

Co-op remains free service

BY PHILIP ZAHND
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Despite losing \$1,400 in insurance funding from Student Senate early last semester and talks about possible relocation, the Kirksville Bike Co-op remains a free service for students, faculty and community members.

Wolfgang Hoeschele, the Co-op's adviser since its creation in 2007 and geography professor said the Co-op is able to remain a free service because of donations and mechanics employed for scholarship jobs or volunteer work.

Hoeschele said the Co-op building is paid for by the University and the Co-op sells bike products at a 30 percent mark up from wholesale. He said those factors tremendously help operating expenses.

Hoeschele said if the Co-op needs to generate revenue in the future, it might use small service charges. He said there is a prominent sign displayed that asks for donations when people have their bike worked on.

"If this was a commercial business you'd be paying them at least \$10 for labor," he said.

Hoeschele said the organization has been discussing the possibility of applying for a grant with biking advocacy group Kirksville Area Motion.

KA-Motion founder Rachel Ruhlen said the organization was denied a grant proposal from the Missouri Foundation for Health last spring, but plans to reapply this coming spring.

Hoeschele said there are plans to eventually tear down the current shed where the Co-op is located to redesign the area between Grim Hall and University Counseling Services. If that happens, Hoeschele said the workshop likely would be relocated near the Communiiversity Garden.

He said students who graduated last year had been working on applying for a grant proposal to construct a building with a larger storage area and plants on the roof, but there is no definite time-frame.

Campus Planner Mark Schultz said he is unaware of these plans.

Co-op President senior Lisa Dworak said the Co-op is hosting Bike Awareness Week from Sept. 26-30 to raise money and advertise the Co-op.

"We're going to do tune-ups on

The Mall," Dworak said. "We're going to do social rides. We're going to have a workshop by Wolfgang and then a big party Friday at the [downtown venue] Aquadome for a fundraiser."

Dworak said she wants the Co-op to create a larger presence on and off campus through events like Bike Awareness Week and cooperating with local groups such as KA-Motion, Kirksville Multi-sport and the Forest-Lake Area Trail System.

"When it was founded, it was with the intention that it was the Kirksville Bike Co-op — not the Truman Bike Co-op," Ruhlen said. "They've always intended it to be more of a community resource than just a Truman thing."

Ruhlen said she is planning to help advertise the event.

Dworak said community members have hesitated to come in, because in the past there were not set standards for employees as far as being knowledgeable about bikes.

She said the Co-op employs more students than ever with 15 working for scholarship hours and seven or eight committed whom are volunteers.

Dworak said head mechan-



Sonny Phan/Index

Sophomore Conor Dickens (left) pumps up a front tire while freshman Joe Earsom (right) replaces worn out brake pads.

ics are doing a good job teaching skills to new mechanics this year and making sure new employees are knowledgeable and hands-on.

During warmer months, the Co-op services about 40 bikes a day during its normal hours of noon to 4 p.m., Dworak said.

Hoeschele said the Co-op has

started doing group rides about three times a month and he hopes to see more bike-related events and rides in the future.

"I think those kind of things might be built-up over time," he said. "Not just the utilitarian thing of fixing bikes, but also building more of a bike culture."

Students unaffected by Texas fires

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Truman students from Texas are paying attention to the wildfires that have been sweeping their home state during the last six months, but of those interviewed, none directly are affected.

"Fires have gone through cities surrounding my hometown, but they haven't been too out of control," said freshman Raelynn Villarreal, from Weslaco. The town is a few hours south of some of the larger fires and is one of four counties throughout the state that doesn't have an established burn ban.

She said her father waters the lawn when he can to prevent the grass from becoming dry and increasingly flammable. Villar-

real said her town enforces strict fire codes as a preventative measure.

Communication professor Amanda Medlock-Klyukovski originally is from Amarillo and still has family living there, but no one she knows has been affected by the fires, she said.

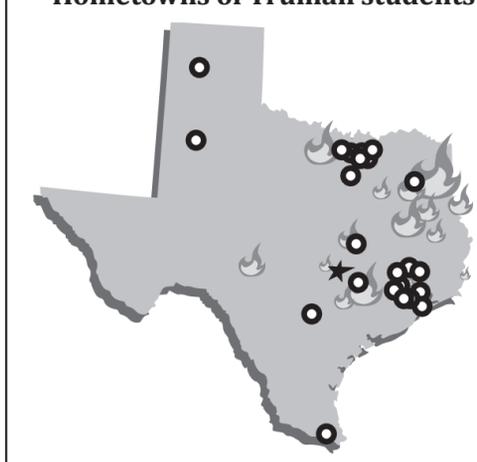
Freshman Ava Pacheco, from Houston, said she has not experienced the fires, but she has felt the effect of the drought causing them.

"There hasn't been rain for a long time," she said. "There's not really much we can do [to prevent the fires] except try and contain them."

Thirty students at Truman are from Texas, according to information from the Registrar's Office.

The Texas Forest Service has responded to more than 18,000 wildfires

Hometowns of Truman students



in the state so far this year, according to its website. During the past two weeks the Texas Forest Service has responded to more

than 150 fires covering more than 120,000 acres of land in central and eastern Texas.

The Texas Forest Service

lists prevention steps taken throughout the state. One of the most common steps taken is enacting burn bans, effective in 250 of the 254 counties in Texas. The outdoor burn bans are decided by county judges or county commissioners, according to the website.

The Texas Forest Service website states a prescribed burn also could help prevent a wildfire. Prescribed burns are fires intentionally started and used to eliminate large fuel loads that potentially could feed a wildfire. These types of fires are set under carefully selected conditions and closely monitored, according to the website.

Wolfgang Hoeschele, Truman associate geography professor, said these fires also are used to get rid of dead burn from previous fires that

have been suppressed.

"Suppression of fires makes it more likely for a new fire to start," Hoeschele said.

He said the ash and partially burnt debris had a likely chance of eventually catching fire again.

"Those fires are bigger, hotter, more intense and more destructive."

Efforts to aid the wildfire victims are in place.

The Salvation Army is providing food and volunteers to Texans affected by the fires. For more information about its work in Texas and to find out how you can contribute, go to uss.salvationarmy.org.

The American Red Cross also is working to help wildfire victims. Find out more about their services and how you can help by visiting newsroom.redcross.org.

Inspiring words by
Johnnie LeMaster:

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11:00 AM

Church of Christ

110 Pfeiffer Ave

5:00 PM

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