

Web outages cause problems

Students encounter difficulties during three Internet outages

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Junior Mandy Love had a lot on her plate Friday afternoon preparing for the SERVE Center's Big Event, and throwing the Internet outage on top of it almost spoiled everything.

Truman experienced three campus-wide Internet outages last week. They occurred at 11 p.m. Tuesday, 4 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. Friday. Not having Internet access meant that students could not access library programs, search online or use their e-mail.

Love, the SERVE Center's Big Event coordinator, said not having access to some of these resources worried her.

"We needed to send out e-mails — not only to residents, but to student participants," Love said. "Our registration forms are online, so in order to be able to access those and make sure everything was correct, we needed Internet access."

Love also needed use of the Internet to verify directions to residents' houses.

The library experienced some setbacks as well. With the Internet down, students and staff were unable to access the library's local catalog, databases and the Mobius library, the state's academic library.

Dean of Libraries Richard Coughlin said that when Internet outages occur the staff is unable to order needed books and materials by web.

Connection was reestablished after Truman's Information Technology Services was notified. The library did not have to restart or shut down any computers or systems.

When ITS became aware of the situation the staff immediately worked to correct the problem. Jim McNabb, Technical Director of ITS, said the Internet outages were due to a problem with MOREnet, a state agency and the University's Internet service provider.

"In those cases, there's not very much we can do other than report it to the state," McNabb said. "They have a



Mayank Dhugana/Index
Campus-wide Internet outages last week left students unable to access the library's local catalog, databases and the Mobius catalog.

whole troubleshooting department that is responsible for maintaining the state network."

MOREnet notified ITS when the problems were corrected, and the Internet system was restored.

ITS was notified in these instances, but it also has monitoring systems that alert ITS staff in case of problems.

McNabb said the outage Tuesday night was brief, taking less than an hour to fix. The Wednesday outage took approximately an hour and a half, and the Friday outage took almost two hours to correct.

"We hope it doesn't happen again, and we hope the state

has figured out what has happened and taken appropriate actions," McNabb said.

After Internet connection was restored Friday, Love was able to finish her preparations for the SERVE Center's Big Event.

"I think, in general, the Internet is something in our generation that we rely on completely, and we don't know what to do when it doesn't work or how to immediately fix it, which causes even more stress," Love said. "Sometimes I wish we could, as a generation, be less reliant on it, but at the same time, it does so many great things and is a great resource."

NEWS | In Brief

SAB hosts movie screening

Student Activities Board will host screenings of "The Blind Side" at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Friday in Violette Hall 1000 and at 2 p.m. Saturday in Baldwin Auditorium. The movie, based on a true story, depicts a young, homeless African-American man who is taken in by a rich white family. Admission is free, and no food or drink is allowed.

Club sells international meal tickets

International Club will host the International dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday in the SUB Georgian Room. The meal will include more than 20 different cultural dishes as well as performances and trivia. Tickets are on sale now for \$12 in the International Student Affairs Office in Kirk Building 120.

Play follows family in shambles

The Truman Theatre Department will present "Rabbit Hole" at 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the Black Box Theater in Ophelia Parrish. The play depicts a family as it undergoes a life-shattering accident and the search for comfort afterward. Admission is free. For more information contact Ron Rybkowski at 660-785-4512.

Advisers receive awards

Barbara Price, associate professor of English, and Janice Young, associate professor of health science, received the William O'Donnell Lee Advising Award. They each will receive a \$1,000 development fund to use for advising conferences or research materials. The award pays tribute to excellent advisers and encourages professional development. Students and colleagues nominate recipients of the award, and winners ultimately are selected by a committee.

Guest presents religion and film

William Blizek, professor of philosophy and religion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, will present at the Religion and Film Student Initiated Learning Opportunity at 11:30 a.m. April 1 in the SUB Alumni Room. He will discuss a collection of short films in "Religion and Film Shorts." For more information, contact Derek Daschke at ddaschke@truman.edu.

Orchestra showcases student talent

The Truman Orchestra will present the annual Gold Medal Concert at 8 p.m., Saturday in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. The concert will feature three prize-winning students and will showcase student achievement. The orchestra will perform works by Weber, Husa and Borodin. The concert is free and open to the public.

