

Darwin's song



Junior Kevin Haar talks to Dr. Betty Smocovitis from the University of Florida. Smocovitis gave a presentation Tuesday titled "Singing his Praises: Darwin and his History in Song and Musical Production."

Mayank Dhungana/Index

NEWS | In Brief

Local man receives felony charge

A Kirksville man remained in custody yesterday after being charged with a class C felony of domestic assault in the second degree.

Adam L. Greathouse, 19, was charged Jan. 25 with attempting to cause physical injury to a woman he resides with by burning her arm with a cigarette, throwing her down on a bed and choking her, according to a felony complaint filed by Adair County Prosecutor Mark Williams. The victim also stated she is pregnant with Greathouse's child, according to court documents.

Greathouse was arrested Jan. 25 and is being held in the Adair County Detention Center on a \$25,000 cash-only bond.

ATSU receives \$38K grant

The Missouri State Library Office of the Secretary of State has awarded the Still National Osteopathic Museum's International Center for Osteopathic History and the A.T. Still Memorial Library \$38,761 to transcribe and digitize the historical handwritten personal papers of Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., D.O., the founder of osteopathy. The money was awarded through Library Services and Technology Act Federal Grant Program. According to Museum Curator Debra Loguda-Summers, more than 560 pages of Still's documents can be transcribed because of this grant.

Truman ranks high nationally

Newly released information from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy ranks Truman eighth in the nation for the percentage of its students passing all four parts of the Uniform CPA Examination on the first attempt in 2007. During the past six years, Truman ranked in the top 10 four times. Most recently, 65 percent of Truman students passed all four parts of the exam on the first attempt. Missouri was named one of the top 10 honor roll states.

Student selected to represent U.S.

Christopher Girouard, a senior political science and communication major, was selected to be one of two students representing the United States on a debate tour of Japan. Selected by the National Communication Association's Committee on International Discussion and Debate (CIDD), Girouard will visit several Japanese universities and cultural associations for debates and lectures about academic debate. Girouard and a student from Cornell University will tour Japan for almost a month. Girouard was selected by a committee in November and then completed a live interview in which he had to exhibit skills in debate, argumentation, instruction and adaptability.

Diversity program to take place

Campus Town is a two-day program that promotes diversity, tolerance and inclusion for college students. Sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians in conjunction with the Funds Allotment Council, the event is a peer-to-peer cultural immersion and leadership development program. Campus Town will take place from 4:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Student Union Building Activities Room and will continue from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31 in the SUB Alumni Room. There is no cost to participate and meals are provided. Students interested in participating should RSVP to ccc237@truman.edu.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate passed a money motion for \$200 to cover travel and housing expenses for the Missouri Higher Education Consortium.
- Senate passed a money motion for \$147 for posters to promote Educator of the Year.
- Senate passed a money motion for \$405 for Index ads.
- Senate discussed and approved its budget for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- Senate discussed the university budget situation.
- Senate voted to move the Feb. 1 meeting to 3 p.m. in deference to the Super Bowl game.

DPS | Reports

- 1/25 Sophomore Lara Herzog was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 1/24 Freshman Evan Yahnke was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.

Truman eliminates the pill

Student Health Center deems birth control pill distribution too costly

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

Say good-bye to birth control pills or at least to access to them through the Student Health Center.

Because of high cost and inconvenience, the health center will no longer dispense birth control to students.

Senior Laura Park said that although this decision doesn't directly affect her, she thinks offering birth control is a service the health center should provide.

"I would think it would be something important to offer ... especially if we want to promote safe sex," she said.

Brenda Higgins, director of the Student Health Center, said the reason they stopped dispensing birth control was because it became available in the community at a lower cost. She said this decision doesn't change the health center's views about safe sex.

"Birth control only protects against pregnancy," Higgins said. "It's only one very small piece of the ... safe sex picture. We try to get the word out that there's a whole lot more to safe sex than birth control and that involves ... good decision making and judgment."

Due to a low number of staff members, the health center isn't able to continually add new services. Higgins said they constantly reevaluate the services they offer, adding ones they think are important and eliminating ones that aren't as necessary. Since they stopped dispensing birth control, they have started offering physical examinations.

