

School Spirit

Dorm mascots help encourage incoming freshmen to show their school spirit.

See TruLife Page 9



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper

Coach Skotch

New Volleyball coach eyes nationals as team ranks No. 2 in preseason polls.

See Sports Page 15



Sunday, August 21, 2005

Kirkville, Mo. 63501

Scholarship renewal rules relax

Alan Reininger
Assistant News Editor

Students now have a little more breathing room when it comes to renewing scholarships.

Earlier this summer, based on the recommendations of the scholarship task force, President Barbara Dixon lowered the scholarship renewal's GPA requirement to allow students who have a GPA between 3.0 and 3.24 to receive a percentage of their scholarship.

"The changes make it very clear for students, and we won't have people going through appeals without specific guidelines," Dixon said. "And it should almost do away with the appeals process except for in an unusual case."

Dixon said she had statistics

that said about 600 students made appeals every semester, and 75 percent or more of them received part of their scholarship back. There should be a better way to make those decisions, she said.

"It's not an all or nothing anymore," said Melinda Wood, director of financial aid. "It's pretty tough to go from 100 percent to nothing just because you're off a little bit."

Wood said every year a large number of students whose GPA fell under 3.25 appealed to retain their scholarship.

Any student who lost their scholarship is now eligible to receive a percentage of the original amount if their GPA is currently above 3.0, Wood said. She said anytime a student raises his or her GPA to 3.0 or above and if

it jumps into a new percentage range, students need to contact the financial aid office and fill out the paperwork for an automatic renewal of their scholarship.

Under the previous system, students who met the other requirements received a full renewal of their scholarship if their GPA was 3.25 or above every year after their freshman year. If a student's GPA fell below that, however, the student lost all of their scholarship money. Wood said students had the opportunity to make an appeal to receive all or a partial amount of their scholarship back if they had extenuating circumstances they felt prevented them from receiving a 3.25 GPA or higher.

Wood said that now, students whose GPAs fall between 3.0 and 3.09 will automatically receive

70 percent of their scholarships, 3.1 to 3.19 will receive 80 percent and 3.2 to 3.24 will receive 90 percent. There is no need to appeal to receive that percentage amount, she said.

The other requirements for scholarship renewal include passing at least 24 credit hours per academic year and not using more than eight semesters or a pro-rated amount for transfer students, she said. After their freshman year or first two semesters, students who receive more than \$1500 in scholarships per year must perform 75 hours of service per semester to the University, she said.

Wood said she already has seen a decrease in the amount of appeals submitted to the financial aid office this summer.

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 7



Roger Meissen/Index
Workers continue progress on the new residence hall located on the corner of First and Normal Streets. Completion date is expected to be Fall 2006.

Construction continues

After a summer of building, new residence hall will open for upperclassmen by fall 2006

Alison Bowen
News Editor

Truman's newest residence hall has a footprint in place.

Director of Residence Life Andrea O'Brien said she has seen the entire groundwork laid out this summer as she passed the site every day on her way to work.

"It's come along pretty fast," she said. "It's just exciting to be able to see the progress, when they've really been working for roughly three months. I just think they've done a tremendous amount of work in a re-

ally short amount of time."

The new residence hall, now a nameless building consisting of cinder blocks and concrete, is slated to be ready for students, specifically upperclassmen, by fall 2006.

"Right now they're working on the outer shell," O'Brien said. "On parts of the building, they're up to the second floor. By the time the freshmen and upperclassmen get here, on some parts they might actually be starting on the third floor."

On the west side of the building, O'Brien said the construction is also up to the second floor, with groundwork laid out for the front of the building.

Ground has also been dug for the basement, the maintenance room and the boiler room. Framing for the staff apartments and other suites also are in place.

O'Brien said she hopes that by Christmas, the shell of the building will be completely finished and the plumbing, electrical and infrastructure will have begun. By the middle of spring, she said she hopes they would be starting to put in the carpeting and drywall.

One change for returning students, however, is that the gravel parking lot west of Centennial is now construction storage and will not be available for student use, as agreed to by the contract with the University.

"It's called a staging area," O'Brien said. "They put all of their construction equipment there and store some of their supplies."

