How extreme beliefs, not mental illness, may fuel mass shooters

By Michael S. Rosenwald May 25 at 2:28 PM

After Anders Breivik detonated a car bomb, killing eight people, in central Olso in the summer of 2011, he took a ferry ride to an island in a peaceful Norwegian lake. Armed with a semiautomatic rifle and pistol, he killed 69 people, most of them teenagers at a summer camp.

A team of psychiatrists who examined Breivik declared him psychotic and criminally insane — a diagnosis that, given the magnitude of the slaughter, made intuitive sense. Who could kill that many people without being insane?

But Breivik, a white supremacist who told police that he carried out the attacks to prevent a Muslim takeover, thought the diagnosis was offensive. He argued that he was of sound mind. A second team of doctors examined him and agreed.

Tahir Rahman, a forensic psychiatrist at the University of Missouri, uses the Breivik story in a new paper to explain how actions such as Breivik’s can be mistaken for psychosis instead of calculated evil.

This is a difficult conclusion for people to understand, as I wrote this month in a story examining whether mass shooters are seriously mentally ill. Most, it turns out, are not. What are they? Psychopathic. Angry. Revenge-seeking. Jilted. Antisocial, not delusional.

[Most mass shooters aren’t mentally ill. So why push better treatment as the answer?]

“This is a behavior,” Rahman said in an interview. “It’s separate from psychosis.”
And it often results, Rahman argues in the paper, from an “extreme overvalued belief.”
The concept of an “overvalued idea” was first identified a century ago by Carl Wernicke, a
German neuropsychiatrist who used the phrase to describe ideas in society that dominate a
person’s mind, causing nondelusional but extreme behaviors. Anorexia nervosa is seen as a
classic example.

“These individuals,” Rahman writes, “have extreme beliefs that fulminate and dominate their
minds to the point of starvation.”

The same can be said of racists, anti-Semites and people gripped with hatred toward their
employers, co-workers, classmates, etc. Most don’t act out in violence. But at some point, the
idea becomes extremely overvalued and “violence becomes a way to make a statement for their
belief systems,” Rahman said.

The concept of the “overvalued idea” has largely been ignored by his profession, Rahman said,
but he thinks it’s a crucial concept that can help forensic psychiatrists sort out the motivation for
behavior that appears delusional but is not.

Rahman and his colleagues take the concept further, coming up with the phrase “extreme
overvalued belief” and defining it this way:

An extreme overvalued belief is one that is shared by others in a person’s cultural, religious, or
subcultural group. The belief is often relished, amplified, and defended by the possessor of the
belief and should be differentiated from a delusion or obsession. The idea fulminates in the
mind of the individual, growing more dominant over time, more refined, and more resistant to
challenge. The individual has an intense emotional commitment to the belief and may carry out
violent behavior in its service. It is usually associated with an abnormal personality.
Such a description would certainly apply to Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old charged with murdering nine African Americans at their South Carolina church last year. Roof, who faces the death penalty, voiced deep hatred of blacks and other minorities in an online manifesto and allegedly told his African American victims: “You rape our women, and you’re taking over our country. And you have to go.”

Eric Harris, the 18-year-old ringleader of the Columbine High School shooting, idolized Hitler, felt that the human race was totally worthless, and decided, like Breivik, that there was nothing left to do but annihilate as many people as he could. He and his 17-year-old classmate Dylan Klebold killed 13 people and wounded dozens more before killing themselves on April 20, 1999: Hitler’s birthday.

Don’t let grilling lodge metal wires in your throat

From 2002 to 2014, more than 1,600 people went to the emergency room because of injuries from wire-bristle grill brushes, according to new research.

Loose bristles can fall off the brush during cleaning and end up in the grilled food, which, if eaten, can lead to injuries in the mouth, throat, and tonsils.

“Wire-bristle brush injuries are a potential consumer safety issue, so it is important that people, manufacturers, and health providers be aware of the problem,” says David Chang, an associate professor of otolaryngology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. “If doctors are unaware that this problem exists, they may not order the appropriate tests or capture the correct patient history to reach the right diagnosis.”

Chang reviewed consumer injury databases to determine the number of emergency department visits caused by wire-bristle injuries. The most common injuries reported were in patients’ mouths, throats, and tonsils, with some injuries requiring surgery.

“One little bristle unrecognized could get lodged in various areas of the body, whether in the throat, tonsil, or neck region,” Chang says. “If the bristle passes through those regions without
lodging itself, it could get stuck further downstream in places like the esophagus, stomach, or the intestine.

