

FEB 14 2011

**AP** Associated Press

**The★Star.**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

*A version of this story appeared in several outlets around the country.*

## **MU student arrested after racist graffiti on dorm**

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- An 18-year-old student is facing charges after racist graffiti was found on a dormitory at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Campus police say the student was released on 10 percent of \$4,500 bond after he was arrested Saturday night. He faces charges of second-degree property damage, which is a felony.

A slur that included the n-word was discovered on a sculpture in front of Hatch Hall Saturday morning.

Police won't say what led them to arrest the student.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Student held for allegedly painting slur at MU

BY JOEL CURRIER • [jcurrier@post-dispatch.com](mailto:jcurrier@post-dispatch.com) > 314-340-8256 [www.STLtoday.com](http://www.STLtoday.com) |  
Posted: Monday, February 14, 2011 12:20 am | [\(8\) Comments](#)

Police at the University of Missouri-Columbia arrested a man Saturday night as a suspect in an incident of racist vandalism painted on the outside of a dormitory building.

Benjamin A. Elliot, 18, an MU student, was booked into the Boone County Jail on suspicion of second-degree property damage, a felony. He was released after posting 10 percent of a \$4,500 bond. Extra penalties could be applied if the case is construed as a hate crime.

A slur, spray painted in black on the base of a sculpture in front of Hatch Hall, was discovered about 9:15 a.m. Saturday, said MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer. It included the n-word.

A student spotted the graffiti about 9:15 a.m. and sent a text message about it to Hatch Hall's residential coordinator, Weimer said. The coordinator called police. Elliot was arrested about 9:30 p.m.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he was "dismayed and deeply offended" by the graffiti.

Police would not say what led to Elliot's arrest or what evidence police have in the case.

"That's something that's just going to have to come out in court," Weimer said.

Last February, two MU students, one from the St. Louis area and the other from western Missouri, dumped cotton balls across the front lawn of the campus' Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. Those students were charged with littering —not a hate crime — and sentenced in April to two years on probation, 80 hours of community service and a 60-day revocation of their drivers licenses.

# KMOX

## NewsRadio 1120

The Voice of St. Louis

## Police Arrest Suspect in Racial Slur Incident on Mizzou Campus

*Maria Keena*

February 14, 2011 6:00 AM



**COLUMBIA, Mo. (KMOX)** – University of Missouri Police say they arrested the suspect responsible for a spraying paint incident at Hatch Hall.

18-year old Benjamin Elliott is now charged with Second Degree Property Damage , which is a felony, due to revised sentencing provisions under Missouri's law. The state's Hate Crimes law provides enhanced penalties for motivational factors in certain crimes.

Police say they can not release any further details at this time due to an ongoing investigation. Elliott was released from the Boone County Jail on \$4,500.00 bond.



## **UPDATE: Teen arrested for racist graffiti at Mizzou**

**Columbia, MO (KSDK)---** Campus police have arrested a teen accused of spraying racist graffiti outside a dorm at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

18-year-old Benjamin Elliott was arrested Saturday night for Second Degree Property Damage, which is a class D felony under a Missouri statute on hate crimes.

Elliott was released after posting a \$4,500 bond.

The Columbia Tribune reports that police made the arrest after reviewing surveillance footage and interviewing students.

Students found a racial slur about Black History Month spray painted on a statue in front of Hatch Hall Saturday morning.

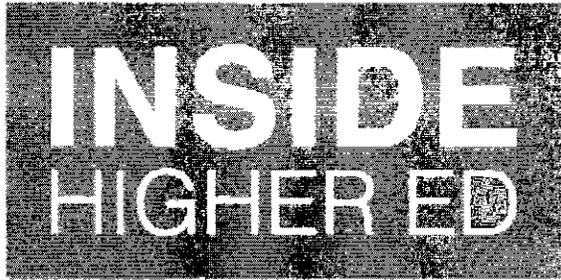
"I felt extremely hurt by the incident that happened," said student Lisa White. White is also the president of the university's Legion of Black Collegians.

Last year, two students were arrested for scattering cotton balls outside of the Black Culture Center on campus. Both incidents have occurred during Black History Month. For White, it's a troubling pattern.

"I'm confused as to where our society went wrong with these students or individuals to where they don't feel the celebration or feel what everyone else feels when we talk about Black History month," White said.

