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The University's student-produced newspaper



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Kirkville, Mo. 63501

Truman to cut link to Darfur

Senate approves resolution to force oversight on University investments in Sudan

BY SARAH SCOTT
for the Index

Student Senate wants to keep Truman out of Darfur.

Senate Representative Junior Chris Miller wrote the Darfur Divestment Resolution, which asks the Board of Governors to investigate any assets Truman might have in order to determine if the University has connections with any scrutinized companies operating in Sudan. Miller said he wants to persuade those companies to take action. Senate approved the Darfur Divestment Resolution on Sunday.

"Even students at Truman State can send a message to Darfur and the Sudanese government," Miller said.

Miller said Missouri Representative Jeff Harris inspired him to write the resolution. Miller said he worked with Harris last summer. In the last Missouri House legislative session, Harris attempted to pass a bill with the same goals at the state level. Miller said he wrote the resolution for Truman after talking to members of GlobeMed, a campus organization working toward global health, about Darfur Week. GlobeMed hosted Darfur Week last spring to educate the campus about problems in Darfur.

"I've always seen Truman as being a forward-thinking university," said senior Paul Rotert, former president of GlobeMed. "...This would be a great opportunity for our University to take a stand against, in my opinion, a moral issue."

Hana Khidir is a GlobeMed member who planned and ran Darfur Week. Khidir said Americans, including University students and faculty, might contribute to the problems in Darfur without realizing it.

"We invest in them, they invest in Sudan, Sudanese government invests in genocide," Khidir said.

Darfur is a region of Sudan where the Sudanese government is engaged in genocide, according to Miller's resolution. It is carrying out this ethnic cleansing through its own military and through armed militias called janjaweed. This has not been labeled as genocide by United Nations, but the United States has called it that, according to the resolution.

During Darfur Week last spring, John Ishiyama, professor of political science, spoke about the conflict in Sudan.

"Certainly there are atrocities," Ishiyama said. "There is no question of that."

So far, 22 states and 50 other universities, including the University of Missouri-Columbia, have begun work on similar legislation.

Khidir and fellow GlobeMed member junior Lindsay Allan explained the way the U.S., including Truman, adds to the conflict. Khidir said the U.S. contributes by investing in China. She said China has a presence in Sudan because it is harvesting natural resources, such as oil, and that this money eventually ends up funding the genocide in Darfur.

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"Even students at Truman State can send a message to Darfur and the Sudanese government."

Chris Miller
Student Senate Representative



Mark Hardy/Index

Pharmacists such as Kirkville resident Lisa Deyoung are required to keep all products containing pseudoephedrine, necessary for the production of methamphetamine, behind the counter. Recent numbers indicate that Missouri stands at No. 1 in the nation in meth incidents.

Local meth numbers drop

BY CHRIS BONING
Assistant News Editor

The numbers are both up and down as far as methamphetamine is concerned.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol released the latest state and county totals for meth incidents. Missouri is No. 1 in the nation with 1,285 total incidents, but the figures for Adair County are down to just one from a high of 60 in 2003.

Sergeant Brent Bernhardt, public information and education officer for the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop B, said the top five Missouri counties for meth production are Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Francis, Lincoln and Franklin, all of which are near the St. Louis area.

"Typically, your bigger cities such as [the] St. Louis area ... [and] Kansas City, those have been the biggest areas where [the] methamphetamine problem has existed, but the rural areas are affected, too," he said.

Bernhardt said big cities usually have the most problems simply because of the higher population density.

"However, ... in virtually every county there's a drug problem in the fact that if you've got one person that's abusing drugs, that's a problem," he said. "It's kind of like the old analogy — one rotten apple spoils the whole barrel. One person can influence someone else to do [drugs]."

Bernhardt said law enforcement agencies always are on guard against drugs, but they also need support from the community.

"It's not just a law enforcement problem, it's a community problem, and we all need to get involved with that," he said.

