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Athletes, bands take student protests to another level

By Jesse J. Holland
WASHINGTON (AP) - Few attention when a black student started a hunger strike at the University of Missouri to protest a strike on campus. As soon

as the football team supported that hunger strike by refusing to practice for or play in the school's lucrative NCAA games, the university's president and chancellor were forced out and

changes were discussed. The stand taken at Missouri illustrates a new trend for college millennials. Frustrated with what they perceive as insensitivity by school administrators,

they are taking their generation's penchant for social media protest to the next level: Using their on-campus celebrity to pose a threat to the bottom line.

"They forced the administration to take the protest seriously given the money that is generated via athletics. To say that you will not play on Saturday is tantamount to a major donor pulling their funds," said D'Andra Orey, a political science professor at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

Students have been organizing and protesting racial strife at universities all year - from a noose being found on Duke University's campus, to spray-painted swastikas and nooses at the State University of New York's Purchase campus, to a fraternity video at the University of Oklahoma using a racial slur to describe how the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity would never accept black members.

Last month, a popular marching band at Howard University, one of the nation's premier historically black colleges, wore all black during a halftime football show in a show of solidarity with students frustrated about financial aid and other problems.

This week at Yale, students took to the streets after an Oct. 28 university email warning about racially insensitive Halloween costumes prompted a professor to complain that Yale and other campuses were becoming "places of censure and prohibition."

But nowhere have students been able to force change like they have at Missouri, the state's flagship university and a relatively new member of one of the nation's premier football conferences, the Southeastern Conference.

The student government president reported in September that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing a weeks-long protest movement by concerned students. On Nov. 2, with little fanfare, graduate student Jonathan Butler went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Police investigate graffiti on Bowie State University campus

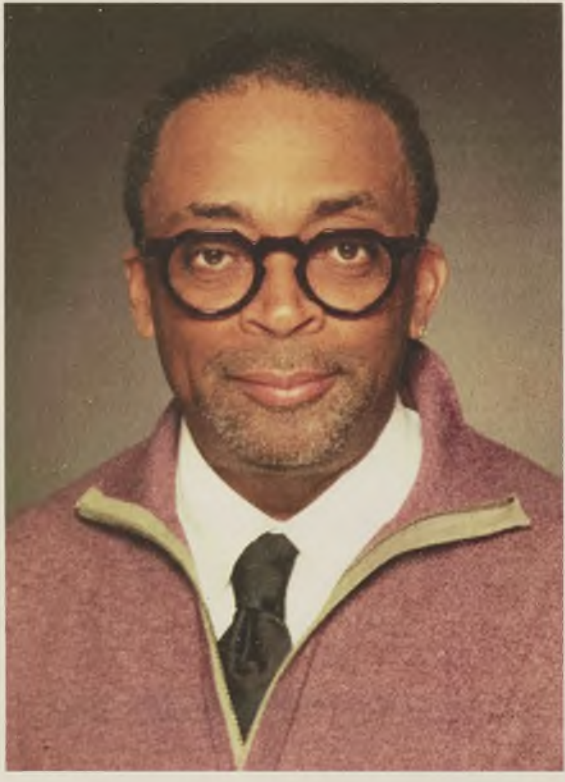
BOWIE, Md. (AP) - Authorities say they are investigating an incident at Bowie State University where graffiti resembling a swastika was found on a column of the campus's Martin Luther King Jr. Center patio.

Campus police say the graffiti was found Nov. 12 on the campus of the historically black university.

Vice President for Student Affairs Artie L. Travis sent a letter to the college community saying the incident is being investigated as a possible hate crime. The graffiti has since been removed by police.

University spokeswoman Damita Chambers says the graffiti was on a visible part of campus where several departments are housed.

Students held a rally Nov. 12 night to speak out against hate speech.



SPIKE LEE

Spike Lee calls for diversity as he accepts honorary Oscar

By Sandy Cohen

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Spike Lee told an audience of entertainment luminaries that it's easier for a black person to become President of the United States than head of a Hollywood studio or network.

Lee made the remarks Nov. 14 as he accepted an Oscar statuette at the film academy's seventh annual Governors Awards dinner in Hollywood, where Gena Rowlands and Debbie Reynolds were also honorees.

"We need to have some serious discussions about diversity and get some flavor up in this," Lee said. "This industry is so behind sports it's ridiculous."

The filmmaker praised Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Cheryl Boone Isaacs for "trying to do something that needs to be done." Earlier in the evening, Isaacs called on the industry powers in attendance to take action toward "recognizing and embracing a broad cross-section of talent." She also announced the academy's new five-year plan to improve diversity in its staff and governance.

Isaacs opened the Governors Awards ceremony with condolences for France in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

"All of us here stand in solidarity and support of France and the French people," she said. "Our connection with the film-loving French is especially deep."

Lee offered "peace and love to people in France" as he received his award. Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes and Samuel L. Jackson brought the filmmaker onstage for his Oscar.

"Spike Lee has put more African-Americans to work in this business than anyone else in this business," Washington said in his introduction.

Cate Blanchett and Laura Linney each paid tribute to Rowlands, calling her a trailblazer and inspiration. The 85-year-old actress, whose career spans six decades, received her Oscar from her son, Nick Cassavettes, who directed his mother in 2004's "The Notebook." He noted that the award was "the first Oscar in the family."

Looking lovingly at the golden trophy, Rowlands thanked the academy governors for "introducing me to this fine fellow."