University of Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton released a statement Saturday afternoon

"Early this morning, Feb. 12, graffiti involving a racial slur was discovered on a sculpture in front of Hatch Hall. I speak for our university community when I say we are dismayed and deeply offended and have zero tolerance for this type of hurtful and destructive behavior. MUPD is currently investigating and collecting evidence. Campus administrators, MUPD and student leaders will be in discussion regarding immediate and future actions to be taken. I ask that we come together as a Mizzou family to deplore this action and to celebrate the diversity of our community as one of MU's greatest strengths," Deaton wrote.



[insidehighered.com](http://insidehighered.com)

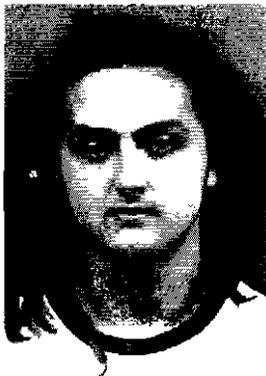
## Racial Tensions at Several Campuses

Last week, the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa was debating the use of a racial slur and the campus reaction to it -- and over the weekend racial incidents at other campuses became known:

- At Georgetown College, in Kentucky, local police were summoned to the campus after a series of incidents, including the use of a racial slur, an offensive statement made in a classroom setting, and graffiti and symbols that appeared on parts of the campus, LEX18 News reported. Officials have condemned the incidents, but not provided details on what was said. A national fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Order, announced Saturday that it had suspended its Georgetown College chapter, pending investigations into whether its was involved in the use of racial slurs directed at a minority student, The Lexington Herald-Leader reported.
- At the University of Missouri at Columbia, authorities discovered a racial slur on a sculpture outside a dormitory, and a suspect has been arrested, KMOX News reported. The incident came a year after students at Missouri were angered by a scattering of cotton balls -- seen by many as a reference to slavery -- in front of the Black Culture Center.

## Police arrest student for racist graffiti

A second racially charged incident in a year on the University of Missouri campus has officials and some students irate.



**Benjamin Elliott**

A second racially charged incident in a year on the University of Missouri campus has officials and some students irate.

At 9:30 p.m. yesterday, officers from the University of Missouri Police Department arrested 18-year-old Benjamin Elliott on suspicion of second-degree property damage, a Class D felony because of hate crimes sentencing provisions, according to MU police Capt. Brian Weimer.

Elliott was released from the Boone County Jail after posting a \$4,500 bond, Weimer said.

In a statement, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said he was "deeply offended" by a racist slur that was discovered on a sculpture in front of Hatch Hall early yesterday. Witnesses said black graffiti, which was removed by midday yesterday, included the N-word.

Weimer said officers reviewed surveillance footage from the area. Officers also spoke to students who were in the area Friday night.

The graffiti was reported at 9:15 a.m. yesterday by a residence hall coordinator. Weimer said someone sent the coordinator a text message around 3 a.m. yesterday reporting the graffiti, but the coordinator didn't receive the message until later in the morning.

"I speak for our university community when I say we are dismayed and deeply offended and have zero tolerance for this type of hurtful and destructive behavior," Deaton said in a statement.

Deaton said campus administrators, police and student leaders "will be in discussion regarding immediate and future actions to be taken.

"I ask that we come together as a Mizzou family to deplore this action and to celebrate the diversity of our community as one of MU's greatest strengths."

Last February, two young men lined cotton balls in front of the Gaines Oldham Black Culture Center on campus.

Zachary Tucker and Sean Fitzgerald later described the act as a prank, but the racist display — a reminder of the days of slaves picking cotton — riled the community.

Town hall forums were called, and students used the opportunity to lash out at administrators for not responding to the incident soon enough and for not requiring diversity courses.

The prank made national news. Tucker and Fitzgerald pleaded guilty to littering and voluntarily left the university.

Bryan Like, president of the MU NAACP chapter, said he does not want to see this kind of display become a tradition at the university and is critical of what administrators call a "zero tolerance" policy.

"I started immediately thinking, 'Why do people think they can get away with this?' " he said.

Many students received e-mail notification of the incident from the university while attending yesterday's MU men's basketball game against Oklahoma. After the game, students went to the sculpture to witness the damage. "I don't see how they would have done it without being seen," said freshman Hank Koebler. "There are usually a lot of people out here."

