Autism care improved, diagnosis time shortened by new MU program

Wait lists for a specialist to confirm an autism diagnosis can be agonizing and last months. As the prevalence of autism and autism spectrum disorders increase, so does the demand for a health care system that is fully equipped to respond to the complex needs associated with autism. **Now, Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Autism, a new program from the University of Missouri, is training primary care providers in best-practice care for autism spectrum disorders.** Initial results of the pilot program found significant improvements in primary care provider confidence in screening and management of autism and in utilization of specific tools and resources.

"We are very excited about the initial results from the ECHO Autism model," said Kristin Sohl, associate professor of child health and the director of ECHO Autism. "Children with autism can show symptoms as early as 12 months; however, in too many cases children may not receive a diagnosis until they are 5 years old. Early diagnosis is critical for children with autism, and primary care providers play an important role in that initial process."

The ECHO model connects primary care providers to academic medical centers using videoconferencing technology. This allows one-on-one training in diagnosis, screenings, treatment protocols and care management. The ECHO model was created by Sanjeev Arora, MD, from the University of New Mexico and first demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for hepatitis C and has expanded to address other complex medical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and addiction. Now, MU researchers have developed the first ECHO model to be applied to the care of children.
with autism in an effort to reduce disparities for underserved and rural children and their families.

"Currently there are not enough specialists to manage the number of children with autism who need health care," said Micah Mazurek, assistant professor of health psychology in the School of Health Professions and lead author of the study. "A real need exists to assist community-based health care providers as they help families get the answers they need without traveling or waiting to see a specialist. Preliminary data from the pilot program suggests ECHO Autism can help with that issue."

ECHO Autism clinics are conducted using high-quality secure video conferencing technology to connect participating primary care clinics to a panel of experts based at the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. The panel includes a pediatrician specializing in ASD, a clinical psychologist, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, a dietician, a social worker, and a parent of a child with autism. The primary care providers maintain responsibility for care of their patients using the expert panel to build skills and discuss issues.

In testing the pilot, researchers found that participating primary care providers demonstrated significant improvements in confidence across all domains of health care for children with autism--screening and identification, assessment and treatment of medical and psychiatric conditions, and knowledge of and referral to available resources. Future research on ECHO Autism is being conducted through the Autism Intervention Research Network for Physical Health and will expand the reach of the program to 10 additional academic centers connecting with primary care providers across the US and Canada.

ECHO Autism is a partnership between the MU Thompson Center for Autism, MU Health and the Missouri Telehealth Network Show-Me ECHO program. The study, "ECHO Autism: A New Model for Training Primary Care Providers in Best-Practice Care for Children with Autism," was published in Clinical Pediatrics. The program received financial support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network, the Leda J. Sears Charitable Trust and the WellCare Innovation Institute.
Mizzou loses third dean in a week
By Koran Addo St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The University of Missouri-Columbia has lost its third dean in a span of a week.

Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, announced that he is leaving to take a job as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M-San Antonio.

O'Brien has been with the university 36 years, including 10 years as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He is scheduled to begin his new job July 15 in Texas.

O'Brien’s announcement follows two other departures.

On May 26, Thomas Payne, dean of the university’s College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, announced that he will retire at the end of the year.

The next day, Gary Myers, dean of the Law School, announced his resignation effective Aug. 14.

The departures come as Mizzou is expecting its smallest freshman class in nearly a decade.

The university announced last month that the number of students paying freshman tuition deposits — a key indicator of fall enrollment — has decreased by 1,470 compared with last year.

School officials say the university could have a freshman class of fewer than 5,000 students for the first time since 2007.
Mizzou enrolled 7,600 freshmen last fall.

University leaders blame the drop-off on two main factors: fewer high school students in the pipeline, and last year's protests.

School administrators say they've been seeing less interest from out-of-state students, and recruiters are hearing more concerns from students in the Chicago area, in particular.

University of Missouri's O'Brien third dean to leave position

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 11:00 am

The University of Missouri lost its third dean in less than a week Tuesday when Michael O’Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, said he would leave to take a job as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M-San Antonio.

MU Provost Garnett Stokes sent an email to university administrative staff, deans and members of the Faculty Council announcing O’Brien’s departure. She praised O’Brien for his 36 years at the university, including $53 million in fundraising for the college the past two years.

“We’re indebted to Mike for his work in the college and his leadership as he directed the largest college at MU for 10 years,” Stokes wrote.

