

## SHOOTER | Ballman is remembered as a cheerful, good-humored person during college

Continued from Page 1

Dan Futrell, who was Thornton's roommate and a fellow member of the Northeast track team, said he remembers Thornton as being a great guy and a dear friend. "This thing that took place last Thursday was pretty much out of character with him," Futrell said. "I've always known him as being a good guy, would help anybody, but ... what took place down there in Kirkwood, he had to be pushed to I guess where he reached the point of no return."

Futrell said he and Thornton last spoke the week of Christmas and at that point they were planning to get together for dinner with some of their other former teammates. He said Thornton never expressed any frustrations to him, and he was unaware that his friend was having any

problems. Futrell also said he remembers Thornton as being a happy-go-lucky guy, and even if he had any problems he never let anyone know about them.

"When I talked with him, he was in good spirits — laughing and joking around because that's the [Thornton] I remember," he said.

When Thornton left Northeast, Futrell said his former teammate took over an asphalt construction company that had been owned by his father, and he enjoyed what he did.

"Looking at the incident and looking at the paper at what was supposed to happen there seemed like a totally different man to me — not the person that I actually grew up with, went to school with, ran track with," Futrell said. "Totally different person."

## DARFUR | Resolution asks University to take a closer look at companies it is involved with

Continued from Page 1

"The bumper sticker here is ... funding these companies is like funding genocide," Khidir said.

Although the University itself cannot invest in companies operating in Sudan, the Truman State University Foundation can. The company TIAA-CREF handles the investments of the Truman Foundation. TIAA-CREF invests in Weatherford International. Weatherford international is listed in the Highest Offenders category, according to the Sudan Divestment Task Force. Companies in the Highest Offenders category have the most troublesome operations in Sudan. Less than 1 percent of Truman State University Foundation's \$21.2 million portfolio goes to this company.

Truman's investment in Weatherford outrages some Truman students, such as Allan, who planned and ran Darfur Week last spring.

"This is ridiculous," Allan said. "Truman just dropped the ball."

The Truman Foundation established a resolution about

social responsibility May 25, 2007. The resolution states that the foundation is to avoid investing in corporations who have operations in countries that violate human rights and freedoms.

Truman Foundation Treasurer Judy Mullins explained that Weatherford International already is aware of the discontent over its contribution to Sudan and that it violates the Truman Foundation's Social Responsibility Resolution. Weatherford International has begun to end involvement with Sudan and is expected to completely end involvement by Feb. 29, 2008.

"The Board has a social responsibility policy, and they have told TIAA[-CREF] to follow it," Mullins said.

Mullins said she thinks Truman's divestment from Sudan shouldn't be a lot of work and won't affect Truman too much because TIAA-CREF is a huge organization and is handling investments from the Truman Foundation.

**"I've always seen Truman as being a forward-thinking university. This would be a great opportunity for our University to take a stand against, in my opinion, a moral issue."**

**Paul Rotert**  
Former President of  
GlobeMed

## Trombone time



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Faculty members Jay Bulen, on trombone, and Kazuo Murakami, playing the piano, perform at the faculty recital Wednesday evening. The faculty recital showcased various members of the music department on their instruments.

Continued from Page 1

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## RIDES | Administrators question safety, insurance issues regarding Safe Rides program

Continued from Page 1

would not be adequate coverage.

"That's fine as far as something in nature of a car wreck," Wells said. "However, we need to look at the broader picture. When a volunteer driver determines that someone is impaired enough to receive a ride, but it's OK to just drop them at home, that's a judgment call, and if that turns out to be the wrong call, the rental car insurance won't be effective. That's just not what it's there for."

Wells said alcohol poisoning, death and serious injuries can and might occur. Wells said that when a driver drops off someone who is intoxicated, it might be a life-or-death choice.

Freshman senator JoEllen Flanagan said that with the recent development of insurance issues, the current \$1,500 budget might no longer be sufficient. She also said it might be difficult to resolve all these issues by the

intended launch date of Feb. 29.