Koebler said he learned about last year's cotton ball incident when he was a high school senior in Texas. The incident did not stop him from enrolling at MU, he said, and he blames yesterday and last year's incident on ignorance and immaturity.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **UPDATE: Student arrested in connection with graffiti incident**

By [Rachel Stinebring](#)

February 12, 2011 | 10:53 a.m. CST

**COLUMBIA — MU police arrested an 18-year-old MU student in connection with the spray painting of offensive words at Hatch Hall.**

Benjamin A. Elliott was arrested on suspicion of second-degree property damage. Because the incident is considered a hate crime, the charge was escalated to a class D felony. Second-degree property damage is normally a class B misdemeanor.

The offensive language appeared to be a racial slur referring to Black History Month.

He was held at the Boone County Jail, according to a MU police news release. He was released after posting the \$4,500 bond.

According to the MU student, faculty and staff directory, Elliott is a freshman from Rolla in the College of Arts and Science. He's listed as living in Prunty Hall at Stephens College.

The incident took place late Friday or early Saturday morning, almost a year after two MU students scattered cotton balls in front of MU's Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

MU police were alerted Saturday morning that offensive language had been written in graffiti across a sculpture in front of Hatch Hall, MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said.

First the graffiti was covered with cardboard and plastic. Then Residential Life workers cleaned it off with a power washer and scrub brushes at about 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Members of Residential Life would not comment on the incident because of a media policy, Hatch Hall Coordinator Patrick Patterson said.

**MU Chancellor Brady Deaton released a statement at about 1:30 p.m.**

"I speak for our entire university community when I say we are dismayed and deeply offended and have zero tolerance for this hurtful and destructive behavior," Deaton wrote in the statement.

Bryan Like, president of MU's NAACP collegiate chapter, said that he wants the university to take a stronger stand on the issue.

"We need to hear from the powers that be how the issue will be dealt with," Like said. "We need retribution. If the university really has a zero tolerance policy, why won't actions like these result in expulsion?"

Like said that he wants the university to work on educating students about racial issues to prevent these types of occurrences.

"I think we need to talk to the incoming freshman about racial issues. You shouldn't have to pay per credit hour for a class to receive the education that brings about change," Like said.

This incident comes less than two weeks before the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government, which will take place Feb. 24 to 26 at MU. About 800 minority students from across the nation will be attending the conference, according to MU's Legion of Black Collegians' website.

Weimer said no further details would be released because the investigation is still ongoing.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU students rally against racial hate incident

By [Steph Hopp](#)

February 12, 2011 | 8:47 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA — Passers-by stopped to watch four MU students spray paint posters advocating peace and love outside of Hatch Residence Hall on Saturday evening.**

In response to a [racial slur](#) written late Friday night or early Saturday morning on a sculpture outside of Hatch, the students blasted Bob Marley's "One Love" from a car stereo as they designed the posters to rally against the racial hate incident.

The students spray painted "One Love," "Imagine" and a peace sign in green, purple and black on two large posters.

"This is absolutely ridiculous," Kirsten Duncan, an MU senior, said. "We already had an incident last year. It is appalling; the behavior of people around here is ridiculous."

Through the use of Facebook, the four students were able to create an event and invite their friends to participate in the rally.

"So we were talking and decided we need to do something about this," Duncan said. "We need to show that Mizzou is about one love and that we love all, and there are no prejudices against anyone."

Co-creator of the event, Angie Owens, an MU senior, said she wanted to make sure that as MU students, they represented love rather than hate.

As the event continued, the poster boards received more attention from students walking nearby.

Harriett Brown, an MU sophomore, watched the students spray paint and took pictures of them with her cell phone.

"I wasn't that surprised about what happened, but I was shocked that it was so bold," Brown said. "It's good that they're showing that everyone at Mizzou is like this (those at the rally) and that there are just a few people that mess it up for everybody."

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **UPDATE: Racial slur written on sculpture outside Hatch**

By Rachel Stinebring

February 12, 2011 | 2:25 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA — Almost a year after two MU students scattered cotton balls in front of MU's Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, the university is dealing with what appears to be another hate crime incident.**

The MU Police Department was alerted Saturday morning that a racial slur referring to Black History Month had been written in graffiti across a sculpture in front of Hatch Residence Hall, MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Weimer said police are still in the early stages of investigation.

