New security system being installed on Mizzou classroom doors

By CURTIS HANCOCK


Columbia, Mo.-- A new panic button security system is being installed on doors to classrooms and auditoriums on the Mizzou campus.

The system is called Intruder Door Lock and will be installed on more than 300 rooms by next fall according to a Mizzou spokesperson.

The security measure is just one more effort to make college and university campuses safer an issue highlighted by Wednesdays mass shooting on a high school in Parkland, Florida that left 17 people dead.

House bill 1942 is moving through the Missouri House to allow public and private universities and colleges to designate certain staff to carry concealed weapons on their campuses after training.

That bill moved to a House Rules Committee yesterday.

The idea has drawn mixed reaction from Mizzou students.

"I'm not really comfortable with that like just having guns in the classroom in general seems like something I wouldn't want but at the same time the counterpoint you do want to have a counter measure a protection for the kids that are getting shot," said Mizzou student Benjamin Miinch.
Psychologists say it's critical parents talk to children about violence

By JASMINE RAMIREZ


COLUMBIA - In the aftermath of a deadly school shooting in Florida, psychologists are urging parents to talk to their children about violence.

"It's the best way to go," said Kyle Bersted of Burrell Behavior Health in Columbia.

He said parents shouldn't feel like they need to have all the answers.

"Its okay to acknowledge that we don't know why these things happen," Bersted said. "People just do bad things."

He said a parent can bring up the topic by asking their child if they have heard about anything scary recently or seen anything on the news.

"I think a lot of parents will avoid or not dive into something like this," Bersted said. "Silence, in general, can give the wrong ideas to kids that it isn't a big deal."

MU psychologist Laine Young-Walker said children usually know about the violence.

"It's on their mind and it's affecting them," she said.

She said parents should try to limit their child's exposure to a traumatic event.

"Keep them from seeing the repeated events on the TV over and over again because all that can do is re-traumatize someone," Young-Walker said.
She said children can develop fear and anxiety if they are not given the opportunity to have conversations and talk about their feelings.

Young-Walker and Bersted both said it's important for children to maintain normal routines. Parents should monitor how their child is responding to the traumatic event. If a child seems extremely bothered, parents should consider getting professional help.

The ‘gender-equality paradox’ in STEM fields

Generated from News Bureau press release: Countries with greater gender equality have lower percentage of female STEM graduates

Watch the story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn3yqmiwKAk

Money talks when it comes to women choosing to study science and tech

This 'gender equality paradox' could be explained by a variety of social and economic factors.

By Aristos Georgiou

February 14, 2018 17:00 GMT
Prosperous nations with high gender equality have a lower percentage of women studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), according to a new study.

Researchers from Leeds Beckett University and the University of Missouri found that countries such as Finland, Norway and Sweden - which have higher levels of gender equality - have a smaller proportion of women taking up STEM subjects when compared to countries like Algeria and Albania.

They speculate that this 'gender equality paradox' could be explained by a variety of factors.

For the study, published in the journal Psychological Science, the team examined data from 475,000 adolescents in 67 countries or regions.

They found that boys' and girls' achievement in STEM subjects was roughly similar, although science was more likely to be boys' best subject. Even when girls' ability rivalled or exceeded that of boys, they tended to score better overall for reading comprehension, which is linked with higher ability in non-STEM subjects. Furthermore, girls reported lower interest in science subjects.

These variations appeared to be common across all the regions studied and could help explain the gender disparities.

"The further you get in secondary and then higher education, the more subjects you need to drop until you end with just one," said Gijsbert Stoet, Professor in Psychology from Leeds Beckett University.

"We are inclined to choose what we are best at and also enjoy. This makes sense and matches common school advice. So, even though girls can match boys in terms of how well they do at science and mathematics in school, if those aren't their best subjects and they are less interested in them, then they're likely to choose to study something else."

The researchers think that "broader economic factors" may also be contributing to these trends. For example, less gender equal nations tend to have less welfare support, making financially rewarding STEM careers more popular for women in those places.

