

FEB 18 2011



## Gap threatens UM's mission, Owens warns

### Lawmakers hear budget worries.

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — Budget cuts planned for higher education, piled on top of a decade of eroding support, hurts the ability of the University of Missouri to meet its mission of education and research, interim UM President Steve Owens said this morning.

Appearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Owens said the system will face a \$42 million funding gap even if it receives a waiver allowing it to increase tuition and fees 5.5 percent in the coming year.

The university, he said, is “concerned about whether we can carry on in a quality way. We will really struggle with a 7 percent cut.”

Gov. Jay Nixon recommended giving UM \$398 million in the year that will begin July 1, down from \$427.9 million in the current year. All state colleges and universities are paring back course offerings by cutting programs with few students. UM is cutting 35 programs, Owens said.

The appearance was Owens' second stop at a legislative committee in two days. He made the case for the university yesterday afternoon to the House Appropriations for Education Committee.

Along with the impact of another round of budget cuts, questioning in the Senate Appropriations Committee focused on whether the university was pricing itself out of the range of some families and whether faculty members are doing esoteric research at the expense of educating students. “My biggest concern is that it is those middle-class families and the lower-middle-class families that are priced out of the market,” said Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, chairman of the committee.

Owens reported that tuition and fees, on average, will be \$8,400 per student next year after the increases. More than three-quarters of students receive financial aid, meaning that many pay much less, he said.

“We share that sensitivity,” he said. The increases will cost \$8 a month, and students receiving average amounts of aid will see an out-of-pocket increase of \$4 a month.

But Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, said that might not be enough.

“It seems to me there should be some room in there where the families and the students who are receiving this education should have more skin in the game,” he said.

Questions about research compared to teaching loads came mainly from Sen. Scott Rupp, R-St. Charles, the committee vice chairman. He asked if professors have a minimum course load and how many were “teaching one course and having office hours for three hours with a salary of \$120,000.”

Owens replied that research is a vital function of the university, bringing in grant money and producing patents and licensing fees that directly affect the economy of the state. But Rupp pressed him further. “I am all for it if we are going to do research” that means jobs. “But someone who is out studying the migration habits of the Hopi Indian tribes is not going to bring any jobs to Missouri.”

Owens defended all research, noting that the grants that support it pay salaries and support purchases such as homes.

The Senate gets a later look at the budget and, if revenues improve, could add money to the House version. After the hearing, Schaefer said supporting education, both public schools and higher education, will be his priorities if additional money becomes available.

During the House hearing yesterday, Owens said the erosion of support could cause the system to lose its “best and brightest” faculty.

The potential loss of top faculty is “one of my biggest concerns as I sit here in the president’s spot for a few months,” Owens said.

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## **Veterans sue Missouri colleges over financial aid dispute**

**Missouri veterans have filed a class-action lawsuit against the University of Missouri and other state colleges over how they apply tuition benefits awarded for wartime service.**

The suit claims a cap on tuition costs for veterans is being sidestepped by the formula used by the schools to strictly apply aid to tuition.

The suit argues that negates much of the savings offered by Missouri's Returning Heroes' Education Act. The 2008 law caps tuition at \$50 per credit hour for veterans who have served in combat since 2001.

"The universities assume the cost of attendance is tuition and affix all other financial aid the veteran receives to tuition," said John Campbell, who represents the veterans. "We think the universities should apply some of the aid to room and board. "

University of Missouri System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead noted only that Vice President of Finance Nikki Krawitz had said the tuition cap was applied as recommended by the state Department of Higher Education.

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**Veterans sue over tuition aid**

## **Colleges are accused of misapplying benefit.**

By Janese Silvey

Five Missouri combat veterans have lodged a class-action lawsuit against the University of Missouri and three other colleges for allegedly misapplying a state tuition benefit.

At issue is the Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act, a 3-year-old state law that caps tuition at \$50 per credit hour for veterans who have served in combat zones since 2001. The law says the discount should kick in after all other federal and state aid is applied.

The question is how universities should apply that other financial aid. Right now, the institutions are using it to pay for tuition before capping classes at the \$50 limit.

The lawsuit — filed in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County — says those dollars should be spread across the entire cost of attending college.

