



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

A construction worker makes repairs to the kitchen on the second floor of Missouri Hall on Wednesday evening. The kitchen still is offline after a pipe leak in the residence hall this weekend, but the water has been restored after about half a day.

Pipe leak chokes off Missouri Hall water

Pipe problems were directly caused by faulty joint welding

BY RENÉE CELLA
Staff Reporter

Residents of newly renovated Missouri Hall were without water Saturday night and Sunday morning due because of a leaky pipe on the second floor.

Missouri Hall Director Zac Burden said the leak occurred on the south wing of the second floor and that he was informed of the leak at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday. The leaky pipe came just months after the residence hall underwent massive renovation during the 2006-07 school year.

"All of the pipes were replaced when Missouri Hall was redone last year," Burden said.

When Missouri Hall was renovated last year, improvements to areas such as the cafeteria, in-room heating and cooling control and the hot water heating system were made, according to a description of the renovation on the University's Web

site. Bob Keeshaw, systems trade supervisor for the Physical Plant, said the leak came as a direct result of the recent renovations.

"The leak was due to a joint that was [welded] incorrectly," Keeshaw said. "It was a mistake made during construction and was just done poorly. The joint was in a hard place to reach [over the kitchen] and was just not constructed the best."

Despite the surprise that the leak caused in Missouri Hall, the water wasn't off for long, and residents quickly could resume normal activities.

"The water was off at roughly 12 a.m., partially restored by 10 a.m. and completely restored throughout Missouri Hall by 1:30 in the afternoon," Kee-

shaw said. "Really it shouldn't have been much of an inconvenience."

Freshman Kristin Campbell, a Missouri Hall resident, said she was not upset at the inconvenience.

"I was surprised when I found out about the water being shut off," Campbell said. "But that is to be expected when doing renovations. The water was only turned off for part of the morning. However, we are still without our kitchen [in the second floor south wing of Missouri Hall]."

Burden said the administration of Missouri Hall has decided to keep the kitchen closed because it doesn't seem safe to have students in it with the ceiling torn apart.

"It is a small inconvenience to not have a kitchen anymore," Campbell said. "But if I want to use a kitchen, all I have to do is go to another wing or floor, so it really isn't that awful."

"I was surprised when I found out about the water being shut off. But that is to be expected when doing renovations."

Kristin Campbell
Freshman

Methamphetamine from Mexico infiltrates area

BY CHRIS BONING
Assistant News Editor

The laws of supply and demand are at work in Missouri's methamphetamine problem.

As the state cracks down on meth labs, law enforcement agencies have identified an influx of meth imported from Mexico.

Tom Murphy, group supervisor for the St. Louis division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said meth from Mexico has been coming into the United States since at least the 1980s and into Missouri since the mid-1980s. He said, however, stricter laws on pseudoephedrine purchases have caused a recent increase of imported meth around the country.

"It's not new, it's just that when there's a crackdown on the small toxic labs, the Mexican meth flooded the market to meet the demand," he said.

Murphy added that meth labs always have accounted for about 20 percent of all the meth present in the United States.

Mexican meth enters Missouri via private or commercial vehicles driven over the Mexican-U.S. border, he said. It then usually is transferred from one vehicle to another until the drug reaches Missouri, Murphy added.

He said the primary hubs for the distribution of meth in Missouri are Kansas City and St. Louis, although the state's rural regions are starting to see similar activity.

"As state and local [agencies] concentrate their efforts on controlling the pseudoephedrine, you'll see an increase of Mexican meth into those areas," Murphy said. "It's all based on supply and demand."

Murphy described the imported meth situation as serious both locally and nationally, especially because it has dangerous consequences.

"With that you get an increase in contact [of] Missouri residents with Mexican drug trafficking organizations," he said. "And over time what you'll see is an increase in violence

because your Mexican drug trafficking organizations are violent people."

Murphy added that as Mexican meth slowly has spread from the West Coast to the eastern seaboard, it has affected the entire country.

Chris Brown, director of the North Missouri Drug Task Force, said Mexican meth affects northeast Missouri just like any other illegal drug.

"Any drug coming into our area affects our area," he said. "You have users that are trying to come up with the money to buy it, and in doing so they burglarize and they steal and that sort of stuff, which affects the community."

Brown said crystal meth is the most common form of the drug that is imported, at least in northeast Missouri. He added that the quality of Mexican meth frequently varies.

"It's like any other [drug] - you have the pure stuff down to the junk, basically," Brown said.

He also said the task force uses

the same strategies to monitor Mexican meth as with other drugs.

"We're still tracking it the best we can and investigating it and taking down everything that we can as far as bringing it in," Brown said.

He said the task force also works with local law enforcement and various intelligence agencies. The force acts as a type of information hub that distributes data as needed, Brown added.

"If our intelligence says that something is coming from Kansas City, we call Kansas City and let them know about it," he said. "If we get information it's coming from some place in Texas, we call Texas and give them the information."

