

Gospel group hosts iSacrifice week

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Staff Reporter

"Great Sex for Life," Taboo and worship are just some of the activities during iSacrifice week April 14 through 18.

This week, Unique Gospel Choir is hosting iSacrifice, a week dedicated to Christian praise and worship. Each night, the group hosts a different activity that relates to the theme of sacrifice, culminating with its concert.

Senior Keisha Murray, president of Unique Gospel Choir, has been a part of the group since she was a freshman.

"It's the first time gospel choir has had a week of events," Murray said. "Each day we're going to be sacrificing something different. The themes are 'my worship,' then 'my mind,' 'my fellowship,' 'my body' and 'my two-step' and Sunday is 'my all.'"

Earlier this week the choir sponsored events including a praise and worship service for the theme of "my worship," a Bible study, which focused on the mind, a Taboo tournament. Today's theme is the body, and for this they are having a workshop.

"We're bringing in a speaker from Chicago called David Anderson, and he has a program called 'Great Sex for Life,'" Murray said. "He has some really great things to say because he is not just preaching abstinence as you would think coming from a religious group. His big thing is about the boundaries you set."

Friday, the Unique Gospel Choir is hosting a Crunk 4 Christ dance at the Red Cross Building from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m.

"The reason we decided to do it [was] because there were a couple events

we wanted to do," Murray said. "We wanted to get the choir back on spiritual thing and get back to what we are really supposed to be singing about. That is kind of where it came from, and we decided that it would be great to not only do it with our choir but our entire campus."

Junior Keshia Palmer, the secretary for the Unique Gospel Choir, initially started out as a praise dancer, which she said she describes as creative movement used in praise and worship. She joined the group after dancing with the choir.

In addition to organizing Wednesday's Taboo tournament, she is making journals for the week.

"I'm putting together little journals for our Bible study time," Palmer said. "[Participants can] just write down anything [they're] thinking or re-



Mayank Dhunaga/Index

Unique Gospel Choir on campus sponsors a week dedicated to praise and worship. The week kicked off with a worship service and will end with a concert on Sunday.

flecting on as a keepsake of this week."

Also sticking to the theme of sacrifice, all of the choir members are giving up something during this week. Murray said she is giving up junk food and that others gave

up habits like procrastination and swearing.

"All of us picked something so we can improve on ourselves spiritually, and that [is] the focus of this whole week, to do that as a group," she said. Junior Alana Webster

has been in Unique Gospel Choir three years and now is the chaplain of the group.

"I'm responsible for the spiritual well-being of the choir," Webster said. "I'm responsible for the Bible studies, and during the concerts, I will

lead the prayer and read scriptures at the beginning of songs."

The concert will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday in the SUB activities room. She said all events are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Summer softball aims to alleviate student boredom



Krista Goodman/Index

Kirkville Aquatic Center will offer a slow-pitch softball league during the summer.

BY KANNA TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

There's no crying in baseball. But what about softball? If students plan on sticking around in Kirkville for the summer, they might find out.

The slow-pitch softball leagues offered by the Kirkville Aquatic Center have started signing up teams for this summer. Robin Loft, Aquatic Center recreation specialist, said she encourages Truman students who will be in Kirkville for the summer to sign up to play if they are interested.

"Softball is a great opportunity for the kids to get away from school, get out in the community and have a good time and hopefully pass the summer with a little bit of recreation," Loft said.

She said there are a lot of teams in the league that have played together for years, but she would like to see some new faces as well. Loft said she has trouble getting the word out and relies on the older members to recruit new teams.

"We've had several fraternities that have had teams in there, but we're starting to kind of see that the younger kids aren't showing up to play as much," she said. "They're not signing up like they used to, so we'd like to get that younger age group out and get them to be a part of our league."

The softball league has been in existence for nearly 30 years, Loft said. Thirty teams signed up last

year, and Loft is hoping to expand even more this year, she said.

Randy Treasure, a player and manager for one of the teams, helps Loft organize the league, recruit teams and schedule the games.

Treasure said he started the doubleheader league and the fall league, and he also was responsible for separating the competitive and recreational leagues to accommodate for the players' different skill levels.

"In the past, they used to combine all of the leagues and you'd get a lot of mismatches," he said. "But now, with a competitive league and a rec league, you're playing more people you should be playing. It makes it a lot more fun for everybody out here."

Treasure said he started playing when the league was founded in the 1970s. He said he has taken control the past six or seven years and gets the league up and running every summer with the help of his colleague David McCurdy, a professor of chemistry at Truman. McCurdy also plays and manages a team in the summer.

"Even though we're old, we can still play ball," Treasure said. "I think some of the Truman teams find that out [when] they see a lot of us old guys and ... find out we can still play."

Treasure said he is playing a team now with the sons of people he went to high school with. There are even some Truman students who play on his

team, he said. Treasure plans on playing for as long as he can, he said.