The biggest worry is that it will lodge into those areas and get stuck in the wall of the intestine. The bristles could migrate out of the intestine and cause further internal damage.”

Chang says that the number of injuries found from wire-bristle brushes could be even more than his 1,698 estimate, since his study did not include injuries treated at urgent care facilities or other outpatient settings. This data could lead to better protective measures from individuals and wire-bristle brush manufacturers, he says.

Chang recommends the following tips for individuals this grilling season:

- Use caution when cleaning grills with wire-bristle brushes, examining brushes before each use and discarding if bristles are loose.
- Inspect your grill’s cooking grates before cooking, or use alternative cleaning methods such as nylon-bristle brushes or balls of tin foil.
- Inspect grilled food carefully after cooking to make sure bristles are not stuck to the food.

“If cautionary measures fail and individuals do experience problems with swallowing or pain after eating something that has been barbecued or grilled, they should seek advice from a physician or an emergency department and let the physician know that they were just at a barbecue event or they just grilled food,” Chang says.

The study appears in the journal *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. The University of Missouri School of Medicine and department of otolaryngology supported the work. The researchers have no conflicts of interest to declare related to this study.

**Animal Welfare Act complaint filed against University of Missouri**
COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri - Columbia is under fire by the group Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!, or SAEN, for the death of a puppy and a pig and suggested illegal surgical procedures.

SAEN filed an official complaint against the university on Friday, May 20, 2016. The complaint cites three incidents that it says are clear violations of the Animal Welfare Act, relating to faulty enclosures and improper animal handling.

SAEN's official complaint said it is seeking a federal investigation and the maximum fine allowable under the Animal Welfare Act, $10,000 per infraction, per animal.

According to a report dated March 7, 2016, two adult boars were housed in adjacent pens. During early morning hours, a veterinarian found the boars in one pen. Both pigs showed signs of fighting and one boar was dead.

According to another report dated June 3, 2015, three adult male dachshunds were in a run adjoined to a run of recently weaned puppies. During the night the transfer door was opened and one of the adults killed one of the puppies.

In a letter of response to the complaints, the university acknowledges the incidents and says the penning used for the boars is used throughout the facility, and there have been "no similar events in the 6 years this facility has been open."

In another letter of response, the facility manager writes that the transfer doors between runs were examined and the latching of the doors were replaced with latches that can only be opened by personnel standing within the run.

In a statement to KOMU 8 News, MU spokesperson Christian Basi said, “We immediately took corrective action and self-reported both events to the office of laboratory animal welfare which is the federal office overseeing animal laboratory care. They responded and agreed with our assessment and along with the corrective actions that we had taken and told us no further action was necessary. The care and welfare of the animals that we use in research is very important to us as these animals are helping us make discoveries that can benefit animal and human health.”

SAEN also addressed a report dated May 28, 2015 stating a review of surgery sheets for two dogs revealed that the university had approval to perform surgeries on the dogs. The two procedures performed, however, were from two different approved protocols.

The university responded with a letter stating they met with the principal investigator to reinforce proper protocol and research approval. They now consider that issue resolved.

According to the news release, SAEN monitors U.S. research laboratories for illegal activities and animal abuse and has successfully launched over 40 lab prosecutions by the USDA.
Animal rights group files complaint, seeks fine against MU

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A second animal rights group is taking issue with alleged animal rights violations at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) announced it made an official complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture against the university, claiming a puppy and pig were negligently killed at MU labs. The release also said federal reports suggest illegal surgical procedures took place that violated the Animal Welfare Act.

SAEN is seeking a federal investigation against MU and the maximum fine allowable under the Animal Welfare Act: $10,000 per infraction/animal.

The university responded to the release today with a statement of its own: "When these incidents happened, we immediately took corrective action and self-reported both events to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, which is the federal office overseeing animal laboratory care. They responded and agreed with our assessment along with the corrective actions that we had taken; they told us no further action was necessary. The care and welfare of the animals that we use in research is very important to us as these animals are helping us make discoveries that can benefit both animal and human health."

This is the second time this month that an animal rights group has filed a complaint against MU. Earlier this month, the Beagle Freedom Project sued the university, claiming it violated the state's Sunshine Law.
Earleywine is under investigation by Mizzou's athletics department, Title IX Office

He started seeing a psychologist after the investigation started

Earleywine said he’s changed the language he uses with the team

BY TOD PALMER
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Missouri softball coach Ehren Earleywine has been seeing a psychologist since early April, shortly after an investigation into his conduct by the university commenced.

