MU Vet School opens facility for large animals


By Emily McCarter

**Generated from News Bureau Media Advisory**

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine is expanding with the grand opening of its Large Animal Ambulatory Facility on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. John Middleton, a professor of food animal medicine and surgery, said the free event is open to the public and will consist of a ribbon-cutting ceremony plus a tour of the facility.

"Our objective is just to launch the building and make people aware of the building and demonstrate what we're doing with these large animal funds to improve our program and our facilities," Middleton said.

According to the Veterinary Health Center's press release, "The Large Animal program strives to provide the highest standard of medical and surgical care to their patients and has served the area, state and region for nearly seven decades."

Large animals are livestock, such as sheep, goats, pigs and cows. Horses and donkeys are also considered large animals.

Middleton said over his past 16 years of working at the College of Veterinary Medicine, it has increased from 65 to about 120 students per class. The ambulatory facility is meant to accommodate the growth in student enrollment.

"It provides them hands-on experience with things that they will see when they go into private practice," Middleton said. "And it provides them with a different skill set than a hospital situation where you've got nice facilities for restraints."
Along with providing students more hands-on experience, the facility has a garage for ambulatory vehicles, a community office and a 50-seat classroom on the second floor.

"It makes sense if you've got a building with a 5,000 square foot footprint, then you might as well do something with the upper floor to accommodate more people," Middleton said.

He said the project cost about 2.5 million dollars. The money came from general operating funds that support the large animal program.

"It's given us space that was becoming very difficult to find," he said.

Middleton said he is hopeful MU's veterinary programs will continue to grow, so staff can use the ambulatory facility in multi-functional ways.

**MU departments near deadline to supply funds for $20 million shortfall**


By Alyssa Toomey

**MU division, department and college leaders are nearing the deadline to decide how they will contribute their share of funds to make up the university's $20 million shortfall for the current fiscal year.**

As ABC 17 News reported in January, Governor Eric Greitens withheld millions of dollars for higher education, including $20 million from the University of Missouri.

Last month, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley released a full breakdown of the withholdings for each college, school and division. The deadline to contribute those funds is April 28.

Many departments, such as the College of Agriculture, are dipping into reserve funds to come up with their share of the money.
"It's hard to really say what the impact is, but we know there will be an impact when those reserves are less than what they are today," Bill Wiebold, Division of Plants and Sciences professor told ABC 17 News. "We did get an email message from our dean and about $800,000 was going to be covered by the dean's office and the balance would be coming to our divisions."

MU spokesperson Christian Basi told ABC 17 News that some departments and divisions chose not to fill open positions in order to save money. He said some capital projects have also been put on hold. In the Division of Operations, he said a significant amount of funds will come from things like parking maintenance.

Meanwhile, university leaders are already making preparations for fiscal year 2018. UM System President Dr. Mun Choi has said he expects $57 million in cuts to permanent funding. He has said the cuts may require some programs to be eliminated.

"It's difficult to tell a program that they may not be the top priority. That's hard. But if we don't have it [the conversation] then someone else is going to make those decisions," Wiebold said.

While Wiebold admitted he's a little nervous about the future, he said these preparations are necessary in order to ensure the university's success.

"What we're really trying to do is get prepared to hand this university off to the next generation...we have a responsibility to not only to them and taxpayers to do things in the most efficient, most appropriate way. It takes hard decisions, but we can do it," he said.

Fiscal year 2018 begins July 1, 2017.
Please note: Certain Columbia Tribune clips are posted in print before being published online. This is the print version of the story.

Editorial

The Tribune's View

Health care merger

A new day for Columbia/Boone County

Now that the election of Boone Hospital Center trustees is over, it's time to renew attention to the abiding question of Boone/MU Hospital collaboration.

In recent years, changes in health care delivery have transformed the benefits of such a merger from an eventual potential to an immediate opportunity. Almost everyone with intimate knowledge of the situation now believes collaboration between Boone and the university can offer serious financial and quality opportunities that principals in both camps are actively interested in pursuing.

The election kept the ball rolling. The two successful Boone Hospital trustees, Bob Wagner and Randy Morrow, spoke favorably of merger prospect during their campaigns. The two other viable candidates, Gordon Christensen and Taylor Burks, were just as enthusiastic. All the while sitting Boone trustees were discussing their impending decision whether to renew and extend the lease with BJC Health Services of St. Louis and if not, which of several alternatives should be considered — signing a lease similar to the one with BJC with one of two applicants from outside, operating the hospital as a stand-alone enterprise under local management or collaboration with the university.

