



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Former Mizzou freshman sues fraternity for alcohol hazing](#)

By Blythe Bernhard St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2 hrs ago

A former University of Missouri-Columbia freshman who was hospitalized last September with alcohol poisoning has sued Kappa Alpha fraternity and three of its members for negligence surrounding a hazing ritual.

Brandon Zingale was an 18-year-old pledge at Kappa Alpha when he was “coerced by active members of (the fraternity) to drink so much vodka that he nearly died” at the fraternity house in Columbia the night of Sept. 27, 2016, the lawsuit alleges.

After Zingale passed out, fraternity members left the freshman alone after putting him to bed and attaching a backpack in an effort to keep him from rolling over and suffocating. The next morning, Zingale was found unconscious and foaming at the mouth when paramedics arrived.

His blood-alcohol content at almost 10 hours after he stopped drinking was 0.41 percent, more than five times the legal limit for driving in Missouri (0.08 percent). Zingale experienced acute respiratory failure, nerve compression and metabolic dysfunction, according to the lawsuit filed Thursday in Boone County Circuit Court.

Defendants in the suit include the fraternity’s national organization Kappa Alpha Order and its Alpha Kappa chapter at Mizzou. The fraternity knew of the risk of hazing traditions involving heavy drinking and did not do enough to prevent its members’ dangerous activities, according to the suit.

Jacob Lee, president of the fraternity chapter at the time, Max McGrath and Ryan Heuermann, fraternity members, are also named in the suit, which alleges that the three students participated in the hazing of Zingale and did not get him emergency medical care fast enough.

One month after the incident, the [University of Missouri kicked](#) the Kappa Alpha fraternity off campus for five years. At the time, the fraternity released a statement that read “misuse of

alcohol, and hazing, are each contrary to our values and are strictly and expressly prohibited by Kappa Alpha Order.”

The national organization’s own investigation concluded that the incident involving Zingale did not constitute hazing but did find other examples of hazing and alcohol misuse among the Mizzou chapter’s members. Executives at the fraternity based in Lexington, Va., could not be reached for comment Thursday.

In a statement, Zingale’s parents, Lynn and Michael Zingale, said, “We are hopeful that Brandon’s lawsuit will bring attention to the danger of alcohol hazing at fraternities and universities across the country.”

The fraternity’s national convention starts Aug. 3 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown St. Louis.



Former MU student sues fraternity over his hospitalization

By: Lucas Geisler

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/top-stories/former-mu-student-sues-fraternity-over-his-hospitalization/594146067>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A former student at the University of Missouri sued a fraternity he tried to join over a drinking incident that sent him to the hospital.

Brandon Zingale filed the lawsuit on Thursday in Boone County court against the MU chapter of Kappa Alpha Order. Zingale, then a freshman at MU, was hospitalized in September after a vodka chugging contest at the fraternity house. Members found Zingale the next morning foaming at the mouth and cold to the touch, and hospital staff discovered he had a .41 blood alcohol content.

Members of Kappa Alpha Order claimed no one forced the prospective members, including Zingale, to drink that night.

The lawsuit claimed KA, along with several individual members of the fraternity, were negligent in not reporting Zingale's condition sooner to medical staff and broke state hazing laws.

"We are hopeful that Brandon's lawsuit will bring attention to the danger of alcohol hazing at Fraternities and Universities across the country," Mike and Lynn Zingale, the former student's parents, said in a statement.

The university [withdrew its recognition](#) of Kappa Alpha Order in November over the incident. The fraternity had already been placed on probation that semester when a different prospective member went to the hospital for an alcohol overdose.

The lawsuit from attorney Ken Chackes detailed several reports and studies done about the risks of fraternity membership, including hazing and binge drinking. "Rituals," like the vodka chugging the Zingales believe was forced upon new members, aren't properly supervised and put members in danger.

"Expert studies and reports demonstrate that drinking by prospective new fraternity members is particularly dangerous, and often deadly, because of the context in which these events or 'rituals' occur," Chackes wrote in the lawsuit. "The prospective members – recent members of the campus community – are subject to a number of psychological and emotional forces that undermine their ability to exercise self-restraint, and render them particularly susceptible to encouragement to drink to excess."

Kappa Alpha Order spokesman Brent Buswell declined to comment on the lawsuit.

"The fraternity and legal counsel will review the allegations and will respond in court," Buswell said in an email.