O’Brien’s departure comes at a time when the College of Arts and Science — the largest school on campus — faces a major drop in enrollment and budget cuts that salary and hiring freezes. Arts and Science boasted 9,400 undergraduate and graduate students this past fall.

The number of high school seniors who applied for admission to the school fell by 1,038, and the number of students who made a deposit dropped by 520 for the coming school year.

O’Brien could not be reached for comment Wednesday morning.
The two other deans stepping down are Gary Myers, dean of the MU School of Law, and Thomas Payne, who announced he would retire in December as dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

O’Brien began his career at MU in 1980 as an assistant professor of anthropology and director of the American Archaeology Division, the research arm of the anthropology department. He later was named director of the Museum of Anthropology and joined the dean’s staff as associate dean for research. O’Brien was promoted to full professor in 1989.

O’Brien was named dean of the College of Arts and Science in 2006. In 2012, he was a finalist for the position of provost at Louisiana State University.

O’Brien will begin his new job July 15 at the newly established school. Texas A&M-San Antonio began offering classes in 2009.

With about 5,000 students, it is close to half the size of the College of Arts and Science. In a news release about O’Brien’s appointment, Texas A&M-San Antonio President Cynthia Teniente-Matson said O’Brien has “high-caliber talent and leadership experience” and that his appointment “will sustain the momentum we have built as we advance the goals outlined in our comprehensive expansion strategic plan.”

O’Brien has written or edited 26 books and more than 150 scholarly articles. He is a native of Texas who received his undergraduate degree from Rice University and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin.

In her email, Stokes said she would seek campus input before an interim dean is named and that O’Brien’s permanent replacement would be selected after a national search.

JUNE 1, 2016 5:28 PM

Third University of Missouri dean says he's stepping down

Another University of Missouri dean at the Columbia campus is stepping down.

*The Associated Press*
COLUMBIA, MO. - **Another University of Missouri dean at the Columbia campus is stepping down.**

The school's provost said in a Tuesday email to staff that College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O'Brien is resigning.

Provost Garnett Stokes said O'Brien is joining Texas A&M University-San Antonio as provost and vice president for academic affairs. He starts July 15.

He joined the Columbia faculty in 1980 as an assistant professor of anthropology. O'Brien began as dean in 2006.

He's the third dean in roughly the past week to announce plans to resign.

Law School Dean Gary Myers announced that he'll step down in August. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Dean Thomas Payne said he's considered retiring for years and will step down in December for family reasons. He's been dean since 1999.

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**University of Missouri looking to fill three dean positions**

School says departures are a timely coincidence

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Three University of Missouri deans have announced their resignation in the past week.**

Michael O'Brien, dean of College of Arts and Science, announced Tuesday he was stepping down from his position to take a job as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M - San Antonio.

His resignation is effective July 15. O'Brien has been the dean at the College of Arts and Science since 2006 and has worked at the university since 1980.

Last week, Thomas Payne, dean of College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, announced he would be retiring in December.
Gary Myers, dean of Missouri Law School announced May 27, he would be stepping down from his position, but continue working within the law school as a professor.

His resignation came after a lawsuit involving an open records request was filed by a former state representative.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said Myers decision to step down as dean had nothing to do with the lawsuit.

Ken Dean will take over as interim dean starting August 15.

Basi said interim positions for O'Brien and Payne haven't been decided yet. He said the university will hold a national search to fill the dean positions. Basi said this process could take several months and the positions may not be filled by the upcoming fall semester.

He said it's a coincidence that several departures have happened in this time frame. He adds the deans are all stepping down for various reasons.

Since 2014, seven MU deans have resigned from their positions. Patrick Delafontaine left his spot as dean of the School of Medicine in September 2015, but returned in February 2016.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Stewart to take over as vice chancellor of MU Extension

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm

The new leader of University of Missouri Extension will be Marshall Stewart, director of college leadership and strategy at North Carolina State University, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a news release Tuesday.

Stewart will start as vice chancellor of extension and engagement on Aug. 15. He will take over for Linda Turner, interim vice provost and director of extension since April.

Stewart, who holds a doctorate in education and two other degrees from North Carolina State University, has been an educator since 1986, beginning as a high school agriculture teacher. He
joined the faculty at North Carolina State University in 1996 and has been in his current position since 2012.

MU Extension supports continuing education, business development, agriculture and conservation through local councils across the state.

“I’m very happy to be joining a great university that has great talent, great people and great leadership,” Stewart said in a news release. “Through my work, I have been exposed to cooperative extension divisions throughout the nation, and Mizzou has one of the best commitments to extension that I have ever experienced.”

