



**Double Trouble**

Men's soccer wins two games over the last five days

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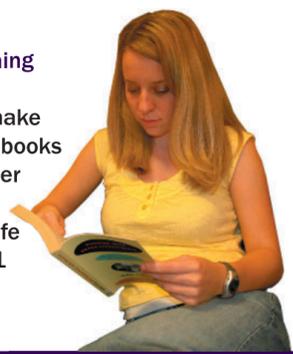
# TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper

**Bookworming**

Students make dates to talk books over dinner

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Thursday, September 22, 2005

www.trumanindex.com

Kirkville, Mo. 63501

## Group allegedly assaults student

**Grace Mattie**  
Staff Reporter

Police still are looking for a group of teenagers who allegedly assaulted a Truman student during the weekend, sending her to the hospital with her nose broken in two places.

The accuser, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of being attacked again, said she encountered the group of teenagers while walking with a group of six female friends toward campus at approximately 12:45 a.m. Sunday.

She said that after one of her friends made a sarcastic comment to the teenagers, who were walking across the street, the group came after the women and chased them to the Pi Kappa Phi house on South Davis Street.

Looking to see if they had gotten away, she said, she turned around to a fist in her face, breaking her nose.

"My friend said that [the attacker] was about to hit me again, but [my friend] stopped her," she said.

In retaliation, she said her friend kicked the girl in the ribs, knocking her to the ground.

"After that, her and her gang ran off while I sat there bleeding everywhere," the accuser said.

The accuser said her friends took her inside the house to clean her up while someone at the house called the police.

By the time she and her friends exited the house, she said the police and an ambulance had arrived.

The accuser said she chose not to ride in it because she knew she was not critically injured. Instead, she rode with her friend to the hospital, where she discovered she broke her nose in two places.

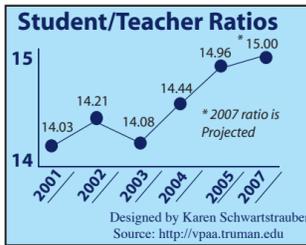
Sgt. Steve Farnsworth, spokesman for the Kirksville Police Department, said police went to look for the group not long after the incident occurred, but they could not find them. The case remains under investigation.

Farnsworth said assaults of this nature are rare.

"Most of our assaults that happen with Truman students are with someone they know, unless it's uptown like at the bars," he said.

Yet, another fight that broke out the same night at Toons received plenty of police attention.

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## Fund loss prompts 16:1 ratio

**Kyle Hill**  
Staff Reporter

Faced with decreasing state funds and increasing costs, the University has begun taking steps to increase the student-faculty ratio to 16-to-1.

University President Barbara Dixon has asked Garry Gordon, vice president for academic affairs, to draft plans for each division to increase its class sizes.

"Part of the reason for going back to [16-to-1] is that it will help us reallocate some of the money that we need to put right back into faculty salaries," Dixon said. "One of our major goals is to increase the salary so that we can continue to hire high-quality faculty."

Gordon said Truman receives about half its operating revenue from the state's general fund.

In May, the General Assembly decided not to increase funding levels, and in the past year, funds briefly were withheld to cover state deficits.

"Costs of running the institution, things like healthcare, utilities and increases in salaries, have increased our costs at a time when money is diminishing," Gordon said.

Dixon said the University master plan, implemented in 1997, called for a student-faculty ratio of 16-to-1, but in 2002 was revised to the current 15-to-1 figure in anticipation of increased funding.

"With performance funding, which Truman received at some point in time, the decision was made to add

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Lisette Metz Grulke/Index

Sophomore Brandon Large congratulates newly elected Senator freshman Mike Pieper as sophomore Joe VanAmburg looks on. All are members of the Bulldog party, which won nine of the 10 contested seats in Wednesday's election.

## Senate's ranks swell

Ten Senators join realm of student politics after election results roll in Wednesday

**Kyle Hill**  
Staff Reporter

Freshman Tracey Blasingame already knew her future on Student Senate.

Blasingame and three other freshmen - Michelle Coolidge, Mark Enselman and Blake Harris - ran unopposed for four incoming senator seats.

Blasingame sat with fellow members of the Bulldog Party in the upper atrium of Violette Hall last night, eagerly awaiting the results of this week's election.

As ethics justice sophomore Brett Pierson read the results in front of the Bulldog-heavy crowd, senators and candidates congratulated each other.

This election, 678 students logged onto a secure Web site to cast their votes, electing six new Senators-at-Large from a list of eight.

