



Shelves Go Hungry
photo by Phil Jarrett

Bare shelves plague The Salvation Army in Kirksville, where donations have sagged recently. Food in baskets handed out recently usually includes some cookies, taco shells, a few boxes of crackers and some vegetables. For more information on items The Salvation Army is hoping to receive via donations, see News in Brief on Page 2 or call 660-665-7885.

GRE vs. CLA

<p>GRE Cost: \$130 per student Published by: Educational Testing Services Content: Writing section, plus two sections for verbal and qualitative reasoning Test type: Graduate school entrance exam and senior exit exam Administered: Throughout the year</p>	<p>CLA Cost: \$6,300 general service fee Published by: Council for Aid to Education and the RAND Corporation Content: Student must choose one of two writing "tasks" Test type: General exam Administered: Spring only</p>
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Design by Lindsay Koski/Index

GRE | University decides to switch college exit exam provider

Continued from Page 1
various other areas such as utilities and faculty raises. Rector did not have the exact figures for the cost of the CLA, but according to the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) Web site, cae.org, administering the CLA incurs a \$6,300 service fee.
The CLA, published by the CAE and the RAND Corporation, differs somewhat from the GRE, which has two sections for verbal and quantitative reasoning, in addition to a writing section. The CLA instead is divided into two "tasks."
According to the Assessment and Testing Office's Assessment Almanac, "Students are asked to either write two essays in response to prompts asking them to construct an argument and to respond to an argument or write one long essay in response to a series of questions concerning a 'real life' problem." The CLA also is only administered in the spring, whereas the GRE is given throughout the year.
The only students who take the GRE are classics, communication, communication disorders, English,

exercise science, philosophy and religion, Russian and theater majors. The plan is for each of the eight majors mentioned above to find a new subject-specific exam by spring 2008 as every other major has its own individualized exit exam for seniors.
All seniors, if they intend to go to graduate school, still will need to take the GRE in addition to their specific exit exam, and the University will remain a GRE testing site. Neither of the other graduate school entrance exams for which the University is a testing site — the LSAT and the MCAT — will be affected.
Those graduating in December 2006 still will take the GRE and be reimbursed for the cost of the test. The test changes do affect about 357 students who fall within the eight majors and who plan to graduate in spring 2007. All of these students already have been notified about the changes.
Some students have expressed dissatisfaction with the switch, but for the most part, there has been little negative feedback, Asher said. "I have two tests to prepare for be-

cause I have to take the GRE to get into grad school and the CLA to get out of Truman," senior communication disorders major Colleen Fitzgerald said. "[The switch] is just something I'll have to deal with."
Response from the faculty involved has been positive, although there was some confusion because of miscommunication between faculty members on the Assessment Committee and those not on the committee, Asher said.
Finding a new test presents certain challenges for faculty involved. Professor of Russian Shannon Jumper said there is no national test for her discipline, and no one has told her what she needs to do about that. Communication disorders professor Paula Cochran said her field does not have a national exam, although there is a test at the master's degree level, which can be taken only three times.
"We could come up with our own test, but it wouldn't be national-norm," Cochran said. "There's not a lot of the interest in the field now."

SMOKE FREE | Kirksville residents, local business owners debate a potential ban of smoking indoors for all Kirksville businesses

Continued from Page 1
presenters had three minutes to tell Kirksville City Council members why they supported or did not support the proposed public smoking ban.
Justin Puckett, owner of OE Medical Supply Co., is in favor of the ban. He has been a member of Breathe Easy Kirksville for five years. Puckett said the organization helps business owners make their businesses smoke-free. The group also helps individuals stop smoking.
"Breathe Easy Kirksville has about 300 active members, and we support public policy for change," Puckett said.
Puckett cited numerous studies in support of a smoking ban in public places, including a study that showed lost workplace productivity, higher medical costs, higher maintenance costs and increased insurance rates as a result of smoking.
"I could not support an ordinance that I felt was bad for business," Puckett said.
Puckett said measures such

as air cleaners or separate smoking sections do not go far enough. He said the only way to fully eliminate health risks, disease and premature death by secondhand smoke is to make indoor areas 100 percent smoke free.
Several other health professionals also expressed their support of the smoking ban.
"Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome], acute respiratory infections, ear problems and severe asthma," said Melody Jennings, a health and exercise science instructor at Truman.
Jennings joined Breathe Easy Kirksville this summer, and she said she supports the smoking ban.
"If the ban is across the board, then everyone is treated equally, and no one feels picked on," she said.
Jennings conducted an informal survey in two of her classes asking whether students would continue to go to their favorite restaurant or bar if smoking were banned. Out of 113 students, only seven said they would not go

anymore.
"I just hope [the ordinance] goes through," Jennings said. "I really think it would benefit everyone."
Although health-care professionals were unanimous in their support of the smoking ban, restaurant owners were divided. One concern was that the anti-smoking ordinance would drastically hurt business.
Brenda Sewell, owner of the Uptown Cafe for nearly 25 years, said nearly 80 percent of her customers smoke. She said she believes individual business owners should be able to make the decision regarding smoking.
"I own my own building, I own my own business and I want to make the decision," Sewell said.
Sewell said the new smoking ban could put her out of business for good.
"If I turned this place into a no-smoking establishment, I might as well close down," she said. "We are just now beginning to recover our business from when the streets were closed this summer, and now they are going to cut into my business even further."
Sewell said she does enough for her non-smoking customers. The Uptown Cafe has six non-smoking tables near the front of the restaurant. When the door is open or the air conditioners are on,

the air circulates towards the back of the restaurant away from the non-smoking section, she said.
Jan Collins, owner of the Washington Street Java Company, said her restaurant has been smoke free since 2001. She said she did not notice any decrease in her business as a result. In fact, her business has been growing since that time. She said she heard some complaints initially, but they died down fairly quickly, and there have been no complaints for quite some time.
"We're not a bar, and I realize they are in a different situation, but a lot of people like to smoke when they drink their coffee, but it just really hasn't been an issue," Collins said. "It's kind of like everything else. Once you make the decision, it's easy after that."
Kirksville would be the second city in Missouri to enact a ban on smoking in restaurants and bars, according to the American Non-smokers' Rights Foundation Web site. Ballwin, Mo., is the only city in Missouri that has a complete ban on smoking in workplaces, restaurants and freestanding bars. Jackson, Mo., has a ban on smoking in the workplace, and Maryville, Mo., has a smoking ban in restaurants.
Puckett said the City Council will vote on the measure Sept. 20.

Citywide Public Smoking Ban

People who support the ban say:

Exposure to secondhand smoke (which is exhaled from smokers or burned from the tobacco itself) is harmful to a person's health, so smoking should be banned from enclosed public places, including restaurants and bars.

A ban on public smoking in restaurants and bars is in the public's best interest.

Employees who work in enclosed environments are at a higher risk of exposure to secondhand smoke.

People who oppose the ban say:

People should expect bars and certain establishments to be smoky. Customers have the freedom to choose where they spend their time and money, so if a certain establishment is smoky, they can take their business somewhere else.

Individual business owners should have the right to decide whether their establishment is smoke free or not.

A smoking ban could force businesses to close down, leaving employees out of work and hurting the community's economy.

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