"STEM careers are generally secure and well-paid but the risks of not following such a path can vary," Stoet said. "In more affluent countries where any choice of career feels relatively safe, women may feel able to make choices based on non-economic factors. Conversely, in countries with fewer economic opportunities, or where employment might be precarious, a well-paid and relatively secure STEM career can be more attractive to women."

When economic concerns are lessened, like in more gender equal countries, personal preferences are more strongly expressed, according to David Geary from the University of Missouri.
"In this situation, sex differences in academic strengths and occupational interests more strongly influence college and career choices, creating the STEM paradox we describe," Geary said.

The new findings could help to increase participation in STEM, after decades of little change.

For example, they suggest that targeting all girls may be a waste of time. Instead, it may be better to focus on those for whom science and maths are their best subjects and who enjoy it, but still don't choose it as a career path.

"If we can understand their motivations, then interventions can be designed to help them change their minds," Stoet said.

(\textit{The AAU science news website)}

**Does gender equality result in fewer female STEM grads?**

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri February 15th, 2018

\textit{Generated from News Bureau press release: Countries with greater gender equality have lower percentage of female STEM graduates}

As societies become wealthier and more gender equal, women are less likely to obtain degrees in STEM, according to new research. The researchers call this a “gender-equality paradox.”

The underrepresentation of girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields occurs globally. Although women are currently well represented in life sciences, they continue to be underrepresented in inorganic sciences, such as computer science and physics.

In their study, researchers also discovered a near-universal sex difference in academic strengths and weaknesses that contributes to the STEM gap.
Findings from the study could help refine education efforts and policies geared toward encouraging girls and women with strengths in science or math to participate in STEM fields.

The researchers found that, throughout the world, boys’ academic strengths tend to be in science or mathematics, while girls’ strengths are in reading. Students who have personal strengths in science or math are more likely to enter STEM fields, whereas students with reading as a personal strength are more likely to enter non-STEM fields, according to David Geary, professor of psychological sciences in the University of Missouri’s College of Arts and Science.

These gender differences in academic strengths, as well as interest in science, may explain why the gender differences in STEM fields has been stable for decades, and why current approaches to address them have failed.

“We analyzed data on 475,000 adolescents across 67 countries or regions and found that while boys’ and girls’ achievements in STEM subjects were broadly similar in all countries, science was more likely to be boys’ best subject,” Geary says.

“Girls, even when their abilities in science equaled or excelled that of boys, often were likely to be better overall in reading comprehension, which relates to higher ability in non-STEM subjects. As a result, these girls tended to seek out other professions unrelated to STEM fields,” he says.

Surprisingly, this trend was larger for girls and women living in countries with greater gender equality. The authors call this a “gender-equality paradox,” because countries lauded for their high levels of gender equality, such as Finland, Norway, or Sweden, have relatively few women among their STEM graduates.

In contrast, more socially conservative countries such as Turkey or Algeria have a much larger percentage of women among their STEM graduates.

“In countries with greater gender equality, women are actively encouraged to participate in STEM; yet, they lose more girls because of personal academic strengths,” Geary says. “In more liberal and wealthy countries, personal preferences are more strongly expressed. One consequence is that sex differences in academic strengths and interests become larger and have a stronger influence college and career choices than in more conservative and less wealthy countries, creating the gender-equality paradox.”

The combination of personal academic strengths in reading, lower interest in science, and broader financial security explains why so few women choose a STEM career in highly developed nations.

“STEM careers are generally secure and well-paid but the risks of not following such a path can vary,” says Gijsbert Stoet, professor in psychology at Leeds Beckett University in the UK. “In more affluent countries where any choice of career feels relatively safe, women may feel able to
make choices based on non-economic factors. Conversely, in countries with fewer economic opportunities, or where employment might be precarious, a well-paid and relatively secure STEM career can be more attractive to women.”

Findings from this study could help target interventions to make them more effective, say the researchers. Policymakers should reconsider failing national policies focusing on decreasing the gender imbalance in STEM, the researchers add.