Diverting all other aid to pay only for tuition costs “damages Missouri combat veterans because it strips them of aid to pay for room and board, living expenses, books and supplies and transportation,” the lawsuit says.

The UM System does not comment on pending litigation, spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

Through Hollingshead, Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance, said the four campuses use the methodology recommended by the Department of Higher Education when applying the tuition cap.

Rep. Stephen Webber, an Iraqi veteran, wasn't in the General Assembly when the Heroes Act was approved, but he has heard complaints from other veterans about how it's applied. He blames lawmakers for expecting colleges to cap tuition without any other revenues to offset the financial loss.

“The frustrating part is that the General Assembly did not provide money or scholarships to veterans. They just said universities couldn't charge any more” than \$50 “tuition,” Webber said. “It's easy to play Santa Claus with someone else's money.”

Universities, he said, made up for the tuition loss by applying GI Bill and other benefits to tuition first.

“Student veterans are upset about that,” Webber said. “They believe they should be able to use the GI Bill to live on.”

The plaintiffs include two students from MU, Alicia Dunn and Adam Chmielik; a Moberly Area Community College student, Joshua Lange; and one student each from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Southeast Missouri State University. They’re also representing all other Missouri combat veterans who qualify for the tuition cap under the class-action status.

The veterans are being represented by The Simon Law Firm out of St. Louis. Attorney John Simon did not return Tribune phone calls.

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# MU Faculty Council members argue about diversity course requirement proposal

By [Andrea Braxton](#)

February 17, 2011 | 7:35 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA – The MU Faculty Council debated the diversity course requirement proposal at length Thursday but took no action.**

Some members questioned whether the requirement would actually help students gain a greater respect for diversity. They argued that attitudes on campus were unlikely to change because of a required course.

Councilwoman April Langley defended the requirement and emphasized the need for it. She presented research results that demonstrated ways a diversity course requirement had improved other universities.

“Recent incidents make it clear that values for diversity need to be taught,” Langley said.

The council also scrutinized the list of courses proposed to satisfy the diversity course requirement.

Most of the discussion concentrated on courses omitted rather than those included. Council members Xiaoguang Ni and Nicole Monnier asked why certain classes such as labor economics or German civilization weren’t on the list.

Councilwoman Victoria Johnson said courses on the list were intended to be a sampling of the possibilities. A faculty member can submit any course for consideration.

A few council members called the diversity course requirement a symbolic gesture and questioned its usefulness. Johnson agreed that there is a symbolic element to the requirement but said she believed it to be a necessary element.

“This requirement shows that Mizzou values diversity,” she said.

# THE MANEATER

## Faculty debate diversity course requirement

*No vote was made on the diversity course requirement or general curriculum.*

By Stephanie Ebbs

Published Feb. 18, 2011

Faculty Council's overhaul of the general education curriculum culminated in a debate over a diversity course requirement Thursday. The proposed course requirement has caught the public's attention in the days since a racially-offensive graffiti message was painted on campus last week.

Council members remained divided on what this requirement could potentially mean for MU. Some Faculty Council members brought up questions about the wording of the proposal.

"I think we have an inclination to strive for perfection," Faculty Council chairwoman Leona Rubin said. "I think there are times that we can't do that. We may need to say that this is a valuable thing to have happen, and we have to trust that Jim Spain and our colleagues will design a process for the evaluation of courses to fit the current social definition of diversity."

English department professor April Langley did not hide her emotional investment in the proposal.

"Recent incidents indicate that we're not doing a good enough job of that, yet it is noted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities that diversity course requirements actually have very positive effects," Langley said.

According to the requirement proposal, one of MU's core objectives is for students to observe and critically analyze the human experience.

The diversity course requirement would be implemented in the same method as the Writing Intensive Requirement, according to the proposal. New courses would not be added, but a committee would approve syllabi of existing courses.

The proposal includes a list of courses that could potentially meet this requirement. The courses range from Introduction to Black Studies to Cross-Cultural Journalism and Rural Sociology. The courses on the list were a cause for concern for some faculty members and professor Victoria Johnson, who has led the general education review, insisted the list was not comprehensive.