“I’m getting help,” he said during a news conference Thursday at University Field in Columbia. The audio of Earleywine’s conversation was posted by PowerMizzou.com.

Earleywine said he started meeting with Greg Holliday, a psychologist employed by the Mizzou athletic department whom he calls “Doc,” within the last two months, about why some found his conduct abrasive and what needed to change.

“He’s a great guy, and he’s helping me look at things through a different lens — maybe some vocabulary switches — and I think it’s going to be helpful ...” Earleywine said. “He’s been able to break through in a lot of different ways with me. He’s a great mentor.”

Earleywine, who is being investigated by the athletic department and Missouri’s Title IX Office for alleged verbal abuse of players, said he wasn’t required to meet with Holliday by the Tigers’ athletic administration.

“That was all me,” Earleywine said. “I’m sure that they’re appreciative of it. What was the text I got from Tim Hickman? Very proactive was the text he sent me. My hope moving forward is I want to have Doc with our team on the road, in the dugout, at meetings — just so he can coach me on the spot.”

Hickman, Mizzou’s executive associate athletic director, oversees softball among other duties.

Earleywine said Holliday has accompanied the Tigers on a couple trips, offering pointers after his interaction with players about ways to soften his sometimes gruff message.

“That immediate feedback is the best coaching that I’ve ever received,” Earleywine said.

He said language is the area Holliday has zeroed in on the most.
“Growing up in my life, that’s what the coaches around me did, so a lot of those sound bites are sound bites that have been playing in my head since I was a boy...” Earleywine said. “Obviously, there are a lot of coaches that use foul language, but I think there’s also crossing the line and I’m sure I’ve done that a few times. I think that’s the biggie is making sure I draw that line and I stay behind it.”

That’s a departure from May 8 when Earleywine said he wasn’t “ashamed of anything that I’ve done.” He is known for a fiery, unfiltered and hyper-competitive nature that occasionally upsets some in the softball community.

It’s unclear if the willingness to admit publicly that he’s made missteps along with his efforts to address them will be enough to save his job, but Earleywine, a Jefferson City native, has made it clear that being the Mizzou softball coach is his dream job.

“Competition brings out the most emotion in anybody, so you’re trying to fight back stuff you’re typically used to fighting back — that level of emotion,” Earleywine said. “Is it possible? Absolutely, and it will happen, because that’s how bad I want my job here.”

No. 15 seed Missouri, which won its eighth regional title last weekend, plays at No. 2 seed Michigan in a best-of-three super regional Saturday and Sunday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“I know there are things I can do better as a coach,” said Earleywine, who is 452-151 with the Tigers, including an NCAA Tournament appearance in all 10 seasons. “I know that, and I totally understand the administration’s need to investigate certain accusations. If they are willing to keep me around, I’m glad to work on the things that were brought up in the investigation. Like I said, I’m fully admitting the fact that, yeah, there are things I can do better. I just hope they will give me another chance.”

Earleywine said, in fact, he’s already changing.

“The last, I’d say at least five weeks, I haven’t used any inappropriate language or anything like that,” Earleywine said. “For me, it’s just a sign of intensity, but I think it scares the girls sometimes and it may be inappropriate as well.”

Missouri’s players announced a protest May 7 centered on the investigation of Earleywine. That protest was renewed May 12 after a first-round loss in the Southeastern Conference Softball Tournament.

One day later, Earleywine sent a text to several media outlets, including The Star, asking his players to end the protest, which the team did before last weekend’s regional tournament in Columbia.
MU doctoral student recognized for championing grandfamilies

COLUMBIA — Karen Traylor-Adolph distinctly remembers when she sought help from a school counselor, only to find her knock at the door unanswered.

"One day," she said to herself at that moment, "I'm going to give kids what I don't have right now."

That event sparked Traylor-Adolph's dream to become a psychologist and work with families. She's always had a compassionate spirit, though. Serving the underserved is part of her own family narrative, going back to her grandfather.

A farmer in rural Georgia, Ralph Daniel raised 13 kids with his wife, Nunie Bell. Daniel gave away his best cuts of cattle meat to neighbors in need and was a valuable presence in his grandchildren's lives. Traylor-Adolph remembers him as a strong pillar in his family and his community.

"He had a three-part motto: to have faith in God, to be industrious and use your brain," Traylor-Adolph said. "Those of us (in the family) who continue to be successful follow that."

