

Religions condone organ donation

BY ROB SAMUELSON
for the Index

Organ donation and transplantation are dicey topics in America, with people taking numerous stances, ranging from obligatory to unacceptable, depending on their personal beliefs.

Tarris Rosell addressed these issues during his speech, "What Happens to Jesus if I Donate My Heart?" on Feb. 17 in the Student Union Building.

Rosell, a doctor of ministry, said he supports organ donation and is a registered donor in two states. He described donation and transplantation as moral matters and ethical issues, rather than religious in nature.

"According to the published resources that we have about what religions believe, there's almost no variance," he said. "Almost all of them, with the exception of gypsies and Shintosts, say that organ donation is permissible and it's a good thing to do, but it's up to individuals."

Rosell said it is individuals and their families who generate the majority of debate, as everyone has a dif-

ferent opinion.

"There's a huge variance, even within the same faith community, the same church or mosque or congregation," he said.

Rosell said the religious and cultural symbolism of several body parts is very important in any discussion about donation and transplantation.

"The heart is the symbolic core of the human body, where God and Jesus come in and make a person better," he said.

Rosell's discussion segued into other transplant stories, including one about a man named Matthew Scott who lost a hand in a fire-work accident.

"[Scott] said he just wanted to be able to play catch with his kids, and I found it fascinating [that] technology was able to make that happen for him," he said.

Rosell said some surgeries are available for women with ovary issues. In one particular surgery, three-fourths of an overactive ovary gets replaced with three-fourths of another woman's underactive ovary, and the hormones balance, allowing both women to have children.

Rosell said the ethics could be tricky in that case, because it is changing someone's natural bodily functions.

Rosell said there are some speculative articles on the future of donation, namely brain transplants. He said that because the brain would retain its memories but occupy a new body, "it would really be a body transplant."

Dereck Daschke, chair and associate professor of philosophy and religion at Truman, was responsible for bringing Rosell to Truman. Daschke said he met

Rosell through Rosell's son Nehemiah, a Truman student. Nehemiah was the philosophy and religion department's outstanding student last year, and Daschke met Rosell at the ceremony.

He said the two spoke about this semester's curriculum and decided to have a presentation.

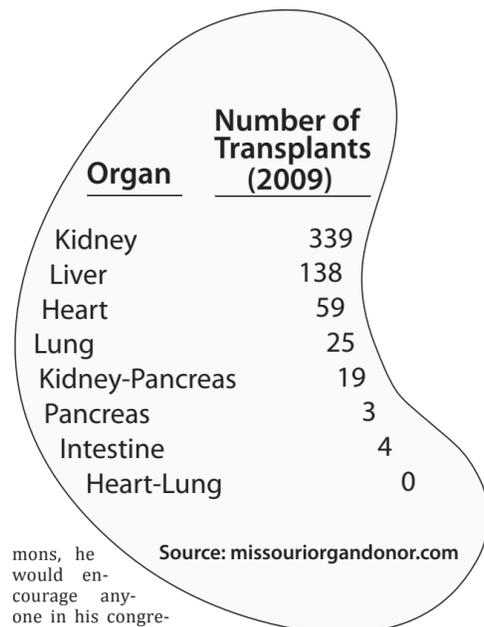
According to the Missouri Secretary of State's office, 42 percent of Adair County residents are registered as organ donors. Daschke said he does not think the religious presence in Kirksville affects the donor numbers.

"I don't think in this area with this particular set of moralist Christian beliefs that it would have any real impact on how people view donation or transplantation," he said.

Father Bill Kottenstette of the Catholic Newman Center said the Catholic church is very supportive of organ donation and transplantations.

"We are coming back [in the afterlife] with our perfect bodies, not the bodies we died with," he said.

Kottenstette said he is a registered organ donor and, although he normally sticks to scripture during ser-



mons, he would encourage anyone in his congregation to follow his lead and be a donor too.

"People don't realize how much the human body can do for people in need," he said.

Junior Sam Neudecker is a philosophy and religion major who attended Rosell's presentation and said he thought the message could have been stronger.

"Dr. Rosell's speech didn't really change my mind, nor did it reinforce any feelings I had on transplantation," he said. "Honestly, that's one of the major problems I have with philosophy now — no one seems to want to make a stand."

Neudecker, soon to be a

registered organ donor, said he desires a more concrete stance from people on the subject of organ donation.

"Even if someone does take a side on a philosophical issue, there doesn't really seem [to be] a way to prove it definitively one way or the other," he said.

Rosell and Daschke said they are not sure how ethical issues of organ donation will be judged in the afterlife. Rosell offered his suggestion for what really happens to Jesus when someone donates their heart.

"Maybe nothing, maybe it depends, or maybe Jesus smiles," he said.