"He's very handsome," she said. "You know, he's just so elegant... I think I'll take him home."

Reynolds received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep introduced the 83-year-old entertainer, who announced Nov. 13 that she would be unable to attend the ceremony.

Reynolds was recognized for her decades-long commitment to various charities, including the mental health organization she founded, the Thelians. Her granddaughter accepted Reynolds' statuette.

A live band played throughout the evening, and there were two musical interludes: Zoey Deschanel performed the Oscar-nominated song Reynolds sang in 1958's "Tammy and the Bachelor." Aloe Blacc sang "A Change is Gonna Come" as part of Lee's introduction.

Other famous faces at the starry dinner included Johnny Depp and wife Amber Heard, Daniel Craig and wife Rachel Weisz, Will Smith, Ice Cube, Mark Ruffalo, Quentin Tarantino, Saoirse Ronan and Michael Caine. Portions of the untelevised ceremony may be included in the 2016 Academy Awards telecast.

Prosecutor: Distributor of KKK flier facing criminal charges

By Lynne Tuohy

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - A white man who prosecutors say distributed Ku Klux Klan recruitment fliers to two members of the city's small minority community is facing criminal charges.

The fliers didn't include a call to violence, but distributing them only to a black woman and a Hispanic woman shows an intent to threaten and therefore doesn't fall under free-speech protections, Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan said Nov. 12.

William Schenk was arrested Nov. 12 on disorderly conduct charges, prosecutors said. Because his conduct was motivated by

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CLASS GIFT - From left to right are: Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, Class of 1975 members, NCCU Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. George R. Hamilton, Class of 1977.

NCCU Alumni Increased Spirit of Giving During 2015 Homecoming

Early Calculations Total More Than \$1 Million in Alumni Gifts During Annual Homecoming Celebration

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) received record number of alumni gifts during the 2015 Ultimate Homecoming Experience as alumni responded generously to "Every Eagle, Every Year" campaign.

More than 1,061 alumni showed their support through contributions during Homecoming with the total growing to just over \$1 million and setting the record for the most donors ever during the weekend festivities.

"The increase in alumni contributions to the university during Homecoming signals significant momentum in support of this year's 'Every Eagle, Every Year' campaign," said Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D., vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement. "We are extremely appreciative to our alumni who recognize the importance of supporting the university."

Homecoming festivities brought alumni back to NCCU to participate in activities hosted by NCCU's Division of Institutional Advancement and Office of Alumni Relations. The NCCU alumni concert featuring R&B artist Jeffrey Osborne and saxophonist Michael Phillips was a sold-out event.

Participation in "Every Eagle, Every Year" came from alumni of all ages throughout the weekend of Homecoming. Individuals celebrating class reunions this year played a large part in elevating the giving numbers, with so many giving a gift through "Every Eagle, Every Year."

The following three reunion classes have the highest contributions and participation rates:

- Society of Golden Eagles: Class of 1925 - 1964 (\$619,082) - 31 percent class member participation
- Class of 1965, the "Golden Class" (\$124,021) - 57 percent class member participation
- Class of 1975 (\$186,179) - 35 percent class member participation

NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White hosted a special Donor Tailgate celebration for members of the Shepard Society and above. More than 460 donors make up the Shepard Society.

During the last fiscal year, alumni giving participation climbed to 15 percent, a 3 percent increase over fiscal year 2013-2014. NCCU received \$2.1 million in gifts donated by

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Former US Rep. Tim Valentine of North Carolina dies at 89

ROCKY MOUNT (AP) - Former U.S. Rep. Tim Valentine of Nashville, who also served as a state legislator, has died at the age of 89.

Valentine died Nov. 10, said Sherry Peace with Wheeler and Podlief Funeral Home in Rocky Mount. "When you grow up in the same neighborhood, you get to learn the real character of people," Attorney General Roy Cooper, who grew up two blocks from Valentine in Nashville, told the Rocky Mount Telegram. "His quick wit was legendary, and he had a way to add humor even in the toughest of times. That helped him be a great leader and public servant."

The Democrat served in the U.S. House from 1983 to 1995, representing what was then the 2nd Congressional District. It included parts of the Raleigh-Durham area. He also served in the North Carolina House from 1955 to 1960.

After his state House terms, he served as a legal adviser and legislative counsel to Gov. Dan Moore.

Valentine served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. He graduated from the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1948 and graduated from law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1952.

After retiring from Congress, Valentine helped create the Tar River Land Conservancy and served on the board of directors of the Country Doctor Museum in Bailey.

"He lived a good life and made a real difference- no question about it," Cooper said.

A funeral was held Nov. 14 at Lakeside Baptist Church in Rocky Mount.

Supporters discuss future of rural hospital in Belhaven

WASHINGTON (AP) - Representatives of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP and others will discuss the next steps in the effort to reopen Pungo Hospital in Belhaven.

The Rev. William Barber, the head of the state NAACP, will meet with Belhaven Mayor Adam O'Neal on Nov. 11 at Beaufort Superior Court in Washington to discuss health care issues.

Since Vidant Pungo Hospital closed July 1, 2014, O'Neal has pushed officials to reopen the facility.

Vidant took over Pungo District Hospital in 2011. Hospital officials have said that operating losses of \$5.7 million since that time and the need to replace the aging building were two of the main reasons for the closing. They said state officials' refusal to expand Medicaid also was a factor, but not the main reason for