Missouri Care, which provides MO HealthNet health coverage programs, recognized Traylor-Adolph in January with the Missouri Care CommUnity Hero Award, lauding her as someone who has gone above and beyond to provide healthcare services and advocacy for communities across the state.

Traylor-Adolph is working on a doctorate in counseling psychology at MU. She conducts research for her dissertation while working part-time since 2010 as the coordinator for the
GrandFamily Coalition, which helps build and connect grandfamily resources across Missouri.

Grandfamilies form when parents, for a variety of reasons, are unable to care for their children, and the grandparents step in to help raise the kids or become their legal guardians. Missouri Care community advocate Kim Riley said grandfamily issues and support are unique topics that don’t get nearly the attention they deserve.

As part of her work, Traylor-Adolph has traveled to conferences across Missouri, from the Bootheel to the northern plains, serving as the face for the Grand Family Coalition and raising awareness for its cause.

"Karen Traylor-Adolph is a tireless and champion advocate for grandfamilies," Riley said. "(These families) are always looking for someone who can be their voice, and Karen is that person."

Being physically present with such a vulnerable population is important, Traylor-Adolph said. Grandparents who resume parenting at an advanced age might lose friends and support because their peers are not in the same situation. They could also face difficult legal situations while establishing their guardian status, and they might no longer have the resources needed to raise a child. According to a 2014 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, 30 percent of children in Missouri being raised by grandparents live in poverty.

It was this abundance of problems that prodded Traylor-Adolph to pursue a doctorate. She wants to offset the body of negative research on grandfamily issues by studying the positive impacts of family routines and rituals.

"It's the simple but profound things that families can do," she said. "I wanted to highlight the strengths because when you end up with grandfamilies, you can get really good things that could happen."
Traylor-Adolph knows from experience how a grandparent can provide a unique level of support.

"Kids just want to see somebody whose eyes light up when they come in the room," she said.

Ralph Daniel became that person for Traylor-Adolph after her father died when she was 13. Daniel helped her through depression and made her feel like somebody’s favorite again.

"It seems weird getting an award for something you’re passionate about," Traylor-Adolph said. "It's just what I do."

Traylor-Adolph continues to work directly with families all over Missouri, hoping to answer the knocks of those who need help. She recently launched a website to boost the reach of her research survey, and she aims to finish her work and graduate in December.

"It feels like everything is coming together now, and it's really a blessing," she said.

**MISSOURIAN**

**After years of inaction, fresh breeze for minority businesses**

DANIEL CHRISTIAN, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA —Columbia minority business development is getting fresh attention after years of lip service with little to show for it.

In 1996, a race relations task force commissioned by former mayor Darwin Hindman determined that Columbia needed to do more to help black-owned businesses and made two recommendations: Recruit local blacks to start businesses and bring in existing black-owned businesses from out of town.
Steve Calloway is the president of a group called the Minority Men's Network. It engages minority communities with outreach and community service. Calloway said not much has changed in the way of opportunities for minority-owned businesses since the 1996 report.

"I don't think the climate has changed a whole lot," he said. "The school district does not have a policy around women- and minority-owned business, nor does the city of Columbia."

A 2013 report commissioned by Regional Economic Development Inc. found that of 15,585 businesses in Boone County, minorities owned 125 — less than 1 percent. Boone County had a black population of about 10 percent.

The 2013 study by Byndom, Stanton and Associates concluded that minorities face severe economic exclusion and have difficulty accessing loans and bonds to start businesses.

Local leaders are beginning to address the dearth of minority-owned businesses as well as ongoing barriers to their ability to obtain state and city contracts. City Manager Mike Matthes and Jim Whitt, one of four Columbians Matthes hired to help with social equity, are making progress, Calloway said.

A city initiative has identified three neighborhoods — one each in north, east and central parts of Columbia — lacking in social equity on home ownership, access to health care and healthy lifestyles.

The state Office of Administration held a meeting on March 24 that included minority business owners and local decision makers such as Calloway, Whitt, Bishop Lester Woods of Urban Empowerment Ministries and state Rep. Kip Kendrick of Columbia.

The meeting was an opportunity for minority business owners interested in securing state contracts to discuss common barriers.

Calloway said one of the main barriers is being outbid by other businesses for state work. Such setbacks, even among successful minority business owners, are often discouraging, he said, and
these stories create a corrosive business mindset: Why go through all the trouble of getting licensed and insured when you know you can't compete?

Anthony Stanton of Byndom, Stanton and Associates used to own the local construction business I&I Construction that worked mainly on city and state contracts. In his experience, bonding was one of the biggest barriers for minority-owned businesses.