Snow storm leaves city with limited salt supply

BY MAXIMILIAN ERNST
Staff Reporter

Salt supplies are running low as Kirksville is experiencing one of the coldest and snowiest winters in the last decade.

Kirksville has received nearly twice the average amount of snow this winter, according to the National Weather Service. The average temperatures this winter have been 10 degrees colder than previous years. The precipitation during January and February has been about 70 percent above average, with most of it falling as snow.

Kirksville's street maintenance runs six snowplows on six routes around Kirksville. Twelve employees work around the clock plowing snow. Kirksville has about 100 miles of streets, but Ray Sandstrom, Kirksville's street maintenance supervisor, said they plowed 1,800 miles of streets and roads already. Sandstrom said he expected to have snow from Sunday's storm cleared by Wednesday morning, if it didn't snow overnight again.

"After this last snowstorm, we hauled more than 350 truckloads of snow off to the business district," Sandstrom said. "We were also trying to order more salt, but our salt supplier is running behind and we are currently not able to receive any salt."

Sandstrom said he estimates the current stock of salt to last for another three or four snowstorms, but said he hopes the supplier will deliver soon.

Tim Baker, assistant director of the Physical Plant, said the Physical Plant ordered salt in advance.

"We ordered at a time where the City was still well-supplied," he said. "If



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sunday's snow storm created a problem for some Kirksville citizens.

we ordered now we might not get any."

The Physical Plant has to buy its salt on the open market and has used a total of about 220,000 pounds this year. Since the snowstorm, the physical plant has used another semi-truck load. In addition, the physical plant is supplied bagged salt through Sodexo.

"We compared prices of several wholesale dealers, but with the buying power of Sodexo, which supplies many universities, we can get the best price," Baker said.

He said it is a very delicate balance between too much and too little salting. If too much salt is applied to the paths in winter, it kills plants and leaves brown infertile strips all

around campus.

Baker also said he wanted to remind students to wear appropriate footwear for the season because he said it is impossible to clear all paths.

"The worst thing are the parking lots," sophomore Andrew Harrington said. "The streets around Kirksville are OK. Same goes for the paths around campus."

Andrew said he was surprised by the snowstorm when he came back to Kirksville from St. Louis on Sunday night.

"I was sliding all the way over to the other lane of the highway and back into my lane without having any control over the car," Harrington said.

Council approves new trash contract

Trash contract raises costs, but brings some benefits

BY BAILLIE JAMES
Staff Reporter

Kirksville's City Council approved a new trash contract with Veolia on Feb. 15 after a tedious negotiation process. The new contract includes a 65-gallon trash can of each household, large-item pick-up, bi-weekly collection for recycling and an increase in monthly prices.

Brad Selby, codes and planning director for the City of Kirksville, said that both pleased and concerned citizens have contacted him about the new changes.

Selby said households disposing of one bag per week generally have the most complaints because they do not want to deal with the large totes for so little trash.

"I understand that — I really do, but ... we're trying to get trash where it doesn't blow around, trash where dogs and cats don't tear into it and looks unsightly on the curb," Selby said.

The contract includes a 32-gallon tote option for senior citizens, an age group that tends to have less trash.

Todd Kuhns, Kirksville City Council member, said the Council wanted all households to have the option of a 32-gallon tote, but this desire did not transcend the negotiation process.

Selby said that probably the biggest disadvantage to the new contract is the possible price increases built into the agreement. Trash disposal prices have been static in Kirksville for the past 10 years, but this contract includes a yearly opportunity for in-

creases based on diesel fuel prices and the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"They wanted to put a 2.5 percent increase based on each year regardless of the cost of living," Selby said. "We were able to tie that in to the CPI and put a cap on it at 4 percent."

Selby said that because the CPI is a government number and both parties have access to it, the city considers it a more legitimate statistic than specific cost information from Veolia.

This contract raised the overall cost of trash disposal from \$6.50 per month to \$10.47 per month for the 65-gallon totes and \$8.65 per month for the 32-gallon senior-citizen option. The CPI and diesel costs could raise those costs a maximum of four times during the five-year contract.

"Frankly, we knew the cost would go up one way or another," Kuhns said. "Even though the price is going up, it's still very reasonable and inexpensive compared to other communities."

Kuhns said that Veolia has asked the city several times in the last 10 years for price increases to cover increasing expenses and the city has declined.

Sophomore Alex Meneely, a Kirksville native, said his family always needed trash stickers for extra bags of trash. He said the 65-gallon tote will eliminate the need to purchase stickers and will be more convenient for citizens because Veolia will maintain the totes.

The option to set out one large item each week will eliminate spring cleaning. This will allow citizens to dispose of large items rather than having to store large items until spring. This change will also allow road crews to start road repairs months earlier in the spring rather than picking up spring cleaning items.

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