

Highest Cigarette Taxes:
 NY highest at \$4.25/pack
 Chicago, IL - \$3.66/pk
 Evanston, IL - \$3.48/pk
 Anchorage, AK - \$3.40/pk

Six states haven't raised their cigarette taxes since 1999 or earlier, remaining at less than \$1 tax/pk: CA, FL, MS, MO, ND, and SC.
 South Carolina has the lowest state tax, 7 cents/pack

Design by Antonette Bedessie/ Index Source: tobaccofreekids.org

Federal cigarette tax to increase

BY JOHN MOENSTER
 Assistant News Editor

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:20 p.m., senior Josh Hobold lights up a cigarette in front of Ophelia Parish after his theater class. Because of an upcoming tobacco tax increase, that cigarette will soon cost him a bit more.

According to a report released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the federal cigarette tax will increase to \$1.01 per pack March 31, 2009. Missouri is one of six states that have not increased its cigarette tax since 1999 or earlier, the report stated.

Hobold said he has been a smoker for about two years. He said that when he first started smoking he paid about \$3.15 for a pack of cigarettes, but the price has increased since then.

"Right now I'm paying a little over \$5 for [a pack of] cigarettes," he said.

Hobold said he thinks cigarettes should be taxed and regulated by the government, but right now might not be the best time for a tax increase. Hobold said the price increase will encourage people to smoke less or quit altogether.

"I've actually spoken to a lot of people about this, and most people are projecting that they're going to be quitting," Hobold said. "Whether or not that happens remains yet to be seen, but a lot of people are saying they're going to cut back because of the price increase."

Hobold said he doesn't think the tobacco industry will suffer from the tax increase, at least in the short-term. The Index contacted multiple convenience stores and tobacco retailers, but all chose to decline comment on whether the tax increase will affect cigarette sales.

Cigarettes still cost less in Missouri than in most of the country. Missourians pay a state tax of 17 cents per pack of 20 cigarettes or 21 cents per pack of 25, according to the Missouri Department of Revenue's Web site. The report released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids stated that this is the second lowest state tax on cigarettes in the nation with South Carolina's tax at 7 cents per pack as the lowest. The highest combined state-local tax rate is now \$4.25 in New York City, with Chicago second at \$3.66 per pack, the report stated.

Freshman Kiarra Thames is a non-smoker.



Amy Gleaves/Index Senior Biscuit Ratliff and junior Kristen Fishback smoke outside together Tuesday evening. When asked, both said they feel indifferent toward the increased cigarette tax because they don't smoke very much.

er. Thames said she does not like cigarette smoke and thinks the tax increase should happen in this time of economic recession. A price increase will force people who do not have the money to quit, she said.

"If the taxes are raised, it's going to be taking more money away from [smokers]," Thames said. "Maybe they'll realize that we're in a recession and people need all the money they can get, and they'll quit."

Freshman Jamie Seals said she had serious asthma as a child and cigarette smoke affected her condition. Seals said that even though the price is increasing, she doesn't think many people will end up quitting.

"I think it will make [smokers] a little more cautious about how they are spending their money," Seals said. "They might buy cigarettes less often, but I don't think it will stop their habit."

Computer science gains popularity

BY AMANDA GOESER
 Staff Reporter

Computer geeks are multiplying — just not yet multiplying at Truman.

The Computing Research Association has found an 8 percent increase in the number of students choosing to major in computer science during the 2007-08 school year. The CRA also noted this was the first time in six years that there has been an enrollment increase.

Truman's number of incoming computer science majors has leveled off after a decrease during the past few years. Computer science professor Jon Beck said he thinks Truman will see an increase in CS majors in the next year or two.

"It looks to us like our numbers stopped decreasing in terms of the number of students actually enrolling in CS," Beck said. "What we are assuming is that, as is typical of Truman in a number of ways, trends like the changes in CS numbers always happen first at the two coasts."

During the past 10 years, the number of first-time freshmen CS majors has seen large highs and also large lows. From 1998 to 2008, the number of freshmen CS majors started at 49, reached a high of 84, a low of 19 and has moved up again to a current 28, according to University statistics.

During the past five years, the number of students graduating with CS degrees has decreased. For example, 11 CS degrees were granted in 2008. Four years earlier, there were 43 incoming CS majors.

"I think that the vast majority don't have a clue what computer science as a field is," Beck said. "This is something that is being discussed at a national level — this is not just Truman students. ... Part of the problem is that people come

here saying, 'I want to major in computer science,' not having a clue what it is."

Beck said this misunderstanding could be attributed to students falsely thinking that because they enjoy using a computer, they would enjoy a CS major.

"The flip side of that is that the people who would enjoy CS maybe don't know it because they think of CS as something different," Beck said. "[The National Science Foundation] is putting a lot of research money into trying to say 'This is what computer science is. ... If you like these kinds of things ... you might like CS.' That's a message that we as a discipline are having a hard time getting across."

