

Cyclists endure violence

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Senior Jonathan Lessing and his friend were biking last month with a trailer full of compost from their service for the Rot Riders — a student service group picking up compost from Kirksville residents and bringing it to local community gardens. Passengers in a passing vehicle decided to add to Lessing's load by throwing a McDonald's soft drink at him, which hit him between the shoulders, drenching him in Sprite.

Students around campus have noticed a recent increase in harassment toward bikers from drivers.

Department of Public Safety Sergeant Chad Whittom said four reports have been made regarding harassment toward bikers and pedestrians from Feb. 16 to March 2.

"It's not like we were just riding around on our bikes either," he said. "We were doing a community service and we got hit."

Lessing said he thinks the people who threw the Sprite at him were Truman students because the vehicle had parking stickers and Truman decals on the rear windshield. He said there were about three or four males in the car that appeared to be college-aged.

Lessing said he is an avid biker and a few times a semester he gets flipped off and yelled at, but more recently, there seems to be an increase in projectiles. He said besides the Sprite, he has had a half full can of oil thrown at him, he knows someone that was sprayed with silly string and his friend that was biking with him for the Rot Riders had a cup of water thrown at her.

Kirksville High School teacher Kelsey Goodman said she noticed an increase in biker harassment lately and thinks some of it might be from high school students. Goodman is a cross country coach and said she heard some runners talking about their friends throwing water on college students on the Quad. She said the high school students hide in the bushes and wait for someone to walk by to throw water on.

Goodman said she also heard that some high school students like to go out at nights and throw water on intoxicated college students who are walking around town. She said she doesn't know if any

high school students have been involved in harassing bikers, but with the act becoming more common and the water and beverages being thrown, she said it might be a possibility.

Whittom said the occurrences appear to be random and none of them seem to be caused by a conflict between the pedestrian or biker and the offender in the vehicle prior to the incident.

In most instances, throwing an object at someone is considered assault and police would pursue it as a criminal matter, Whittom said. He said the severity of the criminal charge depends on the injury a person sustains or on the type of object thrown. If an offender was identified, the victim has the option to press charges or drop them, Whittom said.

Whittom said if the offender was a Truman student, they could be turned over to the student affairs office through the judicial officer to have student conduct violation charges heard through the University. Because the judicial ruling of University deals with civil matters, charging the student through both criminal and judicial avenues is not considered double jeopardy.

Whittom said similar harassment reports have been filed in the past, but not often. He said DPS is trying to prevent these offenses from happening by patrolling 24/7 and through traffic enforcement, but they can't be everywhere at one time. He said the large amount of foot traffic and only having a few streets running through campus contribute to the amount of pedestrian-driver interaction and poses a potential for conflict.

"There are problems on both sides and I think the best solution is just for both groups of people to take a little more time, be a little more courteous, be a little more vigilant whether you're driving or walking," Whittom said. "That way we can avoid having an accident."

Senior Lisa Dworak said she is looking forward to the implementation of the three-year plan to make smart streets that are more biker friendly. As a victim of a projectile harassment, she said it is frustrating to share the road when drivers are being inconsiderate.

Kirksville was awarded with a grant of approximately \$300,000 to improve the



Krista Goodman/Index
Junior Lisa Dworak poses next to her bike outside of the Student Union Building on Tuesday. She was a victim of violence against bikers and she said she thinks that her assailants are students from Truman because of parking decals.

city's bike lanes and routes and to provide educational programs, with plans to start the project this year, according to the Oct. 18, 2010 Kirksville City Council Report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dance team serves up soul food

Truman's SUADE dance team will host a "Soul Food Supper" from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday in the Missouri Hall Chariton Room. Advance tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased from any SUADE member or by contacting tsuade@gmail.com. Tickets cost \$7 at the door. One ticket buys two plates of home-cooked fried chicken, mac-n-cheese, buttered corn, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, brownies, banana pudding, lemonade and peach tea.

Help arrives for med school applicants

Students applying for medical school can get information on the application process, practice with interviews and help with networking at events next week. The first event will take place 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday in Magruder Hall room 1000, and is designed to give insight into what medical school admissions committees look for in applicants. Wednesday, there will be information tables for schools and programs from noon to 4 p.m. in the Magruder Hall foyer. Some events require pre-registration. Students must pre-register at pdi.truman.edu and pay \$2 to the Career Center by March 17 for the networking reception that takes place from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in SUB Georgian Room B. Pre-registration with resume is required by March 22 in the Career Center for the optometry school mock interviews that will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in SUB room 3201. There are descriptions for additional events at career.truman.edu. For more information, e-mail kcowan@truman.edu.