Kappa Alpha Order was one of 13 Greek organizations that the school punished during the Fall 2016 semester. [Delta Upsilon's national headquarters suspended its MU chapter](#) in December after numerous violations from parties and drinking at the house. The university [laid down a permanent ban of Sigma Pi](#) in October, citing the fraternities continued recruitment despite their withdrawal of recognition.



Former MU student files lawsuit against fraternity

COLUMBIA - A former University of Missouri student filed a lawsuit Thursday against the Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity, the Alpha Kappa Chapter and several members for injuries he claims he suffered as a pledge last fall.

On the night of September 27-28, 2016, then-freshman Brandon Zingale said he was forced to drink excessive amounts of alcohol by active members until he was incapacitated. Zingale was found the next morning unconscious, barely breathing and drenched in urine, foaming from his mouth.

Zingale arrived at the hospital 10 hours after he initially began drinking. At the hospital, his blood alcohol count was 0.41; for comparison, the legal limit for driving in Missouri is 0.08. Zingale suffered from alcohol poisoning as well as other serious injuries.

The lawsuit claimed that KA and the MU Chapter were aware that the dangerous drinking tradition still existed, but didn't take any effective measures to manage it.

MU investigated the fraternity and found it had violated many regulations. As a result, the university withdrew the chapter's recognition for a five year period.

MISSOURIAN

Mizzou K-12 Online recruits tigers from around the world

By EDWARD MCKINLEY

COLUMBIA — MU High School, and its Mizzou K-12 Online program, turns international, high school-age students from around the world into Missouri Tigers.

"We feel like we are at home," Luciana Calixto, the coordinator of Mizzou K-12 Online programs at two Brazilian schools, said about being with her students in Columbia.

Students in 135 countries participate in MU's online high school program, Mizzou K-12 Online, run by the College of Education. Other American universities offer online high school programs, but MU's program is unusual because it is conducted through the education college..

For students, the tuition for Mizzou K-12 is a few hundred dollars each month. The price differs depending on the partnerships between MU and different schools. It provides access to classes that international students wouldn't receive in their home countries, and courses are assigned, completed and graded completely online.

The students aren't just taking advantage of the program offered by MU — they consider themselves personally connected with the school, said Zac March, director of Mizzou K-12 Online.

At a high school in Hanoi, Vietnam, the top 10 graduating students in the class were all enrolled in Mizzou K-12, March said. Their graduation ceremony included a giant printed mural of Jesse Hall. Inflatable columns were placed in front of it with banners reading "Respect," "Responsibility," "Discovery" and "Excellence" — what MU calls its core values — hanging between them.

The Mizzou K-12 students ran through the columns in an imitation of MU's Senior Sendoff.

Christian Fliter, 15, a Mizzou K-12 student, said his school in Alphaville, Brazil, has a dedicated building for students to work on Mizzou K-12 coursework. Black-and-gold banners hang in the building, as well as artwork of Truman the Tiger, the Mizzou mascot.

At another school in Brazil, Mizzou K-12 graduates wear black and gold and sing "Old Missouri," the school's alma mater, Calixto said.

"These students are just as much Tigers as our students in Columbia," March said. "It's the best branding the university could ever ask for, and it doesn't cost us anything."

Compared to the international student graduations, he added, the ones in the U.S. are "eh, kind of boring."

March also said he was amazed at the program's growth, while seeing international students from such a diverse group of backgrounds embrace MU: "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would see what I've seen in the last couple years."

Mizzou K-12 Online has been accredited since 1999, and the diploma the students receive is from "University of Missouri High School." The online high school offers three programs for students: high school diploma, college preparatory and Mizzou direct.

Mizzou direct is comprised of 16 courses offered online through MU. If students earn a 3.0 GPA, they are automatically admitted into MU. The total number of students enrolled in Mizzou K-12 at any given moment fluctuates because the school is not semester-based, but March said an average of 6,000 students are enrolled at any given time in a total of 21,000 courses.

Mizzou K-12 is entirely self funded, receiving no money from the state or from the university..

"We can only eat what we kill," March said.

March has high hopes for the program. He wants it to bring in students who may not have otherwise been interested in MU, build the brand internationally and even "impact change across the world." He pointed out that if even 10 percent of the program's students came to MU, that would make a big difference in freshman enrollment.

The program is also growing quickly. This year, a middle school program was rolled out. Leaders expected 100 students to sign up but instead got 1,000. March is in talks with organizations in several countries to establish new partnerships to expand Mizzou K-12 around the world.

March said the potential for student engagement within the program is enormous.

"Instead of being 10,000 miles away, they're just a click away," he said.