"I'm a player before I am anything else, even though I'm older now, and I don't play as much as I used to," he said.

Junior John Sullivan said he played in the men's doubleheader competitive league last summer but plans to play down a level this coming summer. He said a lot of the Kirkville residents he played against were pretty serious about the game.

"[These] guys have just been playing softball for like 30 years," Sullivan said. "They can just look at a spot on the field and just put the ball there. It's pretty cool."

Sullivan said his team, Scared Hitless, ended the season with a record of 0-16. He said there was one game in which the team could have taken a tie, but it played the rest of the game anyway and ended up losing.

"It's a good time, whether you win or not," Sullivan said. "[But] I want to win one game, [so] I think I might go down a level."

Sullivan said he found out about the league through some of his friends who got a team together. He said he originally signed up "just to kill time" and had never actually played before.

"It was pretty fun," he said. "[In the] summer, you try to find something to do, and that's something to do. It's not hard. You can be really bad at it, and it doesn't matter. Just laugh and move on."

Tick season begins again

Experts suggest prevention of Lyme disease techniques

BY JESSICA RAPP
Features Editor

A tiny arachnid found in the forest, the eight-legged tick, digs its head into the skin and feeds on the blood of animals for survival.

The tick is commonly known for spreading Lyme disease, caused by a bacterium known as borrelia burgdorferi, although the disease is rare in Missouri, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Assistant professors of biology Stephanie Fore and Laura Fielden are currently working with Truman's STEP program to look at seasonal and daily activity patterns of the Lone Star Tick and American Dog Tick, which are most commonly found in Missouri. They have been working with students since the summer of 2006, studying behavioral and ecological factors associated with why ticks attach to certain hosts.

Fielden said their research does not relate to Lyme disease, but her and Fore check themselves for ticks after a day of work, and encourage others who have been outside to do the same. It takes 24 hours after the tick has attached itself to the host for the bacteria to get into a person's system.

Rob Lawrence, a forest entomologist at the Missouri Department of Conservation, said there are six different tick-borne diseases found in Missouri.

"Tick-borne diseases are not common compared to the number of times people are bitten, especially if you catch it early and pull it off before it gets serious," Lawrence said.

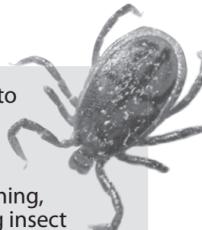
Lawrence said the best thing to do is to avoid tick bites altogether. He said people can do this by using a DEET repellent and keeping the skin covered by tucking the cuffs of jeans inside socks, especially when walking through weeds or fields.

He said ticks will sit on the tips of tall grasses and vegeta-

Bug off!

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging brush and tall grass.
- Ticks are attracted to carbon dioxide from breathing, heat and movement. Using insect repellent interferes with a tick's ability to locate you.
- Tuck your pant legs into your socks to help slow ticks down.
- Remove ticks with tweezers where the tick's mouthparts enter the skin.

Reporting by Avishek Banskota/Index



tion with their front legs out and wait to attach themselves to a human or animal, a behavior called questing.

He said people should have someone inspect them after a day in the woods because ticks like to get into places where people can't easily find them, he said.

Russell Johnson, a professor of microbiology at the University of Minnesota and a national scientific advisor for the American Lyme Disease Foundation, worked with a team of researchers to patent the first Lyme disease vaccine that is effective in dogs, preventing canine problems such as arthritis. The quest for Lyme disease research started in the past few decades, when scientists knew little about the disease.

"Lyme disease was new all of a sudden in the 1970s, and people didn't know the cause," Johnson said. "The International Institute of Health provided money for research."

Johnson said a vaccination for humans has yet to be perfected, but researchers are constantly developing and elaborating on different methods of diagnosing the disease so that it can be treated effectively.

"People are afraid of it, but it's actually easily diagnosed. ... It responds very well to treatment," he said. "We do have a problem when physicians are not aware of Lyme disease enough to diagnose and treat it, so maintaining the pub-

lic education is the reason we have this foundation."

Only six cases of Lyme disease were reported in 2006 in Missouri, down from 17 cases the year before, according to a Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention report. Overall, the number of Lyme disease cases in Missouri is declining, while the number of reported cases in the U.S. is constant at roughly 17,000 to 22,000, about a quarter of the actual number of cases each year.

Missouri actually has more cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, spread by the less common American Dog Tick, according to the report.

Junior Pat O'Donnell, an Eagle Scout, said this summer will be the seventh time he has worked with camps, and each year tick prevention is discussed. However, he said he thinks most people don't take it seriously because it's not something they worry about.

He said if a tick is found, pull it off by the head. It is easy to know whether a tick bite will be dangerous because a ring usually will form around the bite if there is a problem.

"I've been bitten hundreds of times," he said. "... They've been putting it into the media, and I think they make people scared more than they should be. My advice would be just not to worry about tick bites."

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