

ITS offers program for notes

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for the Index

Free tools are available to help students take better notes in class, but not many students are taking advantage of them.

Copies of the Microsoft Office OneNote program are provided to students for free through Information Technology Services. The program is designed to help students take digital notes on a desktop or laptop computer.

Chad M. Tatro, director of client services for ITS, said the University received 3,000 copies of the program from Microsoft vendors in late August 2004. He said ITS wanted to pass out the program during move-in, but the program did not arrive on time. After the University received the program later in the semester, ITS made copies available to students through the help desk and in computer labs.

Tatro said many copies are left for

students to pick up. He said ITS has not done much to promote the program.

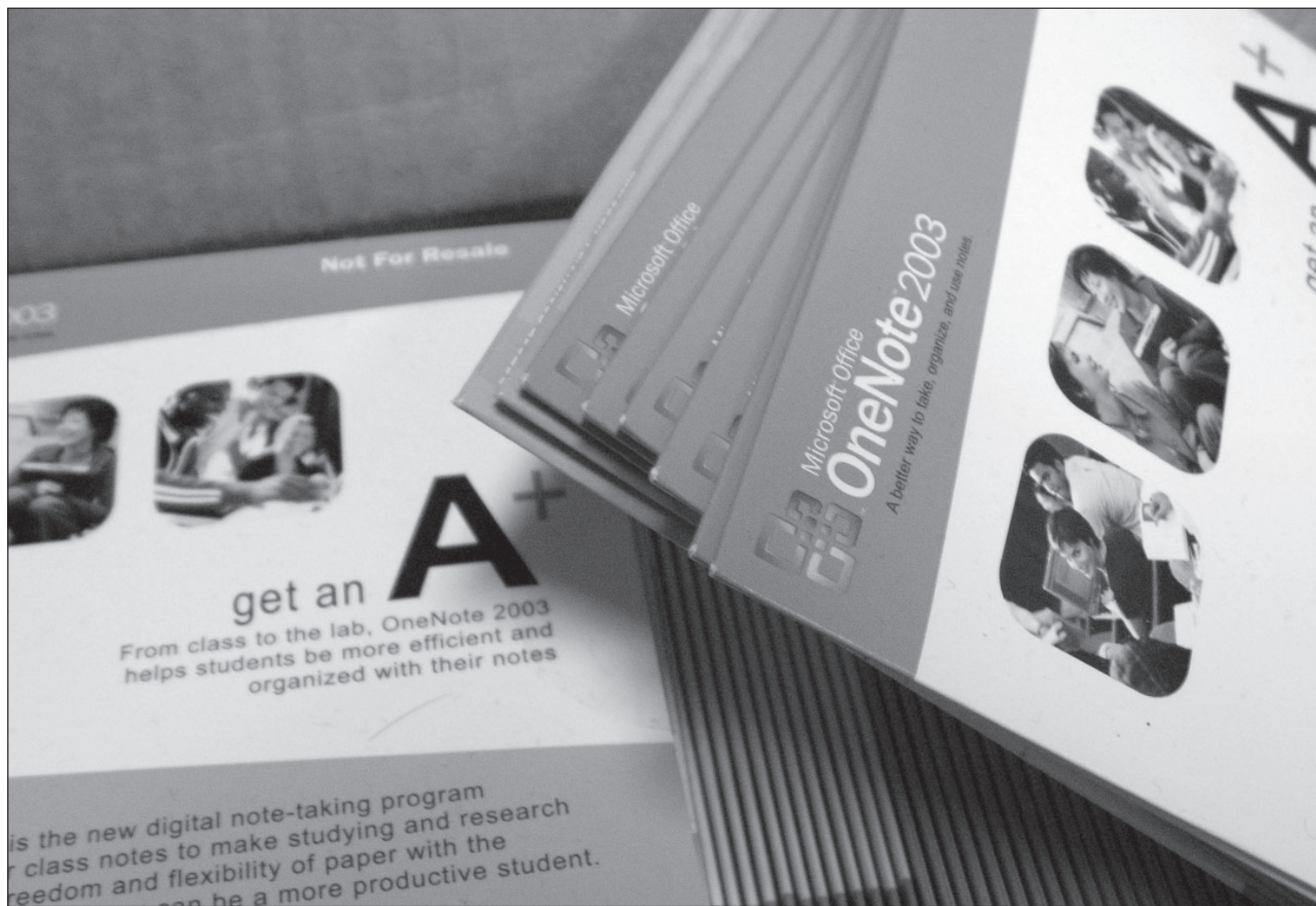
"We didn't do a huge promotion for it because we try not to endorse any specific product," Tatro said.

He said interest in the program has varied greatly, from students who are not interested because it is a Microsoft program to students taking it because it's free.

"I think a lot of people are always suspicious of anything that's free, but it is," Tatro said. "It's done as a promotional item, and it's a full copy."