"There are a number of courses listed, none of which have been approved yet, but based on syllabus are the kind of courses that would be classified as diversity intensive," Johnson said.

Economics professor Xiaoguang Ni was one of the first to interject against the initiative.

“I fully support the motion that we support diversity, but I question what it will cost,” Ni said.

Ni argued the requirement was mainly symbolic, requiring resources to approve the courses, but not making active changes to the curriculum. Part of Ni’s argument against the requirement addressed the possibility that students would not actually reach out.

The proposal was not voted on, and the issue will be further discussed at the next Faculty Council meeting.

Plant Sciences department professor Bill Wiebold made some closing comments.

“You can make those arguments, but in my mind going to a university means something different,” Wiebold said. “I trust my colleagues that going to a university is broader than just a degree in plant science. We have at least given students an opportunity to grow just a little bit and maybe in a few years the world will get just a little bit better.”

# THE MANEATER

## Mizzou Advantage awards \$1.4 million in grants

*A total of 38 proposals were funded.*

By Jimmy Hibschi

Published Feb. 18, 2011



Ashley Lane/Graphic Designer

[\(View large image browser\)](#)

Mizzou Advantage awarded more than \$1.4 million to 38 proposals Tuesday.

“What exactly the project is, varies so much from one to another,” Mizzou Advantage Program Coordinator Meg Phillips said. “Sometimes it’s a research project, and then one of them is to get a new television channel started. It really widely varies from one to another.”

The program is a collection of five initiatives, ranging from “Food for the Future” to “Sustainable Energy,” all with the intent of increasing MU’s visibility, stature and impact in higher education. Tuesday’s grants will support projects that fall under these five programs, Phillips said.

“The proposals were scored on a variety of things — how well they fit in to the Mizzou Advantage, if they would raise the stature and impact of the university and the intellectual

merit,” Phillips said. “If the proposal was clear, well put-together and the goals were doable, it was definitely considered.”

The selection committee for the grants consisted of 19 people from different areas of campus, many of who were members of Mizzou Advantage, Phillips said.

If a proposal was selected, it received one of two grants: a network or a seed grant.

Network grants awarded up to \$20,000 with the intent of gathering people with similar skill sets to use the money to accomplish their goals. Fifteen network grants were given.

Seed grants are intended to fund a beginning project that will, upon completion, lead to larger things, Phillips said. Of the grants, 23 were seed grants.

One of the awarded proposals will use sophisticated technologies such as nanotechnology to provide future advances in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Nanoparticle-mediated therapy techniques treat the cancer at cellular level processes are consequently carry the potential to cure metastatic breast cancer. Mizzou Advantage awarded the team involved with this proposal – consisting of Raghu Kannan, Kattesh Katti, Kent Gates and Cathy Cutler – with \$50,000.

“I am extremely thankful to the Mizzou Advantage program for providing me with this grant,” Kannan said. “We will utilize this money to validate the hypothesis presented in the grant.”

The Food Dialogue Center project was also awarded \$50,000.

“There’s a ton of different polarizing aspects of food production right now,” project team member Ray Massey said. “What we wanted to do is see if we could create a center where people could go to that would have research-based information about all of this. We want to be a one-stop shop for unbiased information that covers all of the different perspectives of what is becoming a polarizing conversation in America.”

Mizzou Advantage was originally slated to give out \$1.5 million in grants, but because of MU’s budget shortfalls, Mizzou Advantage contributed \$4 million to MU. This will help cushion the \$12.7 million expected drop in MU funding because of Gov. Jay Nixon’s budget proposal.

“Obviously, the entire university is going to be burdened with the cuts in state appropriations,” Phillips said. “Mizzou Advantage is just bearing its share of the struggle.”

Chancellor Brady Deaton provided Mizzou Advantage an extra \$400,000 to fund proposals with potential for major external collaborations and major components from the arts and humanities. An extra 10 projects were funded because of his contributions.