The top countries for Mizzou K-12 are the U.S., Brazil, China, Vietnam, Serbia and Honduras. For the past two years, the program has partnered with Brazil, offering dual diplomas with local high schools there.

The students in those programs take classes during the morning in their high school and their online classes in the afternoon. The classes taken at their schools in Brazil are typically biology, physics or math, while the ones offered by Mizzou K-12 are English and literature, speech, government and U.S. history.

The students of Mizzou K-12 are typically not from rural or low-income areas.

"Some of these kids get delivered to school by helicopter," March said.

AT&T made a \$350,000 donation in 2015 to help Mizzou K-12 students in areas that are rural or have poor internet, however.

For the last two weeks, students from around the world, most of them coming from the Mizzou K-12 program, participated in the Mizzou International Experience summer camp. They ate at dining halls and toured the recreation complex as well as different colleges and programs. They also played games, engaged in leadership activities and experienced what it's like to be on campus.

The aim of the summer camp is to "create a pipeline to bring in students," said Ta Boonseng, director of the international experience program.

Fliter, 15, said his favorite part of the camp was touring the business school and doing activities there. He hopes to study business when he goes to college.

At the Trulaske School of Business, the international students made a wallet out of tape, that they marketed and attempted to sell to an activity judge. Fliter said he definitely plans to come to MU when he graduates.

Enrico De Mello, 14, another Mizzou K-12 student, said his favorite part of the summer program was driving golf carts. He wants to study medicine some day, he said, but he isn't sure whether he'll come to MU when he graduates. Yet, he said he never would have considered it without participating in the online high school program or the summer camp.

Boonseng said students are surveyed at the end of camp, and 80 to 90 percent last year expressed interest in enrolling at MU.

These kids are still a few years away from making their college decisions and are somewhat impressionable at their age, March said, but those numbers are still a promising sign.



Streamlining the transfer of college credits: here's Missouri's plan

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/streamlining-the-transfer-of-college-credits-heres-missouris-plan/594177012>

It could soon be easier to transfer credits across public universities in the state of Missouri.

It's all part of the Core Curriculum Transfer Program, one of the measures in Senate Bill 997, which was signed into law on June 2 with a goal of improving higher education in Missouri.

According to the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the goal of core curriculum transfer is to establish a core curriculum of at least 42 semester credit hours that will transfer to any public college or university in Missouri. The recommended core curriculum will be established by the Coordinating Board and an advisory committee of members from Missouri's two and four year colleges.

One of the members on the committee, Cooper Drury, Associate Dean of College and Arts & Science at the University of Missouri, will be speaking at Thursday's faculty council meeting.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education says the core curriculum will "cover courses in math, English, communications, humanities, biological and physical science, social science and computer technology." The board must also approve "a common course matrix for lower-division courses at all public two and four-year colleges and universities in the state and evaluate the transfer practices at each public college and university."

The core curriculum and common course matrix is intended to "streamline the transfer of college credit to help students earn a degree in less time and less cost."

A core curriculum at all public higher education institutions in Missouri is scheduled to be implemented by August 2018.

MISSOURIAN

Repairs to MU columns refresh color, monitor stability

CONNOR LAGORE 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Restoration work continues on the six iconic Ionic columns in the center of Francis Quadrangle on the MU campus.

Scaffolding that has veiled the limestone pillars since May 15 has started to come down. Stone masonry repairs were completed July 20, and landscaping around the columns — the former front of Academic Hall, which burned down in January 1892 — begins Monday.

A construction team began to make repairs on the columns on May 24 as part of the \$550,000 project.

Most repairs will not be noticeable, said Karlan Seville, communications manager for MU's Division of Operations, in an email.

One important repair was redoing grout lines that were last repaired in 1937, Seville said. The previous grout repairs were a darker color than the limestone and thus more noticeable; this repair used grout closer in color to the current columns to make the repair lines less visible.

Other repairs were done to prevent moisture infiltration, Seville said.

“Sections of deteriorating stone at the very top of the capitals were replaced with stone of similar color and shape,” she said. The replacement stones are not easily visible from the ground.

The repairs also used technology to monitor the stability of the columns.

“GIS (geographic information systems) survey point prisms were attached to the top of each column cap on the north side so that we can monitor any future movement,” Seville said in the

email. Like the other repairs and the general theme of the restoration project, the prisms are hard to see from the ground.

Although the summer repairs are scheduled to be finished by Aug. 4, the overall restoration project will not be complete.

