

Tattoo trend climbs, conflicts with some religious preferences

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Bulldogs drop four conference games to extend losing streak

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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper

Union appears on ballot

Kyle Hill
Staff Reporter

In the next-to-last meeting of junior Mark Kirtland's administration, student senators reached compromises that placed senator junior Josh Kappel's two referenda on next week's ballot.

Kappel reached a compromise with senators critical of joining Missouri Students United! and members of United!'s provisional common board to pose a ballot question granting provisional membership for Truman in exchange for a resolution establishing a task force to investigate the viability of accepting full membership.

Senate passed the resolution, proposed by senior Matthew Seibert, campus diversity chairman, by a 12-0-1 vote, with senior Tome Ekuni abstaining.

Kappel, who signed on as a co-sponsor, said the compromises were reached after senators expressed concern about the \$2 per semester fee.

"They had a very valid argument that we shouldn't spend students' money until we know what we're getting into," Kappel said.

Kappel said members of United!'s provisional common board suggested that Truman consider provisional membership.

"There's no real negative consequences to becoming [provisional] members," Kappel said.

Seibert said he drafted the resolution because of concerns brought up when Kappel proposed an independent council at the April 2 meeting.

"I wanted a united stance to present to the Student Association," Seibert said. "I felt they needed to see why we opposed it."

Seibert said he revised the resolution when Kappel informed him of United!'s provisional membership proposal.

Seibert said he was pleased to work with Kappel to find a unanimous solution.

"I'm very pleased and glad it came out that way," Seibert said. "I didn't want to start another internal fight within Senate."

Seibert briefly lost the support of a six-senator conservative bloc when he included a clause stating that Senate would endorse provisional membership, but the final version presented Sunday omitted the endorsement.

"It didn't have much relevance to the rest of the resolution, so I struck it," Seibert said.

Kappel followed the passage of
See **BALLOT**, Page 10

Weighing body issues

Extreme acts tie to thinness

Lauren Miller
Staff Reporter

While in high school, sophomore Katie Shannon joined the dance team.

Suddenly, she found herself surrounded by girls who talked about their calorie intakes and new diets instead of weekend plans. Shannon saw herself as one of the heavier dancers on the team, so she decided to do something about it by starting to throw up what she had eaten.

"I would really, really want ice cream, so I'd drink a ton of water because I'd know it would just come up easier," Shannon said.

Shannon said the problem stopped when she quit dancing, but she relapsed for about a month when she came to college. As a student adviser, Shannon has seen two of her residents struggle with anorexia in college as well.

"I just tell them, 'Trust me, I have been there,' and, 'You are beautiful,'" Shannon said.

An eating disorder involves serious disturbances in eating behavior, such as extreme dieting and unhealthy reduction of food intake or severe overeating as well as feelings of distress or concern about body weight

See **DISORDER**, Page 9

Habits lead to obesity

Emily Black
for the Index

With bathing suit season just around the corner, many students worry about their figures.

But perhaps they should be more worried about their health. Almost 30 percent of Truman students are overweight, and one-third of those students are obese, according to the spring 2005 National College Health Assessment.

Obesity, defined by the Mayo Clinic Web site as "having an abnormally high proportion of body fat," affects one in three American adults.

Kelly Freeland, a family nurse practitioner at the Student Health Center said she encounters students with varying health lifestyles.

"I see so many different students here," Freeland said. "I see some that eat very healthfully, that exercise three to five times a week, that have very healthy lifestyles, but I also see students that eat a lot of fast food, a lot of pre-packaged, store-bought food that don't exercise at all — you know, kind of the couch potato lifestyle

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SPECIAL REPORT

Photo Illustration and Design by Chris Tharp and Lindsay Koski/Index

University surveys flexible curriculum

Sara DeGonia
News Editor

More than a handful of students gripe about Public Speaking on a regular basis.

Or if it isn't speech class, it's Writing as Critical Thinking, Statistics 190 or fill in the graduation requirement blank here.

"I think they're kind of silly, and they get in the way of our general majors," sophomore Stephanie DeRousse said in regard to her Liberal Studies Program classes. "I'm double-majored, so I feel like I could spend that time fulfilling my major instead of having to go an extra half a year to graduate."

What students like DeRousse might not know is that LSP classes such as WACT and Public Speaking join major courses and all other areas of University study to compose what recently has become a topic of focus for administrators: the curriculum.