It's safe to say the favored option is working with the university if details can be managed.

It should not be necessary to keep repeating the advantages of a Boone/MU blend, but it's important for local citizens to absorb the
idea more fully. On any number of fronts that will become more
evident as discussions continue, a joint operation makes sense.
For instance, temporarily both hospitals are unable to provide
service in a particular area resulting in referral of patients out
of town even though the other local hospital could receive the
referral. Duplication of facilities, equipment and services could be
avoided. Effective collaboration will create a lot of new business
revenue for the entire community.
As soon as possible, hospital officials should publicize the
benefits and challenges of collaboration. Details will have to be
worked out, but hospital mergers of this type are not new. Since
this one involves two public institutions it should be easier to
focus on benefits to the public. It's no secret health care providers,
including hospitals and doctors, face changing times. People
in the professions increasingly say collaborations like the one
contemplated here can provide a more secure environment for
practitioners.
This is an exciting moment for the community. There may be
some pushback but if I am any judge, our community is more ready
for this discussion than ever before. Let's have it.

HJWIII
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Two days after the Missouri State Auditor’s office released a report showing the University of Missouri System paid top executives and administrators roughly $2.3 million in inappropriate bonuses, state Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby, criticized the university system during a meeting with three Board of Curators nominees.

“We don’t give bonuses in the state of Missouri on any level of government, so this is very troubling for me what we’re seeing, and I’m glad you’re taking it to heart,” Hegeman said to one nominee, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune. “Even if it’s legal, it may not be the right thing to do.”

Amid public and legislative scrutiny, newly appointed UM System President Mun Choi ended the executive compensation program on March 10.

But we were interested in looking into Hegeman’s claim that public money is not used for employee bonuses in other areas of the state.

When asked to elaborate on the claim, Drew Dampf, a spokesman for Hegeman, said the state senator was speaking from his experience working in government at both the county and state levels, where giving out bonus pay is not standard practice.

In fact, Article III, Section 39 of the Missouri Constitution states that any unearned, extra compensation given after a service has already been rendered is unlawful. The UM System audit found that the executive compensation program appeared to violate that section along with the Attorney General’s Opinion No. 72-1955, which extends the law on bonus pay to all government agencies within the state.

But the audit also noted a distinct difference between bonus pay and incentive pay.

“While the use of an incentive program may be allowable if implemented and executed appropriately, the absence of consistent documentation about performance goals to be met and the lack of defined objective criteria to determine the achievement of incentives gives the appearance the payments represent additional compensation for past performance,” the audit read.
In other words, incentives are predetermined in an employment contract and have specific requirements to be met in order to receive payments, State Auditor Nicole Galloway said. Bonuses reward extra compensation for work the employee was already expected to perform.

Whether a violation has occurred at the state or the local level, it is up to law enforcement agencies to decide if any legal actions should be taken.

“Sometimes we find things that are clear violations, but we don’t have power to seek any legal enforcement,” Galloway told PolitiFact Missouri. “It can be very frustrating sometimes.”

Bonus pay is not something a government body would broadcast to the public, so it’s tough to tell whether the same thing is happening anywhere else in the state.

Gena Terlizzi, a spokeswoman for the auditor’s office, said the office had not identified other concerns with bonus or incentive pay at the state level since Galloway assumed the office in April 2015. However, Terlizzi provided examples of several recent local audits that included findings that appeared to violate Article III, Section 39.

Problems at the local level

There are dozens of local government audits over the past decade showing various bonuses paid to employees and contractors. Terlizzi pointed out the five most recent examples:

- In December 2014 and 2015, the Huntsville City Council approved year-end bonuses for all city employees. Full-time employees with more than a year of service received $100, while half-time employees and those with under a year of service received $50. In total, $2,000 in bonus pay was handed out each year.
- A 2016 audit of Buck Prairie Road District in Lawrence County gave a poor rating to the district’s budgetary system. A myriad of problems were identified, including $207,000 paid to three district employees over two years when the total should have been about $156,000, according to the district's payroll system. In violation of Article III, Section 39, the road district’s three employees were paid bonuses of more than $2,000 per person in November 2014. These bonuses were given the label “special” payments in the district’s accounting system.
- Marion County Services for the Developmentally Disabled received a slap on the wrist in April 2016 for its financial documentation procedures. In addition, the services department spent $1,420 on 46 gift cards in 2014-2015 and $420 for small gifts and cash payments to reward employees for their work. The department had already been called out in a prior audit for similar misuse of funding.
- Henry County was also unfazed by previous audits when State Auditor Nicole Galloway released a statement in December 2015 saying the office found the county failed to implement the office’s recommendations in two prior audits. The county received a rating of “poor” that year. Along with many other reporting and documentation issues, the county paid $1,000 in bonuses to seven employees.
- In November 2015, the Village of Leasburg, in Crawford County, also received a “poor” rating. Nearly $10,000 was missing from the village’s budget from 2011-2013, and the auditor’s office was unable to figure out exactly who was responsible due to outdated record and documentation management. In addition, several employees were given bonuses or were paid for hours they had not worked, including $350 Christmas bonuses paid to village employees and reserve police
officers in December 2013. No documentation or reasoning was given for $3,505 paid to the Board of Trustees chairperson’s son in 2013.

**Past issues at the state level**

The former state auditor, John Watson, found an instance in 2012 when a Missouri Department of Transportation employee received a $30,000 reimbursement from the department for a loss on a sale of the employee's property. The audit defined such a reimbursement as an impermissible extra compensation.

In 2009, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the state’s retirement fund doled out $300,000 in bonuses to its 14-member investment team and $160,000 in "one-time incentive payments" to 58 operations staffers despite the fact that the pension system had lost $1.8 billion in investments in 2008. State workers do not pay a portion of their salary to the pension program. Funding comes from taxpayers and investment earnings.

Then-Gov. Jay Nixon described the bonuses as "unconscionable" and criticized the department for establishing a bonus program that avoided transparency requirements.

In 2011, the Missouri State Employees Retirement System discontinued the operations staff incentive program and modified the investment staff incentive program.

**Our ruling**

Sen. Hegeman called out the UM System for its inappropriate use of public and tuition funding by contrasting it with the rest of the state.

“We don’t give bonuses in the state of Missouri on any level of government,” he said in a Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee meeting.

While it is true that state law forbids bonuses, several government agencies have given them and legal retribution is inconsistent.

Hegeman’s claim is accurate but needs clarification. We rate this claim Half True.
Researchers to study the effects of lead on songbird health in southeast Missouri

By Eli Chen

It’s been nearly 300 years since lead was first discovered in Missouri.

But the element's important role in the state's economy may come at a price to another natural resource. Scientists are planning to study the health effects of lead on local songbird populations.

The research, conducted by biologists at Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, will take place in the Southeast Missouri Lead District, which contains the world’s largest deposits of galena, an important source of lead.

Many of the region's lead mines have closed, but contamination from previous mining operations remains. Songbirds, such as robins and bluebirds, have become exposed to the metal through foraging for insects and worms that live in the dirt.

Ingesting lead could hurt the birds’ ability to breed, said Rebecka Brasso, an avian toxicologist at SEMO.

“Lead is a neurotoxin, so theoretically, any sort of physiological or neurological damage in an adult bird could impact their ability to care for their young,” Brasso said. “That could change the number of offspring they produce.”

Although researchers have long studied how lead exposure affects people, there has been little scientific research done on the effects of lead on songbirds and other wildlife. Brasso said it’s unknown what concentrations of the metal could be harmful to them.

Next month, she and her colleagues plan to set out nest boxes to collect birds for the study, then examine levels of lead in their blood and track the number and the health of their offspring. They will compare birds that live in contaminated areas to birds that don’t.

Brasso hypothesizes that birds with higher lead concentrations reproduce less successfully.

Songbirds overall have been declining in the United States for several decades. Brasso said they serve a significant role in the environment.
“A lot of songbirds eat insects throughout the entire summer, so they play a really significant role in maintaining insect populations,” she said. “If we lose them, who’s to say what could be the ramifications of that?”

Why Everyone Loves the Alpha Girl

By Melissa Dahl

An investigation into the joy and pain of fitting in: With this series, we’re exploring the pathologies, hierarchies, and quirks of female socialization from high school to the workplace and beyond.

You know the type. Depending on your age and/or preferred pop-culture reference, you might know her as the Rizzo, the Cher Horowitz, or the Regina George — the high-school alpha girl. She was popular and confident — and certainly beautiful, though looks were only part of her appeal. She was also casually rebellious, tending toward classic cool-kid pastimes: skipping class, smoking, drinking, partying. Her behavior probably horrified your parents and teachers, which is exactly what made being around her so thrilling. For years, social scientists have been studying her power. Just what is it that makes an alpha girl so magnetic? Is she born? Or created? And does she stay that way forever?

