

## RECYCLING | Student Senate-sponsored bins help boost recycling 30 percent in residence halls, promote good recycling habits

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Center gathers, the more money it can generate for the Truman general fund.

"Everything except the glass, we sell it to a company out of Brookfield," Worcester said. "When we first started, [we made] maybe \$200 to \$300 a month, but now we're up to probably \$1,300 [or] \$1,400."

The Recycling Center opened in January of 2002, but Worcester said business began to pick up when the University acquired a glass grinder and began to offer a public drop-off service in addition to curbside pick up. Student workers at the recycling center typically sort the recyclable materials, however. Worcester said some jobs require more time than four hours a week in addition to training, like driving the forklift or working the glass grinder.

"I have one student and his sole purpose is to grind glass," Worcester said. "He needs a little help because he can't get it all done ... in four hours [a week]."

Worcester said that in addition to recyclable material generated through the drop-off program, campus involvement in recycling has increased dra-

matically since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year.

"The Student Senate this year supplied one [recycle bin] for every freshman dorm room," Worcester said. "Since that's happened we've probably increased 30 percent in the dorms just because of that."

Senior Brett Wiley, student senator and president of the Environmental Campus Organization, said he agreed with Worcester about the increased involvement.

Wiley said ECO is continuing its recycling campaign this year by adding more recycling bins on campus and starting a recycling education program.

"One of [ECO's] main goals is to get recycling bins outside," Wiley said. "We have a lot of trash cans but no recycling outside the buildings."

Sophomore Emily Laposha said she has taken notice of pro-recycling initiatives on campus. Making recycling bins available has made her more inclined to recycle.

"I do notice recycling more because when I lived in the dorms it was so easy," Laposha said. "Now that I live off campus, I [recycle] more."



**Lonely Lights**  
Photo by Mark Hardy

The old lights from Stokes Stadium sit outside the Truman Recycling Center on Wednesday. These lights were removed during the summer in favor of new lights purchased with the funds from the student athletic fee.

## COMEDIAN | Contract received Tuesday

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comedians' booking information and price range usually are available at the convention, she said.

Many factors can affect SAB's ability to get a performer to visit the University, including budget and schedule conflicts, said sophomore Kay Brummer, events chairwoman for comedic acts.

"Obviously we can't please everyone, but we try to make the majority of students happy," Rhodes said.

SAB tries to present a major comedy act selected from the student survey at least once or twice a year, she said. The comedians who perform during Truman Week and Homecoming are not as well-known, she said.

The University received the contract for Martin's performance Tuesday, Brummer said.

Rhodes said the contract must be signed by officials at the University before being returned to Martin for signing before the process is complete.

Tickets will be available as soon as possible, and will cost \$7 for students and \$15 for general admission, Brummer said.

## DRIVING | Proposed plan would create safe and sober ride program for all University students on weekends

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vice as long as they have their student ID.

How much the program would cost the Student Senate is unknown, but Miller said he estimates it might be between \$2,000 and \$5,000. He said the price is contingent upon drivers' stipends, cell phones, rental cars and signs that would identify the service's vehicles.

He said an alternative to having Student Senate fund it is making students pay \$1 each time they use the service, although that has its own problems.

"I don't want people to feel like they have to give up something to get a ride," he said. "I think less people would take advantage of the program as a result."

Miller said some students who are not Senate members have approached him about joining the program. He also said he had contacted some of the University's service organizations about assisting with the program.

"Really, I'm trying to build up a broad campus support so that senators can see this is a good program," he said.

Miller said some Student Senate members have been apprehensive about the program because of potential liability issues and the question of whether the University administration will approve of it.

Miller said he personally is concerned about not meeting all of the deadlines described in the program's resolution.

"It's a possibility, but I'd rather try to meet that goal than span it out over a long period of time and have that discussion lost," he said.

Miller said the program would go into effect Feb. 1, 2008. It would only last until the end of the spring semester, unless the Senate decided to continue it for a longer duration, he said.

Miller said that if the Senate approves the resolution on Oct. 14, a committee will be appointed to create the administrative rules of the program. Miller said that when the rules are written, the Senate will vote on those as well.

Junior Nick Zotos, risk management chair for Greek social fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma, said his organization offers sober drives to all of its mem-

bers and their guests. The program is designed to ensure that everyone who attends a Sig Tau event has a safe ride home whether or not they have been drinking, he said.

"A lot of times, it's used actually more as a convenience," he said. "People don't want to walk, and that's fine."

He said the service is used often – about 20 to 30 times – on the weekends, with some people using it twice in one night.

Zotos said the Sig Tau's take turns driving throughout the semester, and the number of drivers on hand each night depends on the number of people expected at a particular event. At least one driver always is available during the weekend, he said.