Wealthier countries have fewer women in science and technology according to new study

Generated from News Bureau press release: Countries with greater gender equality have lower percentage of female STEM graduates

COLUMBIA – A recent study out of the University of Missouri in collaboration with Leeds Beckett University in the United Kingdom found even though some girls are scoring at or above boys in science and math, their reading comprehension scores are even higher. This is leading them away from careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, a grouping of careers known as STEM.

“Say you’re really good at math and science because you’re a good student, but you’re even better at composition or rhetoric, then the best choice for you to maximize your skills would be to go into non-STEM areas, even though you would be more than capable of going into a math or science undergraduate degree,” University of Missouri Curators Professor Dave Geary said.

He said a person’s academic profile typically determines which career path they choose. Geary said there is a global pattern to which gender is better at certain subjects.
“On average most boys are better at science or math than they are at language arts and reading comprehension and it’s just the reverse for girls,” Geary said.

Patricia Miranda, an engineering student at MU, doesn’t fit the global statistics. She made the decision to study chemical engineering because she feels it is what she is best at.

“I felt like I had very good teachers, so I was like ‘I can actually do math’ and a lot of my classmates from high school also chose engineering,” Miranda said.

She attended a high school in Zuila, Venezuela geared toward science and math. Miranda said this added to her natural skills.

“While choosing a major, I was also looking at different options, and I wasn’t very into humanities and writing papers and reading or doing things with my hands like art, so I took out the things that I am not good at and the things that I’m not interested in,” Miranda said.

Based on ability, academic strengths and interest researchers were able to identify the amount of women they think should be in the STEM field.

“We have a lot of girls and women that have math and science as their best subject, but fewer of them are going into STEM fields than you would expect and we don’t know what that remaining gap is due to,” Geary said.

A country’s wealth also plays a role, according to the study.

“In more liberal and wealthy countries, personal preferences are more strongly expressed,” Geary said. “One consequence is that sex differences in academic strengths and interests become larger and have a stronger influences on college and career choices than in more conservative and less wealthy countries, creating the gender-equality paradox.”

Geary said the concept is known as the “gender-equality paradox” because it would be assumed if a country is wealthier and has greater gender equality there would be more women in STEM, but that is not the case.

“In countries where there is more choice in education, high school and college education, the sex difference in the best subject actually gets bigger,” Geary said.

He said because people in wealthier countries have more freedom to choose their career path, it leads to people choosing what they are best at, not just what will make them the most money.

“In societies where you get a closer number of men and women going into stem fields, the economic and life circumstances are more risky, and STEM fields provide a more stable and safer economic safety net that isn’t provided otherwise,” Geary said. “It’s in those countries that
we see more women going into STEM. We think it’s because it’s less risky for them, so it might not be based on their interest so much as practical concerns.”

Miranda said she believes more women in her country go into the STEM field because it is familiar.

“Back home we have a very big Petroleum industry and everyone knows about that, so most people study engineering because they know what it is, and that includes men and women,” Miranda said. “They are aware and understand how it works. You’re informed enough to know how it works and to not be scared to chose it.”

Miranda is going to apply for jobs all over the world, but plans on heading to Europe after graduation.

“Technology is very advanced there and I know there is a very big STEM field there,” Miranda said. “I feel like for job opportunities Europe is the best place to go.”

Geary said the study can help schools and companies more accurately target women to study STEM. He said they should focus on women that fit a certain profile.

“We have a lot of girls and women that have math and science as their best subject, but fewer of them are going into STEM fields than you would expect and we don’t know what that remaining gap is due to,” he said.

Geary said the current tactics for recruiting aren’t working and suggests a more targeted approach based on the study.

“A lot of them are just a shotgun type targeting all the girls and all the boys and all the women. A lot of resources are poured into the effort and it’s just not working,” Geary said. “Things haven’t changed in two or three decades.”

**KOLR-TV (CBS) – Springfield, Mo.**

**Gender equality paradox in STEM education**
**Countries with greater gender equality have lower percentage of female STEM graduates**

According to a new study, countries with greater gender equality, actually have a lower percentage of women in science in tech fields.