According to research, it’s no coincidence that alpha girls all start to come into their own in early adolescence. The very definition of popularity starts to change around that time. “In elementary school, the kids who are really well-liked and who are nice are also the kids who are popular,” said Amanda Rose, a psychology researcher at the University of Missouri. “But in middle school, this starts to change.” By the time high school starts, there are two kinds of popularity: There are the well-liked students, and then there is the emergence of a new group, which researchers call the high-status students — these are the ones who dominate their social groups, who are perhaps voted to the homecoming court, or are captain of the soccer team.

This distinction — between status and likability — is especially important in understanding the alpha girl over her teenage-boy counterpart. Alpha boys tend to be aggressive in physical ways, starting fights or pushing each other around, while alpha girls are more likely to act in relationally aggressive ways, spreading rumors or using the silent treatment. But the behaviors can be interchangeable; sometimes the guys gossip, and the girls fight. The most critical difference in how alpha-like traits manifest in men and women, research suggests, is how the other students react to those acts of aggression.
For girls, “the more aggressive you are, the less likable you will be. But it will make you more popular,” said Mitch Prinstein, a psychologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the author of the upcoming book *Popular: The Power of Likability in a Status-Obsessed World.* “For boys, a lot of them can be [high-status] and also well-liked at the same time. But that is so not the case for girls. The correlation between likability and status approaches zero for girls.” Alpha girls are admired and feared, but they’re not often liked.

Some alpha girls are born that way. It won’t surprise anyone to learn that the research confirms that attractive, athletic girls who come from higher-income families tend also tend to be in that high-status group. But others teach themselves how to become alphas, learning social skills from watching adults, or from their own experiences at a young age. “Even those very initial experiences back in preschool and kindergarten, each time you have a positive social experience, it kind of opens the door to new opportunities to learn increasingly sophisticated skills,” Prinstein said. They learn when to be a little aggressive to secure their status, and when to step back and let others get their way (or, at least, to let others think they’re getting their own way).

But perhaps more importantly, the reason alpha girls have such a hold over their peers may be at least partially explained by the neurological growth teenagers are experiencing. Teenage brains are highly attuned to social rewards, especially receiving positive feedback from their peers, and the popular kids — girls and guys — seem to be swimming in them. “So that makes us want to do whatever we can to be more like them,” Prinstein said. “[A teenager’s] sense of identity is coming from, If everyone else thinks I’m cool, then I am cool,” Prinstein said. “They can’t make the distinction between what I think of myself and what everyone else thinks of me — those are synonymous at this age.” But it’s not just anyone’s opinion that matters. For teenagers, as you’ll no doubt recall, their peers’ opinions mean everything. Their parents’ opinions, on the other hand, mean nothing — less than nothing. The farther they can get from anything adults approve of, the better. “There is even research that adolescent mice prefer to spend time with other adolescent mice before they will adult mice,” Prinstein added.

Hence the allure of the alpha girl. High-status teenagers, the research suggests, tend to behave in ways adults find inappropriate, which other teenagers find exhilarating. “They are on the fast track socially,” Joseph Allen, a psychologist at the University of Virginia, told me. “That means they’re the kids getting involved in romantic relationships earlier than their peers, they are getting involved in minor forms of delinquency.” They skip class, they dabble in drugs, they go to parties. They are, in a word, cool. “That intimidates the other kids,” Allen said. “They make the other kids feel like they’re behind.”

Their daring, adult-like—but-not-adult-approved behavior is the reason they claim the dominant, central role in their friend groups, Allen explained. It goes back to the notion of teenage autonomy. “In adolescence, part of what they’re supposed to be doing is establishing independence from the adult world,” he said. So some of these risky behaviors — cool-kid teenage stuff like sex and drugs and minor offenses like shoplifting — are ways of saying, “these are things little kids don’t do. And I’m doing things my parents don’t like, which means I’m becoming independent,” Allen continued.
One might assume, as I did, that your high school’s alpha girl grew up to be the office alpha girl, too. But every researcher I talked to said the opposite; several of them, for that matter, pointed me toward a fascinating study led by Allen and published in 2014 in the journal *Child Development*, titled: “What ever happened to the ‘cool’ kids?” For that paper, Allen and his colleagues interviewed a group of teenagers — including the “high-status” ones, otherwise known as the popular kids — when they were seniors in high school, and then tracked them down and reinterviewed them ten years later. “And a decade later,” Allen tells me, “they’re not doing so well. They’re doing less well in romantic relationships, they’re more likely to have problems with alcohol use and criminal behavior.”