Before even being able to bid on a city or state construction contract, a business owner must post a bond that acts as insurance. If more minority-owned businesses could secure bonding, Stanton said, they'd be able to compete with white-owned businesses.

Stanton said there's a cycle involving everything from lack of capital to bonding that is difficult for black entrepreneurs to overcome: "If I can't bid, I can't have cash flow. If I can't have cash flow, I can't have bonding. If I can't have bonding, I can't bid."

Because blacks often don't have the assets, capital and access to bonding, he said, minority-owned businesses are often "relegated to bidding on small potatoes."

Once a business is bidding on low-level contracts, Stanton said the competition increases because the bonding requirements are lower.

John Livingston owns Affordable Same Day Service, a company that provides heating and air conditioning services. He said he hasn't had a state- or city-contracted job in his 20 years as a minority-business owner, despite bidding often.

Larger corporations win most contracts, and minority businesses often try to subcontract with those larger corporations. Livingston said that minority-owned businesses are forced to compete for subcontracting bids among multiple larger businesses competing for the overall bid. If a small business like Livingston's aligns itself with a larger business that doesn't win the bid, that business is out of luck and has wasted time and resources.
Livingston said that without streamlining the process and connecting business owners to the contractors, he doesn't see change coming.

Stanton said if more businesses were able to secure bonding, they'd be able to offer competitive prices.

"I'm not asking for a handout, and anybody that's a business man worth their socks is not asking," Stanton said. "Give me the boxing gloves you got on and I'll go with you. I'm not worried about it once I'm in the ring, but don't tie my arm around and then expect me to fight you fairly."

Although Stanton expressed faith in Matthes, he said that Columbia needs to create lasting policies.

"I need policy that puts teeth into public-funded contracts," Stanton said. "There's enough public sector money here that minority businesses should have a great opportunity."

He said more aggressive minority participation goals would help. Participation goals involve contractors extending a good-faith effort to minority businesses for state- or city-contracted work. The minority- and women-owned business participation goal for Missouri is 10 percent of contracted work.

"I don't even think it helps," Livingston said of the participation goals. "It's all politics. It's something they have to say to people, but it's not something they actually do."

Stanton noted construction work available for Columbia Public Schools as a possible outlet for minority-owned businesses. He mentioned the planned renovations at Douglass High School and Beulah Ralph Elementary School that's under construction.

Calloway is optimistic. He attributes recent efforts to connect with minority business-owners to the city's — and Matthes' — attention to social equity.
One way Calloway sees potential gains among minority business owners is through Regional Economic Development Inc., but he considers its previous efforts inadequate. REDI is a private-public partnership that promotes economic development.

Calloway said REDI had been helpful recently in providing meeting space and was working with Jim Whitt on ways to help minority businesses competitively bid for state contracts. He emphasized that REDI was "better now than before."

**Virginia Wilson, director of MU's Small Business Development Center housed in REDI, started an effort in the fall of 2015 to examine ways it could reach out to minority-owned businesses in Columbia.** She said her group, which has two REDI members, others in the Small Business Development Center and works closely with Whitt, was expanding and updating the 2013 list of businesses compiled by Byndom, Stanton and Associates.

Stanton said his consulting firm approached REDI about conducting the count and was met with enthusiasm by former REDI President Mike Brooks. However, he added that REDI's "innovation hub" — an incubator of sorts — was more interested in "sexy" businesses and didn't seem interested in businesses such as construction that focus on contracting.

He said incubators should be available to help build new businesses and develop existing ones, but there aren't any available for the contracting work of many minority-business owners.

The city gave $10,000 to REDI to renovate the small business incubator and "invigorate startups with local entrepreneurs, including special outreach to women and minorities who aspire to business ownership," according to the 2016 city budget.

Stacey Button, who took over as REDI president in early 2015, initially said the money was primarily for renovation but later added that the work has helped REDI attract businesses owned by women and minorities.

Wilson said she was not aware of any efforts from REDI to specifically reach out to minority business owners before Brooks began working with Byndom, Stanton and Associates in 2013.
Business classes that specifically address obstacles for minority-owned businesses would have a greater chance of success, she said.

Calloway said whatever REDI was doing wasn't working.

"I can’t say they didn’t have the interest before, because I don’t know that to be the fact," Calloway said of REDI’s interactions with minorities. "But whatever they were doing, if they had an interest, it just wasn’t effective."

Still, Calloway thinks REDI and city government can make a difference.