Originally covered with cardboard and plastic, Residential Life workers cleaned the graffiti off with a power washer and scrub brushes at about 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Members of Residential Life would not comment on the incident because of a media policy, Hatch Hall Coordinator Patrick Patterson said.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton released a statement at about 1:30 p.m.

"I speak for our entire university community when I say we are dismayed and deeply offended and have a zero tolerance for this hurtful and destructive behavior," Deaton wrote in the statement.

**Bryan Like, president of MU's NAACP collegiate chapter, said that he wants the university to take a greater stand on the issue.**

"We need to hear from the powers that be how the issue will be dealt with," Like said. "We need retribution. If the university really has a zero tolerance policy, why won't actions like these result in expulsion?"

Like said that he wants the university to work on educating students about racial issues to prevent these types of occurrences.

"I think we need to talk to the incoming freshman about racial issues. You shouldn't have to pay per credit hour for a class to receive the education that brings about change," Like said.

As of 2:15 p.m. Saturday, MU police have no additional information, Weimer said.

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# THE MANEATER

## MUPD investigates racially-charged graffiti message

*The Legion of Black Collegians is calling for a meeting with the chancellor to address the issue.*

By Jimmy Hibs

Published Feb. 12, 2011

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the department has begun its investigation into the offensive language painted outside Hatch Hall in graffiti Saturday. Weimer said the department is unable to provide any additional details.

"We have started an investigation to see who did it," Weimer said.

This comes about a year after two students spread cotton balls outside of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center and about two weeks before 850 black students from across the nation come to MU for the 2011 Big XII Conference on Black Student Government, which begins Feb. 24.

"I received a TwitPic from one of our students," Legion of Black Collegians President Lisa White said. "There has been a vandalism act on the residence hall and it had racially slurred words on there."

Around 3 a.m., a Hatch Hall coordinator received a text message carrying word that offensive language had been strewn across a sculpture outside of the residence hall. The coordinator didn't see the message until this morning and reported it at 9:15 a.m. to MUPD.

White said "the word 'nigger'" was written along with another word she could not decipher from the picture she received. LBC Political Committee chairwoman Whitney Williams said she heard from several outlets that the graffiti read "Nigger Month," but she said she is not absolutely certain.

"This is really something disheartening to our organization because this is the second time it has happened and the second consecutive year it has happened," White said. "It always seems to happen during Black History Month, which is even more unacceptable because that is a time to honor African Americans and their struggles and their leaders. This is now sometimes a time when individuals — whether they be black, white or otherwise — decide to cause attention and bring negative attention to the month some of us take so seriously."

The words have since been removed by Hatch Hall employees, and were covered by tape and paper earlier in the day. Weimer said there are surveillance cameras in the area that might have captured something involved with the case.

White said the organization has written a letter about the incident and plans to distribute it widely. She said the organization will be holding a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in conjunction with its regular LBC meeting which she hopes Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods, Chancellor Brady Deaton and other MU administrators attend.

"We need their attention so they can understand, 'Yeah, the first time it might have just been an incident,' but the second time in two years? We just can't stand for it," White said.

LBC said MU will probably be unhappy with all of the negative press likely to surround this case, as it is attempting to increase black student enrollment. The situation is leaving many dismayed with the state of racial attitudes at MU.

"I for one can say that I don't want to parade around and talk about the unity of the University of Missouri," MU NAACP chapter President Bryan Like said in a statement. "I do not want to stand on the steps of Jesse Hall singing 'Kumbaya' and lighting candles for unity. I do not want to pacify this situation. What came out of the cotton ball incident besides a Columbia judicial verdict? What came out of Mizzou alum Terrence Williams having racist words written outside of his dorm room? What is the university doing to prevent these issues?"

Like met with MU students, faculty and staff members shortly following the incident.

Deaton released a statement around 1:30 p.m. Saturday and said campus administrators, MUPD and student leaders will be in discussion to determine MU's immediate and future actions in the matter.

"I speak for our university community when I say we are dismayed and deeply offended and have zero tolerance for this type of hurtful and destructive behavior," Deaton said.