If you are an alpha in high school, in other words, you are not necessarily an alpha for life. The social skills the cool girls (and guys) learned in high school tend not to work very well after they leave. “They’ve gotten so much reward for this skill set and this way of acting among others [that] they become fixated on status as a measure of their worth,” Prinstein explained. “They see everything through a lens of status, constantly thinking about their relationships in a hierarchical way — am I dominant, or not?” Even ten years after graduation, he tells me, the cool kids are still “constantly looking for those signs and signals. But the rest of the world has moved on.”

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**Mass appeal: MU singers learning through experience of Marsalis work**

By Aarik Danielsen

The music that echoes through Jesse Auditorium Thursday night doesn’t qualify as preaching to the choir. It’s not really even preaching from the choir.

Instead it’s more like a choir taking its audience to church — jazz church — and sharing a moment together, regardless of background or belief. The University of Missouri’s Choral Union, University Singers and Concert Jazz Band will team with a gifted guest conductor and soloists to present Wynton Marsalis’ “Abyssinian Mass.”

One of jazz’s true household names, Marsalis wrote the work in 2008 for the 200th anniversary of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, N.Y. Composed for gospel choir and big band, the piece celebrates jazz’s status as a music of the people, and underscores the notion that even a church as impressive as Abyssinian is about the people, not the building.

“This composition digs deeply into what Marsalis would call ‘the soil’ of the black church: its shouts, its dirges, its spirituals, its hymns of praise,” NPR’s John Burnett wrote in 2013.
Leading performers through the work is Damien Sneed, who conducted the 2013 recording of Marsalis’ masterpiece. Sneed is a multi-dimensional artist who has worked in gospel, jazz, pop and classical music and with everyone from Aretha Franklin to Stevie Wonder, Hezekiah Walker to the St. Louis Symphony. Accompanying Sneed to Columbia are the work’s original soloists: Patrice Eaton, Matia Washington, Justin Michael Austin and Djore Nance.

MU choral chief Paul Crabb sees the performance as an opportunity to practice what he has preached about diversity and the power of music to promote unity. This is only the second time in 14 years, he said, that the Choral Union has performed something jazz-related.

Crabb knew that to bring the work into being, the choir needed a shepherd who had different skills and experiences than his own. It has found that and more in Sneed.

“He’s a tremendous talent,” Crabb said. “... And he comes out of a tradition that I guarantee you I could not represent properly. I’ve learned a lot from the way he conducts, the way he interprets the music. It’s very spontaneous. It changes every time — and it’s by design that it changes every time. He gets a lot more energy in the room than most conductors we’ve seen.”

Sneed has also brought flexibility, encouraging give-and-take between the singers and jazz band. He has exhibited how jazz is a “morphing, evolving, living entity” that requires a different approach than the European canon of music Choral Union often performs, Crabb said.

The shape of Marsalis’ work emphasizes its substance. The piece emphasizes the strength found in a diverse but committed community. As such, he drew on a number of faith traditions — Christian, Jewish and Muslim; he also married jazz and gospel language with hymn-like passages and more exotic scales, Crabb said.

“The ‘Abyssinian Mass’ tries to cover a lot of different types of music and put them together and show how they come from one expression,” Marsalis told NPR’s Burnett, “as the mass itself is about everyone has a place in the house of God.”

That notion will be underscored in Thursday’s performance. The makeup of Choral Union is quite different than that of most gospel choirs. But in it, Crabb sees a group of people that wants to learn and has had important conversations not only about what it is singing, but how and why it is singing.

“To see people from 18 through 80-some working really hard and doing everything they can to try to experience it to their fullest, that’s a very cool thing,” he said. “When you see 150 people doing something together — they may be farmers, they may be lawyers, they may be freshman English majors, they may be retired doctors — and everybody is trying to do something that none of them could do without the other people there.”
Free Speech, Safety and the Constitution

NO MENTION

Officials at Auburn and Berkeley tried to stop two controversial speakers on campus but ended up reversing their decisions amid First Amendment concerns. Experts say it's difficult for public institutions to meet legal tests and keep speakers from campus.