Zotos said an advantage of having sober drivers is that it discourages drunk driving and prevents students from getting hurt.

He said he had heard about Miller's proposal and that he thought it was a good idea.

"Sober driving is an important option – it's an important service," Zotos said.

He added that such programs combat the stereotype that college students are only concerned about themselves and having a good time during the weekend.

"It shows that they're concerned about their own safety and the safety of other students," Zotos said. "I think it's overlooked a lot of times that students do take responsibility and look out for each other and make sure everybody is taken care of."

Senior Alan Moran also said he thinks a campus-wide sober driving program like Miller's is a good idea, provided that paying for it was optional.

"[Then] it would not be funded by everybody – not forced to pay for it – but rather just the people who use it or anticipate using it. ... " Moran said. "Even beyond that, if it's not necessarily just for students who have been drinking, but students who get downtown, it's often an extension of some program like that, which people take advantage of."

Moran said Miller's payment plan sounded reasonable, and that he would use the service if it were an option. "I've walked ... home far too many

## VERIZON | City awaits settlements with other major wireless carriers, has \$50,000 in funds tied up because of disputed back taxes

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rizon, which now has offered to pay those back taxes and make future payments.

"Ostensibly [what Verizon provided] is the accurate calculation of what they would have had to pay, not some compromised amount," city attorney Howard Hickman said. "... We don't have the ability to calculate and verify the accuracy of their calculations, but this is part of a big class action suit, and they calculated this past tax payment not only for our city but all the cities in the plaintiff's group of that class-action suit."

Kirkville will accept the settlement for several reasons, including a lack of information necessary to confirm amounts and an attempt to avoid further legal actions.

The 2005 tax on wireless carriers was not created to boost tax revenue for the city, Kirkville finance director Laura Guy said. The city lowered the tax rate on all telecommunications providers – both land and wireless – to 2.3 percent to keep revenue at



Mark Hardy/Index  
**Laura Guy presents a report to the City Council Tuesday about Kirkville's potential inclusion in a class-action lawsuit.**

the same level. The landline and wireless companies will share the tax, Guy said.

"This isn't a windfall that the city is going to be getting [through the Verizon settlement]," city manager Mari Macomber said. "[The tax split] was to spread the cost out among

landlines and cell phones."

Guy said that when a company protests a municipal tax payment, it sends the city a document that states the grounds under which it thinks the tax is unfair. A payment is sent with the protest, but the money will not be spent by the city until an

agreement is reached either in favor of the city or in favor of the company. If the agreement benefits the company, the city will return the contested money, but if the city benefits from the agreement, it then may spend that money. Kirkville currently has more than \$50,000 in protested taxes from the seven other local wireless providers involved in this dispute, Guy said. The money has been set aside to be deposited into Kirkville's general revenue account once settlements are made.

Verizon Wireless is the first of eight companies in Kirkville to agree to an out-of-court settlement, which gives Kirkville more than \$7,900 in back taxes covering the period of Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2007. Verizon will continue to pay regular monthly tax payments after the settlement is complete, Guy said.

Cheryl Bini-Armbricht, spokesperson for Verizon Wireless, said wireless companies protested the tax because they thought taxes created for land-

line companies were passed on to wireless services solely to avoid creation of new legislation. Because landline taxes were intended to fund utilities hardware, such as telephone lines, boxes and poles, the taxes are not appropriate for wireless companies that make no use of these materials, Bini-Armbricht said. Passing on these taxes to Verizon wireless customers through monthly bills seemed unnecessary, she said.

"What was in dispute was wireless companies said, 'This doesn't apply to us because we aren't a utility,'" Bini-Armbricht said. "... [The long dispute led] to this settlement where we said, 'OK, we're going to go ahead and pay this. We want to put this behind us because its been going on for so long. We need to do the right thing and put this behind us.' This settlement is a result of that."

The dispute between Kirkville and seven other wireless service providers still is up in the air, but the Verizon protest has ended out of court after years of

dispute. "We were fighting for what we believed was fair for our customers," Bini-Armbricht said. "We don't want our customers to have to pay this high, high rate. That's what we were fighting for. It went on for so long, and it was getting very complicated, but we do believe that the settlement was in the best interest of all parties."

Although Verizon is the first company to settle, it won't be the last. Other popular wireless carriers which provide service in Kirkville, such as Sprint and U.S. Cellular, are involved in the lawsuit.

"I think we're going to see many more of these start settling after one has decided to," Guy said.

More than 200 other cities throughout Missouri also are participating in settlements with Verizon. Guy said some settlements across the state include Kansas City (\$6.7 million), St. Louis (\$3.4 million), Columbia (\$66,000) and Moberly (\$6,900).

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