The previous head of extension, Michael Ouart, stepped down in May 2015.

Marshall Stewart Named New MU Vice Chancellor of Extension and Engagement

The University of Missouri will soon have one fewer interim administrator. Interim chancellor Hank Foley announced today that Marshall Stewart will take over as vice chancellor of extension and engagement at MU. Stewart is currently at North Carolina State University, where he serves as a special assistant to the dean.

Steve Ball, who headed the search committee that chose Stewart, says the N.C. State graduate was exactly what the committee was looking for: a strong communicator and motivator with plenty of experience.

“Everyone he encountered spoke positively about their interactions with him,” Ball said. “I’m excited for this new era.”

Stewart’s hire comes during a turbulent time for the UM system, where the president, chancellor and several other administrators are serving in an interim capacity. Despite this, Stewart says there’s an excellent foundation at MU for growth.
“Every institution, be it in higher education or any other part of the public arena, always has difficult times,” Stewart said, adding that “it’s how you handle them.”

Stewart will officially assume his position on Aug. 15. He says it will take some time to get used to his surroundings, but he’s excited to hash out his priorities.

“The University of Missouri is a great institution,” he said, “and people need to remember that.”

Curators' committee reviews University of Missouri Health Care finances

By Caitlin Campbell

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri Health Care’s financial health is good, officials told a new Board of Curators committee.

The Health Affairs Committee, which held its first meeting on Tuesday, was formed to help oversee the health care operations of the university system, Curator Pamela Henrickson said. The committee has five members: Henrickson, Curators Phil Snowden and John Phillips, Commerce Bank President Teresa Maledy and Ron Ashworth of Mercy International Association.

The group reviewed year-to-date financial reports from MU Health Care and University Physicians and questioned officials about some of the figures in the reports.

Snowden said MU Health’s financial performance looked good, with the number of discharges, deliveries and emergency room visits growing over previous years. Reports show the numbers of nearly every service performed have increased from previous years.

Although most of MU Health hospitals’ services grew, Snowden noted an abnormal decline in the number of inpatient surgeries compared to the previous year. The decline is about 9 percent of what was budgeted, or 350 fewer surgeries than the previous year at the same time.

MU Health CEO Mitch Wasden said normally the number of surgeries the hospital performs is flat from year to year, but the loss of “two key, high-volume surgeons” caused a significant drop
in the number of people who wanted surgeries performed at MU. Finding experienced
replacements can take from six to 12 months, he said.

“It’s just a matter of replacing them” to fix the decline, Wasden said.

University of Missouri System Counsel Robert Hess said MU Health Care revenue is up about 6
percent, or $34 million ahead of budget projections, mirroring growth seen last year. The system
also has about 212 days worth of cash on hand — or roughly $425 million, he said.

“Our days cash on hand is very strong ... but we are striving to get to 225 days to follow”
Moody’s Investors Service’s financial benchmark for an “A” rating, he said.

Phillips said he wants the system’s health care operations to keep its “A” bond rating and
wondered if the rating was contingent on the health of the university system as a whole.

UM System Vice President for Finance Brian Burnett said the bond rating is the same for the
entire University of Missouri System. The hospitals “don’t have an independent rating because
all their debt is system-issued debt,” Burnett said.

Standard & Poor’s downgraded its outlook on the UM System’s credit from stable to negative
earlier this year but did not downgrade the system’s rating. At the time, S&P cited turnover in
university leadership brought on by a tumultuous fall semester.

Burnett and other UM officials said then that the downgraded outlook had more to do with the
university taking on more debt for building and infrastructure projects.

Wasden said the financial state of health care operations looks stable and that the focus is on
investing money in training leaders and keeping up with the changing industry.

“Our focus for the future is really becoming an iconic destination for medicine in the community
here,” Wasden said. “We’ve done that recently with the launch of several programs” such as the
Missouri Orthopaedic Institute.

Mizzou Magazine to reduce distribution
in the coming fiscal year
PEYTON STABLEFORD

COLUMBIA — Mizzou Magazine, a publication of the Mizzou Alumni Association, will cut
back on its distribution in the wake of MU budget cuts.
The decrease in distribution will be in effect for one year and is expected to save the Mizzou Creative department $65,000 in the coming fiscal year, said Karen Pojmann, editor of the magazine.

Pojmann said that once the budget cuts were in place, the magazine decided it had to make changes.