By Jeremy Bauer-Wolf

April 21, 2017

Citing safety concerns, two universities this week attempted to block planned appearances at their campuses -- one from white nationalist Richard Spencer at Auburn University, the other from conservative political commentator Ann Coulter at University of California, Berkeley.

Both right-wing figures defied the universities, boasting they would show up regardless, and the institutions, both public, eventually said that they would allow the events, in Auburn’s case because a federal judge backed Spencer’s right to speak.

Spencer addressed Auburn’s campus Tuesday. Coulter has been invited to appear May 2, not April 27 as originally scheduled. Berkeley on Thursday reversed its initial announcement that Coulter couldn't come until the fall. Late Thursday, Coulter was tweeting that she was going to come on the original date, with or without the university's approval.

The decisions to cancel had been panned as a violation of free speech protections considered paramount on college campuses and protected, at public institutions, by the First Amendment.
Legal experts and academics say that public colleges and universities need to prove a real threat and meet a high standard of proof before invoking student and attendee welfare as a reason to curtail expression protected by the First Amendment.

“We have always been clear that colleges and universities bear the obligation to ensure conditions of peaceful discussion, which at times can be quite onerous. Only in the most extraordinary circumstances can strong evidence of imminent danger justify rescinding an invitation to an outside speaker,” the policy of the American Association of University Professors reads.

Recently, though, security issues have grown more complex at colleges as campus protests in some cases have devolved into preventing people from speaking and, in few cases, to violence. Last month, with the visit of controversial scholar Charles Murray to Middlebury College, the audience consistently interrupted Murray’s lecture with catcalls, eventually forcing him to livestream it from a private room. Afterward, a group donning bandannas cornered Murray and a Middlebury political science professor, pulling her hair and injuring her neck. When Murray was in a car, they climbed, jumped and stomped on it. The university said later the aggressors did not appear to be students.

At Berkeley in February -- explaining part of its concern with hosting Coulter -- a riot erupted ahead of a planned talk by divisive Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos, with protesters lighting fires and hurling rocks at police. Those protesters were also not affiliated with the university.

Demonstrating evidence of a true threat to the campus falls to the university, said Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Houston Law Center, and an expert in higher education law. Suing Alma Mater: Higher Education and the Courts (Johns Hopkins University Press) is among the books Olivas has written on higher education law.

Using safety or the cost of security as an excuse to bar a speaker, when the real reason concerns what the person might say, must be guarded against, Olivas said.
Contentious speakers like Spencer, a leader of the “alt-right,” a radical movement characterized by its white supremacist views, can exploit systems like Auburn’s to appear on campus, Olivas said. Auburn allows those not connected to the university to use its facilities, and indeed, the man who rented the auditorium for Spencer, Cameron Padgett, said he was a student from Georgia. He did not explain why he booked Spencer other than he wanted to create discourse. Student groups at Berkeley invited Coulter.

“It invites mischief … and certainly provides a much easier mechanism to give them a platform,” Olivas said of Auburn’s rules for using campus buildings. A public college could limit use of its facilities to an individual or organization with a connection to the institution, provided that the rule is applied equitably.

Judge W. Keith Watkins ruled in favor of Spencer’s right to appear on campus, writing in his decision that Auburn didn’t present evidence that suggested Spencer advocated violence.

“The court finds that Auburn University canceled the speech based on its belief that listeners and protest groups opposed to Mr. Spencer’s ideology would react to the content of his speech by engaging in protests that could cause violence or property damage,” Watkins wrote. "However, discrimination on the basis of message content 'cannot be tolerated under the First Amendment,'” and “listeners’ reaction to speech is not a content-neutral basis for regulation.”

Berkeley was slammed by many for restricting Coulter from campus. Greg Lukianoff, president and chief executive officer of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, released a statement before the university backpedaled, and said it would set a “chilling and dangerous precedent.”

“The Berkeley administration is incentivizing anyone who doesn’t want a particular speaker to be heard to threaten (or even engage in) acts of violence. This all but guarantees that controversial speakers on a particular campus will be silenced, and teaches a generation of students that resorting to violence will be rewarded. Students are learning deeply illiberal lessons. I can think of few things that are more corrosive to higher education or a pluralistic democracy,” Lukianoff said in his statement.

Criticism of Berkeley came from a range of sources.
Robert Reich, a prominent liberal thinker and Berkeley professor who was U.S. secretary of labor under Bill Clinton, wrote in a Facebook post the university had made a “grave” mistake.