He said the program has a retail value of about \$50. The University did not have to pay to be included in the promotional program. The software is for student use only and is not installed on any University computers.

Tatro said OneNote can be used with desktop and laptop computers, but it is designed for use with tablet personal computers. Tablet PCs use a stylus pen to write notes directly on the screen. These



Boxes of OneNote 2003 software are stored outside of the ITS room in McClain Hall.

Courtney Robbins/Index

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notes then can be saved as handwriting or changed into text.

"It has some interesting features for organizing notes and outlines or thought patterns," Tatro said. "I think for some disciplines, that might be useful."

OneNote is part of the Microsoft Office System, which includes other programs such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, according to the Microsoft Web site. OneNote

uses text, pictures and drawings, along with video and audio, to help a student organize notes better and find information easily. When used with a tablet PC, a student can draw diagrams with the stylus pen.

Tatro said ITS did testing with tablet PCs during the summer and installed OneNote to try it out. He said it seemed to work best with the tablet PCs, but it also will work on desktop and laptop computers. He

said the program only works with computers using Microsoft Windows.

Tatro said he isn't sure how many students use the program or how many students take notes on laptops in class.

John Hoffmann, associate professor of education, said he has heard of the program, but he has not seen any students using it. He said he thinks it could help.

"If there is a lot of lecturing, I could see how it would be beneficial," Hoffmann said.

Sophomore Bryan Hinrichs said he did not know the program was available. He said it might be helpful in class if he used his laptop to take notes.

"I've never heard much about the software," Hinrichs said. "I might try it out if I used my computer for taking notes."

GAS | Prices fluctuate because of taxes and stations' adjustments to competitors' prices

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Leone said St. Louis and Kansas City both have special regulations on the type of fuel that can be distributed, which affects their selling price. St. Louis requires a modified type of fuel known as reformulated gasoline, which generally makes the gas prices in St. Louis more expensive than the rest of the state, Leone said.

Gas prices in Missouri vary widely not only from region to region but also within towns and nearby communities.

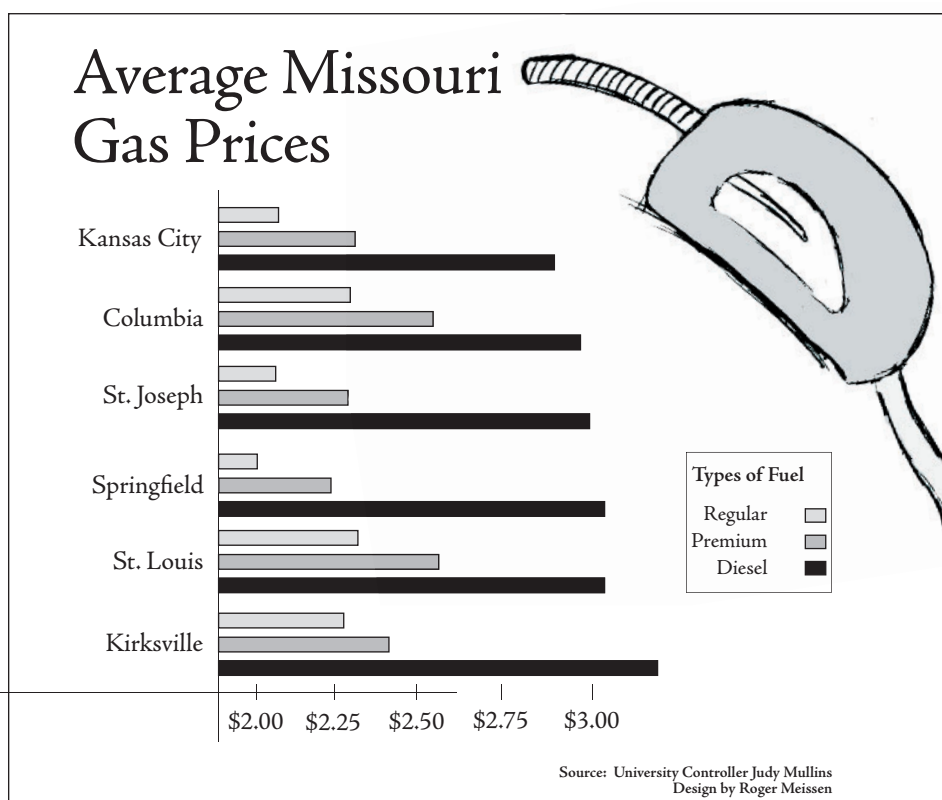
Last Saturday, the difference in regular fuel prices in Kirksville ranged from \$2.24 at Murphy USA and BP Amoco to \$2.44 at Texaco, according to the Automotive Web site that provides listings of gas prices within areas. Phillip's 66 in Milan had lower prices than Murphy USA and BP by eight cents with regular fuel priced at \$2.16 per gallon.