# THE MANEATER

## Letter to the Editor:

### MU Council of Deans condemns racism

By MU Council of Deans

Published Feb. 18, 2011

The University of Missouri Council of Deans reaffirms its commitment to diversity, both across MU and in individual schools, colleges, divisions, workplaces and classrooms. While the judicial and student conduct processes will address questions of individual responsibility for Saturday's graffiti incident, we are saddened that our university and community have been subjected to such an incident. As pronounced in MU's Campus Diversity Statement, MU must:

--cultivate a welcoming environment for all members of the community; --reflect the diversity of the state by encouraging the participation of all who are qualified; and, --help faculty, staff and students, through education and example, to live productively and peacefully in an increasingly diverse society and world.

As an institution, MU must remain committed to respect, responsibility, discovery, excellence and diversity. As individuals, we will continue to work to ensure that all are truly welcome at MU and incidents such as Saturday's never again occur.

# THE MANEATER

## **LBC: Students need to be proactive in fighting racism**

*Students and MU officials met Wednesday night to discuss possible reactions to problems with racism on campus.*

By Kelly Olejnik

Published Feb. 18, 2011

Representatives from several MU student organizations attended the Legion of Black Collegians senate meeting Wednesday night to discuss solutions for racism on campus. The meeting was initiated by the graffiti message containing a racial slur found outside Hatch Hall on Saturday.

Students and university officials discussed the recommendations created by a group of student organizations that had met Saturday afternoon to discuss the incident.

According to the meeting summary report authored by Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods, the group that met on Feb. 12 came up with several immediate and long-term responses with the aim of promoting diversity and a sense of community on campus. The community will be called "One Mizzou" and will include the hanging of banners, an online diversity-training course for incoming freshmen as well as a creation of a central spot on campus with a diversity theme, which will serve as a diversity reminder to students.

The possibility of a diversity course requirement was debated throughout the meeting. Students present expressed concern whether the diversity course was a step in the right direction and if the diversity course was going to reach the students that need the diversity education the most.

"There is always going to be that percent of the population who is not going to learn, but we shouldn't have a negative attitude about (the diversity course)," LBC Vice President Sidney King said. "If it means something to a few people that take the course, then it will be worth it."

LBC Activities Chairwoman Kristen Andrews said students should become more proactive in combination with expressing their concern for the incident.

"Everyone is quick to talk, but there are no actions and no solutions," Andrews said. "We are not making any progress. If the university isn't working fast enough for us, we need to take it upon ourselves."

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Students present also questioned if the “One Mizzou” campaign would be enough to move forward from the graffiti incident and raise awareness about diversity.

“I hope the university sees diversity as something that is important to them,” LBC President Lisa White said.

MU does not tolerate racism, and action will be taken on a case-by-case basis, said Donnell Young, Office of Student Conduct Senior Coordinator.

MU also provides a bias-reporting mechanism through the Equity Office.

According to the MU Equity website, students may use the bias report form if they have witnessed or experienced an act committed against any person, group or property which a student believes to have discriminated against anyone based on some part of their identity.

Black Studies Professor April Langley, brought the reporting mechanism to students’ attention during the meeting. Langley also said no student had used the mechanism to report the graffiti incident or the cotton ball incident that occurred last year.

“I had heard about (the reporting mechanism) once before, but I didn’t know too much more about it,” White said. “But as far as being surprised that students did not utilize this to report the incident, I take that into poor account that students may not know that it exists. Therefore, they couldn’t utilize it.”

White said she would like to see the reporting mechanism publicized more successfully to students.

“I want to see students figure out how they want to tackle (racism),” she said. “I want the students to be proactive in any way possible.”

# THE MANEATER

## Admissions Office, Res Life handles graffiti aftermath

*Residential Life has deferred all questions regarding the graffiti incident to the MU News Bureau.*

By Garrett Richie

Published Feb. 18, 2011

In the wake of Saturday's racially-offensive graffiti message, The Office of Admissions is focusing on maintaining MU's reputation as a campus that promotes diversity, Director of Admissions Barbara Rupp said in an e-mail.

"Most of our students and prospective students realize that this, like the awful cotton ball incident, was completely unacceptable behavior on the part of a very small minority of students," Rupp said. "In general, the vast majority of our students, staff and faculty embrace the growing diversity on campus."

Despite last year's cotton ball incident, minority enrollment increased this year. Rupp said this was due to MU's prevailing image as a diverse learning environment.