Researchers at the University of Missouri say as societies become wealthier and more gender equal women are less likely to obtain degrees in subjects like computer science and physics.

David Geary, a professor of psychological sciences at Mizzou, calls this a "gender-equality paradox."

“So even in countries were girls did as well or better than boys in science, they did even better in reading comprehension or language arts, which means that many of these girls are going to go with their strengths. They’re probably going to go into humanities or social sciences, rather than a stem area, even though they’re more than capable doing well in a stem area.”

Surprisingly, more socially conservative countries such as Turkey or Algeria have a much larger percentage of women among their stem graduates.

Because of this new data, researchers suggested policy makers should focus less on the gender imbalance in stem graduates.


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**Principals give teachers better feedback after this training**

Posted by Cailin Riley-Missouri February 15th, 2018

**Generated from News Bureau press release:** Additional training can help principals have high overall accuracy in teacher observation evaluations
After completing training with the Network for Educator Effectiveness, principals improved their accuracy in evaluations of teachers, according to a new study.

In addition to creating greater accuracy, the training also encouraged discussion among principals and teachers about measurable goals.

More than 90 percent of teacher evaluations in schools include direct observations by principals. However, the evaluations are often subjective, and if principals are not properly trained, the results may not be a fair representation of a teacher’s performance.

Christi Bergin, a research professor in the University of Missouri’s College of Education and one of the developers of the Network for Educator Effectiveness, says that improving teacher observation practices helps education leaders prioritize methods in a way that increases transparency.

“If we are going to put resources into teacher evaluation, then let’s do it in a way that is useful and promotes growth and insight,” Bergin says. “The training helps everyone in a school get on the same page about effective teaching.”

In the study, Bergin and colleagues used diagnostic statistics in an innovative way to identify specific teaching practices that principals find difficult to evaluate accurately. For example, “formative assessment,” which refers to ensuring all students are learning during a lesson, was especially difficult to evaluate accurately. Identifying evaluation challenges is helpful because it pinpoints where more training is needed.

Because raters can be a big source of error, the study’s findings are an encouraging sign that Network for Educator Effectiveness training is effective. Bergin says a standard training for principals may also help teachers be more informed on how principals judge their performance, which then can inform strategies to improve their practice and help promote growth.

“If teachers know their principals are getting high-quality training, then they not only know what to expect in their observations, but they can have confidence in the outcomes,” Bergin says. “The overall community can have faith in their schools knowing that their teachers are growing their skills.”

Bergin’s research team is currently analyzing whether principal characteristics, such as how many years of experience they have, can have a strong impact on their accuracy with evaluations.

The researchers report their findings in *Studies in Educational Evaluation*.

The Network for Educator Effectiveness is the largest comprehensive teacher evaluation system in Missouri—more than 270 school districts use the system and the system trains more than 1,500 principals and administrators every year on how to effectively evaluate teachers.
Speech recognition apps can help students learn how to read, MU researcher finds

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Speech recognition apps can improve literacy, MU study finds


Boone County mental health resources

By KELSEY KERNSTINE

Generated from News Bureau Direct Pitch

Watch video at: http://www.abc17news.com/news/boone-county-mental-health-resources/702266476

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Florida shooter had a history of mental health issues.

Mental health facilities are limited in many places in the country, even in Boone County.

Mizzou Health has a psychiatric hospital and there will soon be a facility focusing on the mental and health needs of kids and teens.
An assistant professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri, Kelli Canada, said, "I think we are no different than most communities, we have an enormous need for additional community based services."

ABC 17 has been following the progress of Centerpointe, a Behavioral Health System geared towards child and teenage mental health needs.

Back in 2016, Centerpointe CEO Buddy Turner told us how it will serve local kids, "to provide education, to provide training opportunities in schools, there are profiles of kids who meet that criteria that potentially could be at risk for that, and we want to get out in front of that proactively," he said.

