

Committee considers carshare

BY CHRISTA DECLUE
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Students who don't have cars at Truman State might be in luck. A proposal has been made to the business office by the President's Sustainability Action Committee regarding car sharing through rental companies.

Car sharing, a program that would allow students to rent a car for short intervals of time, will come at no real cost to the University, said Professor Wolfgang Hoeschele, who presented the proposal to the committee at their last meeting.

With this program students pay an \$8 expense out of their pockets that covers gas and rental for one hour periods, Hoeschele said.

The University would need to create extra parking spaces specifically for the rental cars, Hoeschele said. He said there would only be potentially three rental cars on campus to start with.

"The company will place cars on campus but the University will have to make a commitment to free up parking spots," Hoeschele said.

Another potential benefit, he said, would be a job opportunity for a student to work with the company five hours per week to clean the cars and take them to have maintenance work done.

Students who rent the cars must be at least 18 years old with a clean driving record and no previous citations, he said. Students older than 21 must not have citations from the past three years.

"You could rent the car for up to three or four days but that wouldn't be cost-effective," Hoeschele said, as it would be about \$60 to \$70 per day."

Students are penalized for late returns, he said, especially if they don't call the company with more than five minutes notice to let them know they'll be late. There is a \$25 late fee plus an additional \$8 for extra time,

Car Rental Differences

Zipcar

- * Cheaper for longer rides
- * Start with 3 cars
- * Will hire a student to work 5-10 hours a week to maintain the cars
- * Has no expectation on amount of revenue each month

U-Haul

- * Cheaper for shorter rides
- * Cheaper for whole-day rentals
- * Start with 2 cars
- * Wants University employee to maintain the cars
- * Expects \$1,600 in revenue each month and expects University to cover the difference

Information according to Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele

he said. These cars are reserved, or waitlisted, by phone or online, he said.

Donna Liss, president of the Sustainability Action Committee, said the car sharing program is a good idea if it is at no cost to the University, with emphasis on students paying out of their own pockets to actually use the cars.

There are two car share companies that the committee is currently looking into: Zipcar and U-Haul. The committee's biggest concern with this decision, is finding out which company will benefit everyone, Liss said.

The benefit of the low rental price of \$8 is that the company deals with everything from gas to upkeep, she said. Because the company deals with the maintenance of the cars themselves as well as insurance costs, the only thing the student's \$8 fee is going toward, she said, is gas costs.

Not having a car as a student makes running errands and going places much harder, junior Brooke Meyer said. Even though students, like her, have friends with cars, it is inconvenient to have to ask

for rides, she said.

The price of the rental is cheap enough to fit into a college student's budget, Meyer said. With gas prices as high as they are, an \$8 charge is very cheap for the car and the gas, she said.

"Overall the idea is good and I would definitely use it," Meyer said. "I know a lot of my friends who would use it too, if they were eligible."

Further investigation still needs to be done before any contract can be offered, Hoeschele said.

KPD faces car break-in streak

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Three car break-ins, some including damage to the vehicles, occurred Sunday, April 22, with reports coming into the Kirksville Police Department beginning at 6 p.m.

There are no suspects, and the police are searching for witnesses to these the break-ins said Lieutenant Steve Farnsworth from the Kirksville Police Department. There have been 10 car break-ins reported throughout the past month, he said.

"There were a wallet and an iPad stolen [Sunday Night]," Farnsworth said. "Anything that could bring value when pawned are usually the stolen items."

He said some people leave their cars unlocked at night making it easily accessible to break into, but other cars had their front and side windows broken out, which would cost the owners as much as \$100 to replace.

"We're looking for witnesses around the neighborhood and checking for fingerprints," Farnsworth said. "We can't predict when [another break-in] will happen, you know there is bound to be another one."

Money is one of the most commonly stolen items because people find it convenient to store coins or currency in the center console of their car, according to a Kirksville Police Department press release about the break-ins.

According to the press release, to protect property from thieves, individuals should lock their car when not in use, make sure windows are rolled up, park in well-lit areas and try to park on frequently traveled streets.

Club teaches belly dancing

Rose Sparks/Index

Sophomore Brianna Betzen, front center, taught a class belly dancing yesterday in the SUB Down Under as part of the University Society of Middle Eastern Dance fundraising event. USMED provided free dance lessons and sold handmade jewelry at the event.

Hastings will celebrate 15 years

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
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Hastings will celebrate 15 years of business selling books, movies and music to the Kirksville community May 19 as part of a customer appreciation day.

Hastings has been successful in Kirksville during the last 15 years because of the many different services, such as buying used items, and products it offers the community, store manager Aaron Chester said.

He said stores like Borders have gone out of business because they have a product range that is too narrow.

"We offer the best of the best," Chester said. "We offer a much more diverse, broad range

to the community. Other companies don't do as much."

The plans for the event are still undetermined, but Chester said there will be an assortment of activities for community members to participate in throughout the day.

Chester said most of the events will occur during the early afternoon, but there will be several morning events for children. A few of the events include free door prizes, a video game tournament and story time for children, as well as games and giveaways.

"We really just want to offer some events and excitement to have people come in and get excited about coming to Hastings," Chester said.

The store is planning to have several local authors, such as Chris Burkholder, author of

"Amish Confidential" attend the event to sign autographs and talk about their books, Chester said. He said it is important to Hastings to include local artists because those artists use the store as an outlet to sell their work.

Sophomore Kaitlin Hallahan said she enjoys going to Hastings with friends and checking out new releases of different types of entertainment.

"I think it's a really cool store because I like to read, watch movies and listen to music," Hallahan said. "Hastings has all of that."

Hallahan said the customer appreciation day is a different way for the store to give back to the community. She said she would love to attend the event, especially because she never has been to a customer appreciation day before.

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