"We hope that prospective students and their families will judge the atmosphere and openness to diversity of our campus of 31,000 students by what they personally see and witness, rather than the abhorrent actions of one or even a handful of students," Rupp said.

Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said the incident was in complete contradiction with the university's values and that Residential Life is working to continue promoting diversity in the face of the incident.

"This incident was an affront to the entire campus and the institutional values which are inscribed in bronze on the Francis Quadrangle," Minor said. "The staff of Residential Life supports efforts of students and institutional leaders to make the campus, and its residence halls and apartments, inclusive and welcoming environments for all members of our community."

Despite the Hatch incident making headlines, as the cotton ball incident did a year ago, Rupp said MU is still a diverse environment.

"Mizzou in 2011 is a vibrant academic community that embraces students from multiple cultures, countries and ethnicities," Rupp said.

Res Life phones went unanswered as the university worked to sort out the aftermath of the racially-charged vandalism discovered Saturday.

All media inquiries regarding the incident were deferred to the MU News Bureau, Minor said.

“This was not a Res Life incident, but one that affected the entire campus, so it was appropriate to refer it to the office that represents the university to the media, i.e. the News Bureau,” Minor said in an e-mail.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the News Bureau handles media inquiries so staff members can fully commit to handling emergency situations.

“Whether it is an emergency situation or a situation that is requiring a staff member’s full attention, we serve as spokesperson so that they are able to fulfill their duties and complete their job, and we are able to get the information to the media in as timely a manner as possible,” Basi said.

Basi said the News Bureau tries to link the media with the direct, relevant sources for inquiries.

“During non-emergency or non-urgent situations, we always try to connect media with the best source on campus for their stories,” he said.

Minor said responding to the incident was a higher priority for Residential Life than fielding the media’s questions.

“Given that this was a rapidly evolving incident, our attention was focused on responding to the incident, and not to the media, which the News Bureau was better prepared to do,” Minor said.

# Panel looks at racial history, legal process behind hate crime

By Catherine Newhouse

February 17, 2011 | 7:18 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Associate law professor David Mitchell says the racial slur written on a statue outside Hatch Hall struck a nerve because it reminded him of a history loaded with racial oppression.

"Incidences such as these catapult a sense of non-belonging to the fore in the most visceral and overt way possible, with a slur that was created to dehumanize our entire race," Mitchell said Thursday in a prepared statement. He said people should feel safe in their homes, and the racial slur took away that sense of safety for students.

Saturday morning, a racial slur for African-Americans referring to Black History Month was spray-painted on a sculpture outside the residence hall. MU student Benjamin Elliott was arrested after surveillance cameras showed him spray-painting the sculpture and sidewalk.

**In response, four law school professors came together for a panel discussion Thursday about the legal issues surrounding the punishment and definition of hate crimes. They also discussed the racial history of Boone County and how dialogue can reduce racial divisions. The panel was sponsored by the MU Law School and the MU Difficult Dialogues program.**

"I don't think any of us can make sense of a senseless act like what happened on Saturday, but we can at least explain the legal aspects that may be relevant to this," said Larry Dessem, the Law School dean who helped organize the panel.

The legal discussion focused on the degree to which hate speech is protected by the First Amendment.

Law professor Christina Wells, who co-authored a book on the First Amendment, said there is not a consensus on how to define and punish hate crimes. She said some people believe hate crimes should be treated as vandalism, while others believe hate crimes are not protected because they threaten and intimidate people.

"I wonder if legal responses aren't the best way to deal with this," Wells said. "Maybe it's better to start a dialogue about this."

Law professor Frank Bowman presented the racial history of Boone County and said some of the racial divisions continue today. He said Columbia is still relatively segregated and cited his experience driving behind a school bus Thursday morning in a public housing neighborhood.

"There was scarcely a white face in the group," Bowman said. "Columbia remains a community with deep divisions along racial lines."

Bowman said Boone County was one of the six largest slave-holding counties in Missouri. He said many of the famous people in Columbia's history — including the "father" of MU, James S. Rollins, and Missouri Statesman owner William Switzler — were slave owners.

Toward the end of the panel, audience member and doctoral student Marlo Goldstein Hode asked what the MU community can do about buildings and streets on campus that are symbols of slavery.