“As an additional preventative maintenance measure to secure select areas, a cable tie is being developed to be installed on the southwest volute of three columns,” Seville said, referring to the spiral scrolls on the tops of the columns. “This design solution is being developed to minimize the appearance.”

This part of the project will be completed in the fall with aerial lifts, Seville said.

The summer repair schedule will likely wrap up sooner than the Aug. 4 target, Seville said. The timeline was designed so the project could be done before one of MU’s long-held traditions takes place — freshmen running through the columns toward Jesse Hall to begin their college careers.

“We wanted to make sure the project wrapped up in plenty of time for Tiger Walk,” Seville said.



Dedicated Scheduled Today for New Training Facility at MU School of Medicine

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ae17edbd-5668-49c2-ba02-1a3ddf4eb762>

MISSOURIAN

Man found guilty of 2015 sexual assault, sentenced to 25 years

KELLYN ALISE NETTLES, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A Columbia man was found guilty of a rape charge stemming from a August 2015 assault on the MU campus.

After six hours of deliberation, the jury found Mohamed Mostafa, 42, guilty on one charge of rape in the first degree and not guilty of one count of attempted sodomy. The jury then recommended that he be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The sentencing came at the end of the second attempt to try Mostafa, after the first attempt was declared a mistrial.

When the trial began Tuesday, assistant prosecuting attorney Cecily Daller focused on the victim's story and called for testimonies from all who had spoken to her on the night of the incident. Daller also brought DNA criminalist Shena Latcham to the stand to testify that DNA swabs from the victim's vagina matched DNA taken from Mostafa's mouth.

Public defender Jeremy Pilkington focused on the medical side of the case and called in a SANE-certified nurse to clarify that the victim had "no injuries that sustain with her being forcibly sexually assaulted." Mostafa also took the stand and testified for over an hour. He said he was trying to help the victim get home when she came onto him, and they had consensual sex.

The assault took place on May 29, 2015. At around 2:30 a.m. that morning, MU police communications officer Shane Schmidt received a 911 call from a blue light emergency phone near University Hall, neighboring University Field. The victim said she had been raped by a man she had met earlier in the night.

MU campus police were dispatched to the scene where they found the victim naked from the waist down. They called an ambulance and had her taken to University Hospital where she

received an exam to test for signs of sexual assault. She was then taken to the MUPD office for questioning.

The victim told detective Sam Easley that she had been in town for a conference and had gone to Roxy's nightclub with one of her friends. She said the next thing she remembered was being in what she described as a stadium with someone on top of her attempting to sodomize her. She described the man to Easley as a dark-skinned black male that was around 6 feet tall.

During the course of the investigation, MU police obtained video footage of Mostafa outside of Roxy's on the night of the assault. MUPD then compared it body camera footage from a Columbia Police officer who had encountered Mostafa previously. On Aug. 8 2015, authorities arrested Mostafa on suspicion of rape.

The case first went to trial in November 2016, but after a lengthy deliberation the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict and the case was [declared a mistrial](#).

Both attorneys and Mostafa will meet in front of the judge again on Aug. 28 for a deposition. At that time, the defense can file a motion for a new trial. If the motion is not filed or approved, the judge will uphold Mostafa's sentencing.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

[Center called ‘powerful first step’ as Ferguson still mends](#)

By JIM SALTER (AP)

FERGUSON — The National Urban League president helped christen a new job training and education center in Ferguson on Wednesday, calling the site a “powerful first step” in helping the St. Louis suburb that’s still mending from unrest over the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown nearly three years ago.

On the same day the Urban League kicked off its national conference in St. Louis, Marc Morial said much work remains even with the arrival of the \$3 million center, built on the property where a QuikTrip convenience store was burned during rioting after a white officer killed the 18-year-old Brown, who was black and unarmed, in August 2014.

Oklahoma-based QuikTrip demolished the building and donated the property to the Urban League, which announced plans for the center in July 2015. Several companies and organizations

donated money to build it, including the Salvation Army, which contributed \$1.4 million. Morial said the center is already paid for.

The centerpiece of the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center is the Urban League's Save Our Sons job training and placement service. **It also will house offices for the Salvation Army, Lutheran Hope Center and the University of Missouri Extension Service.**

At Wednesday's opening ceremony, Ferguson City Councilman Wesley Bell said building it at the former QuikTrip site was symbolic of how Ferguson is rising.

"This building has to mean something," said Bell, a black man elected after Brown's death. "It has to represent something."

The store was torched the night after Brown's death, as a peaceful candlelight vigil was occurring at the shooting site less than a mile away.