Centerpointe is now saying it will open in October of 2018. It is a 72-bed hospital at the corner of International Drive and Rangeline Street. Twenty-four of the beds will be for child and adolescent care.

There's also an initiative at the Boone County Schools, when a tragic occurs like this. They stress the importance of the "Look Around Campaign." They encourage students to seek help for social and emotional concerns they experience or they perceive to their friends or loved ones.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Editorial: Boone, MU hospitals must overcome differences

By Hank Waters

Earlier this week Boone Hospital Trustees President Brian Neuner explained to a group of interested citizens the status of current negotiations, or lack of same, to develop a partnership between his organization and University of Missouri Health Care.

Neuner said discussions are on hold because MU wanted too much control. MU officials indicate they want negotiations to continue. This moment illuminates the central issue facing the parties as they pursue a general outcome both sides want.

Pertinent factors: Continuation of the lease between Boone Hospital and BJC Health Services of St. Louis is not an option. Of remaining options a partnership with MU Health clearly is best. MU Hospital has become the strong market leader, about four times as large as Boone.
Realities for an agreement: A simple 50-50 split of finances and management prerogative is not realistic. MU will inevitably have control in order to assure necessary cash flow to satisfy bond and other financial obligations, but MU has good reasons to enter into a reasonable partnership preserving the future of Boone Hospital.

Similar alliances in other locations between not-for-profit and academic center hospitals evolve over time. Initial agreements recognize relative prerogatives in ways satisfactory to the parties but inevitably change as circumstances require.

No sense trying to write details of an agreement here or in grousing among citizens with unrealistic expectations. As constituents and citizens our job is to learn the realities of the situation so we will understand why a partnership is clearly the best option. Otherwise Boone and MU are bound to go separate ways, fighting it out instead of working together for mutual benefit and the best interests of our Mid-Missouri constituency.

The current hiatus is a bump in the road, not proof that a partnership cannot or should not be done. Let us recognize the realities of the situation and get back to work.

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**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Blunt calls Russian election influence 'marginal;' Intelligence Committee report coming soon**

By Chuck Raasch

WASHINGTON • As a first phase of a Senate Intelligence Committee investigation draws to a conclusion, Sen. Roy Blunt said Thursday he believes that the Russians had only a “marginal” effect on the 2016 elections that did not affect any outcomes.

He said in an interview Thursday that the Senate Intelligence Committee on which he serves should have recommendations on how to combat future meddling attempts by the March 20 primaries in Illinois.

Two days after the heads of the nation’s top spy agencies told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Russia continues to sow discord and attack confidence in the nation’s elections, Blunt, R-
Mo., said he is confident that the administration of President Donald Trump is doing what is necessary to deal with the threat.

Democratic colleagues on the committee had complained that Trump did not seem concerned about the problem, and they criticized what they saw as a piecemeal approach to confront it.

“We cannot confront this threat, which is a serious one, without a whole-of-government response when the leader of the government continues to deny that it exists,” said Sen. Angus King, I-Maine.

Blunt, the only St. Louis-area member on either congressional intelligence committee, was asked whether he believed that Trump was taking the issue seriously.

“His agencies certainly seem to be,” Blunt replied. “So when the president says the Russian investigation … all he is talking about is collusion. If anybody thinks the Russians actually impacted the outcome of the election they just don’t have the facts. The Russian involvement is unacceptable, but it is really pretty marginal.”

Blunt accused Democratic critics of trying to have it both ways by criticizing Trump for not being more outspoken on Russian election influence while warning him to stay away from investigations into Russian meddling and whether or not his campaign colluded with the Russians.

“There is a lot of inconsistency on this and sort of the political point of the moment being made, and frankly most people, including me, are getting pretty tired of that,” Blunt said.

In a public hearing this week, Democrats focused on National Intelligence Agency Director Dan Coats’ assertion that there was “no single agency in charge” of the government’s response to Russian meddling. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., said that meant the government had “no plan.”

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., said the committee was likely to issue its report on Russian influence before primaries begin this year. Blunt said he expected that before the March 20 Illinois primaries.