"The lesson learned is it takes more than good intentions, or maybe even having something written on a page," he said. "I think you've got to put whatever it is think you really want to do, you have to connect with the right people, and I think put a little bit of resources behind it to make it happen."

Columbia leaders explain how growth shown in census helps boost economy

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The most recent census numbers from the US Census Bureau show Columbia's population ballooning by 10,068 residents since the 2010 census.

That comes out to about a 9 percent increase, bringing its total estimated population to 119,108 people. This speedy growth put it just behind Kansas City as the fastest growing city in Missouri.

City leaders said Wednesday the growth helps attract new businesses to Columbia.

"As businesses are looking to hire and expand, they know that they have the work force to be able to do so," said Chamber of Commerce president Matt McCormick. "If you have a shrinking
work force its hard to expand and when you've got a growing workforce like what we have right now, it makes it easier because you have that work force they're to be able to hire."

He said Columbia is quickly becoming known for its entrepreneaural growth and opportunities as well, so that could account for some of those soaring numbers.

"We've become a hub especially for mid-Missouri for entrepreneurs and a place to start a business and grow a business," said McCormick.

**The University of Missouri could account for some of that growth. Last year the university saw its student population increase to about 35,000.**

This year, that number would be lower since the university has projected lower enrollment.

McCormick said they're keeping an eye on those numbers so that they aren't caught unaware when the 2020 census comes out.

"That way we can prepare and say 'okay this is what the numbers were at the end of 2015, this is what they're looking at in 2016, and what does that mean for the next four years,'" he said. "When you start taking a look at that down enrollment, that's not just a one year deal and you know classes are four to five years so what does that mean to that."

Mark Perry with the United States Census Bureau did confirm Wednesday that college students are included in the local population totals.

He said they use the concept of usual residence and count people where they live or sleep most of the time. For students, that would be at the university or college they attend.

Kansas City only saw a 3 percent growth since the 2010 census despite gaining 5,000 more residents than Columbia.

St. Louis lost 3,600 residents in the past five years, putting their population at about 316,000 people.

Columbia also surpassed Independence with nearly 119,000 people.

Jefferson City added about 90 residents in the five year period since the 2010 census, a modest .5 percent increase.

According to the Census Bureau, Boone County was the second fastest growing county with a 7.5 percent increase in the past five years.

But despite that growth, more Missouri towns lost residents than gained them.
State Lawmakers Seek to Protect Campus Speech, With Mixed Success

No MU Mention

State lawmakers appear willing to protect student journalists and students’ freedom to stage campus protests, but they’re reluctant to tell colleges how to deal with speech that some deem offensive or emotionally distressing.

That’s the upshot as most states’ legislatures wrap up their annual sessions after a year marked by widespread campus unrest and intense debates over the limits of free expression in academe.

Arizona last week became the third state, after Missouri and Virginia, to adopt a law that prohibits public colleges from designating only certain portions of a campus as "free-speech zones."

Maryland last month passed a law protecting student journalists from censorship, and similar measures remain pending in Michigan, Minnesota, and Rhode Island. Eight other states already have similar laws on the books.

In other states, however, lawmakers rejected or shelved more-expansive bills that had provisions dealing with trigger warnings — advance notices to students that instructional material might cause them emotional distress — and microaggressions, generally defined as subtle expressions of discrimination. One such measure, in Tennessee, was withdrawn by its Republican sponsor after
Democratic state representative suggested that its free-speech protections would allow the Islamic State to recruit on campuses.

"Legislative work is messy. You don’t always get through on the first try," said Joe Cohn, who has advised the sponsors of several of the speech bills as legislative and policy director at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, known as FIRE.

Mr. Cohn said FIRE had found it especially difficult to promote speech protections that bump up against other rights, such as students’ right not to be subjected to discriminatory harassment. But, he added, "we are thrilled to see more and more legislatures focusing on the issue of free speech on campus."

Zoned Out

Arizona last week adopted two related laws dealing with free speech on public-college campuses. The first prohibits colleges from designating certain campus areas as "free-speech zones" where students can stage demonstrations or distribute fliers. It holds that such colleges must regard their entire campus as a public forum, and that any restrictions they place on the time, location, and manner of speech must be reasonable, justified, narrowly tailored, and unrelated to whatever is being expressed.

The second Arizona law contains similar language in the context of outlawing, as a misdemeanor, the blocking of roads to prevent people from gaining access to a government meeting or political-campaign event. In March protesters blocked a road near Phoenix to keep people from attending a rally for Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate.

