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COLUMN



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ON CAMPUS



Sexual Assault Week
Students raise awareness for sexual assault week **PAGE 13**

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Kirksville on the Quad

Quad
Friday
12 to 4:30 p.m.

Spicy Sunday Dinner

Centennial Hall
Sunday
5 to 6:30 p.m.

Kansas City Symphony

Baldwin Auditorium
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7:30 p.m.

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Horror flick doesn't make the cut **PAGE 12**



Blackboard Academic Suite

https://bb-web.truman.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_id=..._2_1&url=...%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2Flaunch

Truman State University

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Teachers incorporate electronic literature

Some teachers using Blackboard, but some students still prefer textbooks

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Sweaty palms, quickening of breath and credit cards in hand are common sights at every university bookstore when students line up at the cash register, awaiting the staggering totals of their book-buying excursions.

While many students express annoyance at the outrageous prices of books each semester, some professors are employing a cheaper means of disseminating the classroom lesson: online. Junior Kim Day said her communication theory class with Professor of Communication Kristopher Stroup uses articles posted on Blackboard to replace a textbook.

"Reading the articles online is OK because I didn't have to spend money on a textbook, but I would still rather have a physical book that I can consult instead of having to look everything up online," Day said.

Day said having articles online to read for class everyday was just as effective in helping her to learn as an actual textbook, but was more of a hassle since they were not as readily available as a textbook.

"When I have an actual textbook I can take it anywhere with me and I don't have to rely on having a power or Internet connection," Day said. "I also usually highlight and make notes on the margins of my textbooks, which I obviously can't do online unless I print it out, which is just another hassle for me."

Sophomore Samantha Wittmayer used an online program through Webassign.net for her Elementary Functions class last semester with Jason Miller, associate professor of mathematics. She said the program offered homework assignments, the textbook and online tests.

"It was convenient to have everything in one place, but the program was confusing to figure out and the only way you could get to the online textbook was to press the help button while doing the online homework," Wittmayer said.

Wittmayer said the program they used, which cost \$35, was part of the issue and under different circumstances, an online book wouldn't have been so bothersome.

"It was just a hassle to have to click on all these extra links when I was trying to figure out how to do the online problem," Wittmayer said. "In a class like math I like to have the book in front of me so I can have problem examples and explanations right there. In a different class, though, I don't think an online book would really be as big of an issue because I don't mind just reading things off the Web when I'm not attempting to work out a math problem at the same time."

Wittmayer said that although the online program was cheaper than a textbook, she would rather have paid the extra money for the physical book instead of having to jump through hoops to read the online text.

Reoccurrences of the online versus print debate occur regularly. Senior Erin Erhardt said her Controversial Children's Literature class discussed the topic with Donna Rhinesmith, professor of education.

"We basically came to the conclusion that while many avid readers enjoy the physical aspect of books like the smell, being able to turn the page, and being able to share it with friends, new portable reading technology like the Kindle will become more mainstream because of the cheap cost and convenience of being able to carry around a bunch of books on one little device," Erhardt said.

She said her class concluded books would not be replaced, but rather would become more of a novelty than an everyday item as new technology and more online material became available.

Erhardt said she prefers reading from the physical book, especially when it comes to textbooks. She said she had an online textbook in her Macroeconomics class with Bruce Coggins, associate professor of economics, last fall.

"When you are reading 30 or more pages at a time it gets really tiresome reading off a computer screen and scrolling down for that long," Erhardt said. "Also, it was not convenient for me because it's a lot less comfortable — you can't curl up with a computer like you can a book."

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Erin Erhardt
Senior

bb-web.truman.edu

Photo Illustration courtesy of Truman State University Blackboard
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Activist speaks for unsolved murders

BY ANNA MEIER
Staff Reporter

Just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas, one of the most disturbing cases of violence against a group of people has been taking place for more than 15 years. The real kicker? The government might be in on it.

Nominated for both an Emmy and a Golden Globe, Barbara Martinez Jitner will be speaking at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in Georgian Rooms B and C on her extensive research and insight into the more than 400 unsolved murders of women in Juarez, Mexico. Her presentation, "Juarez, Mexico: The Capital of Murdered Women," will focus on the history of kidnapping, torture and ultimately murder that has afflicted hundreds of women in the Juarez area since 1993.

The Amnesty International

group on Truman's campus is bringing Martinez Jitner here, and one of the group's members, sophomore Morgan Tucker, has been involved in this process since February.

"When I came to college, I joined Amnesty International, and our adviser and previous president were thinking about bringing this speaker," Tucker said. "Once I heard her name, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I saw her movie and loved it and really believe in her cause.' So I became the head of the committee that was in charge of bringing her here."

Martinez Jitner posed as a factory worker in factories owned and created by North American Free Trade Agreement in an attempt to uncover what was going on in this underworld of violence and corruption. Out of the information she gained there, she produced a documentary, "La Frontera." Eventually, this became the basis for the major



motion picture Tucker saw in high school, "Border-town," starring Jennifer Lopez.

"There have been a number of murders, rapes of young women between the ages of women 12 to 22. I think it's now up to 400," Betty McLane-Iles, faculty adviser for Amnesty International, said. "And [Martinez Jitner] was aroused ... by the fact that nothing was being done and wanted to look into it really from a different perspective ... She went in there not as a journalist, but as a worker."

Martinez Jitner's goal as a human rights activist is to make people aware of what is going on in Mexico and also to alert them that not only are these murders still unresolved cases, but

the Mexican government might have something to do with it.

"Actually in 2006 a special agency there found 177 government officials were guilty of neglect in these cases," Tucker said. "So it's really corrupt."

Another very disquieting part of this issue is that the murders and kidnappings are taking place in factories built under the North American Trade Agreement, Tucker said.

"She claims that the cause of this violence against women, well, poverty and discrimination in general, in Juarez is because of NAFTA creating conditions of poverty there by allowing factories to be built there that ship products to the U.S."

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