Brown had gotten into a scuffle with then-officer Darren Wilson after Wilson told Brown and a friend to get out of the street where they were walking. Wilson said that when he shot Brown, the 18-year-old was moving menacingly toward him. Some witnesses had said Brown was surrendering.

The initial unrest erupted after Brown's body lay in the street for hours in the summer heat. More protests gripped the Missouri town after a St. Louis County grand jury in November 2014 declined to charge Wilson, who resigned a short time later. The U.S. Justice Department also cleared him, but an investigation by that agency uncovered patterns of racial bias and profiling in Ferguson's police and courts.

Ferguson reached a settlement with the Justice Department that calls for revised police practices, court changes and other modifications.

The Community Empowerment Center includes a bench and plaque in memory of Brown. His parents, Michael Brown Sr. and Lezley McSpadden, were among several hundred people who attended the center ceremony.

About 20,000 people are expected to attend the Urban League conference that will also include a "State of Black America" town hall meeting, a gathering of urban mayors to discuss economic needs, a career fair, and a volunteer day in which backpacks will be donated to 10,000 children.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Messenger: As Urban League gathers in St. Louis, NAACP issues a Missouri travel warning

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch

On a day when 20,000 members of the Urban League from all over the country were [gathered in St. Louis](#) for the group's annual convention, a sister civil rights organization issued a warning to African-Americans and other marginalized citizens:

Beware of traveling in Missouri.

That's the message in an emergency resolution passed by the NAACP on Wednesday.

The resolution is signed by interim president and CEO Derrick Johnson; chairman of the national board of directors Leon Russell; and senior vice president for advocacy Hilary Shelton.

Citing the signing of [Senate Bill 43](#) by Gov. Eric Greitens, a law that rolls back discrimination protections for employees in the state, the NAACP resolution said the organization "shall warn people of the dangers of travel through the State of Missouri and nation."

The resolution is not a boycott but a "travel advisory," and it cites more than the controversial legislation that will make it easier for employers to discriminate. The document is a reminder that three years after Ferguson and the death of Michael Brown, being black in Missouri can get you killed.

That's what happened to Tory Sanders in March when he died at the hands of jailers in rural Mississippi County. His crime? Driving While Black. Sanders, who lived in Nashville, Tenn., and was mentally ill, was driving in the rural Missouri county when he ran out of gas. Stuck in Missouri, he called his mom.

"If I go to the police, will they help me?" he asked, [according to a story](#) by reporter Doyle Murphy in the Riverfront Times. "Sure, they'll help you," she replied.

Hours later, he was dead. Sanders was pepper sprayed and hit with a Taser at least three times. Now the sheriff, Cory Hutcheson, is being investigated by Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley. Hutcheson was already facing 18 criminal charges in two unrelated incidents.

The resolution cites two men from India [who were shot](#) near Kansas City this year because a white patron in a bar thought they were Muslim. Srinivas Kuchibhotla died from his injuries. He was 32.

“Missouri fosters racial and ethnic disparities in Education, Health, Economic Empowerment, and Criminal Justice,” the resolution reads.

The travel advisory is the brainchild of Jefferson City attorney Rod Chapel, president of the NAACP in Missouri.

In February, Chapel was silenced by the chairman of a Missouri House committee when he appeared to testify against a bill that was similar to the discrimination-rollback measure that became law. **As Chapel recounted recent Missouri history, from Ferguson, to the University of Missouri protests, to the annual racial profiling numbers issued by the attorney general, he said the state had become a national “laughingstock” when it came to discrimination.**

The chairman, Rep. Bill Lant, R-Pineville, cut off his microphone. He didn’t want to hear what Chapel had to say.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Chapel [told me at the time](#). “It’s nuts. He invited me to give public testimony at his committee and then wouldn’t let me talk.”

Chapel and other anti-discrimination advocates urged Greitens to veto the bill. They told him there would be national consequences. Now one of the nation’s largest and most prominent civil rights organizations is warning its members.

Be careful in Missouri, it says.

Be aware that according to the state’s own numbers, if you are black, you’re [75 percent more likely](#) that a white person to be searched if you get pulled over for a driving infraction. If you’re Hispanic, you are more likely to be arrested in Missouri after a traffic stop even though you are less likely to be found with “contraband” than a white driver.

In Missouri, a state senator whose private business was being sued by black employees for discrimination filed a bill to make such lawsuits much more difficult to file. The Missouri Legislature passed it. Greitens signed it.