Residential Life Director Frankie Minor, Hatch Hall coordinator Patrick Patterson and area coordinator Maya Hernandez were unable to answer questions on the matter, and instead referred The Mancater to the MU News Bureau and MUPD.

"I ask that we come together as a Mizzou family to deplore this action and to celebrate the diversity of our community as one of MU's greatest strengths," Deaton said.

Students responded to Deaton's words, banding together in front of Hatch Hall around 4:30 p.m. to preach unity.

"It's just to leave the hate behind and show we need to unite," senior Kirsten Duncan said.

Although the graffiti was removed at around 12:30 p.m., MUPD encourages anyone with information to contact its office at (573) 882-7201 or CrimeStoppers at (573) 875-8477.

# THE MANEATER

## Derogatory graffiti painted outside of Hatch Hall

Posted to On Campus by Jimmy Hibsich at 11:22 a.m., Feb. 12, 2011

In the midst of Black History Month, the MU Police Department responded to its second report of racially-offensive vandalism in two years Saturday morning.

"I received a TwitPic from one of our students," Legion of Black Collegians President Lisa White said. "There has been a vandalism act on the residence hall and it had racially slurred words on there."

Offensive language is strewn across a sculpture outside of the residence hall. White said "the N word" was written along with another word she could not decipher from the picture she received. This comes about a year after two students spread cotton balls outside of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

"This is really something disheartening to our organization because this is the second time it has happened and the second consecutive year it has happened," White said. "It always seems to happen during Black History Month, which is even more unacceptable because that is a time to honor African Americans and their struggles and their leaders. This is now sometimes a time when individuals — whether they be black, white or otherwise — decide to cause attention and bring negative attention to the month some of us take so seriously."

The words have since been covered by Hatch Hall employees with tape and paper.

White said the organization has written a letter about the incident and plans to distribute it widely. She said the organization will be holding a meeting Wednesday which she hopes Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods, Chancellor Brady Deaton and other MU administrators attend.

"We need their attention so they can understand, 'Yeah, the first time it might have just been an incident,' but the second time in two years? We just can't stand for it," White said.

LBC said MU will probably be unhappy with all of the negative press likely to surround this case, as it is attempting to increase black student enrollment. The situation is leaving many dismayed with the state of racial attitudes at MU.

"I for one can say that I don't want to parade around and talk about the unity of the University of Missouri," MU NAACP chapter President Bryan Like said in a statement. "I do not want to stand

on the steps of Jesse Hall singing kumbaya and lighting candles for unity. I do not want to pacify this situation. What came out of the cotton ball incident besides a Columbia judicial verdict? What came out of Mizzou alumn Terrence Williams having racist words written outside of his dorm room? What is the university doing to prevent these issues?"

MU has yet to release a statement on the issue.

This comes about two weeks before 850 black students from across the nation come to MU for the 2011 Big XII Conference on Black Student Government, which begins Feb. 24.

Stay with the Maneater as the story develops.



## MU professor named as an education icon

A **University of Missouri professor and former dean** has been named one of the 2011 Icons of Education by Ingram's magazine.

**Bruce Walker** is the Lansford Professor of Leadership and marketing professor at the Trulaske College of Business.

Walker was chosen for the honor for raising more than \$100 million for the college and for the nearly 15,000 graduates he influenced during his 20 years as dean of the college. The donations helped the college move to Cornell Hall.

In a statement, Walker said the recognition is honoring a team effort and not him alone.

Ingram's, a Kansas City publication, began recognizing Icons in Education as part of its 35th anniversary edition in 2009; it now recognizes nine honorees a year.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU professor receives 2010 Pfizer National Teaching Award

By [Kyle Fiehler](#)

February 11, 2011 | 4:57 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA — Richard Meadows, MU professor of veterinary medicine, is realistic about the challenges of keeping the best and brightest young veterinary graduates in research and teaching roles.**

Veterinarians who remain in academia must publish and perform additional research, and often the pay is not as good as in private practice.

So, why did he stay?

**Meadows, who recently was awarded the 2010 National Pfizer Teaching Award, did not hesitate to answer: It's the "ah-ha moment" he sees in students.**

"I get a kick out of watching that light bulb go on," Meadows said.

