

DPS unveils crime report

Amanda Boyle
Index Staff

After a decline in alcohol-related disciplinary referrals in 2003, the number increased in 2004, according to the campus crime report released by the Department of Public Safety this week.

Alcohol-related disciplinary referrals increased by 62.5 percent from 2003 to 2004 and alcohol-related arrests by 24.1 percent, according to the report.

Tom Johnson, director of public safety, said he isn't sure what caused the fluctuation, but the increase isn't necessarily as significant as it might seem. He said the disciplinary referrals sometimes are only violations of University property, not crimes, and that the majority of all referrals are students with alcohol on campus, some of whom might have been older than 21.

"I guess I don't know the

reason," Johnson said. "I'm not sure if people are drinking more or being caught more."

He said perhaps residence hall faculty members were more aware of the problems this past year and reported more incidents than they would have in the previous year. This theory is supported by the fact that 89 of the 104 alcohol-related disciplinary referrals came from residence halls, he said.

From January 2005 to July 2005, there were an additional 61 alcohol-related disciplinary referrals and 29 arrests.

Johnson said DPS has not confirmed the 2005 statistics yet, and therefore they are subject to change. He said he does not expect the total for 2005 to vary much from the 2004 statistics shown in the campus crime report.

Other notable crime statistics in the 2004 report include 61 counts of theft, 11 counts of

burglary, four counts of aggravated assault and one rape.

DPS is required by the Jeanne Clery Act to produce a campus crime report each year that shows crime statistics from the previous three years, Johnson said.

Jeanne Clery was a 19-year-old college student who was raped and murdered while sleeping in her residence hall room in 1986, according to www.securityoncampus.org. The girl's parents later found out about 38 violent crimes on her campus that had not been publicized to students.

Johnson said he understands the importance of the law.

"We don't have a lot of crime here, but it still happens," Johnson said. "It is good to at least be aware of the things going on around."

Copies of the 2004 campus crime report are available at www.police.truman.edu, and at the DPS building.



Department of Public Safety Officer Chad Whittom gets into his cruiser to respond to a call Tuesday afternoon near the DPS building on campus. Courtney Robbins/Index

Faculty, students council administration on LSP courses

Emily Finnegan
for the Index

They're three little letters that have a large impact on every Truman student.

The Liberal Studies Program, which provides the base curriculum for all students, is currently under assessment by the Undergraduate Council.

The UGC began reviewing the LSP in July 2003 for the first time since its creation in 1998 and will complete its evaluation in February. The council's 29 members include administrators, faculty from all academic divisions and three Student Senate representatives. They have spent the past two years examining the eight modes of inquiry, the essential skills component and the interconnecting perspective requirement that comprise the LSP. The UGC has made other changes to the LSP in the past, including allowing students to opt out of one of the eight modes of inquiry.

UGC began the project by dividing into eight committees, one for each mode of inquiry. Scott Alberts, assistant professor of mathematics and chairman of the Undergraduate Council, said the committees ex-

amined what measures of assessment were already in place for their respective mode of inquiry and proposed additional ones, making sure each mode of inquiry is doing what it should be.

The committees for the Historical, Social Sciences and science modes also made minor changes to the wording of their outcome statements, which are the guidelines all classes in a particular mode fulfill.

"They're what we use in the sense of what students who graduate from Truman should be able to do," Alberts said.

Last spring, the UGC shifted the focus of the review from the modes of inquiry to the essential skills and interconnecting perspectives elements of the LSP.

The LSP Web site lists Writing as Critical Thinking, Speech, Elementary Functions, Statistics, Computer Literacy and Personal Well-Being as "the essential skills students should have in order to succeed in their liberal studies and major coursework." The interconnecting perspectives – the writing-enhanced requirement,

Interdisciplinary Junior Seminar, intercultural perspectives requisite, foreign language requirement and Truman Week class – "allow students to understand and appreciate better the knowledge they have gained as a result of their educational experience at Truman," according to the site.

Assessments of all three LSP components will be released in a comprehensive report in February. Although students will not see any major changes, the report lays the foundation for changes to be made in the future.

"Normally you do change your curriculum every 10 or 15 years, so we should start now doing the groundwork if we want to think about major changes in 2009 or 2011," Alberts said. "Whether that would be to throw out the LSP and start from scratch or do a few tinkers with it will take the next few years to figure out."

Alberts said the rumors of eliminating

the writing-enhanced requirement that have been circulating are probably not true. Data from the registrar on how students are fulfilling their writing enhanced requirement are examined every few years, most recently in 2002, Alberts said. The 2002 review resulted in the addition of more sections of JINS courses and a requirement that all majors offer at least one writing-enhanced course, something not all majors have accomplished.

"If the requirement [is] changed, I don't think it's going to be that the requirement is eliminated," Alberts said. "I think it will be a change in how courses are offered, how we do it. Whatever we do, there's going to still be a writing component."

Dave Kincaid, assistant director of the University Career Center, said it is in students' best interests in life beyond college for the LSP to maintain an emphasis on writing.

"Overwhelmingly the employers who come to Truman, I think, do so because they like the quality of student they get here," Kincaid said. "I think what our students get successfully from those LSP classes is – I would definitely say – the ability to write."

Employers highly value students with

the ability to research and commit their ideas well to paper, he said. Kincaid said the LSP helps produce employees with the skills employers are seeking.

"We hear that our students are incredibly focused and that they really have a strong work ethic as well, that they really do have a strong desire to succeed, a desire to get the job done, a strong desire to do it correctly the first time," he said.

Kincaid said he is not surprised that few changes were made to the LSP in the course of the review. He said he thinks the program is fulfilling its purpose.

"I think the challenge of the LSP core curriculum helps ingrain the mindset that, hey, you do have to work hard and learn to balance lots of different things at once because this is what you do in the workplace," he said.

Truman alumna Amanda Hauser said she agrees. Hauser, a May 2005 graduate of Truman's MAE program, now works as a high school teacher.

"It's not so much the individual classes you take, but the general wide variety of skills you build up really do help in the real world," she said.

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Amanda Hausner
Alumna

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This week: Pepper Parmigiano Roast Beef Focaccia- \$4.39

Classic Line			
Monday		Thursday	
Carved Porkloin	\$2.75/\$4.05	Buffalo Chicken Breast	\$2.75/\$4.05
Homemade Chicken & Noodles	\$2.75/\$4.05	Baked Italian Pasta	\$2.75/\$4.05
Cheese Calzone	\$2.75/\$4.05	Cheese Enchilada Casserole	\$2.75/\$4.05
Tuesday		Friday	
Carved Turkey	\$2.75/\$4.05	Carved Ham	\$2.75/\$4.05
Garlic Beef w/rice	\$3.05/\$4.35	Battered Cod	\$2.74/\$4.05
Tuscan Burrito	\$3.05/\$4.35	Sweet & Sour Tofu	\$2.75/\$4.05
Wednesday		Blimpie Special	
Carved Roast Beef	\$2.75/\$4.05	Chicken Caesar Wrap Combo	\$5.29
Sweet & Sour Pork w/rice	\$3.05/\$4.35		
Baked Cheese Mostaccioli	\$2.50/\$3.80		

Tierra Del Sol Special – 1 Beef Burrito with side of rice and beans.
\$2.50
Jazzman's Special – Tall Chai with a muffin
\$3.25
Freshens Special – Regular Healthy Lifestyles Smoothie
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