"It's very unusual for an alumni magazine to be sent to all alumni free of charge," she said. "We've been doing it for many years because we think it is important to communicate with all alumni, but this year, due to budget cuts, we can't do that, unfortunately."

Mizzou Magazine is affected by two budgets: Mizzou Creative, which includes the staff that produces the magazine, and the Mizzou Alumni Association, which helps fund the printing and distribution of the magazine.

The magazine was previously published quarterly and mailed to members of the Mizzou Alumni Association and all alumni for which it has addresses, including those who live abroad. Pojmann said the magazine is distributed to about 225,000 alumni for free.

The new plan is to publish the magazine three times in fiscal year 2017. The fall issue will go to all alumni, while the winter and spring/summer issues will be distributed only to members of the Mizzou Alumni Association, which comprises about 45,000 people, Pojmann said. All content will continue to be available online.

Wally Pfeffer, a member of the Mizzou Alumni Association since 1983 and a board member of its Boone County chapter, said the change in distribution will not affect his reading of the magazine, but it does present some concerns.

"The sad thing about this is that the university has used the magazine as a tool to reach out to all alumni on a regular basis about the good things that are going on," he said. "If all alumni only receive this once a year, it will be much more difficult to convey that message to everyone."
He said alumni will now have to turn to the internet, newsletters and social media to stay informed.

Pfeffer said the majority of alumni he interacts with are paying members, so while they will be disappointed in only receiving three publications this year, he thinks they will understand the financial concerns. He mainly worries about how MU would be able to keep alumni connected to the school.

Pfeffer said he did see a potential silver lining to the situation, though.

"On the flip side, it may make it more attractive to be a member," he said.

Pojmann said the staff will continue to work hard to produce content. No jobs at the magazine will be affected by the cuts.

Writer Erik Potter said he didn't expect any change in his day-to-day work.

"We're still producing the same magazine. It will just go to fewer people," he said. "I think members still care about all the stories we have told."

Pojmann also said that the magazine will stay the same.

"We plan to put out the same size magazine, and we plan to make it the same quality," she said.

**The colliding of the American mind:**
University protesters believe they are fighting
for justice; their critics think free speech in peril

VISITING some American universities these days feels like touring the scene of an earthquake, or a small war. Though administrators insist the protests that dominoed across campuses in the past year were therapeutic, grievances seethe. Fears for jobs, and of harm—both reputational and physical—endure. “The campus is traumatised,” says Reuben Faloughi, one of the leaders of the protests which, last November, forced the University of Missouri’s president to resign.

As Mr Faloughi knows, some external observers “just think the kids got upset and had a fit”: that these disturbances conform to the old quip about academic quarrels being so vicious because the stakes are so low. That view is mistaken, and not only because of the impact on the participants. As Eshe Sherley, an activist at Yale, says, “Things that happen in the university don’t just stay there.” Rather, the people and ideas they produce ripple across the country. And just as the energy and issues involved are bound to spread beyond campus, they did not originate there either.

The protesters believe they are pursuing social and racial justice, in part by changing the way America remembers its past—debates that are convulsing the country at large. For others the right at stake is freedom of speech, a principle imperilled around the world. As Nicholas Christakis, a Yale professor caught up in the turmoil, puts it: “If we can’t get that right at our elite universities, we’re doomed.” How far these values are compatible, and whether their advocates can listen to each other, are quandaries these events have dramatised.

The students are revolting

New-wave feminists and sexuality campaigners have added to the ruckus. So too have supporters and opponents of Israel, in a row that typifies how protecting one group’s rights can allegedly impinge on another’s. The Amcha Initiative, for example, aims to combat anti-Semitism at American universities, a job Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, its director, thinks the authorities are often unwilling to do. She wants them to decry prejudice against Jews as they would other forms of bigotry. Yet the initiative has been accused of stifling free expression. Official disapproval of the kind she seeks is, for some, tantamount to censorship; in the overlap between criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism, the line between legitimate and hateful opinion is contested.