"I felt so embarrassed of my ignorance that buildings where I teach and learn are named after slave owners," Goldstein Hode said.

The group also discussed the possibility of a diversity course requirement, which the MU Faculty Council is considering. Mitchell said a diversity course could encourage deeper discussions but would not be a perfect solution because "you don't learn it by reading a textbook."

Wells said the diversity courses must be taught effectively, so students don't feel that they're being told what to think but rather have the chance to engage in a discussion.

"I think this is just the beginning," Mitchell said after the panel discussion. "The university is taking steps to address this issue. I think the diversity course is a solution but not the ultimate solution."

*Missourian reporter Michael Davis contributed to this report.*

## GEORGE KENNEDY: Racism on campus tops list of outrageous news items

By George Kennedy

February 17, 2011 | 1:18 p.m. CST

You may have noticed that I've been out of town and out of the paper for three weeks. In hopes of resuming our conversation, I'll comment briefly on a few of the more outrageous items in the news.

### First, the latest outbreak of alcohol-fueled racism at MU.

Kim English has disappointed many Tiger basketball fans with his play this season, but the views he expressed in Tuesday's Missourian displayed a sense of history and proportion that more than made up for a few off-target jump shots.

"Things like that don't upset me because I know that people like that exist," he said.

He added, "We've come such a long way and still have such a long way to go. It's a conservative state, close to the South. I wasn't blinded to the fact coming out here. I mean, it's happened two years in a row. ... We have a black head coach, a predominantly black team, a black president. Most of the nation doesn't feel that way, but one idiot did."

The one idiot in this case has been identified as Benjamin Elliott, a freshman from Rolla. He told police he was drunk when he spray-painted racist graffiti on a statue outside his dorm. Of course he was. So were the two idiots who spread those cotton balls outside the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center last year.

I don't know whether any of the three culprits is really a racist, but I do know that excessive alcohol consumption tends to bring out the worst in the male of our species. Neurological research shows that the rational decision-making part of the human brain isn't fully developed by the time we reach legal age. Booze seems to retard that development, maybe especially among males.

I'm not trying to excuse Ben's action. He'll be punished, as he should be. But racism shouldn't be the only issue. We shouldn't ignore the latest demonstration of the harm that comes from too much too early of our deadly legal drug.

George W. Bush has seldom been as eloquent as Kim English. However, his memorable summary of his own growing up remains relevant: "When I was young and stupid, I was young and stupid."

Most of our legislators don't have that excuse, which forces us constituents to seek other explanations for the graffiti they're busily writing into law.

The Republicans who control both houses in Jefferson City entered office vowing a single-minded focus on job creation. A month into the session, I'm not aware of any jobs they've created, but they sure haven't been idle. We could only wish for sloth. Instead, we're seeing bills in varying stages of approval that would:

- Reverse the public's will on correcting the abuses of puppy mills (I guess dog breeders and the Farm Bureau count for more).
- Change our state constitution to divert tax dollars to pay for religious schools (Didn't the U.S. Constitution settle this?).
- Require drug testing for welfare recipients (instead of legislators themselves).
- Replace our slightly progressive income tax with a regressive, inadequate and misleadingly-named sales tax (Rex Sinquefield demonstrates that money does talk.).
- Remove most restrictions on child labor (Jane Cunningham never ceases to amaze).

Maybe at least they'll create jobs for those kids.

Finally, there's been another twist in the sad case of Ryan Ferguson, convicted of murdering Columbia Daily Tribune sports editor Kent Heitholt. A new habeas corpus petition reveals that both key witnesses at the trial have now recanted their testimony. There are strong suggestions of police and prosecutor misconduct.

The workings of our legal system remain a mystery to me, but if truth is the goal, doesn't he at least deserve a new trial?

Thanks for reading.

*George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism.*

# THE MANEATER

## Res Life to promote diversity through videos

*The videos will serve as training tools.*

By Celia Ampel

Published Feb. 18, 2011

The Department of Residential Life plans to create a series of diversity-focused training videos for its staff, Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said.

The videos would feature interviews with students.

