

Car hits student, flees

SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

A Truman student was hit by a car in a hit-and-run early Wednesday morning at the intersection of Marion and Illinois Street.

Junior Matt Ziegler was walking from The Square to his girlfriend's house on Green Street when he was hit from behind. He said he was walking across the parking lot of the Ice House because it was a short cut.

"I kind of noticed that there was a car about to hit me, so I looked back real quick," Ziegler said. "It hit me right in the back of my leg. I fell back on the hood of the car and rolled over onto the pavement."

He said as soon as he hit the pavement, the car drove off without even stopping to help him or check if he was all right.

"I thought someone was trying to kill me at first," Ziegler said. "But then after it happened, I was filled with rage. I got up almost as soon as it happened and started yelling."

He said the car drove down Green Street. It drove too fast for him to notice the license plate number, but said it was a small white Ford. He also said he was alone when it happened and no one else saw the accident.

Ziegler said he then called his girlfriend to tell her what had happened and walked to her place. He said that he did not feel any blood so he knew that his injuries were not very serious, but when he got to his girlfriend's house, they decided to go to the hospital.

"From her house, I called the police and told them what happened," Ziegler said. "The Kirksville police officer met me at the hospital. ... I just turned in a statement the other day."

Ziegler said he was at the hospital past 2:30 a.m. for tests, including an MRI and X-



Amy Vicars/Index
Junior Matt Ziegler suffered minor injuries from the hit-and-run.

rays to make sure that there were no head injuries or broken bones.

He said the only noticeable injury he had was to his eye, which was swollen for about two days, and that he had to wear an eye patch. He also said that he scraped his right leg and his whole body was sore.

"I don't plan on suing or pressing any kind of charges if they find the person," Ziegler said. "I mean, it was more or less an accident, they could not have helped it. ... But I am mad that they drove off."

Sgt. Steve Farnsworth of the Kirksville Police Department, said that in the 21 years he has been with the

department, he has not seen many hit-and-run accidents involving a pedestrian.

"We may have one or two a year," Farnsworth said. "One thing you see with pedestrians is that if someone is hurt, the compelling side is to stop and help."

Farnsworth said that in Ziegler's case, police were fortunate enough to get a video of the accident, because it happened on private property.

"The video is not high quality and you cannot get a license plate," Farnsworth said. "But we have a description from the video, plus the description of the vehicle according to the victim."

Farnsworth said the police suspect the driver of the car was under the influence of alcohol because of the way he took a sharp turn when he left.

If the hit-and-run driver was found, he/she would be charged with a felony, Farnsworth said, and depending on the severity of Ziegler's injuries, it would be up to the prosecutor to determine which charges to press.

Sgt. Chad Whitton of the Department of Public Safety said DPS has not been notified about Ziegler's accident and that the Kirksville police were investigating his case.

"We work with several vehicle accidents every year," Whitton said. "The majority have been minor. ... A lot of them happen in parking lots so they are relatively low speed."

Whitton said the majority of the cases DPS deals with involve students, and in most vehicle accidents where both parties stay and report the accident, there is no campus policy that punishes the students involved. However, in a hit-and-run accident, the campus might take action.

"Hit-and-runs we pursue very vigorously," Whitton said. "If we find the person we send the report to the county prosecutor to file state charges for criminal violation. If the person involved was a student we also have the option of sending [a report] to the Dean of Students to pursue through the University Student Conduct Code."

Whitton said DPS does a lot of traffic enforcement in the area partially because of the high amount of pedestrians. He also said both pedestrians and drivers need to be aware of their surroundings to avoid such traffic accidents.

If anyone has information about the incident, they can call KPD at 660-785-6945.

NEWS | In Brief

Chemistry Society receives prize

Truman's Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society received a prize for their YouTube video "P-R-O-U-D to be a Chemist," a rap about chemistry performed by students and faculty. Sophomore chemistry majors Amanda Krus and Jennifer Zweifel wrote and directed the film. The chapter received \$1,500 and will be honored at the Spring 2010 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco. Students will also receive awards for Outstanding Chapter and Green Chemistry Chapter for 2008-09.

The Big Read sponsors art exhibit

Truman art history students interviewed local Kirksville Vietnam War veterans and created an exhibit as a part of The Big Read. The Kirksville Arts Center will host a reception for the exhibit "The Things They Carried: Mementos from Kirksville Vietnam War Veterans," 6 p.m. Monday. The exhibit will run through Feb. 26 and is free to the public.

Students perform in talent show

Students can watch campus talent at Truman's annual talent show "Truman's Got Talent" 7 to 9 p.m. Friday from in Baldwin Auditorium. In addition to more than 10 student acts, the University Swingers and Sweet Nothings will perform. The event is free for everyone.

Newman Center hosts Putt-Putt golf

The Newman Center will host a Putt-Putt course 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The course will consist of 18 state-themed holes. Students, faculty and members of the Kirksville community are all welcome. Tickets are \$3 for children 12 and under, \$4 for high school and college students and \$5 for adults.