The governor had been invited to speak Wednesday at the Urban League's conference. (His office said he declined because of a scheduling conflict.) Chapel, the NAACP leader, had a message for his colleagues in civil rights advocacy who were at the conference:

"They need to get on board."



NAACP Moves Forward with Missouri Travel Advisory

NO MU MENTION

From the Associated Press

The NAACP is moving forward with a travel advisory warning people to be careful while in Missouri because of a danger that civil rights won't be respected.

Missouri NAACP President Rod Chapel said Thursday that national delegates voted the day before to adopt the advisory, which was put in place at a statewide level in June. Chapel said it's up for ratification by the national board in October.

It cites legislation signed by Gov. Eric Greitens that will make it more difficult to sue for housing or employment discrimination.

The advisory also cites other issues, including a recent attorney general's report that shows black Missouri drivers last year were 75 percent more likely to be stopped than whites.

Chapel says he hopes recognition from the national organization will boost awareness.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Tough Talk

A black philosopher at Texas A&M thought forcing a public discussion about race and violence was his job. Turns out people didn't want to hear it.

By STEVE KOLOWICH

On a Thursday morning in May, Tommy J. Curry walked through the philosophy department's offices at Texas A&M University with a police officer at his side and violence on his mind.

The threats had started a few days earlier. "Since you said white people need to be killed I'm in fear of my life," one person had written via email. "The next time I see you on campus I might just have to pre-emptively defend myself you dumb fat nigger. You are done."

Mr. Curry didn't know if that person was lurking on the university grounds. But Texas is a gun-friendly state, and Texas A&M is a gun-friendly campus, and he took the threat seriously.

The professor supports the right to bear arms. It was part of how he ended up in this situation. In 2012 he had appeared on a satellite-radio show and delivered a five-minute talk on how uneasy white people are with the idea of black people talking about owning guns and using them to combat racist forces.

He was right about that. When a recording of the talk resurfaced in May, people thought the tenured professor was telling black people to kill white people. It flowed swiftly through the boroughs of conservative media and into the fever swamps of Reddit forums and racist message boards. The threats followed.

Anonymous bigots weren't the only ones making Mr. Curry feel unwanted. Michael K. Young, president of Texas A&M, had called the professor's comments "disturbing" and contrary to the values of the university. Mr. Curry was taken aback. His remarks on the radio were not a regrettable slip of the tongue. They were part of why the university had hired him.

A police officer met Mr. Curry inside his academic building and rode with him in the elevator to the philosophy department, on the third floor. In a hallway, the professor pointed to photos of his graduate students so the police officer would know who was supposed to be there. The officer told him to keep an eye out for unfamiliar faces.

Mr. Curry picked up his mail. There were a few angry letters, and also an envelope marked with a Texas A&M logo. He put the hate mail into a folder and carried the whole bundle downstairs. Back in the car with his wife, he opened the university envelope. Inside was a copy of a letter from a campus official that he had received a few days earlier by email — before his inbox was flooded with racist messages.

"I am delighted to offer my congratulations on your promotion to Professor at Texas A&M University effective September 1, 2017," said the letter. "This measure of your achievement is an indicator of the very high esteem in which you are held by your peers. We are honored to have you on our faculty."

As the car pulled away from campus, Mr. Curry reread the letter and rolled his eyes.

He has not been back since.

Professors are being watched, followed, and confronted. They are being brought to account for things they said and things they did not say. Modern technology has turned campus politics into a circus, and audiences come to see the freaks: the professor who thinks white-marble statues are racist, the one who wants white genocide for Christmas, the one who wants to see President Trump hanged. Preening elites exposed as ugly brutes.

Tommy Curry was the angry black one who said white people need to die. That was the caricature, anyway.

There was much more to it. The drama that unfolded at Texas A&M is about a scholar who was welcomed by a public university because of his unusual perspective and who became estranged from it for the same reason. It is a story about what a university values, how it expresses those values under pressure, and how that pressure works. It is about freedom and control, reason and fear, good faith and bad.

...

Porter Garner III, head of the Association of Former Students, was receiving angry calls from donors. They thought Mr. Curry was encouraging violence against white people. Mr. Garner had advised Mr. Young to say something publicly to ease their minds.

It was something to consider. The association raises about \$10 million for Texas A&M annually, but its greater value is in the connections it builds and maintains on the university's behalf. Although Mr. Garner's group isn't Texas A&M's biggest fund raiser, "we are the initial cultivator of all relationships" between the university and its current and future supporters, he says.

