



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Students return trays after lunch at Ryle hall cafeteria Wednesday. ECO club has requested for removal of the trays from cafeteria to significantly cut down on the amount of water and food usage.

# ECO pushes tray removal

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

Truman is going green one tray at a time.

Erika Halsey, Environmental Campus Organization Recycling Committee Chair, said that in an effort to become more environmentally friendly, some students are starting to stop using cafeteria trays.

Halsey said ECO's eventual goal is to remove the trays completely from the cafeterias. She said taking away trays prevents students from roaming the cafeteria until their trays are full. Instead, students will grab only what they need and will be satisfied with less food. She

said schools that have pulled trays have saved up to an estimated 685 gallons of milk per school.

Dennis Markeson, director of dining services, said trays make it more convenient to grab more food. Without trays, students would be likely to take less food and throw away less waste. With food costs up 10 percent, any saving would be given back to students, he said. Markeson said the prices for meals have gone up this year because of inflation, and money saved would help bring the prices back down.

Removing trays from Truman's cafeterias will begin on a volunteer basis, Markeson said. If enough students par-

ticipate, the proposal to remove trays could then go to the Food Advisory Committee. If it passes, it would enter a trial mode in which the trays would be removed, he said.

Taking away the trays also would significantly cut back on water costs. Georgia Tech reported saving an estimated 3,000 gallons of water a day after removing trays, according to the article "The War on College Cafeteria Trays" in Time Magazine.

Out of 14 universities in the Kansas City, Mo., district, Pittsburg State University and Missouri Southern State University already have done away with trays, Markeson said.

## CRIME | Annual campus crime report released earlier this week, available online

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statements concerning campus security. Topics include drug and alcohol use, residence hall security, crime prevention, the state sex offender registry and how to report crimes.

There were eight total drug-related arrests in 2007 — two more than in 2006 — and seven drug-related disciplinary referrals. O'Brien said she thinks people are reporting drugs and residence hall staff is being proactive against drug use in the dormitories.

"I think that students in general are becoming somewhat less tolerant of drug use," O'Brien said.

There are a number of crimes that Truman has not had any instances of this year or in years past. According to the crime report, no hate crimes were reported in 2005, 2006 or 2007. Other crimes that have not been reported in the past three years include murder, negligent manslaughter and robbery. There also have been no reports of sodomy, sexual assault with an object, in-

cest or statutory rape. No weapon-related arrests have taken place in the last three years.

Junior Paul Vogel said he has never felt unsafe on campus.

"I've never felt like I was going to get attacked or anything like that when I was on campus," Vogel said. "In general, I think it's a very safe campus."

Director of DPS, Tom Johnson, could not be reached for comment. The 2008 Campus Crime Report can be viewed in its entirety online at <http://police.truman.edu/>

## THREATS | Cochran charged with threatening Obama, McClanahan

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seriously until we can learn otherwise."

Williams said investigations showed that Cochran had called the office twice in the past but had never threatened with the intensity of this call. The calls had not resulted in criminal charges in the past.

"My immediate concern is, of course, for the safety of our volunteers and staff," McClanahan said in the Thursday press release. "I'm relieved that this incident happened after-hours, which made possible a positive outcome for everyone involved."

## BIKES | Lack of racks pose problems for students with two-wheeled transportation, plans pending for solution

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Schneider said he has considered the possibility of covered bike racks. He said the physical plant does not currently have the funding for it, but even if funding is obtained, space still is an issue.

Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union, said former Truman student Cassie Phillips came up with the idea of a bike garden on the west end of the Student Union Building. The area would work well because there is a natural overhang and power available in the area, Chemburkar said.

"We're going to do more like a bike garden ... with a place to sit down, air pumps," Chemburkar said. "A little bit more than just some bike racks that are thrown out there."

He said no specific plans are drawn up yet, but

he has spoken to Michael Kelrick, chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee, about the idea.

Kelrick said Phillips worked on obtaining a grant for additional bike racks around campus and the community last year, but Truman didn't get the funding.