“We don’t want to see the actual election day process itself impacted,” Blunt, a former Missouri secretary of state, said. “Nobody believes that happened in 2016, and we need to take steps so that people have confidence so that it also won’t happen in 2018. And it will be good to see that part of the report out.”

He said that the report is likely to recommend ways to further guarantee the accuracy of election counts, including paper trails to verify computer-counted results.

But Blunt said he had no idea when a broader investigation of special counsel Robert Mueller would finish. That one has already produced indictments and guilty pleas, and has been an almost daily topic in the Trump White House.
Asking if he believed Trump’s assertion that there was no collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians, Blunt said: “My view continues to be that the (Trump) campaign had one asset, which was a candidate that understood the moment and (was) not very capable of anything much more complicated than that.

“I would be surprised that they were capable of collusion with the Russians because I don’t think they were capable of collusion with the Republican National Committee,” Blunt said.

Blunt said he had not been aware of reports prior to their publication in the Kansas City Star this week that there was evidence that Russian actors attempted to foment online discord in University of Missouri protests in 2015. The newspaper quoted a paper by an Air Force officer blaming Russians for starting an online rumor that the Ku Klux Klan was coming to campus. It was repeated on social media by Missouri Students Association President Payton Head, who later apologized after police called the reports false.

Blunt said, “I have read all the campus things about Missouri that have come to my attention” and that it “turned out that most of them” were not credible. He also alluded to Russian social media agitation after the shooting death of Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer.

“Black Lives Matter would be sort of something that started, in my view, after Ferguson, and that was clearly one of the things the Russians were talking about,” Blunt said. “I think it is important to understand here … that the Russian activity in the election didn’t usually mention any candidate, and tried to create a sense that the whole process somehow wasn’t working the way it should.

“Some of it is anti-Trump, a lot of it is probably anti-Clinton,” Blunt said. “But in the broad context of things it is fairly minimal in its impact, but still offensive.”

Local dog gets a chance at a new foot, thanks to 3-D printing

BY JESSI DODGE 9 hrs ago (0)

“You want to get a new foot? Want to get a new foot?” cooed Kendra Earl Warlow as she bent over and pet Tucker, her five-year-old Australian shepherd.

Tucker bounced energetically around a basement lab in Noyes Hall, introducing himself to each and every person in the room. Born without several bones in his hind right foot, Tucker has spent his life hopping on three legs.
Warlow picked up Tucker when he was only eight months old and has stuck close to him ever since.

“He was the last one left in the litter. Nobody wanted him because of his foot,” she said. “Nothing stops him.”

She laughed as she told stories of Tucker racing around the yard and house with her second, younger Australian shepherd, Indie, not letting his missing foot slow him down.

The damage to Tucker’s leg, while manageable, continues to cause pain through Tucker’s back and into his hind quarter. He is on a number of medications and Warlow worries that the missing foot will only worsen the pain for Tucker, if not lead to even more serious problems.

While working on her master’s thesis in Ellis Library, Warlow saw members of the Mizzou 3D Printing Club working with the 3-D printers in the library. She had an idea. She walked up to a member and asked, “Hey, I got a dog. He doesn’t have a foot, want to make one?”

That was a little over a year ago. On Thursday, Tucker tried out his newest prosthetic prototypes.

Tucker, who has not previously used a prosthetic, switched between standing and laying down, waiting as Warlow tested out each new option. The club prepared three different prototypes to try out during the meeting.

“Today we would like to test fit different cavity sizes and see which best fits him,” said Andrew Dove, project leader, before testing out the prosthetics. The three prototypes prepared were created from a cast made around Tucker’s leg.

The prosthetic team consists of about seven members who have spent the past year working with Tucker and Marlow to develop a prosthetic that will hopefully improve his mobility and his quality of life.

After creating what the group now laughingly refers to as their “Robo-Cop leg,” collaboration with a Hanger Clinic — an orthotic and prosthetic organization — and several adjustments to both form and material has led to the most recent prototype. The most recent round of feet has moved away from the white plastic and metal combination of the initial prototype toward a blue PLA filament, which is easier to work with — a big advantage when in the preliminary phase.