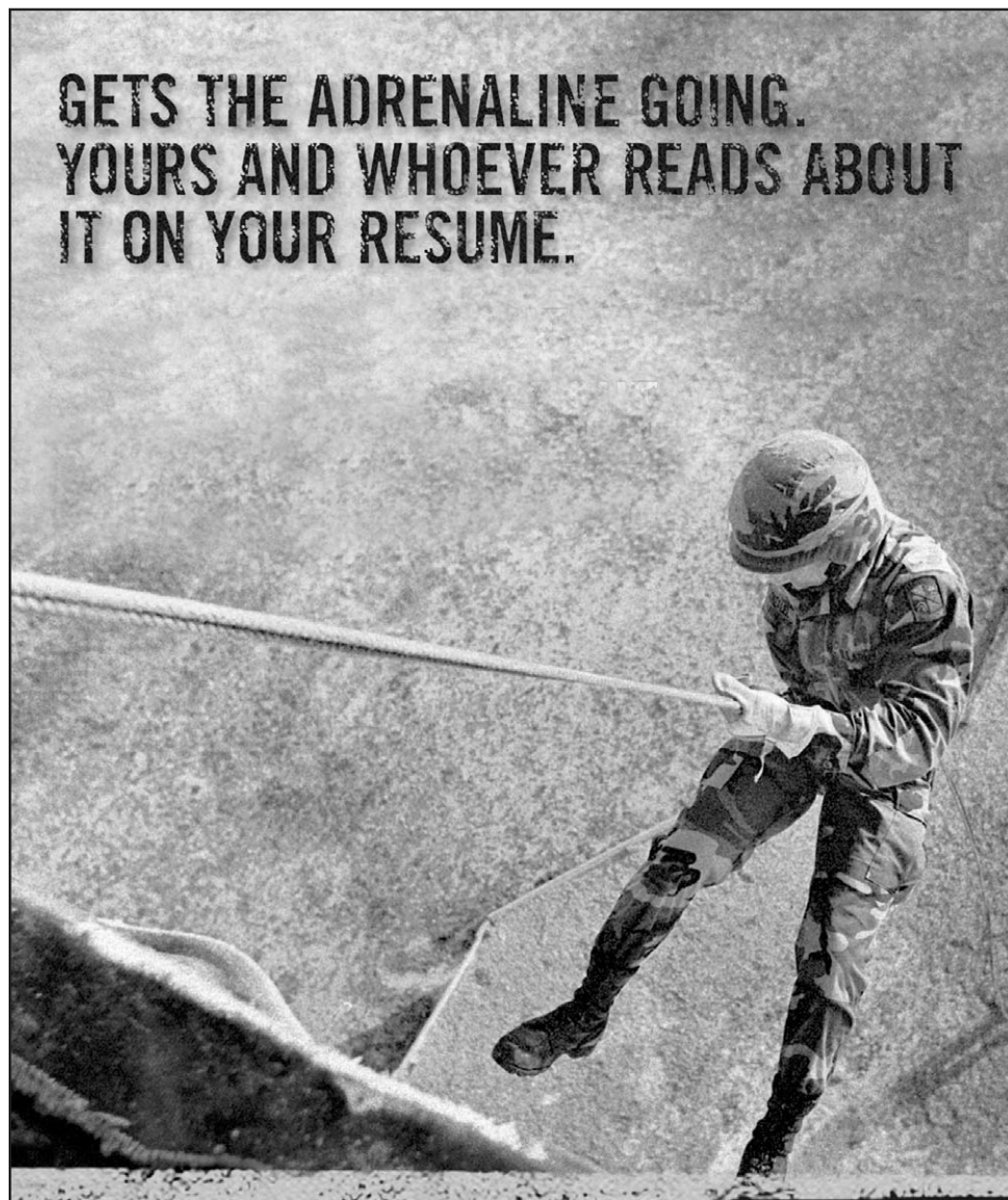
Tim Anderson, Missouri assistant attorney general and director of the Methamphetamine Prosecution Strike Force, said his organization assists in meth-related court cases around the state. It has yet to see any direct cases involving meth from Mexico, he said.

"We've got some cases where some people were charged with possessing methamphetamine, and we have a suggestion it's come from Kansas City, for example, and originally it came from Mexico," Anderson said. "But it's not been a part of the case."

But he said that his team of prosecutors anticipates seeing more cases that include imported meth, especially as the number of meth labs in Missouri decreases.

Eradicating meth labs is the first priority for state law enforcement agencies simply because the labs pose more of a direct threat in terms of harming people, Anderson said. He said that this doesn't mean agencies can't focus on stopping labs and meth imports at the same time.

"You don't have to do just one to the exclusion of the other, but there have been a lot of resources spent to try to stop the labs for the important reason of how dangerous they are," Anderson said.



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