The racially-charged graffiti message painted Saturday outside Hatch Hall underlined the importance of anti-discrimination efforts, Minor said.

“Sadly, this incident has brought to attention that this is still with us,” he said.

Minor said the videos are not in reaction to the graffiti.

“This has been something we’ve been discussing since the beginning of the semester,” Minor said.

The videos, which would be used as part of Residential Life staff training, would include interviews with students on a variety of diversity-related topics.

Those topics include gay, lesbian, bisexual and gender identity and expression issues. Topics also include gender roles and stereotyping, religion and faith, disability and race.

“The purpose of this is to get a student perspective on these issues,” Minor said.

Minor would also appear in the videos to explain what Residential Life does to promote the understanding of diversity on campus, especially in the residence halls.

Throughout each year, Residential Life trains staff to promote a safe, inclusive environment. As part of Residential Life’s staff training, videos could be a valuable discussion tool, Minor said.

A small committee is working on the videos, which are in an early stage of production, he said.

Residential Life sent an e-mail to the student staff Listserv to find students who would like to be interviewed for the videos. The department has also hired a student intern to help with production.

Residential Life plans to complete the videos by the end of the spring semester to use them during intensive staff training.

Giving students an active voice in diversity initiatives is important, Minor said. The administration's view of issues is not the only one, he said, and not always the one represented by the largest constituency on campus.

"Students have, by virtue of their numbers, the loudest voice," he said.

Minor said Residential Life would be willing to help fund ideas put forth by the Residence Halls Association, like One Mizzou Pledge Banners. The banners would be placed in or outside all residence halls and Greek Life houses to show students' support of a diverse campus, an e-mail RHA sent to its constituents Tuesday stated.

Residential Life already promotes inclusivity through frequent residence hall events and the FIG program's diversity requirement, but Minor said the department would continue to expand its efforts.

"I don't think you can ever do too much," he said.

Rachel Peterson, a freshman living in Lathrop Hall this year, said she often sees diversity-related events advertised through the residence halls.

"It feels like they're trying to promote diversity, to make it more accepting," she said.

Continuing to promote diversity and differences is important to ensure that every person on campus feels respected and safe, freshman Lindsey Wickham said.

"Everyone has feelings and everyone has a sense of self," she said.

Minor said he hopes Residential Life's efforts will decrease discriminatory incidents like the graffiti.

"Hopefully, by working together, we can reduce the chance of this happening again," Minor said.



## **MU basketball coach speaks to House, Senate**

By: The Associated Press 02/17/11 12:25 PM

*The Associated Press*

Missouri Tigers basketball coach Mike Anderson told state lawmakers he believes helping student athletes be successful beyond athletics is part of his job.

Anderson spoke in the House and Senate after lawmakers started their daily session Thursday. He also signed autographs on posters and T-shirts in a Capitol committee room.

Anderson says teamwork and humility are important parts of his coaching strategy. He says helping players be successful off the court is just as important as racking up wins in games.

The fifth-year Missouri coach says his team will make the state and the University of Missouri-Columbia proud.

# THE MANEATER

## DWI Unit sees increase in arrests during first year

*There has been a decrease in accidents where alcohol was a factor.*

By Tony Puricelli

Published Feb. 18, 2011

After a year of operation, the Columbia Police Department's DWI Enforcement Unit has seen an increase in DWI arrests made in Columbia.

CPD started the DWI unit in December 2009, after receiving a grant from the state in October for two officers to work full-time on DWIs.

"One of the reasons we were able to justify the need for the unit was with statistics that showed the crash rates in Columbia and the percentage of those crashes that were alcohol-related was above the state average," CPD Officer Chris Hessenflow said.

This increase in arrests comes with a decrease in the total number of alcohol-related accidents with alcohol as a contributing factor. In 2009, 123 such accidents occurred. In 2010, that number was reduced to 110. Compared to 178 accidents in 2006, the number has continued to decrease.

Hessenflow is one of two officers in the unit. They normally work at night but have been known to patrol in the afternoon, especially when there is a large event in town.

It is hard to say whether the DWI unit has been effective because it is still so early in its lifespan, Hessenflow said. Other factors, such as the implementation of the downtown unit two years ago, might also contribute to the lower drunk driving rate. The true effect of the DWI unit will become clear during the next few years.

