, was screamed at (with an expletive) when he tried to engage students in discussion about the issue. Some students have called for him to be removed as college master as well.

The open letter does not offer support of the views of Erika Christakis. Rather, it says that she not only had a right to express herself, but a right to have her views discussed without being accused of racism.

"Free speech of course includes the right to express opinions that are opposed to what may generally be termed liberal or progressive values, but that is not the issue in the current situation," the open letter says. "The email that Erika Christakis sent to the Silliman [residential college] community did not express support for racist expressions, but rather focused primarily on the question of whether monitoring and criticizing such expression should be done in a top-down manner, when in fact the community involved is a group of college students. One can differ with her suggestion that administrative bodies should not play such an oversight role at Yale, but the suggestion itself clearly does not constitute support for racist expressions."

The letter goes on to say, "We are deeply troubled that this modest attempt to ask people to consider the issue of self-monitoring vs. bureaucratic supervision has been misinterpreted, and in some cases recklessly distorted, as support for racist speech; and hence as justification for demanding the resignation of our colleagues from their posts at Silliman."

Yale and colleges in general, the letter says, need to be places where differences of opinion on all subjects may be discussed civilly.

"A crucial component of free expression is the possibility of open and civil discussions, without vilifying those who disagree with one’s own viewpoint. Our support for these principles is not in conflict with opposition to racism and respect for diversity," the letter says.

Noting the commitments of Nicholas Christakis, who "worked for many years as a hospice doctor, making house visits to underserved populations in Chicago," the letter adds that "progressive values and social justice are not advanced by scapegoating those who share those values."
It is unclear to what extent the letter will shift debate at Yale. On social media Monday night some were praising it. Others were noting that a disproportionate share of those signing the letter are in the physical and biological sciences, disciplines that tend to skew a bit less to the left than does the typical college professor. (Some wrote, incorrectly, that the letter was not signed by anyone in the humanities. A professor of Spanish and a professor of philosophy are among those who signed.)

One Yale student tweeted his disagreement with the letter this way:

![Twitter tweet by Kevin Sullivan](https://media.xojoe.com/twitter/ksullivan1995/11/30/Hey-so-at-least-now-we-have-a-catalogue-of-professors-we-should-never-again-take-classes-with-yaledailynews.com/blog/2015/11/3...)

December 1, 2015
By Kellie Woodhouse

NO MENTION

How transparent should a public university governing board be?

Lawmakers in some states are seeking more openness and transparency from public university governing boards.

Politicians in a number of states, who often say they're responding to concerns from constituents, have been calling for appointed or elected governing boards of their public colleges, universities and systems to be more open, particularly when it comes to public meetings.
“There seems to be little trust in the trustees today,” said Thomas Harnisch, director of state relations at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. “There are calls for governing board members to show their work and how they came up with the conclusion, instead of just showing up with their outcome.”

Suspicion of public officials is nothing new, but, in the case of board members, it’s ramping up as more and more people are concerned with hotly contested issues like college affordability and presidential compensation, says Michael Poliakoff, vice president of policy at the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an organization that is often critical of college leaders and supports board activism. “It’s a natural and somewhat tempered response to the failings of the institutions themselves,” he said.

Harnisch says “greater political polarization, contrasting views on the direction of the academy and anxiety over the price of college” have contributed to the increased scrutiny.

For example, tensions between the North Carolina Legislature and the governing board of the state university system have been brewing recently, largely due to issues of openness and transparency.

Legislative leaders have been grumbling about the University of North Carolina Board of Governors meeting in closed session to discuss university leaders’ compensation, and many expressed dissatisfaction with what some felt was a secretive search for the system’s next president. Both the search and the raises have been widely criticized by system faculty and staff members, many of whom haven’t gotten substantial raises in recent years.

The legislature asked for minutes from the closed session in which 12 of 17 system chancellors received substantial raises. While the board ultimately gave the Legislature the records, some board members said the request was invasive and encroached on the board’s autonomy. Yet one legislative leader, North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger, told a local newspaper the request was not limited to questioning the salary increases -- the larger issue, he said, is transparency.

“It’s about a more basic thing, and that is the idea of what you do in a closed session,” he told The News & Observer earlier this month. North Carolina’s open meetings law permits closed board meetings in a number of cases, including to discuss land acquisitions, legal cases, business deals, employment contracts and public safety issues.

The previous month Berger cosigned a letter, along with the state House of Representatives leader, that cautioned the governing board against trying to circumvent a law passed by the Legislature, but not yet signed by the governor, that would require the full governing board to consider three finalists for the system presidency. Margaret Spellings, the former U.S. education secretary, was selected for the position, and she was the only candidate interviewed by the full board.

“Our concern is not about any candidate for the presidency but rather the process by which at least a few members of the board have utilized that appears to cut against the fundamental notions of transparency and procedural due process,” the letter read.