Kambli receives photography award

Photography professor Priya Kambli recently won the Photolucida national photo competition. A jury of international photographers named her one of the top 50 photographers in the country. She is one of three photographers to receive a book contract from the competition. Her book, "Color Falls Down," will be published this month and is available for purchase at <http://www.wm-jasco.com/photolucida/photolucida.html>.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$175 to send one representative to the White Person Conference on April 7.

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$500 for the Educator of the Year banquet.

DPS | Reports

- 2/18 Freshmen Jun Kam received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.

Nixon suggests funding cuts

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff reporter

Representatives of public and private colleges in Missouri have decided on guidelines for awarding need-based aid under the Access Missouri program as state budget constraints continue to cause cuts in state funding for education.

Robert Stein, Missouri's Commissioner of Higher Education, facilitated a meeting of representatives from more than 10 public and private schools last week. The representatives urged the state to continue providing need-based financial aid to qualifying students in public and private institutions.

Declines in revenue have caused the state government to cut funding to schools, forcing public and private institutions to come up with ways to reduce the impact of budget cuts on enrollment.

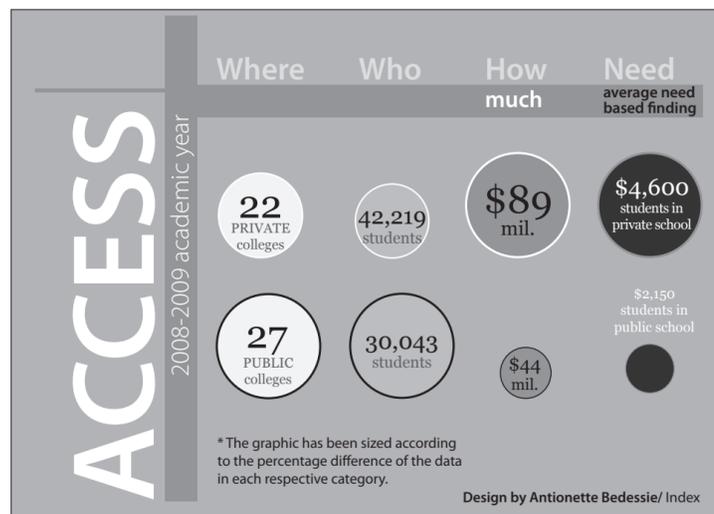
Truman Budget Director Dave Rector said the presidents of the universities have been debating the state government's intentions to cut funding to private schools.

"There has been a lot of debate about Access Missouri," said Rector. "The big controversy is that [Gov. Jay] Nixon has suggested to take Access Missouri need-based funding away from students attending private institutions, and some university presidents are really upset about it."

Representatives at last week's meeting agreed that rather than dividing students along the lines of public and private institutions, state policy should be guided by the principle of equal maximum awards to all students and allowing students to make their own choices on whether they want to attend private institutions or public institutions.

They said that higher education is a driving force of Missouri's economy, and therefore the state should be able to meet the financial aid challenges of needy students.

The resolutions came barely a week after Nixon presented his blueprint for



economic recovery, in which he suggested cuts to Access Missouri funding to students in private colleges. Nixon said, in the face of the economic crisis, Missourians would have to turn to educating their children in first-rate public schools, from pre-school through graduate school.

"Missouri has wonderful colleges and universities, public and private," Nixon said. "But in times like these, we simply cannot continue to subsidize the choice to attend a private school."

The college presidents responded by saying that the state should be able to afford supporting all students in need of funding and suggested that, instead of cutting independent institutions out, the state should adjust awards for students attending public four-year and independent institutions to the same amounts.

Students in private institutions in Missouri currently receive more than twice as much money in Access Missouri funding as their counterparts in public institutions.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, the

Access Missouri program distributed \$44 million to 30,043 students in 27 public colleges, compared to \$89 million to 42,291 students in 22 private colleges.

Students in private institutions receive an average of \$4,600 each in need-based funding, while their counterparts in public schools receive \$2,150, on average. The Missouri legislature is currently considering two bills that are aimed at equalizing award amounts for public and private four-year institutions.

Kathryn Love, public information officer for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said the state government is grappling with a \$500 million drop in revenue, but it was too early to tell by what margins Access Missouri funding would be cut for the coming academic year.

"The impact of budget cuts is likely to be seen during 2011 and 2012," said Love. "We won't know what that impact will be until the budget is passed by the legislature. It's still too early to tell whether there will be reduction in funding."

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