Both measures had been opposed by the Arizona Board of Regents, which oversees the state’s three public universities and denied that any had designated free-speech
zones. In a statement issued in March, Jay Heiler, its chairman, said the bills "are attempting to offer a solution to a problem we do not have."

Paradise Valley Community College, in Phoenix, does have such a free-speech zone, however. Its policy is being challenged in federal court by two students represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, a Christian legal-advocacy group. The lawsuit accuses the college of violating the students’ First Amendment rights last fall by telling them they could not be in a free-speech zone recruiting for a conservative student organization, Young Americans for Liberty.

In light of the new statute, lawyers for both sides this week said the college appeared poised to settle the lawsuit, which had challenged its policy as unconstitutionally restrictive.

In signing the measures into law, Gov. Douglas A. Ducey, a Republican, said "part of the university experience is to be able to express diverse views, openly, without fear of retribution or intimidation — and to be exposed to other views and perspectives, even if they aren’t politically correct or popular."

Cost Concerns

New Hampshire’s House Education Committee has shelved a similar measure, pending further study, in response to public colleges’ complaints that they already protect student speech sufficiently and that the new measure would cause them to spend more on litigation and campus security.

In testifying before the committee in January, Charles Putnam, a lawyer for the University System of New Hampshire, also argued that the measure would "undermine USNH institutions’ ability to prepare and respond to disruptive events, which will impair community safety."
Utah lawmakers similarly deferred action on such a bill after the Utah System of Higher Education objected that the measure would increase public colleges’ administrative and legal costs. Such cost concerns also prompted lawmakers there to shelve a measure that would require public colleges to immediately respond to complaints of discriminatory harassment but define such harassment narrowly, excluding any speech protected by the First Amendment.

A 2013 study of more than 400 selective colleges by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education found that about one in six had designated free-speech zones. Mr. Cohn of FIRE argued that the ability of most colleges to allow free speech throughout their campuses undermines assertions that doing so would carry unacceptable costs.

Washington State lawmakers considered a bill that would have banned public colleges from establishing free-speech zones, from requiring instructors to issue trigger warnings, and from punishing students or employees for perceived microaggressions.

Although the measure died in committee last winter, its sponsor, State Rep. Mathew S. Manweller, a political-science professor at Central Washington University, said he had since won "a small victory": The Washington State University system’s Board of Regents this month adopted a policy classifying, as a public forum for free speech, all university property not being used for instruction, research, or health services.

**When Protests Obstruct Free Speech**

**No MU Mention**

Sitting on the stage at DePaul University Tuesday, Milo Yiannopoulos spoke without incident for around 15 minutes, offering his trademark inflammatory criticisms of
feminism, the transgender rights movement and campus politics. And then the conversation turned to microaggressions.

“They’re called microaggressions because you can’t even see them,” Yiannopoulos, a pundit at the conservative website Breitbart.com, told the crowd. “And the reason you can’t see them is because they’re not there. Nothing happens.”

Which is when something happened: blowing a whistle, a student walked down the center aisle of the auditorium until he reached the stage. He sat on the table between Yiannopoulos and a student from the College Republicans, who was moderating the event, and began speaking to the crowd.

“Please, sir,” tried the student moderator. “Sir, please.”
“We’d like to ask you to please -- ” began another.
But a second student had joined the first on stage, and at once, the event became a protest.

It wasn’t the first time college students protested Yiannopoulos. He is a divisive figure. He is, as a writer for Fusion put it, “the sort of frustrating troll who, for instance, might declare his birthday World Patriarchy Day, suggest Donald Trump is ‘blacker’ than Barack Obama or, although he is gay himself, assert that gay rights have ‘made us dumber.’”

Those protesting at DePaul -- in a rally outside and during the disruption -- said Yiannopoulos was engaged in hate speech that made minority and other students feel unsafe and unwelcome at their own institution. They argued that Yiannopoulos shouldn’t have been invited.

The DePaul protesters grew in ranks, and the College Republicans who organized the talk were unable to regain control of the event. The event was cut short.

For free speech advocates on both sides of the political spectrum, the event was fraught with tension: What happens when a protest prevents an event from taking place and blocks ideas from being heard?

DePaul’s president, the Reverend Dennis Holtschneider, was out of town during the event, but was briefed on it.

“Generally, I do not respond to speakers of Mr. Yiannopoulos’s ilk, as I believe they are more entertainers and self-serving provocateurs than the public intellectuals they purport to be,” he said in a statement.
And yet: “Those who interrupted the speech were wrong to do so,” he continued. “Universities welcome speakers, give their ideas a respectful hearing and then respond with additional speech countering the ideas.”