Many factors have influenced CS programs nationwide, as well as at Truman. Jason Miller, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Next STEP (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics Talent Expansion Program), said the high of 84 incoming CS majors in 2002 could be attributed to the dot-com boom in 2001. Following that high, the number of freshman CS majors at Truman decreased by nearly 20 students in one year.

"In 2001 ... the country really closed its borders to non-US citizens coming in to study," Miller said. "That took a bite out of the enrollment in computer science because there's lots of non-US citizens that pursue computer science degrees."

More than 10 percent of stu-

dents at Truman were minorities in 2008, according to University statistics. By contrast, 25 percent of CS majors were minorities. This was the highest percentage of minority students in any major across campus that year.

The Next STEP is working to increase the number of students majoring in and graduating with degrees in the math and science fields of biology, chemistry, agricultural science, computer science, mathematics and physics. The Next STEP is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The program has set up one-on-one tutors who are available to students to help them better understand the material in their math and/or science courses. The tutoring program is specifically designed to assist students during their first two years, which are the most critical for math and science degrees.

"It is becoming very clear to lots of people, including our elected representatives and people in industry, that our economic competitiveness as a state, as a country, really hinges upon our ability to prepare people to work in technical ways," Miller said. "Innovation is going to flow out of science and mathematics in large part. That doesn't mean we have to be creating more scientists and mathematicians, but we have to be preparing more people to work with scientists and with mathematicians."

Because of the current eco-

"It looks to us like our numbers stopped decreasing in terms of students enrolling in CS."

Jon Beck
 Computer Science Professor

NEWS | In Brief

Literacy lab receives donation

The RiteCare-Communication Disorders Early Literacy Lab on campus received a \$100,000 donation from RiteCare Valley of Columbia, Mo., an affiliate of the Scottish Rite, a national Masonic organization. RiteCare Valley's mission is to aid and assist children with learning and communication disorders. The donation will improve free services the lab provides. Funds from the donation will be used to provide state-of-the-art tests, therapy materials, computers and software to aid in the evaluation and treatment of clients. Truman's lab is one of 178 clinics, centers and specialty programs supported by the Scottish Rite throughout the country.

Professor to lecture at faculty forum

Associate professor of history Daniel Mandell will present a lecture titled "All Men Are Created Equal": Concepts and Controversies in Revolutionary America," at 8 p.m. during the April 1 meeting of the Truman Faculty Forum. The presentation will be in Magruder Hall 2001. A reception with refreshments will follow. Faculty, students and residents are invited to attend.

WGST presents conference

The 14th annual Women's and Gender Studies Conference is set to take place from 10:30 a.m. to 5:50 p.m. March 26 to 28 in Violette Hall 1000. The "On Men" conference will focus on the male gender, featuring sessions on masculinity, men in the media, gender pedagogy and more. For more information, contact Linda Seidel at lseidel@truman.edu.

Missouri Hall to host art gala

Truman artists will feature their work at the Missouri Hall Art Gala Thursday, April 2, in the Chariton Room. Artists can still submit their work by accessing a submission form on the Missouri Hall Web site. Students should turn in completed forms to the Missouri Hall office by March 30. Attendees to the gala can vote for their favorite pieces, and the artists who receive the most votes have a chance to win \$100 and have their work displayed in Missouri Hall.

Health and Wellness Fair set for March 25

Health and Exercise Science and Communication Speech Disorders Faculty, along with the Counseling Center and the Student Health Center, will present a Faculty and Staff Wellness Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 25, in the Student Union Building. Sessions include "Foot Health: One Step at a Time," "Selecting the Right OTC," "Living with Diabetes," "Yoga Ball Exercises," "Common Sense for Starting an Exercise Program," "Understanding Your Screening Results" and many more. For more information about the Faculty and Staff Wellness Fair or work site health promotion contact Janice Young at jyoung@truman.edu or call 785.4461.

Student Senate | In Brief

• Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,246 to pay insurance premiums for the Bike Co-op.

• Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,200 to help fund the Career Center's Lend a Hand event.

• Senate heard a first reading of a resolution to allow double counting of courses which meet both LSP and major requirements.

• Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$80 for a commemorative gavel for president emeritus Matt Szewczyk.

• Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$150 for three senate roundtables.

• Senate discussed the Student Organization Center.

DPS | Reports

3/24 Jonathan Wacker was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.

3/23 Alex P. Mattis, 19, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance — Felony; Possession of up to 35 grams of marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

3/22 Daniel J. Warner, 19, and David Henry Linhares, 19, was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

3/18 Colin W. Hughes, 19, and Andrew T. Helwig, 18, were issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Possession of up to 35 grams of marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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