As Tucker lay alert on the floor, the group found the best fit and continued to take note of measurements and changes that would improve both the feel and practicality of the design.

“Simpler is better,” Dove said while brainstorming with team members. “There’s still a lot of room for improvement, but this is much better.”
In the final few minutes of the meeting, as Tucker resumed circling the room and barked loud enough to echo through neighboring rooms, the team implemented one final idea: They cut off the bottom of the foot and replaced it with a rubber ball.

The group waited and the air lightened as Warlow laughed and said he was putting more weight on now than any previous attempt.

Dove let out a cheer as he felt the pressure the pressure Tucker was putting on his new “house slipper.”

“That was what I was waiting for.”

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**MISSOURIAN**

**An illegal Michael Porter Jr. T-shirt is $19.50, and that's his own problem**

By: Will Jarvis

The phone case shows Michael Porter Jr. in a white Nathan Hale High School basketball uniform. The T-shirt portrays the freshman in a blue-and-white Tolton jersey.

There are sweatshirts, too. And posters and autographed basketballs — all showing the name, likeness or image of Porter, a Columbia local and Missouri freshman whose influence has reached profit-driven vendors across the country.

It’s all against NCAA rules. And it's all illegal.

As an NCAA athlete, not only is Porter’s image not his to profit from, but it’s also up to him and the university to stop the production and sale of such products to avoid NCAA eligibility violations.

That rule has spurred legal battles and drawn criticism from advocates of student-athletes. All the while, the very notion of amateurism is in limbo for revenue-generating sports such as men’s basketball and football.
NCAA Bylaw 12.5.2.2 states that "if a student-athlete’s name or picture appears on commercial items" — such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, posters, etc. — "the student-athlete (or the institution acting on behalf of the student-athlete) is required to take steps to stop such an activity in order to retain his or her eligibility for intercollegiate athletics."

In 2014, repercussions of the bylaw made it to Mississippi State, where former quarterback Dak Prescott was forced to sue a T-shirt vendor using his name and likeness without consent. He did so through the NCAA Opportunity Fund and was able to return the next year for his senior season.

**MU sent cease and desist letters when the university's Compliance Office was made aware of T-shirts and posters portraying Porter being sold on RedBubble, a vendor representing independent artists.**

Many of the products using Porter’s name and likeness have since been taken down, including those sold by the vendor RatTrapTees. One of its shirts showed Porter dunking in a blue-and-white Tolton basketball jersey.

Though Porter showed no objection to the printing of those T-shirts in May — he exchanged direct messages on Twitter with the vendor — the issue of NCAA Bylaw 12.5.2.2 came into play when he joined the Missouri basketball team.

Before each season, the MU Compliance Office holds informational reviews with student-athletes to remind them of NCAA rules regarding amateurism. Another meeting occurs at the start of second semester.

Still, issues surrounding the rule arise nearly every season around the country. Last month, Marvin Bagley Jr., father of Duke freshman Marvin Bagley III, printed his son’s face on T-shirts for members of the "Cameron Crazies" student section to wear during a Jan. 13 contest.
The image soon popped up on coffee mugs and T-shirts being sold online. Bagley Jr. took to Facebook to condemn the third-party vendors, whom he called "crooks … trying to profit on my son’s name, image and likeness!"

That was the issue at the heart of O’Bannon v. NCAA, a federal class-action lawsuit in which former UCLA basketball player Ed O’Bannon served as the lead plaintiff against the NCAA’s commercial use of student-athletes’ names, images and likeness.

The lawsuit left neither side satisfied, but District Judge Claudia Wilken ruled that universities should be able to provide cost-of-attendance scholarships for student-athletes.

"What that decision did was it answered one question, which was the violation of antitrust laws, but it generated about 60 more questions that remain unanswered," said Eric Combs, a Cincinnati-based sports lawyer.