The professor's comments had not yet been covered in the mainstream press, but alumni were writing to Mr. Garner, calling him, stopping him at events to ask if this guy really worked at their alma mater. "The Aggie network is wide, it is diverse, it is well-informed," says Mr. Garner, "and I suspect if a few Aggies know something, a lot of Aggies know something."

Many of those Aggies might not have been "fully informed" of the context of Mr. Curry's words, he says, but some of them were longtime donors, volunteers, and friends of the university, and their concerns were "pretty rational" and "very respectful."

After a series of statements and clarifications, Michael Young, president of Texas A&M, issued one more: "For those of you who considered my comments ... impinging upon the centrality of academic freedom at this university, I regret any contributions that I may have made to misunderstandings in this case."

Mr. Young says he disagreed with the idea that Mr. Curry was inciting violence. But as president, he felt an obligation to take the concerns seriously.

Public outrage can be perilous for a public university, especially when race is involved. **After black students and their allies caused a national stir by protesting racism at the University of Missouri at Columbia, the university's fund-raising efforts took a big hit, and Mizzou became a punching bag for the conservative state legislature. Two years later, freshman enrollment has dropped by 35 percent, and the university has temporarily shuttered seven dormitories.**

Texas A&M's president says that finances were not on his mind as he weighed what to do about Mr. Curry, but that he acknowledged the importance of staying in the good graces of constituencies beyond the campus. "People send their children to A&M, and students come to A&M, because it's a very special place," he said in an interview. "I didn't want anybody to doubt what they believe it stands for is what it stands for."

[Story continues.](#)

MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: City plan to issue \$1.1 million in employee bonuses may be unlawful

CAITLIN CAMPBELL, Jul 27, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A city of Columbia plan to hand all employees a bonus next year may violate the Missouri Constitution, according to information provided by the Missouri State Auditor's Office.

City Manager Mike Matthes announced last week he plans as part of the 2018 budget to give all city employees a \$1,000 bonus, which would cost the local government \$1.1 million. But those one-time incentive payments may run afoul of state law — mirroring a violation Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway uncovered during a University of Missouri System audit earlier this year.

When informed of the city plan, Gena Terlizzi, spokeswoman for the Auditor's Office, directed reporters to a [PolitiFact fact check done by the Missourian](#) on the issue. The fact check explains that only in rare situations are government bonus payments acceptable. Galloway is traveling this week and was unavailable for comment.

Bonus payments for government employees are allowed only if the bonus is specifically outlined in an employment contract and is contingent on the employee reaching a measurable goal, according to previous Missourian reporting. Furthermore, giving additional one-time compensation to all employees or rewarding employees merely for being on the payroll is not allowed.

Matthes proposed additional compensation not contingent on employees meeting any measurable goal.

In a tweet on Thursday, Matthes said he would not call the one-time payment to employees a "bonus" because it is "not a reward for past work." In responses to reporters, city officials drew a

distinction between whether the one-time payment is a reward for past work or incentive for future work.

Matthes' clarification on Thursday does not mesh with what he said during his budget announcement. Last week, he said the one-time payment was thanks for employees' past work.

"It is a one-time payment to really just say thank you for this work, and to recognize that we can't afford an actual raise but here is something," Matthes said when he announced the \$1,000 payments.

Matthes said that when he made his comments at the budget address, he was "trying to point out we're asking folks to do more, with less staff and no raise." He said the one-time payment was "future focused."

City Counselor Nancy Thompson did not respond to messages earlier this week seeking comment.

Extra payment to government employees or contractors after a service is rendered is unlawful, according to Article III, Section 39 of the Missouri Constitution. Attorney General's Opinion No. 72-1955 further clarifies that the law applies to all government agencies in Missouri.

Terlizzi said bonus pay by municipal governments is a common problem and pointed to several audits the state performed the past few years as examples. The UM System audit uncovered roughly \$2.3 million in inappropriate bonuses for top executives and administrators, according to the audit report released earlier this year.

In an email, city spokesman Steve Sapp pushed back against the notion the city may have proposed something unlawful. Sapp stressed that city employees work hard, but there is no money in the budget to give them permanent raises.

Sapp said the proposal doesn't call for bonuses; they are instead a "one-time salary enhancement." The city gave similar one-time pay increases to employees in 2003, he said.