"We continually evaluate the services that we provide for students and try to accommo-

FAST FACT

In 2006-2007,
180 students
purchased birth control
from the Health Center.

110 students
purchased birth control
the following year.

date them and provide the services that they need the most," she said. "We're always interested in student input on what kinds of services are most important to them."

Higgins said they still offer all of the same contraceptive care. The health center will continue to prescribe birth control pills and provide services such as pelvic exams and sexually transmitted infections counseling and testing.

Obtaining birth control from local pharmacies might be more convenient for students, Higgins said. The pick-up hours for birth control at the health center were extremely limited because of pharmaceutical law.

Students were only able to pick up birth control pills when the doctor was present at the health center, which was only about four hours a week. The local pharmacies have longer, more flexible hours than the health center, and some pharmacies even deliver.

The health center initially began providing birth control sales three years ago as a service to Truman students who were in need of a low-cost birth control option. Initially, the cost was

less than \$10 a pack. After some legislative changes, the price increased to \$15.

At the beginning of the fall semester, students who were purchasing birth control from the health center were notified that once the current stock of birth control was depleted, the health center would no longer be dispensing the pills, Higgins said.

She said the students who obtained birth control from the health center were not upset with the decision. They were notified far enough in advance that they could make preparations and transfer their prescriptions.

Higgins said more colleges offer contraceptive care than actually dispense birth control at their health centers. Some smaller schools have stopped dispensing birth control because they can't get it at competitive prices. The majority of schools that offer this service are larger universities, some of which have their own pharmacies.

Missouri State University dispenses birth control to its students and has its own pharmacy on campus. MSU pharmacy director Randy Bass said it provides generic brands at costs as low as \$13, but the average cost is closer to \$20.

Jim Brittain, pharmacy manager at the Kirksville Hy-Vee, said low-cost birth control options such as Sprintec and Tri-Sprintec are available at Hy-Vee for \$9. These brands are comparable to the ones the health center offered.

Brittain said he expects some increase in birth control sales but nothing too significant.

He said students simply can bring their birth control information to the Hy-Vee Pharmacy and the staff there will handle the prescription transfer.

Senior Julie Hasken said she didn't think the health center was wrong in its decision.

"It's convenient to have it on campus, but it's available in the community, so it's not essential," she said.

Sales tax measure to appear on ballot

Special City Council meeting approves tax increase measure for the ballot

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

Kirksville City Council called a special meeting Tuesday to discuss the addition of a measure to the April 7 ballot. The Council approved a motion to place a one-quarter cent sales tax on the ballot by a vote of 4-1.

If approved by residents, councilmembers estimate \$600,000 in annual revenue from the tax, which would go into effect Oct. 1. It will be used to pay for Fire Department expenses including new equipment. The funding for such expenses currently comes out of the city's general fund. By freeing up \$600,000 in the city budget, Kirksville city employees would receive wage increases in order to compete with the salaries of city employees

in communities similar to Kirksville.

The motion was approved after discussion among council members as to whether or not this is an appropriate time to add a sales tax.

Councilmember Todd Kuhns said the city is facing three problems that the sales tax increase would help solve: low retention in the fire department, low recruitment in the police department and supervisors who are getting paid less than the employees they are supervising.

"Every year that we put this off, we are digging ourselves into a deeper hole," Kuhns said. "We are getting that much further behind inflation — that much further behind cost of living. Action has to be taken at some point to move forward, so that in a very sustainable way, we increase the pay for our employees."

Councilmember Aaron Rodgers said it comes down to whether Kirksville residents are willing to do for their neighbors what they would like done for themselves in the same situation.

City employees did receive a one-time \$1,500 bonus in December in an effort to combat the same problems for 2008.

Voting against the measure, councilmember Richard Detweiler said that on Monday alone, the United States lost 70,000 jobs. He also said the last thing small- and medium-sized businesses need is another tax.

"Here you are adding additional burdens on a business," Detweiler said. "Even though it is a small dollar amount, it is more weight on them. Here you are adding another reason why a shopper should not shop in Kirksville — why they should look to other communities to go to their shopping. Why give them that thought?"

Detweiler said that he does agree with the other councilmembers that Kirksville city employees are underpaid.

The possible tax increase now will be left up to Kirksville residents, who will vote on the issue April 7.

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