Bernhardt said that overall, meth incident totals in Missouri have dropped substantially during the past five years because of recent state laws regulating the purchase of pseudoephedrine — a key item

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Victim, killer attended University

Sgt. Tom Ballman among casualties of Kirkwood shooting

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
News Editor

A fatal shooting at a Kirkwood, Mo. City Council meeting Feb. 7 included two ties to Truman.

Sgt. Tom Ballman, a Kirkwood police officer and former Northeast Missouri State University student, was killed when fellow alumnus Charles "Cookie" Thornton opened fire at the meeting. Ballman had served nine years with the Kirkwood Police Department.

Kerry Walker, who graduated from Northeast in 1991, said he was surprised to see Ballman's picture on the news following the shooting, and the pieces fell into place for him after that.

"I was surprised when I saw his face on the TV, and it just had the jogging feeling in the memory like, 'I know that guy from somewhere,'" he said.

Although he hadn't been in contact with Ballman since graduating, Walker said he remembers him for his strong presence in the NEMO

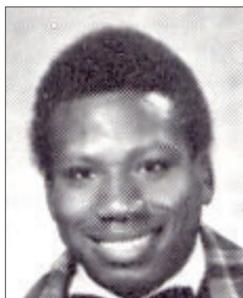


Sgt. Tom Ballman

Singers, a group that still is active at Truman but now goes by the name Cantoria.

"He had a very low range, and when we would have those occasions where someone was on a very low note, you could definitely count on him to be there," Walker said. "In some cases it might seem like he was the only one really there singing with enough volume to be heard."

Walker said he remembers Ballman being built like a football player



Charles Thornton

Ballman photo used with permission of Kirkwood Police Department

"We're not sure exactly what took place between the two of them," Panus said.

Thornton then walked into council chambers holding a sign in front of him, and Panus said he then shot and killed Ballman, two City Councilmembers and the Kirkwood Public Works director. Two other individuals also were injured during the shooting. Two Kirkwood Police officers then shot and killed Thornton.

Panus said Thornton recently had lost an appeal through the federal court involving tickets he had received from the city, but the St. Louis County Police Department still is investigating what caused Thornton to open fire Thursday.

"We're doing an investigation on that, and I don't think we're at a place really to discuss motive," she said.

Thornton graduated from Northeast in 1979 and received All-American status in track in 1978. Thornton also set both the indoor and outdoor high jump records in 1979 at seven feet, 2 1/2 inches and seven feet, 1/2 inches, respectively, and was inducted into the University's Hall of Fame in 1994, according to the Pershing Building plaque.

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Mark Hardy/Index

Juniors John McDonough and Walter Stokely watch television at the Dukum Inn Wednesday night. Stokely, a student senator, voted in favor of the Safe Ride program.

Program hits roadblock

University officials put temporary hold on Safe Rides pilot program

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Staff Reporter

The Student Senate Safe Rides pilot program, set to launch Feb. 29, has put on the brakes after a recent meeting between the Safe Rides committee and University administrators.

Administrators have identified three main areas of concern about the project: proper training, adequate supervision and appropriate insurance coverage.

"There's more involved than just giving rides," University general counsel Warren Wells said. "Volunteers may need to be able to recognize, for example, the signs of alcohol poisoning and be able to differentiate between where someone needs a ride home or if someone is in trouble."

Wells said there also needs to be someone who is properly trained at a higher level than the volunteers to understand potential problems. This person would need to be on duty during an evening of operation to provide

adequate supervision of the program and to be available to answer questions from drivers out in the field.

Wells also said the University doesn't feel comfortable supporting the Safe Rides program unless it is covered under some form of liability insurance. This is for the protection of the volunteers and the University because the program would be funded by Senate and would be promoted as a University activity.

Although the Safe Rides program would have the rental cars insured by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Wells said that

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Sleazy Shirts

Daniel Glossenger makes the case against indecent Sigma Phi Epsilon shirts



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Pitching In

University of Missouri-Columbia chips in to Newman fundraising



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Bag of Tricks

Sophomore Duncan Stephens joins his friend on Letterman



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WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow showers	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
High 36 Low 8	High 16 Low 8	High 37 Low 30