Gamers compete for prizes

Fans of the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops" can compete in a tournament on March 20 to support Truman ROTC. The \$20 cost of registration per team goes to support ROTC cadets participating in the Bataan Memorial Death March. Players should sign up in teams of four this week in the foyer of Magruder Hall. The top two teams will win prizes. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a march through the desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico in honor of service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II.

Button sales go toward new books

Truman's chapter of First Book, a nonprofit organization promoting literacy among lower income children, is selling buttons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the SUB today for \$1. Proceeds from the button sales will go toward the organization's goal of providing new books to children in need. First Book is based on the idea that literacy is one of the best predictors of a child's future success, but books are scarce for children growing up in poverty.

Students live with dyslexia

BY COLETTE LINTON
Multimedia Editor

Luna Ocegueda is a junior health science major and a McNair scholar. She was diagnosed with dyslexia in fourth grade and it wasn't until Ocegueda started college that she had access to any useful resources.

But Truman students have options of overcoming their learning disabilities. Disability Services offers ways to assess learning disabilities and provides methods to help students succeed in the classroom.

"When I was really young, my dad noticed that I wasn't reading or doing the same things as other kids," Ocegueda said. "B's and D's are always switched. Reading and writing is always hard, math is really hard. But with practice and skill you can overcome it or use tools."

There are students, at all levels, who don't do well on tests, who cannot keep up with their coursework and, in some cases, decide not to continue with higher education, said Dorothy Henson-Parker, a licensed educational psychologist.

"I've had many students talk

to me who say they couldn't do the reading," Henson-Parker said. "I think there may be a lot of students who don't go to college because they think and, in fact they can't, do the reading in the amount of time that they have to do it in, they can't do the class work in the amount of time they have available to them."

Truman's Student Resource Center helps students with learning disabilities locate a note taker, can provide a student reader for various assignments or refer students to use available IT technologies or screen readers for online content.

The center has various resources, but it takes time for the student to discover which method works best for them.

"What has made the difference here at Truman and what has always made the difference for me, are my professors and people who want and are willing to help me," Ocegueda said. "Who with patience, even though they have already explained it in class, take the time to let me come to their office hours or come back when it's not their office hours go and explain things more in depth or in a different

way so I can understand."

Private and public campuses are required to provide necessary services for students with disabilities to participate in campus activities, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The students who visit the Student Resource Center might already have a preferred way to learn but others still are discovering what resources are available for their use, Vicky Wehner, coordinator of disabilities services said.

"Many of our students will tell us that, when they have dyslexia, sometimes letters are reversed," Wehner said. "Sometimes lines drop down into the line that they are trying to read. And that by using color transparencies it helps so that the lines stay where they are supposed to stay."

The exact causes of dyslexia are not completely clear and sometimes it can be a perceptual difference or sensitivity to light, which causes distortions of text seen on a particular page, according to the International Dyslexia Association's website.

"It wasn't that they couldn't read, it's that they couldn't see well enough to read," Henson-

Parker said. "It's not a problem with visual acuity it's a problem with the way in which the mind's eye perceives a text. This in turn affects students' comprehension."

Newer techniques to address perceptual issues include the use of color transparencies or thin plastic sheets that are colored with various tints, Henson-Parker said. The method of using a colored screen over a printed page screens out parts of the visual light spectrum that causes distortions to appear on the page, Henson-Parker said.

Wehner said a student visited her office and was frustrated that she couldn't read more than 25 pages a night. After she chose a color from a trial kit, the student said she read 150 pages in one evening. The Student hadn't ever been able to read more than 15-20 pages in a night.

"If it works for them, it is a great plus for them to be independent and do it themselves," Wehner said. "I have a son with dyslexia and that's how I came about looking for this information and when it worked for him I figured, wow, this could work for some of our students."

STUDENT SENATE IN BRIEF

• Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$120 for diversity week.

• Senate President Isaac Robinson vetted a resolution senate passed Monday to make Truman at the Capitol a standing money motion for the next three years that. He vetoed it due to disagreements on the amount.

• Senate passed a resolution to implement a campus mentoring program to supplement first year advising.

CRIME REPORTS DPS & KPD

3/14 A theft between \$500 and \$25,000 was reported from Pickler Memorial Library.

2/27 Property damage in the 2nd degree was reported at Stokes Stadium.

Greek Week 2011 Presents...

Fast Times at Greek High

Sunday
Pop Pong Party
SUB Down Under
12:30 PM

Monday
First Day of School
Pershing Arena
9 PM

Court Voting, Events, Points, Questions: greekweek.truman.edu

Tuesday
Back 2 School Shopping
Baldwin Auditorium
7 PM

Wednesday
Lunch Time QUAD
4 PM

Thursday
Detention
SUB
4 PM

Friday
High School Musical School's Out!
Baldwin Auditorium
7-9 PM

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