Meanwhile in Illinois there’s a set of legislative measures on the table aimed at increasing the transparency with which salary decisions and top hires are made at public colleges and universities. One of the half dozen bills on the table requires training for governing board members on open meetings laws.
The legislation comes after the governing board of the College of DuPage gave Robert Breuder a lucrative buyout to end his controversial presidency. The deal was approved in a meeting that was closed to the public, but that legislators say should have been open. The proposed legislation requires things like pay, bonuses and presidential contracts to be discussed in open meetings. Under the current Illinois open meetings law, board meetings may be conducted in closed session if personnel matters -- including appointments and compensation -- investment deals, student records or security matters are discussed.

And in Michigan a lawmaker is pushing for a constitutional amendment that would require public universities to conduct more of their meetings in public. Under existing conditions, only formal meetings where votes are taking place must occur in public. Unlike the meetings of other public bodies in the state, preliminary governing board meetings and committee meetings can be held in closed session ever since a 1999 Michigan Supreme Court ruling gave public universities the green light to skirt the state’s open meetings law. The amendment would change the state Constitution to make the open meetings law apply to university boards.

Yet even the resolution’s sponsor, Martin Howrylak, says it’s unlikely the measure will pass, given it requires a two-thirds majority of the Legislature to even get on the ballot. But, he says, the bill is starting a conversation about board transparency in the state. Michigan has 15 public universities, and all of their governing boards operate with different levels of openness.

For example, the University of Michigan has 10 public board meetings a year where public votes are made, but most of the discussion happens behind closed doors in committee meetings or other private sessions. Meanwhile, 15 minutes away, Eastern Michigan University conducts most of its committee meetings in public session -- although its board members often meet privately before the committee meetings.

“If you want to be a public official you have to either endure or relish in the public comment that comes with that position,” Howrylak said. “However, they’re having these discussions behind closed doors and the public is not invited to participate.”

He added that given concerns about the cost of college and how universities spend their resources, governing boards should voluntarily be open in their decision-making process.

“An absence of information has a tendency to stoke fear and mistrust, so as public officials if we want to have the support of the public it’s advisable to engage the public and be as open and transparent as possible,” he said. “That’s why I can’t understand why some of these boards want to be less transparent than other boards are.”

Yet Dan Hurley, president of the Michigan Association of State Universities, said there’s ample ability for the public to influence board decisions through the mandatory public comment section of public board meetings (although the number of commenters who can participate in the session is often limited). He also said that there’s good reason for the state’s universities to want to deliberate behind closed doors.

“There is a need from a strategic planning perspective for these confidential conversation,” Hurley said. “They’re in a global higher education marketplace with major competitors, [and they make] decisions that have major ramifications and a lot at stake, and I think you need to have privacy in a lot of those decisions.”
In other states board meetings have also come under scrutiny. Earlier this year a judge found the University of Washington’s governing board was in violation of the state’s Open Public Meetings Act on 24 separate occasions from 2012 to 2014, after board members discussed business during dinners at the president’s home. Also in the spring, the North Dakota attorney general found the North Dakota State University Development Foundation and Alumni Association board violated open meetings laws when members discussed firing the foundation’s leader in closed session.

And recent presidential searches at the UNC System, the University of Iowa, the University of Delaware and the University of Nebraska have all weathered criticism by faculty and staff for lacking transparency.

Emily Dickens, vice president for public policy with the Association of Governing Boards, says public scrutiny over higher education has increased in recent years, which has in turn led to more scrutiny over the decision-making processes of universities.

“People are looking at salaries, people are looking at what you are paying public employees and the general public has more of an interest in how you select the people who are going to be leading your state universities and colleges,” she said, adding that boards “have to learn how to strategically communicate what their actions are as it relates to actions like having a presidential search or even going into a closed meeting.”

She added that training boards on open meetings procedures is an important step toward making sure boards use closed session allowances correctly. In the past year several states -- including Texas, Illinois, Alabama and Massachusetts -- have considered or passed required training programs for board members.

In some cases legislators, in their demands for greater transparency, have been accused of overreaching and breaching the autonomy of the system’s governing board. In North Carolina, for example, the Board of Governors must cite a legal reason when it goes into closed session, and recent closed meetings have complied with open meetings laws in the state. Yet the closed sessions have still frustrated some lawmakers. Dickens noted how many of North Carolina’s lawmakers have been elected within the last five years -- in 2010 Republicans gained their first majority in both the state House and Senate since the 1800s, and in 2012 their numbers were strengthened to a supermajority.

“You no longer have that institutional knowledge ... about the roles, rights and responsibilities of the system, and where the line is between what the Legislature is responsible for and what the board is responsible for,” she said.

Susan Whealler Johnston, AGB’s executive vice president, stressed how legislative interference in public university affairs should be minimal. Laws govern whether meetings can be public or closed, and lawmakers should let universities operate within that framework.

“Everything is tested by the law,” she said. “The larger issue is the need for boards to have the independence they need in order to make informed decisions without excessive oversight or regulation or interference of outside entities within the context of doing the state's work.”

Added Harnisch: “There are trade-offs. If every deliberation between every board member has to be made in a public forum, could that possibly lead to less candor and lower-quality exchanges between board members and ultimately poorer decisions?”