

## Poster Sale



Dan Warner/Index

Students thumb through pop culture prints at the poster sale outside of the Student Union Building. The University Book Store is sponsoring the sale, which has been open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. since Monday and ends today. Posters are for sale by Global Prints Company.

# Bright flight cut by 25 percent

BY ELIZABETH KOCH  
Staff Reporter

More than 1,000 Truman students have been affected by the 25 percent cut in Bright Flight scholarships.

Bright Flight recipients, students scoring a 31 on the ACT or an 800 in critical reading or 790 on math on the SAT or higher, received \$1,500 this school year, down from \$2,000 in past years.

Truman students received approximately \$2.17 million from Bright Flight during the 2009-10 school year. Kathy Elsea, Truman Financial Aid Director, said the figures for this year aren't final yet, but Truman probably will receive about \$1.5 million.

A 2007 statute would have changed the amounts for this school year, with an increase for the top third percentile receiving \$3,000, said Leroy Wade, assistant commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education. The statute also added a second tier of students scoring in the fourth and

fifth percentile, who would have received \$1,000. Those increased amounts did not go into effect this year because of the cuts.

MDHE was informed by the state legislature about the size of the Bright Flight cuts in July, Wade said.

"Everyone knows the current budget situation that the state faces, and again, I don't think that's going to get better for next year," Wade said. "Obviously it may not get any worse, but it's certainly not going to get any better. At this point, all we can do is wait and see how much money the legislature appropriates and if the governor signs what that appropriation is."

There are approximately 90 institutions in the state that participate in the Bright Flight program, and about

700-800 students were in the top tier and participated last year.

Wade said he doesn't anticipate a substantial increase in funds.

"[The legislature will] decide how they want to delegate money to different programs," he said. "They may decide to cut some other program and put that money into Bright Flight. We just don't know at this point."

If the state budget improves, MDHE will try to increase the Bright Flight funding to its previous amount of \$2,000 for the top tier and eventually to the amounts that were added to the statute in 2007, if funds allow it, Wade said.

"There were more obligations than there were funds, and [Mo. Gov. Jay Nixon] had the tough job of trying to decide where those cuts would

be made and what programs would be affected by them," he said. "And again, [Bright Flight] wasn't the only program in higher education [cut], and certainly the higher education programs weren't the only ones that received cuts. It was part of an overall need to balance the state budget."

Elsea said she assumed cuts would be made but didn't learn the final amount until August when she was notified in an e-mail from MDHE.

Elsea said any time there is a change in the system's records, adjustments have to be made in the financial aid office, but students probably are facing the biggest obstacles.

Since Bright Flight is state aid, the cut has not greatly affected the amount of scholarships awarded from the University, she said.

Elsea said although the cut has increased loan eligibility for students losing that scholarship, it's still too early in the year to know by how much. The financial aid office would not know for several weeks.

She said the intention of the Bright Flight program is to attract

the brightest students to stay in Missouri for post-secondary education and eventually become employed in the state.

"With those cuts, it's not as much of an attraction or pull to keep students in the state, so that's a concern," Elsea said.

The state requires that students keep a 2.5 grade point average and pass 20 credit hours a year, Elsea said. Bright Flight can be renewed for 10 semesters.

Junior Rachel Gregory said she got a letter in the mail at the end of the summer from the state explaining the Bright Flight cut, and the cut was confirmed when she checked her award information on her Truman account. This is the third year she has received the scholarship, and regardless of the cuts, she said she's still appreciative.

"I'm grateful that I'm getting anything, because I know that [Missouri] had a bunch of budget cuts ... and [the legislature] didn't cut it more than they did," Gregory said. "It's sort of disappointing not getting that much, but that's OK."

**"Everyone knows the current budget situation that the state faces, and again, I don't think that's going to get better for next year."**

Leroy Wade  
Assistant Commissioner for  
the Missouri Department of  
Higher Education

## GRAND OPENING: September 14-18

Specials, drawings for prizes, sample tasting, etc.

# THE DOWNTOWN GROCERY STORE

111 South Franklin Street (660) 627-5655

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday



### Why travel farther?

Downtown- easy walking/biking distance from Truman and KCOM

(just four blocks north of the Student Union Building)

### LOCAL FOODS

VEGETABLES, FRUITS, HERBS, DAIRY, MEATS, PRESERVES, SORGHUM, HONEY, OTHERS

### GENERAL GROCERIES, CONVENIENCE ITEMS, SUNDRIES

SNACKS, SODA POP (CANNED AND BOTTLES), CONDIMENTS, PERSONAL CARE AND HEALTH SUPPLIES

### INTERNATIONAL/ETHNIC FOODS

ORIENTAL, SOUTHEAST ASIAN, MIDEASTERN, EUROPEAN, LATIN AMERICAN, INDIAN



### BULK GROCERIES -- MANY ORGANIC OR NATURAL

SPICES, HERBS, NUTS, GRAINS, FLOUR, OILS, VINEGAR, PASTA, SUGARS, COOKING SUPPLIES, MIXES, OTHERS