The award, prestigious for teachers of veterinary medicine, comes from the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges](#). Meadows will receive the award and give a presentation about his teaching philosophy in March at the association's annual conference in Alexandria, Va.

Meadows, who has been at MU for 11 years, is "knowledgeable, passionate, enthusiastic and compassionate with his students," Neil C. Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, said in a news release.

On the philosophy that won Meadows the Pfizer Award, along with more than a half-dozen other awards during his time at MU, Meadows is humble.

"I do a lot of extracurriculars," he said. "I try to be accessible to students. Eighty-five percent of my time is spent in the (animal) hospital."

Even during a brief interview, Meadows wove academic ideas with pop-culture images, almost in the same breath mentioning "Dirty Harry," "The Little Train That Could" and "Star Trek."

Once a month, Meadows takes a group of veterinary students to Kansas City for spay and neuter clinics. This helps students develop surgical skills while providing a meaningful service.

"If I had a defeatist attitude, I couldn't do anything," Meadows said. "You have to believe in yourself."



## Fiction goes on trial at law school event

Frankenstein found negligent.

By **JANESE SILVEY**

**University of Missouri law school students** last night had a chance to test their skills in a fictional trial that questioned whether Victor Frankenstein was responsible for the death of sidekick Igor.

A civil suit against Frankenstein — portrayed as a female "Victoria" in this case — was the fifth time the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society has put on a mock trial of famous characters from history. This was the first year the characters were based on literature rather than real-life events.

Part play, part trial, the three-hour event at Jesse Auditorium was a mix of philosophical questions about what constitutes a person and comic relief — some instances planned, others not. Western District Court of Appeals Judge Mark Pfeiffer presided, apparently because "Boone County judges were too cowardly," he quipped.

The case had Rolf, Igor's brother, suing Frankenstein for negligence that resulted in his murder. Plaintiff's attorneys argued the doctor should have at least warned the community about what she created.

Third-year law student Whitney Miller presented opening remarks for the plaintiff, urging jurors to make sure such tragedy never happens again by killing the creature. Frankenstein "literally created a monster," she said, flashing an image of a Kansas Jayhawk on the projector.

Frankenstein's attorneys countered the doctor did not believe Igor was in any danger. They'd made a deal, and she was upholding her end of the bargain to build him a companion.

The trial was unscripted, obvious when Pfeiffer called the jury to deliberations before giving attorneys a chance to make their closing arguments. When those on stage reminded him, the judge explained to the audience what was going on. "We have this little thing called closing arguments," he said. "This is where lawyers like to grandstand."

Sure enough, both sides took their time to reiterate their arguments, even though audience members were getting restless. Columbia attorney Bradford Lear used the time to paint the creature as a manmade machine that failed while defense attorney Charles Henson, a visiting professor of law, reminded jurors that the creature hadn't hurt anyone else and urged them to have compassion.

If the fictional trial taught audiences anything, it's that plaintiffs should give jurors options when they're seeking relief for damages. In this case, Rolf insisted he wasn't seeking any money, only demanding Frankenstein's work be destroyed.

But some jurors said they would have liked a monetary way to punish Frankenstein.

The jury, led by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, ultimately ruled in favor of Rolf, finding Frankenstein negligent. But a majority also ruled against Rolf's request to kill the creature, and they couldn't agree on whether to prohibit Frankenstein from further research.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail [jsilvey@columbiatribune.com](mailto:jsilvey@columbiatribune.com).

# THE MANEATER

## School of Law puts Frankenstein on the stand

*The school's Historical and Theatrical Trial Society produced the mock trial.*

By Abigail Geiger

Published Feb. 11, 2011

On Thursday, the School of Law gave students, faculty and the community the chance to see the fabled Dr. Victor Frankenstein in a mock trial in Jesse Auditorium.

With their production of “Creating Life and Death: The Trial of Dr. Victor Frankenstein,” the School of Law’s Historical and Theatrical Trial Society put Dr. Frankenstein on the stand to question his responsibility in his assistant Igor’s death.

HATTS Assistant Trial Director Megan Dittmann said Stephen Easton, a former professor at the School of Law, came up with the idea to host mock trials of famous historical figures and characters. She said he knew many citizens do not ever get a chance to attend judicial trials, and he wanted to bring the trial to the public stage and make it more applicable to the average citizen.