Within the last few weeks, University President Barbara Dixon; Gary Gordon, vice president for academic affairs; and Undergraduate Council chairman Scott Alberts, associate professor of

mathematics, have visited meetings of several divisions to share their visions for the future of curriculum at the University.

"I think that there are some people that aren't 100 percent satisfied with what we do, and it was time to review the LSP for assessments, so that was a factor," Dixon said. "Curriculums need to be reviewed every 10 years or so, whether you change them or not, to keep them fresh, alive."

Dixon said the role of the administration is to motivate faculty, who actually create the curriculum, to either initiate change or propose the maintenance of the current curriculum if it is so desired.

"It's the faculty's stamp on the University," Dixon said.

The University last made significant changes to the curriculum about a decade ago, she said.

She said reasons to contemplate curriculum changes are multifold, but the University's four-year graduation rates are lower than she would like them to be, and she attributes that to students like DeRousse who pursue multiple majors or minors and therefore do not have time to fulfill both those requirements and

What is Curriculum?

"To me, at this point in time, the curriculum really is the course of study that is put out for students."

— President Barbara Dixon

"I would take it as the subjects and what in general, as a whole, the teachers are teaching."

— Sophomore Stephanie DeRousse

"I think of curriculum as everything a student does when they're here. ... Curriculum is what students do when they're in college. ... To me what I think we're talking about with this review is: Do students have enough time to do the out-of-class things that we think are important? Being in student organizations, athletics, intramurals, all those things are important for students to learn what they're doing. I think what happens in the residence halls, I think that's all important to think about."

— Chair of Undergraduate Council Scott Alberts

Design by Lindsay Koski/Index

the LSP requirements.

In addition to graduation rates, Dixon said the observation of other universities' trends, student feedback regarding the LSP and discussions regarding the difference between a BA and BS degree all contribute to the administration's decision to begin discussing curriculum reform.

Alberts said the need for

change also stems from the University's desire to be distinct from its competitors.

"The assumption that we're just better and ahead of all the other schools in Missouri isn't as true as it used to be," Alberts said.

Dixon also said she would like to see every student participate in undergraduate research,
See **CURRICULUM**, Page 9

Two step down from ambulance board jobs

John Priest
Staff Reporter

The Adair County Ambulance District lost 32 years of experience when two people resigned Monday.

Audrea Lyons, chairwoman of the board of directors, and administrator Don Crosby announced their separate resignations only days after voters passed a tax increase for the district.

Vice chairman Brian Noe said the ambulance board will appoint someone from Lyons' district to fulfill her term, but finding a replacement for Crosby will take longer.

"We are not expecting to just run into someone qualified for the administrator position," he said. "We are going to have to search for someone who is on top of the industry."

Noe said he understands the concern, but he has confidence in the future of the district.

"If anything we're in better shape than before because we have been expecting these resignations for a while now, and although these are hard shoes to fill, we can move forward," he said.

Crosby, who has worked for

the district for almost 10 years, said he resigned for a number of reasons.

"I felt like I had accomplished what needed to be accomplished, and it felt like the time to go," Crosby said. " ... I think the district's long-term success requires a different style of leadership. I helped them come through some tough financial times, but now with the tax passed, they need someone with more clinical experience who can offer hands-on oversight."

Crosby's resignation will take effect May 12 when he takes over as operations manager at Alliant Bank.

"The tax passed, and I got an attractive job offer from a company that impresses me," Crosby said. "I love Kirkville, and that's why when I was searching for a new job, I stayed in the area. I want to help Kirkville grow and succeed. With this job, I have the chance to move on but stay in the community I've grown attached to."

But he's not the only one leaving. One of his bosses also resigned.

Lyons, 82, had served on
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INSIDE | this issue

Bipartisan Politics

Columnist Chris Matthews discusses key dissenters in an appellate court decision.



See Other Voices Page 5

Trash Talk

Residents clog curbs with clutter in preparation for annual Spring Clean Up.



See News Page 6

Friendly Folk

Local bed and breakfast provides a homey alternative to hotels.



See TruLife Page 13

THIS WEEK | weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Isolated T-storms	Scattered T-storms	Partly cloudy
High 86	High 81	High 77
Low 59	Low 60	Low 53