At Missouri, full-scholarship student-athletes receive a $5,486 stipend each year. Combs said it’s a step in the right direction in terms of compensating student-athletes for the revenue they produce.

"But it’s sort of arbitrary," Combs said. "It doesn’t differentiate between Michael Porter Jr. and the last guy on the bench."

So how should athletes be compensated?

One possibility Combs discussed was an amendment that could put money into a trust fund for players to receive after leaving college or an added compensation for use of name, image and likeness.

"The idea is definitely out there," he said. "I find it hard to believe the conferences and institutions aren’t internally discussing these things."
Using a student-athlete’s likeness also violates right of publicity, a common law precedent that gives people the right to control the commercial use of their identities. Thirty-eight states, including Missouri, recognize right of publicity.

Marc Edelman, a professor of law at Baruch College’s Zicklin School of Business in New York, noted that some products portraying Porter’s likeness, especially those using his name and a gold No. 13 Missouri basketball uniform, were "blatant cases of infringement."

Edelman did note that right of publicity can be trumped by overriding First Amendment interests, such as artistic expression in poems, songs or paintings.

That means Alton Dorian Clark, a hip-hop artist who goes by "Dorian" and originally hails from Indianapolis (where Porter lived until the fifth grade), is likely protected. Clark released an explicit song titled "Michael Porter" in late October.

A parental advisory warning sits in album cover’s bottom left corner, alongside a drawing of Porter in a No. 13 gold Missouri basketball jersey.

"It would be very difficult to argue the mere use of someone’s name in a song is leading to sale of albums," Edelman said.

In fact, Clark, in a Periscope shortly after the song’s release, explained that the idea of using Porter’s name came only after he heard the beat. The song is less a glorification of the 19-year-old and more a condemnation of the system he inhabits — "you greedy mutha****** need to let em get paid," he later raps, in a statement aimed at the NCAA.

"If the NBA didn’t have the rule where you had to go to college for one year, he wouldn’t be going to college," Clark said. "With that said, (the NCAA) is basically using him to make money.

"He’s just an example of the entire system."
A bipartisan group of U.S. senators has introduced legislation to hold campus leaders accountable for sexual abuse that happens on their watch.

During a week of scathing, heart-rending testimony by the physician’s scores of victims, Lou Anna K. Simon’s once-strong support rapidly eroded. On the same day Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison, Simon resigned. Here’s how that stunning turn of events came about.

The bill, the Accountability of Leaders in Education to Report Title IX Investigations Act, or the Alert Act for short, was introduced on Thursday. It would require college and university presidents to certify annually that they have reviewed all incidents of sexual misconduct reported to their campus Title IX coordinator, and that they have not interfered with investigations of those incidents.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Debbie A. Stabenow, Democrat of Michigan; Sen. Gary C. Peters, Democrat of Michigan; and Sen. John Cornyn, Republican of Texas. They said they had developed the measure in response to Michigan State University’s mishandling of allegations of sexual abuse against Larry Nassar, who was recently sentenced for molesting hundreds of girls and women, and Pennsylvania State University’s mishandling of alleged sexual abuse by Jerry Sandusky, who is currently serving a long prison term for molesting boys.

“In both the Nassar and Sandusky cases, university leaders failed to take action on or even claimed they were unaware of reports of sexual abuse by university employees, despite the fact that official Title IX or external investigations had been conducted,” according to a news release announcing the legislation.

The bill would require at least one member of a federally funded college or university’s board and the president, or an equivalent position such as a chancellor, to submit an annual certification to the secretary of education that they have reviewed all cases and that they have not “inappropriately influenced” an investigation.

“This bill is just one step we can take to make sure all universities take sexual abuse more seriously and that their leadership is held publicly accountable,” Senator Stabenow said in a written statement.

Senator Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, echoed those comments.
“University officials must be responsible stewards of students’ trust, especially when they come forward with unthinkable allegations of abuse,” he said in the news release. “This legislation would ensure reports of sexual misconduct against campus employees have been thoroughly reviewed by university leadership.”