The price discrepancies are not just between competing gas stations. The Casey's gas station in nearby Milan, Mo., undersold the Kirksville Casey's station by eight cents per gallon last Saturday, according to the same Web site. Store managers at both Casey's stations refused to comment on reasons for the difference.

Bill Walljasper, vice president and chief financial officer of the Casey's corporation, said competitive environment of the store location is a key factor when it comes to price variations. The pricing philosophy at Casey's is to follow the competition, Walljasper said.

"If [the stores] identify another competitor move their price up or down, they move with them," Walljasper said.

Although the cost of the gasoline supplied to the Casey's stations also plays a role in their prices, Walljasper said in the case of the Kirksville Casey's and the Milan Casey's, it is unlikely they are pulling



from different suppliers. Walljasper said he could not give an exact reason for the price differences between the two stations without more research.

Brenda Wilbers, a program director at the energy center in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, said both an area's competition and its accessibility to fuel suppliers are key factors when it comes to the range in prices through-

out the state. Branded stations such as Shell and Amoco that are supplied fuel by their own company might have different prices than unbranded stations such as QuikTrip, Wilbers said.

The DNR's Web site said the number of competitors in a certain markets can be a factor in price variations. Markets with little competition tend to have higher prices than areas where there is significant competition, according to the Web site.

AUDIT | McCaskill reviews Truman's finances

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It covers everything for three fiscal years from June 2003 to June 2005. "Some of the information they requested took time to pull out," Mullins said. "We had to go back to storage files back three years. They reserve the right to go further if they needed to finish up something they discovered."

As fieldwork finishes, the auditors now will spend several months reviewing the information gathered and write a report, Brewer said. The report will be reviewed and issued

by State Auditor Claire McCaskill.

Dixon and the Board of Governors then can read the audit, challenge any findings by giving further documentation and supply written responses to the audit. These responses also will be included with official findings in the audit.

"I think if they find that someone is violating the law, it will have teeth," Mullins said. "But if it's just they don't agree with the way our board allocates money, I think we have a right to disagree."

ACTIVITIES | Extracurriculars add to file

Continued from Page 1

or her involvement during previous years at Truman.

The records will be processed through the Banner database. Gilchrist said that for the most part, the Center for Student Involvement, academic disciplines and student organizations will be responsible for submitting the involvement of their members. Each student must submit a list of organizations he or she is involved in at some point in the year. Gilchrist said she sees this as a plus.

"Organizations will have to be more consistent," Gilchrist said. "They will have to be more connected with their members so that they can clarify their involvement."

Although Gilchrist first thought of the idea at a retreat she and other student affairs directors attended during the summer of 2002, it is only now becoming a reality. Testing finally started in the summer of 2005. The lack of technology postponed the process.

"We are lucky that we can record it on Banner because it makes it a lot easier on us," Gilchrist said.

Gilchrist said the idea of a co-curricular record has been around

for at least 10 years, and universities such as A.T. Still University of Health Sciences and the University of Missouri-Rolla have offered it. Yet not many schools offer co-curricular records.

"What we can do here at Truman is very unique," Gilchrist said. "It is a symbolic gesture, and we actually have the opportunity to use this."

Chemburkar said he thinks more universities will follow the trend in upcoming years.

Chemburkar said the co-curricular report is a fine summation of the college experience.

"Truman students are very passionate, and this is a way for them to celebrate," Chemburkar said.

Co-curricular records also will enable Truman to keep more accurate records of its alumni. Gilchrist said they can be useful for fundraising, history and reunions because rosters will be available for students to contact alumni more efficiently.

"This is the icing [on] the cake," Chemburkar said.

Student affairs will put on an organizations expo Nov. 28 and 29, and they will share more information about both student organizations and co-curricular reports.

SURVEY | Study receives big response, reveals cost and student credit concerns

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"I looked into a school in Scotland for all four years, but I can't really fit it in," Rudolph said.

Schulte said working on the committee has prepared her for her trip to France next semester.

"Reading survey responses and interviews have brought up issues I never thought of," Schulte said.

Schulte said one solution she sug-

gested was a timeline to keep the process structured. She said survey results also have pointed to what her committee should include in a handbook for students.

"All the information in the study abroad office is there, but we're working to compile it into a concise handbook," Schulte said.

Schulte said she is not sure whether she will contribute to the

committee while overseas.

"All my notes are in a binder, and I'll hand it off to someone," Schulte said. "Maybe I'll come up with some more ideas of what should be included in there."

The study abroad survey, which closes Monday, includes an entry for a \$30 gift card from Wal-Mart.

Web developer Greg Marshall said the study abroad and two activities

surveys by the Student Activities Board in the past week have each netted more than 1,500 responses, more than any other survey this year.

Marshall said survey incentives might have played a factor in increased responses.

"Like the SAB comedian, some just want their responses heard," Marshall said. "If students are less likely to take it, the incentive helps."

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