

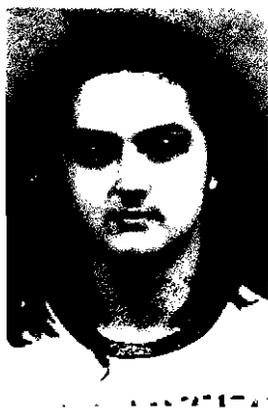
FEB 16 2011

COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

University suspends graffiti incident suspect

By Janese Silvey

The student suspected of spray-painting a racist slur on University of Missouri property last weekend has been temporarily suspended from school.



Benjamin Elliott

Benjamin Elliott, 18, was arrested Saturday after surveillance video and witnesses tied him to the incident outside Hatch Hall. Graffiti was discovered Saturday morning. Elliott, who posted bond and was released, faces a second-degree property damage charge, a Class D felony because of hate crimes sentencing provisions, MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said. The graffiti included the word “nigger.”

Elliott — a freshman biological science major from Rolla named to the dean’s list last semester — will go through a student conduct judicial process, after which his suspension either will be lifted or a final sanction imposed, according to a statement released yesterday by Chancellor Brady Deaton.

According to the probable cause statement, Elliott told police he was intoxicated, Weimer said.

The Columbia Police Department also is trying to determine whether the MU vandalism had any connection to a second incident. Columbia police Sgt. Jill Wieneke said police were called to 1517 Ross St. near campus at 8:50 p.m. Saturday. A victim reported his 1991 Toyota had been spray-painted with an anti-Jewish message sometime between Thursday and the time of the report.

“The investigation revealed some similarities to the case MU had at Hatch Hall,” Wieneke said. “Evidence was collected and photographed, and police are waiting for lab results.” There were no witnesses or video surveillance in that case, she said.

Wieneke said she did not know the victim’s religion and that another car at the address also was vandalized.

Students and administrators are working together to try to move forward, said Roger Worthington, MU’s chief diversity officer. Worthington continues to meet with student groups and said the focus has been on promoting the campus as a community.

“Students have started to put a label on it as ‘one Mizzou,’ ” he said. “We’re describing that as creating a culture of respect and responsibility — two of our existing values. We need to talk about respect for differences and respect for our home, this place called Mizzou. Anybody who puts graffiti on their own home is acting against their own community.”

MU administrators are trying to balance the incident as both serious and isolated, spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

“We’re taking this very seriously,” she said. “On the other hand, we have, this year, our largest diversity enrollment in history, so we do feel like we are doing a lot of things right. It’s unfortunate when one student with such negative actions can cause such turmoil.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Faculty Council to consider diversity course proposal

By Andrea Braxton

February 15, 2011 | 4:45 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – The MU Faculty Council will take up a diversity course proposal at its meeting Thursday.

The idea of adding a diversity course to graduation requirements for every student gained momentum after two students were put on probation for leaving cotton balls in front of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center last February.

In January, faculty across campus were asked to comment on a list of courses put forward to satisfy a diversity requirement. Discussion was delayed when a snowstorm canceled a council meeting earlier this month.

The proposal before the council includes classes in a wide range of disciplines, from anthropology and geography to women and gender studies and black studies.

There was debate about courses considered "mono-cultural," such as Korean Civilization and Brazilian Cinema, and critics contended they did not specifically address problems of social inequality, according to Academic Affairs Committee Chairwoman Victoria Johnson.

The issue will be discussed Thursday, Johnson said.

Johnson said there has been a push for a diversity course requirement for a long time, but it came to the forefront after last year's incident.

"It should have been implemented a long time ago," she said.

Faculty Council members have been asked to solicit feedback from their constituents for Thursday's meeting. The intent is to head off problems about the proposal so it will pass, Johnson said.

The diversity course requirement won't force students to take more classes, said Leona Rubin, a member of the council's executive committee. The difficulty will be implementing the requirement, Rubin said.

"We don't want to overburden a small number of classes, and we don't want to have too many classes, either," she said.

A subcommittee of the Committee on Undergraduate Education will be created to approve the courses, according to Rubin.



Panel OKs curators bill minus student voting spot

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — An attempt to make the student curator the ninth voting member of the UM Board of Curators was defeated today when the House Higher Education Committee voted on a bill that would fix the problem created by the loss of a congressional district.

The bill would allow up to two curators to be named from one district. Each of the state's eight remaining districts would continue to have at least one curator under the bill sponsored by committee Chairman Rep. Mike Thomson, R-Maryville.

The same rules would apply to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Board of Governors of Missouri State University in Springfield.

Because Missouri's population grew slower than many other states, it lost a district during reapportionment.

An attempt by Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, to make the ninth voting member a student was defeated on an 8-4 party-line vote. Thomson said he sees several problems with allowing students to have a voting voice on the board, ranging from demands from other constituent groups at the university for the same rights to the role of curator being a distraction for someone seeking an education.

Thomson also said he was disappointed by the party-line vote. "It should not be a partisan issue whether one is a student or not," he said.

Still said the issue of using the opening to give students a vote on the board isn't dead for the session. But she also said the solution offered by Thomson's bill is acceptable.

"We need to do it," she said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

University Hospital named to American Heart Association's stroke honor roll

By [Alex Keckeisen](#)

February 15, 2011 | 6:33 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Speed is key to diagnosing and treating stroke patients, and that happens to be an area in which University Hospital excels.

University Hospital has been named to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's 2011 Target: Stroke Honor Roll, which recognizes hospitals with "clot-busting medication" treatment times of fewer than 60 minutes for ischemic stroke patients, according to an MU Health Care news release.

University Hospital was one of 74 hospitals in the nation that were named to the list, and one of four in Missouri, according to the release. The other three hospitals in the state named to the Target: Stroke Honor Roll are Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Saint Louis University Hospital in St. Louis, and CoxHealth in Springfield, according to the [American Heart Association website](#).

Niranjan Singh, a neurologist and co-director of University Hospital's stroke program, said this recognition is very important for stroke victims coming to the hospital for treatment.

"Time is a key feature of this stroke treatment," Singh said. "Patients coming to the University Hospital will have the same time metrics as the other hospitals in Missouri and the U.S. on this list."

Singh said the hospital's times are the result of guidelines put in place to meet benchmarks to decrease overall treatment times. He said University Hospital staff tried to complete the treatment in 45 minutes, 15 minutes faster than the Target: Stroke

standard. The hospital's guidelines might have produced the fastest treatment time in the U.S., he said.

"We had a patient that was treated in 22 minutes," Singh said. "We didn't come across another hospital that had that kind of time."

Singh said stroke patients are met by a team of members from different departments within University Hospital, including neurology, neurosurgery, physical therapy, cardiology and emergency services. The work of his co-director for the stroke program, Ashish Nanda, was a key complement to the treatment, he said.

"In order to identify, diagnose and treat the stroke patient quickly, we work together as a cohesive team once the patient arrives at the hospital," Nanda, a neurointerventionalist, said in the release.

University Hospital has also been certified as an advanced primary stroke center by the Joint Commission and has received the Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award developed by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, according to the release.