Senator junior Chris Miller said he has been calling different insurance agencies to look for the correct type of coverage and receive pricing information.

Several similar programs already are in effect on campuses around the country. University of Missouri-Columbia's Supportive Tigers Riding In Pursuit of Ensuring Safety (STRIPES) is completely student-run and has been operating successfully for several years. Miller said a rough estimate from STRIPES indicated that since the programs inception, DUI/DWI charges in Columbia have dropped by nearly one third.

Miller said Mizzou is able to provide STRIPES with gen-

eral liability coverage. Truman however, does not have the ability to provide general liability insurance. Miller said

this has been a problem before. The University also required the senate's Bike Cop to spend money on liability insurance. Miller said he received information from insurance agencies that said it might be more efficient for Truman to become capable of providing general liability insurance.

Miller said the Safe Ride program's design is based on the same model that is already being used across the country and has proven effective at several universities. Still, Truman administrators remains skeptical.

"There are a number of different models for sober-driving

programs across the country," said Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of Student Affairs. "There are some programs where they actually pay university employees to drive."

Miller said the University's interpretation of risk is too conservative. The Truman administration is demanding more than what has been deemed acceptable by several other institutions.

Miller said some colleges have started similar programs without initial liability insurance but later became insured once the budget allotted for it.

Although the Safe Rides program still is not out of the question for Truman, Miller said his main concern right now simply is getting the trial program started and raising student awareness. Miller said he looks forward to working with the administration in order to get the program running because the longer the program is stalled, the more habitual drunk driving will become.

**"There's more involved than just giving rides."**

**Warren Wells**  
University General  
Counsel

## METH | Law enforcement officials cite community effort, pseudoephedrine laws as causes of reduction in meth numbers across Adair County

Continued from Page 1

for making meth. As of 2005, all pharmacies are required to keep a record of who buys pseudoephedrine and when and how often they buy it.

At the moment, the legal permissible amount of pseudoephedrine consumers may buy is less than nine grams — the equivalent of about four packages — every 30 days, Bernhardt said.

However, Bernhardt said a new trend that has appeared is a practice known as "smurfing" — meth producers stock up on pseudoephedrine by going from one pharmacy to another.

"Although we do check on that, it's one of those things that there are some ways that they have been able to get the product to make meth," he said.

Bernhardt said there are a variety of ways the patrol investigates smurfing, including the use of undercover officers and calling on the help of local drug task forces.

Bernhardt said meth incidents are totaled from lab seizures and investigations, and that figures are reported to both highway patrol and the Midwest High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area office.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes

said another reason for the reduction of meth incidents in Adair County has been an intense collaborative effort among the community, local law enforcement, the Adair County drug court and other groups.

"Three, 4 1/2 years ago ... that's when the community came together and said 'enough's enough, we're not going to tolerate this any more. [and] if we're going to be known for something, let's not let it be meth,'" he said.

Hughes also said that five years ago, people could drive along country roads in the area and easily spot abandoned meth paraphernalia.

"That's almost unheard of at the present moment," he said.

Hughes said all parties involved with the meth eradication effort know that there still is work to be done.

"[Fighting meth] requires continuous vigilance on the part of the entire community," he said. "We've watched

these trends very carefully."

Doing otherwise would be a disservice to everyone who has been a part of the effort against meth, he added.

Hughes said lately local law enforcement has been actively monitoring pseudoephedrine logs at local pharmacies. He added that the pseudoephedrine laws have been useful in reducing meth incidents, although local law enforcement agencies started achieving success before the new regulations went into effect.

"We were and would have continued to be successful without the laws just because ... of the community-wide effort, but the new laws have certainly helped and have made the successes greater than they would have been otherwise," Hughes said.

Nick Cook, project coordinator for the Adair County Drug Coalition, said

**"We still try to give presentations on meth and try to keep people aware of meth. It still is a little bit of a problem, but not quite as big [of] a problem in the past."**

**Nick Cook**  
Project coordinator for  
the Adair County Drug  
Coalition

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