Tsunami hosts frisbee clinic

TSunami will host a women's Ultimate clinic from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday in the Blue Room and West Court in the Student Recreation Center. Female students can learn how to throw the disc and play the game. Admission is free.

Board of Governors will meet Saturday

The Board of Governors will meet 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union Building Conference Room. For more information, visit <http://governors.truman.edu>.

Students can apply for SA position

Applications to be a student adviser are now available in the Admissions Office or online at <http://admissions.truman.edu/ambassadors.asp>.

Applications are due 5 p.m. Friday. Interviews will be Tuesday to Feb. 19. Contact alanaw@truman.edu for more information.

Peace Corps gives presentation

The Peace Corps will give a presentation at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Student Union Building Alumni Room. For more information, visit <http://career.truman.edu>.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a resolution supporting the installation of a campus wide alarm system.
- Student Senate passed a resolution recommending that future Senate bodies to review the student activity fee.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$400 for posters for the Recycling is Sexy Campaign.

Crime | Reports

- 1/30 Sophomore Garrett Exline received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 1/31 Junior Meggie Romick received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants and was arrested on suspicion for driving under the influence.

Texting scam hits Kirksville

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Many people across the country have received text messages notifying them that their bank accounts have been frozen, causing alarm and panic. Although their tricks are well-known, phishers have gone on the offensive in the past few months, targeting both individuals and financial institutions.

Phishers used documentation belonging to the American Bankers Association and demanded payment for an "unauthorized transaction" they claimed had been made from the Jefferson City-based association's account.

This came in the wake of another phishing scam in which some U.S. Bank clients in Kirksville and other Missouri cities received text messages notifying them that their bank accounts had been frozen.

"We were hit [Jan. 27]," said Bill Ratliff, executive vice president of the Missouri Bankers Association. "The phishers sent us an e-mail saying we owed \$700 to the American Bankers Association for a meeting that we never had. They are trying for individuals, corporate and financial institutions. This is a new one for us."

Ratliff said the scam e-mails had been sent to all 50 bankers' associations nationwide, and that the American Bankers Association had since contacted all of its affiliates notifying them that the e-mail was a fraud.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's Department of Public Safety warned the public last week about an ongoing phishing scam in

which fraudsters disguising themselves as bank administrators send text messages notifying bank clients that their accounts have been frozen and asking them to call a certain number to reactivate their accounts.

U.S. Bank clients received a text message reading "Customer issue, U.S. Bank service frozen." The message then provided a number to call, which traces to Newfane, Vt, and gives an automated request for account information.

U.S. Bank has blocked its customers from returning calls from numbers associated with phishing fraud. These are numbers identified as having originated or redistributed the phishing messages after several clients called in with complaints about the messages last week.

Sgt. Brent Bernhardt, communications officer of MSHP's Troop B, warned the public against responding to any of these messages, saying financial institutions do not conduct this type of business over the telephone, in e-mail or via text messages.

"We have not been made aware of any more messages since Jan. 15, but identity theft is a growing crime in our country," Bernhardt said. "These kinds of scams not only target banks but also people who have money in banks and credit cards."

Although figures for phishing cases in

Missouri were not readily available, Bernhardt said more than eight million people had fallen victim to identity theft between 2008 and 2009.

"[Bank clients] are asked to provide their personal banking information," Bernhardt said. "Once banking information is provided, it is suspected that an unauthorized individual has access to the victim's account. We are doing everything we can to be proactive and eliminate such scams."

U.S. Bank spokesman Steve Dell said that although no U.S. Bank clients had fallen prey to the fraudsters, the recent phishing scam is not an isolated incident and has targeted clients from banks across the country.

"Numerous attempts like these are made daily, and we make efforts to notify our clients that we would never ask them to place their confidential information at risk by sending it to us," Dell said. "We are constantly updating and increasing security for our clients. Security is of utmost importance. Anytime someone sees any activity that is out of the ordinary they should contact a trusted number or location. These phishers are not just targeting U.S. Bank, but every other bank."

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Sgt. Brent Bernhardt
Missouri Highway patrol



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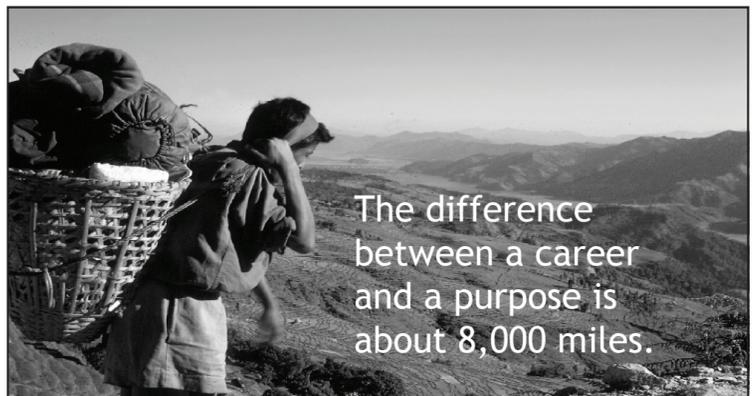
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