"I've had plenty of taxi drivers tell me their business has gone up since we started," Hessenflow said. "I see that as a good sign."

Members of the DWI unit become drug recognition experts through a two-week class. The DRE process teaches officers to narrow down what type of drugs might have been used by a person based on their pulse, blood pressure, pupil sizes and level of impairment on various sobriety tests.

The department's sobriety instructors still go to training at least one or two times a year to keep up with changing legislation, case law and improved practices.

Hessenflow said when determining if a driver is impaired, he looks for swerving, driving in multiple lanes, speeding and even cars that forget to turn on headlights.

"People who are intoxicated tend to not realize they're going as fast as they are," he said.

The DWI unit began using SUVs with highly reflective graphics to help it stand out to drivers.

"We don't try to hide," Hessenflow said. "We want people to know that we're out here. That's why we use a high visibility approach. We want people to see us everywhere."

He said studies have found the largest deterrent to drunk driving is the fear of being caught.

Hessenflow said, contrary to popular belief, the DWI unit will not simply wait outside bars for drunk people to enter their cars. This is an ethical issue, according to Hessenflow.

The officer said patrol officers don't always have time to take care of DWIs because they might end up with 12 calls waiting at any time. The DWI unit helps to handle this load.

"If we can decrease the number of alcohol-related accidents and deaths, I think that will be the measure of our success," he said.

# THE MANEATER

## Column: Challenge race issues, don't just let them sit

By Steve Pan

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When we talk about fixing racism in the United States, I'm strongly reminded of the missteps the city of Dubuque, Iowa took in the early 1990s to "diversify" their city.

Like most Midwestern cities, racial diversity was not one of Dubuque's strong suits. In fact, the city had an ugly history of cross burnings and institutionalized racism since pretty much forever, garnering a reputation as the "Selma of the North."

Census data showed that Dubuque was the least diverse city in the state. The final straw came when a local NAACP official discovered the smoldering remains of his garage, along with a small cross and the message, "the KKK Lives."

Dubuque's well-meaning city council decided on a solution. They would put out ads in magazines and newspapers asking African-Americans to move there. They touted the city's good schools, ample jobs and safety. Private businesses would receive incentives to absorb the newcomers. Things were looking up.

Except, nobody informed the school district that next year's classes would be much larger and more diverse. Nobody told the manufacturing plants already reeling from foreign competition they'd be expected to hire even more workers.

Nobody on the city council consulted or asked their neighbors how they felt about one hundred black families moving in next year. In short, nobody prepared a town harboring deep-seated racist tendencies that had only a handful of black families to begin with.

You can imagine what happened next: The cross burnings continued. White people were upset that blacks were receiving "preferential treatment." The situation spun wildly out of control. One gent arrested for a cross burning told police he couldn't have been a racist since "he has black friends."

I think Dubuque's epic fuckup highlights the difficulty in talking about or fixing racism. Currently, white people and minorities generally don't see eye to eye when it comes to race. As a result, efforts to dismantle racism have suffered.

In part, it has to do with patterns of segregation where most Americans live in communities that have less than 5 percent of people with a different skin color. Mostly, I think the issues stem from differences in education.

As a person of color, my parents taught me about racism. Nationwide, 75 percent of minority households teach their kids about race. Seventy-five percent of white households don't.

To paraphrase Tim Wise, race in the U.S. is like a book club where some of the members read the book cover to cover and others skimmed the preface. You simply can't have a productive discussion when everyone is not on the same page.

In the past, minority columnists at The Maneater used incendiary rhetoric to advance a fair point: that racism still exists in society and little has been done to address it. Although cathartic, I don't think it's productive.

At the same time, race is a subject that has been avoided for far too long on this campus. The events that unfolded this week and last year around this time show that. We're not going to move past it as a university if no work is being done on it.

You wouldn't leave dirty dishes in the sink and then ask your roommates to "get over it" when they get moldy. Likewise, although anger would make sense, no amount of shouting is going to get the chore done if they can't be convinced to do their damn dishes. Somehow, both parties need to come to the middle. And that is our challenge.