**Speech and Safety**

Six days before Yiannopoulos’s speech, a group of Jewish students at the University of California at Irvine gathered for a film screening. Called *Beneath the Helmet*, the film documents the lives of five Israeli soldiers.

In the middle of screening, a group of student protesters appeared outside the classroom door.

“This was not a peaceful demonstration,” said Lisa Armony, executive director of Hillel Orange County. “This was an angry, screaming, large group of people trying to get into a room of students sitting and watching a movie.”

Armony called the police.

So did one of the students who had been watching the film and who had gone into the hall to make a phone call before the protesters showed up. “She got scared and tried to get back into the room to be with us,” Armony said, “and they wouldn't let her in.” According to Armony, the student hid in a nearby classroom until she felt it was safe. After police arrived, the group finished the film. According to Hillel Orange County, one police officer remained in the room until the film was over, at which point police officers escorted the students to their cars.

Law enforcement officials and student affairs officials are conducting two parallel investigations. If the administration concludes that the protesters did disrupt the screening, they will be disciplined.

“We are not in the business of allowing folks to disrupt events,” said Thomas Parham, UC Irvine’s vice chancellor for student affairs. “We do not approve of free speech that seeks to shut down anyone else’s right to free speech.”

The Irvine chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine posted a note on its Facebook page that expressed pride in the protest but did not address the criticisms. "Today we successfully demonstrated against the presence of IDF soldiers on campus. We condemn the Israeli 'Defense' Forces, better defined as Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), because they enforce Zionist settler colonialism and military occupation of Palestinian land by the Israeli nation-state," the statement said. "Not only does the IOF commit murders and several violences against the Palestinian people, including its use of Gaza
as a laboratory for weapons testing, but it enforces militarization and policing all over the world. The United States send [sic] delegations of police forces to train in Israel by the IOF, such as the LAPD and NYPD for example. The presence of IDF and police threatened our coalition of Arab, black, undocumented, trans and the greater activist community. Thank you to all that came out and bravely spoke out against injustice.

The group has since posted a longer statement in which it says that actions that make minority or pro-Palestinian students feel unsafe are ignored, unlike the speedy reaction to the complaints last week. "In talking about providing a safe environment for all students on campus, administration’s double standards must be acknowledged," the statement said.

Jewish groups on campus had been holding a series of events that week. Administrators had anticipated some dissent, and they created a space near the events for protesting students to use. But according to Parham, the film screening was moved on campus at the last minute. If the administration had known about the event, it would have put proper security measures in place.

Predicting Protest
Shutting down a protest is tricky. When college authorities act too quickly, they infringe on the rights of peaceful demonstrators who are doing exactly what they’re taught to do, in these cases voicing peaceful opposition to a conservative writer or Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians. Even the sponsors of the events say that protests outside -- however strong the language used -- would have been a different matter.

“We’ve seen protests against events that were completely nondisruptive shut down inappropriately,” said Ari Cohn, a free speech lawyer at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. “But if those protests are disruptive to the extent where the students they are protesting against are not able to carry out their event, that’s when the university has to step in.”

Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education, said colleges should try to anticipate in advance whether an event or speaker might provoke a strong reaction. But still, that kind of anticipation is easier said than done. “You can't always predict what's going to happen,” he said. “It could start out as peaceful and become violent.”

But when student groups need more security, who pays for it? At UC Irvine, the Jewish groups did not have to pay for the extra security. But at DePaul, the College Republicans and Breitbart were required to contribute.
Now, Breitbart is demanding its money back. After paying the required fee, the organization is angry that security officials didn’t do more.

Cohn disagrees with any requirement that campus groups pay for security. While they aren’t required to provide the security themselves, he said, “colleges should not charge student groups for protecting themselves because somebody might protest at their event.”

Others say if nobody has an obligation to pay for security, students will be left in vulnerable situations.

“If we know that a certain speaker or event might increase the likelihood of some kind of violence, I think it’s reasonable to ask the sponsors to underwrite some of the security at that event,” Kruger said. “That’s been happening for decades.”

At DePaul, the College Republicans haven’t yet decided whether to reschedule the event, according to club member Benjamin Cohen. But going forward, they hope the university improves its policies. At UC Irvine, pro-Israel groups are trying to bring the film back to campus.

“The best thing we can see from the school as a response to this is a policy and commitment on the school’s end, from now going forward, that the school will take an active role in ensuring that events are allowed to proceed,” Cohen said.