Kelrick said that although Truman didn't receive the grant, there are other possible scenarios and the bike garden by the SUB is still an option. Kelrick said he plans to push the idea forward to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Kelrick said the current bike racks are inadequate and antiquated — they are designed for a different kind of bike than most people currently ride.

Senior Hannah Hemmelgarn said Student Senate's Campus Environment Committee is writing a resolution to ensure available bike parking because they

## FUNDING | Gradual increase in higher education funding provides hope for future projects

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Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner at the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said a three-year plan has been put into place by Gov. Matt Blunt and the General Assembly to try to get back to that point.

"By fiscal year 2010, finally every institution will be back to where they were eight or nine years ago," Wagner said. "... For Truman it's a 4.4 percent increase, that's their increase in the third year of that three-year commitment."

Wagner said there is some variation among schools in the amount of funding appropriated annually, and it is a decision crafted by the Senate appropriations committee, the Governor's staff and the Missouri Department of Higher Education coordinating board staff.

"The reason that a couple of institutions get a higher percentage is because on a per-student funding basis, they were significantly below the other institutions so there was a little bit of acknowledgement given to those institutions that were the lowest in the state," Wagner said.

Wagner said the amount of state funding Truman receives is slightly above average.

As state appropriations for higher education fell, many universities had to raise tuition to make up the difference. At Truman, in-state tuition rose 55.8 percent from the 2002-03 schoolyear to the 2008-09 schoolyear. In comparison, tuition went up only 33.2 percent from the 1995-96 schoolyear to the 2001-02 schoolyear.

In response to rising tuition rates, Wagner said legislators included a clause in Senate Bill 389 — a higher education omnibus bill passed in 2007 — that constrains tuition at public universities across the state.

"In Truman's case — in most schools' case — it limits their tuition increase to the change in the consumer price index," Wagner said.

Tuition could only be raised above the CPI with the approval of the DHE coordinating board, and no institution has attempted to do that since SB 389 passed.

Despite the slow return to 2002's high-water level of state funding, Budget Director Dave Rector said he is cautiously optimistic for fiscal year 2010 funding, when the DHE-coordinating-board-recommended appropriation is at a 7.2 percent increase.

"That's about all you can be is just optimistic," he said. "The good news is we have both politi-

cal parties saying that higher education needs more money."

Rector said the next step comes when the next governor takes office and begins to work with state available revenues.

When funding is down and residence halls are continually being renovated across campus, misconceptions sometimes arise about where the funds to complete those projects come from. Rector said renovations to the Student Union Building, Student Recreation Center and residence halls come from an auxiliary budget that does not draw on state funding.

"Those are funded by bond issues, and so you borrow money and the pledge to pay back is based on the revenues from the residence halls," Rector said, adding that the SUB and Rec Center are supported by a designated student-paid fee.

Capital improvements to academic buildings at Truman are affected by the slow

return to funding normalcy after the 2002 plummet. The money for those projects comes out of Truman's Education General budget, which Rector said also encompasses faculty and staff pay as well as academic programs.

"What's really hurt us on state funding has been on the capital improvement side," Rector said. "Our next big project after Pershing [Building] is Baldwin Hall and McClain Hall renovation, and after that Kirk Memorial [Building] and Kirk Building."

Rector said the Pershing Building renovation is the first capital improvement project at Truman since 2000. The renovation was funded through MoHELA because state funding did not come through.

Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirksville, said that in order for higher education funding to continue increasing, the state must make a commitment to do it. She said she has not seen that from Blunt's administration.

"At this point, I believe the latest figures I've seen show Missouri ranks 47th among the 50 states in per capita funding for education," McClanahan said. "It's my understanding that we rank 50th out of 50 states on increases in funding for higher education."

McClanahan said she thinks the money is available to properly fund higher education but that it will take a fundamental shift in priorities to focus more on Missouri colleges and Universities.

"I think there has been a whole network of decisions that have been made in the state of Missouri that have kept us suppressed," she said.

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**Dave Rector**  
Budget Director

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