“Coulter should be allowed to speak. How can students understand the vapidity of Coulter’s arguments without being allowed to hear her make them, and question her about them?” he wrote.

In addition to widespread social media scorn, the satirical publication *The Onion* published a faux article Thursday mocking Berkeley for going on lockdown after littered pages from a *Wall Street Journal* were found on bench. "At press time, a black-clad group of 50 students were throwing bottles at the bench while chanting, 'No Nazis, No KKK, No Fascist USA!'” the article reads.

Right now, college administrators face an extremely challenging balance in these types of scenarios, said Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. They will collect intelligence from law enforcement that suggests a danger, but must weigh this with free speech rights, which are at “the core” of universities’ missions, Kruger said.

“It’s just a hard thing to balance,” Kruger said. “I don’t have any inside information, but the last time at Berkeley [in February] there were a lot of people from off campus and not affiliated with the university that might have a different agenda for the event than members of your own community. If you have intelligence around that, you may not feel like you’re prepared. I’m not saying this is the case for Berkeley, but in the higher education community, we should not use security and or the cost around security as a way to indirectly inhibit free speech.”

Controversial speakers have visited campuses for decades, but recently, demonstrations against them have “amped” up, which Kruger attributed to the most recent political cycle that invited people to spout “horrible” rhetoric on race and gender, he said.

In conjunction with this rise in activism, protesters can now access information via social media about other incidents in an unprecedented way, Kruger said. During the 1960s, it took months to figure out the details of such demonstrations. Now video clips of protests are passed around the
internet for anyone to observe and mimic, he said. If a demonstration shuts down a campus and is subject to media attention, that would interest some protesters, who could copy those tactics, Kruger said.

Protecting campuses, which in some cases sprawl and function as their own cities, has proved quite daunting with these protests, said Sue Riseling, executive director of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

At least nine states have green-lit “campus carry” laws that in some form allow guns on campus, Riseling said, and when someone arrives at a protest with an intimidatingly large firearm slung across their back, if makes police alert. Law enforcement can’t know whether this individual intends to use the gun or not, she said.

Vandalism or problems won’t necessarily be confined to the site of a speaker, either, Riseling said. Reports of protesters instead targeting buildings or other areas of campus have become more common, forcing law enforcement to strategize.

IACLEA has trained campus law enforcement heads recently on protests, and advised new approaches on meting out officers -- instead of placing all resources in one place where nothing might happen, adjusting and planning to tackle possible scenarios, Riseling said.

Dynamics of protests on college campuses differ from those outside, said Riseling, who was charged with security for the Wisconsin capitol in 2011 when more than 125,000 union representatives converged and shut it down in a show of force against Republican Governor Scott Walker. Walker had enacted anti-union measures, including limiting the collective bargaining rights of most state employees.

Traditionally, such uprisings represent constituent dissatisfaction with some aspect of government, like the war in Vietnam or the bitterness against Walker, Riseling said. These college protests represent a move to stifle free speech, essentially pitting citizen against citizen, she said.
Few times have colleges successfully limited a speaker appearance. In 2008, however, then University of Nebraska Lincoln Chancellor Harvey Perlman, citing threats of violence, successfully rescinded an invitation to Bill Ayers, a former leader of the Weather Underground.

Robert M. O’Neil, a law professor at the University of Virginia, and its former president, said he knew Perlman, who had cataloged enough threatening messages that proved “an ominous situation” could arise, according to O’Neil.

“I find it difficult to accept that the actions of a few individuals can deprive this university of its right to select speakers who can contribute to the education of our students. Nonetheless I take seriously the responsibility I have for the safety of members of this community, particularly the students. It seemed cancellation was the most responsible action,” Perlman wrote in an email to the campus in 2008.

Kruger, the NASPA president, doesn’t believe colleges have acted recklessly in banning campus speakers. Instead, sometimes they sponsor alternative activities, he said. Spencer spoke at Texas A&M University in December, but administrators set up another talk coinciding with his.

Such conflicts on college campuses will continue, Riseling said. Unlike prominent political protests, these sorts of demonstrations don’t appear to have an end, a resolution. “This is an emerging issue,” Riseling said. “We’ve got to secure these things so they can occur. The highest law of the land is the Constitution. It pre-empts a lot of things, short of life safety. How do we do hold these events and ensure they can go on and everyone participating can be safe?”