Still, the main grievance racking American campuses is alleged racism. Several student groups demand more pluralistic curriculums, cultural-awareness training for staff, more diverse faculties and extra facilities for minorities. The flashpoints have sometimes been ugly. At Yale, after Erika Christakis, who is Dr Christakis’s wife and was then a residential college’s associate master, suggested in an e-mail that students might be allowed to pick and police their own Halloween costumes, the couple were cruelly harassed. In Missouri student protesters barricaded and obstructed journalists; some professors lent a hand. Demonstrators at Princeton occupied the office of its president, Christopher Eisgruber. “They took quite good care of it,” he says, adding that threats to the students led the university to consult the FBI.
Some of these tactics are thuggish; thuggery, moreover, committed over seemingly piffling complaints. For instance, with its hammocks strung between blossoming trees, the courtyard of Yale’s Silliman College—where students claiming to feel endangered jeered Dr Christakis—is idyllic, despite its proximity to gritty bits of New Haven. Taken in isolation, these incidents can seem the lamentable fruit of modernity’s least appetising traits: mollycoddling parenting, a sub-Freudian narcissism, a hypochondriacal sense of entitlement and a social-media ecosystem that reinforces insularity and cultivates an expectation of instant response. As Mr Eisgruber says, recent demands “often involve an expectation of immediacy” that a slow college bureaucracy is ill-equipped to satisfy.

Those YouTube highlights, however, are a caricature. Clumsy and excitable as these demonstrations have sometimes been, dismissing them all as trivial is lazy. Peter Salovey, Yale’s president, notes that within a week of the Halloween kerfuffle, students were discussing broader concerns. Belittling them all as “crybullies” or “snowflake” protesters (for their exquisite fragility) ignores the breadth of their outlook, which is generally more historical than parochial. This wave of student activism coincides with the Black Lives Matter phenomenon, and they evince a shared rage at racialised political rhetoric and police abuses, to which even Ivy League students, or their families, can be exposed.

“We feel unsafe here,” says Ms Sherley at Yale, “like we feel unsafe everywhere.” Last year, for example, a black student at Yale, who happened to be the son of a New York Times columnist, was detained at gunpoint outside the library. Even the gripe about Halloween costumes is tangentially related: the stereotypes they reinforce—of black people as gangsters, say—can contribute to real-world injustice, the students argue. They know that today’s biases do not match up to full-blown segregation. Still, as Brea Baker, head of the Yale chapter of the NAACP, a black lobby group, says, “Better doesn’t mean good.”

Woodrow must wobble

Students and their sympathisers think that free speech is sometimes invoked to deflect these claims; or, so Princeton’s Black Justice League maintains, as a “justification for the marginalisation of others”. Echoing debates over memorials across the nation, many students have demanded that the slavery-tainted names of college buildings be changed. Some Princetonians want the public-policy school to honour someone other than Woodrow Wilson, a president who was a segregationist, albeit an idealistic promoter of world peace. Some Yalies object to Calhoun College commemorating a pro-slavery ideologue and statesman.

These requests are regarded by others as efforts to sanitise history. Announcing its recent decision to retain Calhoun’s name, Yale said that doing so would serve as a teaching aid. Princeton, too, has chosen to keep Wilson’s name, though a dining-hall mural of him, smiling and holding a baseball, has been scrubbed out. Both made compensating offers of explicatory artwork and exhibitions, while Yale promised to name a new college after Pauli Murray, a civil-rights leader. Whatever the merits of these demands—stronger in the case of Calhoun—they are not an infringement of free speech but an exercise of it. After all, whom institutions choose to celebrate and how they depict the past are choices to be debated, not immutable facts.
For all that, free speech is hardly a red herring. One ominous turn lies in the claim made by some protesters for the supremacy of their subjective judgments. Ms Baker argues that black people know best when they are being racially demeaned in the same way that women can best distinguish between a compliment and harassment. That may often be true. White, middle-aged deans would be rash to secondguess the experiences of black youngsters.

The powerful riposte is that, to function, society relies on impartial adjudication of wrongs, especially in an era of multiculturalism, with its attendant frictions. Prejudice may indeed abound, but for officials to intervene it must be proven, not merely alleged. In any case, the idea that any group’s experience is inaccessible to others is not just pessimistic but anti-intellectual: history, anthropology, literature and many other fields of inquiry are premised on the faith that different sorts of people can, in fact, understand each other.

Next consider the swelling range of opinion deemed to fall outside civilised discourse. To be sure, some opinions do, and the boundary shifts with time. The trouble now, says Zach Wood, a student at Williams College in Massachusetts, is that many people want to banish views that remain widely held among their compatriots, believing that, on neuralgic topics such as homosexuality, “It’s all said and done.” He runs a campus group that hosts challenging speakers. “Silence does nothing,” he reasons. Two of its invitations—to Suzanne Venker, author of “The War on Men”, and John Derbyshire, a racist provocateur—have recently been rescinded: Ms Venker was disinvited under pressure from other students, Mr Derbyshire by the college’s leadership. Mr Wood has been insulted, ostracised and (he is black) told he has “sold out his race”. Other prominent figures deterred or blocked from addressing university audiences include Condoleezza Rice, a former secretary of state, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former Muslim, and Jason Riley, an African-American journalist who wrote a book called “Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder For Blacks To Succeed”.