Independent candidate junior Josh Kappel, who advocated less intrusion by the University into student lives, was the top vote getter with 351.

Freshman Becky Coleman, senior Tomoyki Ekuni, freshman Chris Miller, freshman Mike Pieper and freshman Sarah Schmidt, all Bulldog Party candidates, won the remaining at-large seats.

These 10 new members will be sworn in Sunday to a Senate with a new outlook under the direction of Student Senate President junior Mark Kirtland.

Kirtland said he is excited to see new members join.

"Having new Senators revitalizes the organization," Kirtland said.

Blasingame said she would like to focus on course descriptions and ratings.

"When we are registering online, we should definitely be able to see what we are registering for without referring to the big yellow book," Blasingame said.

Schmidt said she wanted Senate to work with the Women's Resource Center to improve safety on campus.

"Definitely lighting on campus is not safe enough," Schmidt said. "Between Centennial [Hall] and the [Student Recreation] Center, there is not sufficient lighting, and I am very worried about what may happen."

Kirtland said Senate now will look toward drafting a vision document for the upcoming update to the University's master plan.

"We're putting together a vision document to give the administration and the rest of the state an idea of what students want Truman to be in five years," Kirtland said.

Senate endured two blows of student apathy last year. In the September 2004 elections, five candidates ran for 16 open seats.

A survey in the April 2005 report from the Organizational Activities Fee committee showed that nearly half the students surveyed thought Senate did a poor job informing students of its activities.

Schmidt said Senate's Web site needs improvement.

"When I first got on there, it was not very helpful to me," Schmidt said.

Kirtland said changes were immediately implemented after reading the report. Senate's Web site now includes minutes of regular weekly meetings and all committee notes.

Schmidt said she had annoyed residents in her hall by excessively talking about her campaign, but students will enjoy a Senate newsletter.

"It could be e-mailed to students, posted on bulletin boards, stuck in their mailboxes," Schmidt said. "Everyone loves to get mail, so I think people will read it if they get it in the mail."

Kirtland said last year's Senate did not pass enough resolutions stating Senate's position.

"We were doing a lot of things but we didn't pass enough resolutions saying we were doing them," Kirtland said.

Senate already has passed three resolutions this semester, the first a unanimous 11-0 vote requesting the University move bike racks to their previous location.

"The Senate wants the bike racks moved back for the safety of the bikes," Kirtland said. "I'm concerned that students are losing an asset they paid money for."

Kirtland said Senate will work to establish a bike-awareness program. He also said that Senate members convinced the University to cancel interest charges to student accounts accrued from a delay in Bright Flight funds.

Other projects Senate will work on include improvements to the Study Abroad Office and academic advising.

Senate meets Sundays at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Building Governors Room.

### Student Senate Results

678 Students voted

#### Senators Votes

Josh Kappel	351
Mike Pieper	345
Becky Coleman	322
Tomoyki Ekuni	316
Sarah Schmidt	302
Chris Miller	292
Blake Harris	156
Michelle Coolidge	134
Mark Enselman	120
Tracey Blasingame	115

FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE

SEE INDEX online  
www.trumanindex.com

## Rooms are drenched in deluge

**Amy Hoelting**  
Staff Reporter

Freshman Erin Calahan didn't know she would be spending the better part of last Thursday mopping up an overflow of water on her residence hall room floor, but she really didn't have a choice.

Calahan said the water started pouring into her room shortly after 1 p.m. and continued for the better part of the afternoon.

The water began seeping through the drywall after it rained and continued until almost 7:30 p.m., she said. The water affected Centennial Hall rooms 558, 458, 358 and 258, hall director Mike Houlahan said.

"Our facilities department works to clean up the initial mess," Houlahan said. "After the rains stopped, the problem cleaned up itself. I think they did a good job with the time they had."

Houlahan said there was no major damage done to Centennial. He said that due to the nature of the leak, workers were not able to begin fixing the leak until after the rain had stopped.

Houlahan said the water affected the four rooms differently, with more water coming into one room than another. He said the residents of the rooms also reacted differently. Some even thought they caused the leak themselves by leaving the window open.

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### INSIDE | this issue

**Recycled Exams**

Columnist Prajwal Sharma puts professors to the test about reusing exams.



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**Mo' Changes**

Missouri Hall celebrates 40th anniversary before going off-line next fall.



See Features Page 13

**Free Agents**

Intramural program cracks down on illegal players in competitive games.



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### THIS WEEK | weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Scattered T-storms High 69 Low 60	Partly Cloudy High 82 Low 63	Scattered T-storms High 75 Low 52