When the new residence hall is finished, however, it will include a new parking lot that will provide 180 to 200 new student parking spots, O'Brien said.

See HALL, Page 7

Fee supplements campus services

Amanda Boyle
Staff Reporter

When students receive bills from Truman for this semester's tuition, they might notice that in addition to the expected tuition fees, there is a new \$25 fee for access to the Student Health Center and the University Counseling

Services. Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist said the Department of Student Affairs took major budget cuts over the last few years, and after consulting with members of the Student

Senate, they decided the fee was appropriate and necessary. Gilchrist said with the budget cuts, the Department of Student Affairs is operating on budgets similar to those a decade ago. The fee will enable the Health Center and Counseling Services to continue providing the services they have in the past.

"In some areas it is easier to cut back than it is with the Health and Counseling Centers," Gilchrist said. "It gets to a point that it really diminishes the quality of services you can bring. Budget cuts hurt all of us, but in the Health Center it can mean things like bandages or aspirin. It just isn't

acceptable to slash their budget indefinitely."

The \$25 fee will be billed automatically to students enrolled for six or more credit hours per semester.

The other option the Department of Student Affairs and the Student Senate considered was having a fee each time students used the Health Center or Counseling

Services. However, this option posed a number of problems.

"We didn't want to create a situation where students wouldn't go to the Health Center because of the cost," she said.

Gilchrist said the Department of Student Affairs looked at studies that showed the effects of illness on students' academic success. A survey of about 1,100 Truman students conducted by the American College Health Association showed 33.4 percent of students said a cold/flu/sore throat negatively affected their performance within the last school year, and 18 percent

said depression/anxiety disorder/seasonal affective disorder affected them in the same way. These results reinforced the need to make the services of the Health and Counseling Centers readily available to students without an on-site fee each time.

See SURCHARGE, Page 7

"I think the fact people will have already paid for the service will give people more of an initiative to use the services already at their disposal."

JC Schofield
Sophomore

Hazel Creek Background Information

- City Council voted 3-2 Dec. 20, 2004 to sell about 426 acres of the Hazel Creek watershed to cattle farmer Gail Novinger.
- Because of the property's proximity to Hazel Creek Lake, where the city gets some of its drinking water, the Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee formed to fight the sale.
- The Environmental Campus Organization led a protest Jan. 20, 2005.

Committee choices make ripples in Hazel Creek controversy

City Council rules out HCCCC members for watershed committee

Jessie Gasch
Assistant News Editor

Another chapter has opened in the saga of Hazel Creek.

The controversial sale of the 426.78-acre property abutting the watershed of the Hazel Creek reservoir has led to a community-wide awareness of the city's watershed management. In June, the City Council approved the measure to appoint a watershed management committee. "I am the one who put that to-

gether," City Manager Mari Macomber said. "I expanded it to include the recreation aspect, the health aspect and the users of the water. It has two citizens and two property owners."

The council has named potential committee members and will have a final vote Monday. The committee will include 13 full members, two non-voting members, an advisory member and two staff members, according to a document Macomber wrote. Members will represent a variety of environmental groups and local entities, including Truman. If approved, Science Division Head Scott Ellis will serve on the committee. Macomber said the City Council

had received a letter from the Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee that expressed concerns over the makeup of the new watershed management committee.

"I think they were concerned there were not enough citizens on the committee," she said. "In the long run, they would like more property owners to participate, because that is so important for the land management around the water, getting [the owners] to understand and participate and know the practices."

Ron Gaber, chair of HCCCC, said the committee made recommendations to the council to appoint some of its members.

See HCCCC, Page 7



Roger Meissen/Index
A fence approaches Hazel Creek Lake, one of the city's drinking water reservoirs.

INSIDE | this issue

Truman Survival

Columnist Joel Andersen offers a few tips on how to survive freshman year at Truman.



See Other Voices Page 5

Police Beat

Local law enforcement prepares for new wave of freshmen students.



See News Page 3

Advancing Arches

McDonald's on S. Baltimore undergoes state-of-the-art renovations.



See Features Page 10

THIS WEEK | weather

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny
High 80	High 79	High 81
Low 51	Low 49	Low 59