

System rivals 'finders, keepers'

BY ALEX CARLSON
Staff Reporter

It's a mistake that can lead to disaster. It happens so often, students forget about it most of the time. Whether it's a subconscious misstep or just being caught up in the moment, students throughout Truman's campus forget their items in classes, facilities and buildings. Precious items, which are normally picked up by random people, lie about the campus. Fortunately, the Truman lost and found services are ready and waiting to reunite students with their belongings.

Throughout the years, the collection of items has become plentiful and diverse from clothing and apparel to cell phones and MP3 players. Once an item is found, its long return journey begins with the lost and found services.

Each lost and found area on campus has an abundance of lost items. The Student Recreational Center normally collects lost athletic equipment like tennis shoes, towels and water bottles.

"We actually have 16 laundry baskets for the lost and found system and eight of those are for shoes," said Susan Limestall, director of the rec center.

The Pickler Memorial Library lost and found has its own collection of flash drives and takes care of them in a different way than other belongings.

"We keep flash drives up to a year before getting rid of them," said Gayla McHenry, Pickler Memorial Library head of access services. "With flash drives, we use the computer to find the name, and then we e-mail the owners three times. If we get no response after a year, we wipe the flash drives clean and recycle them."

Joyce Mullins, an office assistant at the Department of Public Safety, helps the lost and found system function at DPS. The DPS lost and found is Truman's last refuge for lost items before they depart from campus to Goodwill



Amy Vicars/Index

Tennis shoes and water bottles line a lost and found table in the Student Recreation Center. Rec center director Susan Limestall said the rec center has 16 laundry baskets for lost and found items, eight of which are solely for shoes.

services or the Salvation Army charity.

"What we did several years ago, three or four years ago, we sent out to all of the departments a form where they log when they found items," Mullins said. "There are logs and labels that stick on the actual item itself, when it was found, where it was found, and as much information as possible, and the

building or department are to turn the item and form in here [at the Public Safety office]."

Although items like iPods and cell phones are common at the lost and found, some more bizarre items have been discovered throughout the years.

"A birthday cake had to be the strangest thing that was left at the rec center," Limestall said. "I think

someone brought it for, not one of the student workers, but for somebody who was here, and then they ended up leaving and they left it here. It never got claimed."

Limestall suggests keeping your belongings close by and to develop a routine based on your actions at Truman.

"It's sort of like when you go to

the store or the mall," Limestall said. "You're trying to always park in one area, so you don't always have to spend a lot of time looking. I have a routine where I'm always going to try to park at a particular area of the parking lot. Do the same thing here at the rec center, so you remember where your stuff is and what you brought with you is all together."

Tipping chincy in Kirksville eateries

BY SARAH MORRISON
For the Index

A waiter at a small-town restaurant comes to the table. The waiter, a full-time student, takes an order for a group of students, brings the food, returns several times to refill drinks, offers additional service and now must bus the table. When they return to pick up the mess left behind by the presumably satisfied customers, only a handful of loose change has been left on the table. The waiter looks around and sees a restaurant full of tables crowded with dishes and leftover food waiting for that server, and no money for the tip.

This is not an imagined scenario for many people. For restaurant servers, tips make up a large percentage of their paycheck. And for many servers, their tips are scarce. Sophomore Kaytee Stoverink

has worked at Pagliai's Pizza for five months and said she receives tips approximately 70 percent of the time, but with the number of people who come to the restaurant, that is not as high of a percentage as it might seem.

"It doesn't sound that bad, but it's really discouraging to work a nine-hour shift and

to come home with like \$30, tops," Stoverink said. "We don't actually bring them a check, but we still take their order, bring them their food and clean up after them."

Danielle Lewis has worked at Pancake

City for approximately two years and said she almost always receives tips. Pancake City is more of a family-oriented restaurant, she said, which changes how customers feel about tipping. Lewis said at a restaurant like Pancake City, the servers have more of a rapport

with their customers, possibly a reason these servers tend to regularly receive tips. And because the server not only takes orders and brings the food and drink, but also brings the check and rings up at the register, the perception is they do more to deserve a better tip.

Economics professor David Gillette said many factors play into restaurant workers receiving fewer tips. One of the largest reasons is the still-poor economy.

"[Restaurant goers] respond to the service that they get," Gillette said. "Their ability to respond is a function of their income, so when the economy is down their ability to tip well is not as good."

Gillette also said many other factors, such as the empathy of the customers or the attitude they had about the establishment in regards to how it fits in with the community, play a role in tipping trends.

In a recent study by the University of San Diego, the average restaurant server earns just \$17,000 annually.

That's compared to the cost for in-state Truman students per semester, \$6,458 as of the 2010-11 school year. On-campus housing ranges from

Tip Calculator

	10%	15%	20%
\$ 6	.60	.90	1.20
8	.80	1.20	1.60
10	1.00	1.50	2.00
12	1.20	1.80	2.40
14	1.40	2.10	2.80
16	1.60	2.40	3.20
18	1.80	2.70	3.60
20	2.00	3.00	4.00
22	2.20	3.30	4.40
24	2.40	3.60	4.80
26	2.60	3.90	5.20
28	2.80	4.20	5.60
30	3.00	4.50	6.00

\$6,000 to \$8,000 per semester. Stoverink is just one of the many students dealing with the lack of tips in some

local restaurants. "It's very disheartening to have to clean up after a table that has left a huge mess only

to find out that they didn't tip us," Stoverink said. (Additional reporting by Colette Linton.)

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