In the original story of Frankenstein, Dr. Frankenstein’s super-human “creation” causes Igor’s death. The question about whether Frankenstein is at fault has endlessly perplexed people. The HATTS group planned to answer this question.

HATTS Writing Director Sharon Jones said they tried to find a figure who the audience would be familiar with and would be interesting to watch in trial.

“They should have a rough sense of what’s going on,” Dittmann said. “Then we can focus a little more on the concept of the trial.”

The student attorneys were given “fact patterns” about the defendant, which include only basic and background information. They then had to formulate a case and questions—the trials are never scripted—and execute a real trial.

“We don’t know what the outcome is until the jury makes a decision,” Dittmann said. “It’s very much like a real trial.”

Dittman said in the past few years, the mock trials’ audiences have drawn in roughly 200 to 400 students, professors and community members.

Last year, there were about 500 audience members at a trial, Jones said. She said this shows how good of a response the community has taken to the event.

Freshman Patrick Stark said he came to the trial out of interest in attending law school. His professor encouraged him and other students to attend the event.

“I did a mock trial my sophomore year in high school,” Stark said. “So I thought I’d like to try it out in real life.”

After three hours of debate, cross-examinations and heavy deliberation, the jury charged Dr. Frankenstein with negligence, denied the killing of “the Creature,” and was undecided on whether to prevent him from continuing to practice science.

HATTS’ previous trials have included Lewis and Clark’s theft of a Native America canoe, Al Capone and his role in the Valentine’s Day Massacre and Missouri Gov. Thomas Crittenden’s bounty on the outlaw Jesse James, according to the School of Law’s website.

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# THE MANEATER

## MDHE plans to cut, merge 116 degree programs statewide, 19 at MU

*Students enrolled in the programs would be allowed to finish their education.*

By Jimmy Hibschi

Published Feb. 11, 2011

A little more than a month after MU submitted its own report listing "low-producing" degree programs, the Missouri Department of Higher Education released its report about the subject Wednesday, revealing plans to eliminate 116 degree programs statewide and 19 at MU.

Gov. Jay Nixon, who will still need to sign off on the report, required the agency to review programs that might not meet the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's productivity criteria.

CBHE defines these, "low-producing" programs as those producing less than 10 graduates per year at the baccalaureate level, five per year at the master's degree level and three per year at the doctoral degree level.

After deliberating over a list of programs since September, 116 programs will be terminated across the state of Missouri. This amounts to 20 percent of all programs originally slated for review. An additional 24 programs will be moved to inactive status, and 175 will be up for review again in three years.

At MU specifically, 69 programs were originally put up for review. Students enrolled in the 19 deleted programs will be permitted to complete their degrees, as the majors will be phased out over time. MU saw the highest number of program deletions, followed by Metropolitan Community College and the University of Central Missouri with 11 deletions.

Among the deleted programs is the Natural Resources master's degree, something School of Natural Resources Director Mark Ryan wasn't happy about when the cuts were originally made in November.

"It is a small degree program for early to moderate career professionals to upgrade their skills credentials," Ryan said. "Cutting it will save no money."

One of the initial purposes of the evaluation was to cut higher education costs. Upon CBHE Chairman Lowell Kruse's request for the actual savings of the cuts at a Thursday meeting, MDHE did not answer.

Six new programs are being proposed, and 13 are recommended for follow-up in three years. MU programs up for reevaluation include the agricultural journalism bachelor's degree and the theatre master's and doctoral programs.

State officials said the purpose of this review was to improve the efficiency of higher education, but Higher Education Commissioner David Russell said in a news release it also exposed some serious problems in Missouri's postsecondary education system.

"Many fields that have been identified as crucial to the state's economic growth and global competitiveness were among the low-producing degree programs," Russell said. "Foreign languages, teacher education and STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — were prominent on the list of fields with few graduates. This is a concern that must be addressed across K-12 and higher education."

The state is concerned because a number of the programs, namely those falling under the STEM and foreign language categories, on the chopping block fall under areas it deems necessary for the state to thrive economically.

To help improve this process, the report also includes a list of eight suggestions from MDHE to improve the efficiency and productivity of public institutions. These suggestions range from improving the productivity of high-priority programs to continuing analysis of program duplications.