Activists are entitled to their protests. But when, as at Williams, they decry counter-arguments as tantamount to violence, they stray into censorship. On campuses across America not only have speakers been disinvited or shouted down for espousing assorted heresies (a practice known as “no-platforming” in Britain); administrators have also been urged to dismiss staff who, like the Christakises, are held to have transgressed. Dissenters, and those who simply worry about saying the wrong thing, are increasingly inclined to keep their mouths shut. Much to their bafflement, the targets are often themselves left-leaning.

This creeping intolerance chimes with the paternalism of “trigger warnings”, whereby students are alerted to potentially upsetting passages in novels or other texts, as if solidarity in suffering were not one of art’s chief purposes. Theoretically, if not yet in practice, trigger warnings may oust great literature in favour of socialist-realist tedium. Then there are “safe spaces”, dedicated sanctuaries in which minorities can recuperate. Sebastian Marotta, a student who is part of a Princeton free-speech group, reckons a movement avowedly committed to diversity may perversely result in “self-segregation based on beliefs and identity”. As Ms Christakis summarised in her ill-fated Halloween e-mail, others fear that, with the connivance of teachers and their overlords, America’s universities “have become places of censure and prohibition”.

At the heart of this dispute is the role of the university itself. Should it shield youngsters from the fraught world they will soon enter or, by exposing them to its affronts, prepare them for it? This has a corollary: whether a student is an adult, or an in-between needing special protection and privileges (such as the right to spend a lot of time in the library and getting drunk). All of the above, say diplomatic university bosses. Some students, though, seem to emphasise incubation over preparation; hence their requests for more reprimands and intrusion, for supposedly improving bans and rules. What really distinguishes them from their predecessors, say their critics, is not solipsism, impatience or a certainty that can slide from admirable passion into self-righteousness, but the expectation that all their problems should be magicked away. Whereas, as Dr Christakis says, universities “cannot readily deliver utopia, much as we might want to”.

The new activism thus illustrates what, beyond the groves of academe, may be America’s biggest political problem: opponents’ rising tendency to talk past each other, so that disagreement escalates into conflict. Nevertheless, beyond the viral clips, for those who care to notice there are signs this divide can partially be bridged.

The students’ new-fangled vocabulary, such as the perpetual admonition of “privilege” and “micro-aggressions”, often mystifies their elders. Yet buried within the jargon are old-fashioned values that the most conservative fogy could embrace. Cultural “re-education” sounds Maoist, but helping staff to cope with students from different backgrounds is common sense. Campus Jewish centres are well-established “safe spaces”, to which no one much objects; places where minorities are able to feel inconspicuous or comfortable are perfectly sound ideas, provided people do not spend all their time in them. If sparingly deployed, trigger warnings, too, can be benign. A gentle alert to the impending description of rape, for example, may be less liberal craziness than good manners.

In the aftermath of the nastiness towards journalists at the University of Missouri, Mr Faloughi and others distributed flyers around campus urging students to respect the media and the First Amendment. “We’re students, we don’t know everything,” Mr Faloughi acknowledges. Yet sometimes, when they identify injustices that society has blithely tolerated, or opportunities for progress it has missed, angry students can turn out to be right.
COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The University of Missouri-Columbia will host an effort this weekend to collect scrap tires, electronic waste, and household hazardous waste.**

The collection will be at the Hearnes Center on June 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Organizers ask people to enter parking lot N via Providence Road onto Mick Deaver Drive, south of the football stadium. Early drop-offs are not allowed.

Farms and homes from Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Moniteau, and Osage counties may participate.

There will be no charge for disposal of household waste (commercial waste will not be accepted).

For tires, there will be a $2 charge per car tire - 16 inches or smaller - with or without rims. There will be a $10 charge per truck or tractor tire - larger than 16 inches - with or without rims. Cash or checks are accepted.

For electronic waste, there will be a $10 charge for each cathode ray tube monitor or television, digital light processing monitors, and projection TVs. There will be no charge for all other appliance and electronic waste items, including flat screen televisions. All electric and battery-operated items will be accepted.