The city's full statement is as follows:

"City of Columbia employees go above and beyond each day to serve our community. Citizen satisfaction with the service provided by City employees is much higher than regional and national averages. Unfortunately, given the lack of revenue and cost increases in pensions and health care, funding is not available to offer a permanent pay raise to City employees in fiscal

year (FY) 2018. Employee and dependent health care rates increased 13.8 percent in FY 2017 and are rising another 7 percent in FY 2018. These cost increases are shared by the City and its employees. It should be noted that pay increases have been small or non-existent since 2009.

"The lack of funding for ongoing employee salary increases in FY 2018 is discouraging when all service lines of City government are currently 30 percent understaffed while City employees continue to produce industry-leading service levels. The City grows more concerned each day with declining employee morale and rising turnover rates. For the FY 2018 budget, City Manager Mike Matthes has asked that City Council provide employees a one-time lump sum prospective salary enhancement of \$1,000 gross (less normal payroll withholdings) to each permanent employee. This one-time salary enhancement is not a bonus — it is a one-time, across the board increase in compensation for FY 2018 which will not be carried over into future fiscal years. A similar program with a one-time payment was previously done by the City in November of 2003."



MU Health to Host Job Fair for Fulton Medical Center Employees

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=47b86bbe-7ae5-45b0-afc6-30b69afab6f0>

Homeless citizens find necessary services at ‘one-stop shop’

By TESS VRBIN

Savannah Sixta is no stranger to asking for help. The past five years, the 22-year-old Columbia native has been “without a permanent residence, on and off,” and usually couch-surfing, she said.

Sixta earns money by donating plasma, and the Christian organization Love INC is helping her find a job, she said. **She gets some of her meals from Turning Point, a ministry for the homeless at Wilkes Boulevard Methodist Church, but she came to the University of Missouri’s Family Impact Center on Thursday to get food and new clothes from Project Homeless Connect.**

The event offered homeless Columbians a vast array of services, including mental and physical health care, birth certificates and IDs, food, clothing, shoes, haircuts, social services and assistance for veterans. Project Homeless Connect has spread across the nation since its start in San Francisco in 2004. This is its 10th year in Columbia. The city partners with the Columbia-Boone County Basic Needs Coalition to host the event twice a year, on the fourth Thursdays of January and July. Coalition vice president Mark Kirchoff called the event a “one-stop shop” for people who usually have to travel all over town to meet their basic needs. Many do not have transportation or money to do so.

Bill Cantin, the neighborhood communications coordinator for the city of Columbia, said roughly 125 people come to each Project Homeless Connect event. About 90 showed up within the first hour on Thursday, he said.

“It’s great that we see so many people and are able to help out, but that’s also 125 people who are in need of all these services,” he said. “It’s a reminder of the need in the community.”

According to data from the Basic Needs Coalition, there were 220 homeless people in Boone County in 2016, the lowest number since 182 in 2011. Data for this year is not yet available.

Kirchoff said being able to quantify the problem is important in the mission to solve it.

“Just being able to put a number to it, I think, can lead a lot of people in a position of power to gain a scope of the issue and to be able to pass policies that can help to eliminate it,” he said.

The city held a homelessness summit in November that resulted in some good policies, Kirchoff said, but more could be done. Columbia’s shortage of affordable housing is a direct result of homelessness, he said. Kirchoff also said a lack of affordable health care is an issue.

A major topic at the summit was a housing-first model of aid, meaning homeless people could have access to housing before receiving case management and other services. Kirchoff said the Functional Zero Task Force within the Basic Needs Coalition uses this principle to help end veteran and chronic homelessness. He said the task force has housed more than 140 people in the two years since its inception.

Outreach coordinators from local health care and social services providers comprise the Columbia Homeless Outreach Team. Katie McBride, homeless outreach specialist for the mental health service New Horizons, said the outreach team tries to connect with homeless people in camps or on the streets to determine what help they need.

McBride said more homeless individuals with mental illnesses are realizing how hard it is to deal with both problems. Sixta said she has an anxiety disorder that makes keeping a job difficult.

Sixta is one of many people who have sought services from Project Homeless Connect in the past. Others, like Jason Chance, came to the event for the first time Thursday. Chance said he was looking for a bus ticket to California, where his family lives. He did not find one, but he did find clothes, shoes and assistance looking for work and permanent housing. He said he has been living at the Salvation Army harbor house since his recent release from a 10-year prison sentence.

Chance said he appreciated the services at the event and did not want people to just hand him money. Panhandlers are a small fraction of the homeless population and a common misconception of what a typical homeless person looks like, Cantin said. Homeless families with children are more common, he said, and most homelessness situations are not long-term.

“A lot of these people are just down on their luck,” Cantin said.